

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING COMMITTEE

CONSIDERTION OF THE WELSH ASSEMBLY GOVERNMENT'S SECOND ANNUAL REPORT ON SOCIAL INCLUSION

Purpose

1. To seek the Committees views on the Welsh Assembly Government's Second Annual Report on Social Inclusion.

Summary

2. The Welsh Assembly Government's Second Annual Report provides an overview of what has been done since the Assembly's inception, and particularly over the last 12 months. It sets out how the Assembly is taking forward its social inclusion agenda in all its relevant polices and programmes. It provides an analysis of the current situation in each of these policy areas; sets out activities aimed at improving matters, and details measures and targets against which progress can be tracked.

Timing

3. A Plenary debate on the Report is scheduled for 21 March. Once the Report has been endorsed, and amended as necessary, it will be put on the Assembly website and a public information leaflet produced and distributed widely as soon as possible.

Background

4. The Welsh Assembly Government's "Plan for Wales 2001" sets social inclusion as a guiding theme for its work, alongside its commitment to equality and sustainable development.
5. The first Welsh Assembly Government's Annual Report on Social Inclusion in Wales gave a comprehensive overview of the policies and programmes being taken forward to address this agenda. However, it was accepted that there was a need to include in the report broad, baseline measures and targets so the Assembly's progress could be tracked.
6. Following the Committee's consideration of proposed measures, on 13 February, the

targets included in the report have been reviewed to ensure that wherever possible these are more robust and quantifiable. They are closely aligned with the Plan for Wales and Assembly Operational Plans and all have been agreed by the relevant Assembly Divisions.

7. A copy of the Report is at **Annex 1**. The relevant targets are detailed at the end of each chapter.

Cross Cutting Themes

8. Tackling Social Disadvantage is one of the Assembly's major cross-cutting themes.

Recommendation

9. The Committee is invited to note the content and format of the Welsh Assembly Government's Second Annual Report on Social Inclusion.

Communities Directorate

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