

Social Justice and Regeneration Committee

SJR(2) –12-06(p7)

Date: Thursday 21 September 2006

Time: 9.30am – 12.30pm

Venue: Senedd, National Assembly for Wales

Title: EU policy and legislative priorities for 2006

Purpose of Paper

1. This paper updates Members on the priorities Committee selected for 2006 from the European Commission's Forward Work Programme.

Background

2. Committee selected the following priorities for the coming year from the European Commission's Forward Work Programme at the meeting held on 25 January 2006:

Rights of the Child

Communication on the Rights of the Child: this is intended to set a framework for actions to implement children's rights in the context of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Drugs Policy

Green Paper on drugs and civil society: this would provide a framework for working with civil society to implement actions in the EU Drugs Action Plan 2005-08. The Drugs Action Plan was one of the suggested priority items for consideration by the Social Justice and Regeneration Committee in 2005.

Alcohol-related Harm

Commission Communication on an alcohol policy: the aim is to reduce the health and social effects of alcohol consumption

Postal services

Proposal for a Directive on an internal market for postal services. This would further progress the creation of a postal internal market (i.e. the opening of remaining postal monopolies to competition)

towards the target date of 2009 which could affect rural areas in particular.

Action for Committee

3. The attached Annex contains further details on the identified topics. The Committee is invited to note the paper and indicate whether they wish to pursue any of the published papers. A further paper to note will be presented to Committee at the meeting scheduled for 6 December 2006.

Janice Gregory AM - Chair of the SJR Committee