

Social Justice and Regeneration Committee

Minutes (SJR(2)-03-07)

Meeting date: Thursday 15 February 2007

Meeting time: 9.30am – 12.25pm

Meeting venue: Welsh Assembly Government Offices, Rhydycar, Merthyr Tydfil

Assembly Members in Attendance

Assembly Member	Constituency
Janice Gregory (Chair)	Ogmore
Mick Bates	Montgomeryshire
Edwina Hart (Minister)	Gower
Mark Isherwood	North Wales
Trish Law	Blaenau Gwent
Huw Lewis	Merthyr Tydfil & Rhymney
Sandy Mewies	Delyn
Leanne Wood	South Wales Central

Officials in Attendance

Name	Job title
Emyr Roberts	Director – Social Justice & Regeneration Department
Linda Whittaker	Director of Housing
Jo Jordan	Director of Community Safety Unit
Jeff Childs	Housing Division
Hugh Gardener	Social Services Inspectorate Wales
Geoff Marlow	Housing Division

Committee Service

Name	Job title
Virginia Hawkins	Committee Clerk
Claire Griffiths	Deputy Committee Clerk

Item 1: Introduction, Apologies, Substitutions, and Declarations of Interest

1.1 The Chair welcomed Committee Members and members of the public.

1.2 Apologies were received from Laura Anne Jones.

1.3 There were no declarations of interest.

1.4 A verbatim record of the meeting is available.

Item 2: Minutes of the previous meeting

Paper: SJR(2)-02-07 (min)

The Committee ratified the minutes from the meeting held on 1 February 2007

Item 3: Minister's Report

Paper: SJR(2)-03-07(p.1) Annexes A, 1

Actions

The Minister agreed to write to the Chair with details of her oral update to Committee

The Minister agreed to make enquiries on the extension to the timetable of restructuring of courts in Mold and Wrexham

As part of the revision process of the annual report submitted by Community First Partnerships, the Minister agreed to consider the age profile of CFP's membership

The Minister agreed to send a note with more detail on the North Wales Loans Pilot Scheme

The Minister agreed to consider how Communities@one could be linked in to post office services

The Minister agreed to discuss with WEFO about commissioning work on looking at the sustainability of businesses in receipt of Social Enterprise Grants

The Secretariat to include in the legacy paper, that a successor Committee looks at the results from the Scottish Executive's research into alcohol consumption post smoking ban

Item 4: Housing for Older People

Paper: SJR(2)-03-07(p.2) Annex 1, 2

The progress was noted

Action

The Minister agreed to send a note on consumer advice from energy companies

The Secretariat to include in the legacy paper, that a successor Committee receives regular progress reports on the progress on the recommendations contained in the report

The Secretariat to include in the legacy paper, that a successor Committee engages with other portfolios on the cross cutting themes contained in the Report

Item 5: Secondary Legislation

Paper: SJR(2)-03-07(p.3) Annex 1, 2

The paper was noted

Item 6: National Homelessness Strategy

Paper: SJR(2)-03-07(p.4)

The paper was noted

Actions

The Minister agreed that her officials would make enquiries with LAs on the number of persons on housing waiting lists and report back

Item 7: Sustainable Development

Paper: SJR(2)-03-07(p.6) Annex

The paper was noted

Action

The Minister agreed to consider how HEES could link up with post office services

The Minister agreed to look at funding streams to support a centre for sustainable construction

The Secretariat to include in the legacy paper, that a successor Committee recommends that as much uptake as is possible is made of low carbon building schemes

Item 8: Postal Issues

Paper: SJR(2)-03-07(p.6)

The Chair welcomed Andy Furey, Communications Workers Union (CWU) National Officer, Ken Hanbury, Regional Secretary (Wales), CWU and Gary Watkins, Wales Political Officer CWU to Committee. They gave a presentation on current postal issues.

Action

The Chair to submit a submission on behalf of the Committee to the DTI consultation on its proposals for the future of the Post Office network in the UK