

# Social Justice and Regeneration Committee

## Minutes (SJR(2)-14-06)

**Meeting date: Thursday 19 October 2006**

**Meeting time: 9.30am – 12.35pm**

**Meeting venue: National Assembly for Wales, Cardiff Bay**

### Assembly Members in Attendance

<b>Assembly Member</b>	<b>Constituency</b>
Janice Gregory (Chair)	Ogmore
Mick Bates	Montgomeryshire
Edwina Hart (Minister)	Gower
Mark Isherwood	North Wales
Laura Anne Jones	South Wales East
Huw Lewis	Merthyr Tydfil & Rhymney
Leanne Wood	South Wales Central

### Officials in Attendance

<b>Name</b>	<b>Job title</b>
Emyr Roberts	Director – Social Justice & Regeneration Department
Linda Whittaker	Director of Housing
Jo Jordan	Director of Community Safety Unit
Anne Stephenson	Director of Communities Directorate
Paul Dear	Communities Directorate
Trish Fretton	Communities Directorate
Lynne Schofield	Communities Directorate
Francois Samuel	Housing Division

## Others in Attendance

<b>Name</b>	<b>Representing (if applicable)</b>	<b>Agenda item(s)</b>
Ann Jones AM	Local Government & Public Services Committee	3
Sue Essex	Local Government & Public Services Committee	3
Mike German	Local Government & Public Services Committee	3
Dai Lloyd	Local Government & Public Services Committee	3
David Melding	Local Government & Public Services Committee	3
Catherine Thomas	Local Government & Public Services Committee	3
Gwenda Thomas	Local Government & Public Services Committee	3

## Committee Service

<b>Name</b>	<b>Job title</b>
Virginia Hawkins	Committee Clerk
Claire Griffiths	Deputy Committee Clerk
Gwyn Griffiths	Legal Adviser

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

1.1 The Chair welcomed Committee Members, Members of the Local Government and Public Services Committee and members of the public.

1.2 Apologies were received from Sandy Mewies. There were no declarations of interest.

1.3 A verbatim record of the meeting is available.

1.4 Members discussed the timescale available to complete the review on Substance Misuse – Prevention and agreed to leave as a legacy paper for the third Assembly.

## **Item 2: Minutes of the previous meeting**

**Paper: SJR(2)-13-06 (min)**

The Committee ratified the minutes from the meeting held on 4 October 2006

## **Item 3: Communities First**

**Paper: SJR(2)-14-06(p.1)**

Members of the Local Government and Public Services Committee were present for this item. The paper was noted.

### **Actions**

The Minister suggested that Committee discuss further how Performance Indicators for the Communities First Programme would work and how other PI's for Local Government and Enterprise would be incorporated

The Minister agreed to provide an update on the joined up working taking place within the Communities First Programme across Wales and progress on the evaluation being undertaken by RCT LA

The Minister agreed to take up further the effectiveness of cross-border working of local authorities within the Communities First Programme

The Minister agreed to look at the diversity breakdown within partnerships and report back to Committee

The Minister agreed to check the figures for Community Regeneration in England and report back

## **Item 4: Minister's Report**

**Paper: SJR(2)-14-06(p.2) Annexes A, 1**

### **Actions**

The Minister agreed to send a note to Committee on the transfer of resources on the fire and rescue services BEL

The Minister agreed to take up the issue of cross border working and co-operation on vehicle

recognition work at her meeting with the Chief Constables in November

The Minister agreed to consider producing Q&A literature on services related to housing

The Minister agreed to keep Committee updated on issues surrounding migrant workers and the future work of the Polish Centre

The Minister agreed to update Committee on the issues surrounding the function of the Asylum and Immigration Appeals System

The Minister agreed to discuss the issue of sub-postmaster retirements when she next meets with Royal Mail

The Minister agreed to raise with the WLGA what can be done to raise the profile of post offices

The Minister agreed to speak to the Chief Constables to get their views on whether crack cocaine misuse was on the increase and to report back to the Committee

The Minister agreed to raise the issues surrounding Supporting People Grant when she next meets with the WLGA and Welsh Women's Aid and report back

The Minister agreed to report back further on unfit homes and figures for empty homes

## **Item 5: Draft Rent Rebate Subsidy Deductions Direction**

### **Paper: SJR(2)-14-06(p.3) Annex 1, 2**

The Draft Direction was agreed.

### **Action**

The Chair to write to the Minister with Committee's comments on the Draft Direction

## **Item 6: Secondary Legislation**

### **Paper: SJR(2)-14-06(p.4) Annex 1, 2**

The paper was noted

### **Action**

The Minister agreed to circulate the draft guidance in relation to section 226 of the Housing Act (Accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers) for discussion when available

## **Item 7: Home Energy Conservation Act**

**Paper: SJR(2)-14-06(p.5)**

The paper was noted

### **Actions**

The Minister agreed to consider the possible impact the WHQS will have on the HEES targets and report back

The Minister agreed to arrange for copies of the HECA Network publication and Sustainable Wales Supplement to be circulated to Members

The Minister agreed to circulate a best practice booklet to Committee on local authority energy conservation reports

## **Item 8: Overindebtedness**

**Paper: SJR(2)-14-06(p.6) Annex 1. 2**

The paper was noted

### **Actions**

The Minister agreed to regularly update Committee on the Farepak Hamper situation

The Minister agreed to obtain details of uptake with Credit Unions and report back

## **Item 9: Child Poverty Implementation Plan**

**Paper: SJR(2)-14-06(p.7) Annex**

The paper was noted

Paper to note: Social Enterprise Strategy

**Paper: SJR(2)-14-06(p.8) Annex**

The paper was noted with the proviso that time is scheduled in the work programme to discuss its contents

### **Action**

The Secretariat to schedule time to discuss the paper