

Social Justice and Regeneration Committee

Minutes (SJR(2)-16-06)

Meeting date: Thursday 23 November 2006

Meeting time: 1.30pm – 4.00pm

Meeting venue: National Assembly for Wales, Cardiff Bay

Assembly Members in Attendance

Assembly Member	Constituency
Mick Bates (Chair)	Montgomeryshire
Edwina Hart (Minister)	Gower
Mark Isherwood	North Wales
Trish Law	Blaenau Gwent
Sandy Mewies	Delyn
Catherine Thomas	Llanelli
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
Anne Stephenson	Director of Communities Directorate
Karyn Pittick	Communities Directorate
Paul Webb	Housing Division
Chris Hobday	Housing Division
Mike Harmer	Housing Division

Others in Attendance

Name	Representing (if applicable)	Agenda item(s)
Simon Smith	Chief Fire Officer, North Wales Fire & Rescue Services	3
Simon Harris	Social Enterprise Network	5
Michael Jones	Cambridge University	9

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 As Janice Gregory was unavailable, the Committee appointed Mick Bates as temporary Chair under Standing Order 8.20.
- 1.2 The Chair welcomed Committee Members, Members of the Local Government and Public Services Committee and members of the public.
- 1.3 The Chair said Committee Members sent their best wishes to Janice Gregory for a speedy recovery
- 1.4 Apologies were received from Janice Gregory, Laura Anne Jones and Huw Lewis. Catherine Thomas substituted for Huw Lewis. Leanne Wood declared an interest as a Member of Cwm Cynon Women's Aid.
- 1.5 A verbatim record of the meeting is available.

Item 2: Minutes of the previous meeting

Paper: SJR(2)-15-06 (min)

The Committee ratified the minutes from the meeting held on 8 November 2006

Item 3: Minister's Report

Paper: SJR(2)-16-06(p.1) Annexes A, 1, 2.3, 4

Actions

- The Minister agreed to write to Committee on the oral update she had given at the meeting on the issues raised during her recent meeting with the four Chief Constables in Wales
- The Minister agreed to update Committee on receipt of her response from Tony McNulty MP on the use of drug consumption room
- The Minister agreed to circulate the oral update given on WHQS Showhomes
- The Minister agreed to write to the Chair with the consultation responses received on the Disadvantaged Groups Development Fund
- The Minister agreed to ask her officials to look at more effective ways of raising awareness of the grants available under HEES and would engage with Care and Repair on discussion
- The Minister agreed to circulate the factsheet her officials were preparing on prudential borrowing when finalised
- The Minister agreed to provide a short note on the review of the Police funding formula
- The Minister agreed to ask the Assembly Police Liaison Officer to find out if a pattern is emerging of an increased switch from smoking cannabis to heroin as a result of their campaign against cannabis in the Swansea area before the next meeting with the Police Chiefs and report back to Committee
- The Minister agreed that her officials would contact Women in Need at Newport and consider the issue of a safe house especially for victims of trafficking
- The Minister agreed to provide a written explanatory note covering the points raised on stock transfer, in particular the definition of secured and assured tenancies
- The Minister agreed to circulate details of successful projects under the Home Office funding to support domestic abuse projects when announced
- The Minister agreed to obtain the research undertaken by the Older People and Ageing Network on excess winter deaths to share with Committee
- The Minister agreed that her officials would visit Blaenau Gwent LA and other LA's with a high level of unoccupied social housing and would report back on their findings in her next written report

Item 4: Consideration of the Draft Budget

Paper: SJR(2)-16-06(p.2) Annex 1, 2

The draft budget was discussed.

Actions

- The Minister agreed to report back on fuel poverty figures taking into account the WAG estimated figures and those produced from the report by the Centre for Alternative Technology
- The Minister agreed to update Committee following her letter to the Chair of the WLGA on resource issues relating to housing
- 18. The Minister agreed to consider what further work could be undertaken on the location of gypsy traveller sites to local amenities

- The (Acting) Chair to write to the Minister with Committee's comments on the Draft Budget

Item 5: Social Enterprise Strategy

Paper: SJR(2)-16-06(p.3) Annex

The update on the strategy was noted

Actions

- The Minister agreed to advise Committee of the timetable for implementing the Social Enterprise Strategy
- The Minister agreed to write to the Chair with details on the role of private and mutual organisations in the Social Enterprise Strategy
- The Minister agreed to share the findings with Committee on the Review of Coalfields Regeneration Trust

Item 6: Secondary Legislation

Paper: SJR(2)-16-06(p.4) Annex 1, 2

The paper was noted

Action

The Minister agreed to check whether the Mobile Homes Order related to mobile homes as main residences or holiday homes and report back

Item 7: BME Housing Action Plan for Wales

Paper: SJR(2)-16-06(p.5) Annex

The paper was noted

Item 8: Social Housing

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

The paper was noted

Action

The Minister agreed to advise Committee of the locations of the three pilot extraCare projects

Item 9: Low Cost Home Ownership

Paper: SJR(2)-16-06(p.7) Annex

The paper was noted. Committee also received a presentation from Michael Jones from the Cambridge Centre for Housing and Planning Research

Item 10: Spring 2007 Forward Work Programme

Paper: SJR(2)-16-06(p.8) Annex

The paper was noted and agreed