

OUTSTANDING ACTION POINTS FROM LGH MEETINGS

Action point	Progress	Target completion date
[lead Division]		
Second meeting: 7 February 2001		
02-02 The Minister agreed to keep the Committee informed of progress with the review of core funding of voluntary organisations concerned with homelessness. [HD]	Contract has been let and review is nearing completion. Officials will advise Minister of outcome and next steps during January.	January 2003.
Fourth meeting: 14 March 2001		
04-05 The Minister agreed to report in due course on the results of the planned research project to examine social housing rent levels [HD]	The contract has been awarded to Cambridge University and has now commenced.	April 2003. (Delay due to problems in obtaining data from Las and RSLs)
09-05 The Minister undertook to arrange informal meetings between the Committee and construction firms, in the context of 'Rethinking Construction'. [HD/Comsec]	Following her meeting with the industry professions' primary representative body in Wales, the Construction Industry Council Wales, on 24 June, the Minister has asked officials to liaise with CiC over future 6 monthly meetings and take forward a number of action points relating to training and capacity building. Officials will invite CiC to arrange 6 monthly diary dates Future presentations/meetings by construction firms to the committee will be developed in conjunction with the newly established Rethinking construction Centre for Wales. These to be arranged through Rethinking Construction Centre For Wales.	Ongoing
Eleventh meeting: 18 July 2001		
11-01 The Minister agreed to continue to update the Committee on progress on the <i>Community First</i> programme. [CD]	Regular updates included in the Minister's written and oral reports.	Ongoing
11-05 The Minister will inform the Committee of the outcome of her review on the effectiveness of Tenant Participation Compacts. [HD]	A review of tenant participation compacts will be carried out as part of a wide-based review of the Assembly Government's policies on tenant participation and empowerment.	Review to be commenced in Summer 2003.
11-15 The Minister agreed to report back to the Committee on where, in the Housing Research Programme, the following subjects are covered:(HD)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Houses in multiple occupation 		

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Building Regulations	<p>To be considered following the introduction of the changes to the Renovation Grant regime and the publication of the associated guidance.</p> <p>Minister wrote to ODPM Minister on 11 December 2002, response awaited.</p>	<p>)Now in Housing Bill announced in Queen's Speech, 13 November 2002.)))))Committee updated11)December 2002)))))</p> <p>Still awaiting response from several Las on WHQs)))))))))))Completed December 2002.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Surplus Council houses and the effect on local authority budgets.	<p>This will be considered further following the completion by local authorities of their investment needs to comply with the WHQS. In carrying out this exercise, local authorities will need to assess the ongoing need for existing stock.</p> <p>A review of research evidence to be carried out</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stock Transfer impact. [HD]		
11-20 The Minister agreed to provide an interim report on the Household and Dwelling survey. [HD]	The Cabinet agreed on 25 November 2002 to proceed with the Welsh Household and Dwelling Survey. The format agreed is for a continuous household survey covering three years, 2004 to 2006, with a condition assessment of the housing stock in 2005. The first year of the household survey will focus mainly on housing issues with the following surveys broadening the topics covered. Each survey will be sufficient to provide results for Wales and, with two or three years data combined, results for the Economic For a areas and Wales respectively. The project is currently going through the procurement process.	Detailed report on the proposed timing will be submitted in February 2003.

13.04 The Minister agreed to look at means of encouraging local authorities to comply with the new Local Housing Strategy guidance. [HD]	Principal guidance 'Preparing Local Housing Strategies' issued June 2002. The formal process calls for consultation to include the Assembly on draft Local Housing Strategies by July 2003. This will allow compliance to be assessed.	July 2003.
13.05 The Minister agreed to look into the possibility of assisting town and community councils in increasing access to the internet. [LGM/LGF]	This issue has been included in the specification for the research study on town and community councils (See also 05-03 below).	April 2003.
13.06 The Minister agreed to report back to the Committee on the outcome of the scoping study. [LGM]	The contract for the research study is scheduled to be awarded on 22 March with the researchers submitting their final report on 1 April 2003. A committee discussion will be scheduled after that date.	Spring/summer 2003.
Fourth meeting: 13 February 2002		
04-07 The Minister agreed to report back to the Committee on further proposals to raise awareness of the risk of radon in residential properties. [HD]	Proposals for the future of the testing programme being worked up by NRPB and BRE.	Submission to Minister February 2003.
Fifth meeting: 6 March 2002		
05-03 The Minister report back to the Committee on the assistance and guidance available to town and community councils on increasing public access to the internet. [LGM]	The Assembly's research project into the role, functions and future potential of town and community councils will examine the extent of e-mail and internet use between community councils and other bodies and recommend how the use of such modern technology by community councils could be encouraged.	The research project will be completed by April 2003
Sixth meeting: 18 March 2002		
06-03 The Minister agreed to report back to the Committee in due course on proposals for taking forward the report 'Hidden in Plain Sight: Homelessness among Lesbian and Gay Youth', following the Deputy Minister's consideration of its implications for Wales. [HD]	<p>The Deputy Minister has considered and has met representatives of Triangle on 25 June. The Minister is considering the Deputy Minister's conclusions and recommendations.</p> <p>The concerns identified in the report are addressed in the draft National Homelessness Strategy and the draft Code on guidance on allocations and homelessness for</p>	Completed. Minister updated Committee in oral report 30 October 2002. Further action will be as set out in national homelessness strategy.

	local authorities.	
06-08 The Minister agreed to make representations to the Home Office for additional resources for the Probation Service in Wales to allow the Service to engage fully in the devolution process. [CSU]	Minister has discussed this further with the Probation Service – agreed that representations are not required at the moment	No further action at present.
Seventh meeting: 24 April 2002		
07-05. The Minister to discuss with Jane Hutt the possibility of issuing further guidance on "exclusions " that may have resulted as an effect of domestic violence. [HD]	This issue, and the related issue of rent arrears in such circumstances, were discussed at the first meeting of the All Wales Domestic Abuse and Violence against Women Working Group Information has been collected from local authorities although this has proved to be a difficult process. A report is currently under consideration for the next meeting of the Group.	Submission to Minister February 2003.
07-14. The Minister to look at the changes in definitions of homelessness and report on their implementation. [HD]	The Housing Directorate will carry out a review of implementation of homelessness policy by local authorities, with a focus on the Priority Needs Order and its impact. Contract started October 2002. The results will inform the final versions of the Code of Guidance on Homelessness and Allocations and the National Homelessness Strategy, both to be debated in Plenary 25 March.	Draft report due February 2003
Ninth meeting: 22 May 2002		
09-01 The Minister to provide details of specific examples where, in their new constitutions, authorities had provided robust arrangements for the fulfillment of the roles and duties of officers and elected members in respect of looked after children. [LGM]	Officials have written to local authorities seeking this information.	Completed table of responses provided to members. WLGA to address committee further on this matter in January.

09-03 The Minister's reports to include reports of her meetings with the voluntary sector when appropriate. [HD]	A report will be provided by the Minister following meetings with the voluntary sector. Next six-monthly meeting scheduled for April 2003	
09-04 The Minister to discuss with the WLGA and possibly survey a sample of local authorities on the working of the new political structures, after they have been operating for twelve months. [LGM]		October 2003.
Tenth meeting: 12 June 2002		
10-04 The Minister to liaise with other Ministers and consult with the WLGA and the WFHA on evidence of refusal of planning permission for residential care centres for all vulnerable groups. [HD]	Consultation underway. Responses awaited. Organisations chased.	Evidence to be submitted April 2003
10-12 The Minister to involve the Committee in the proposed review of Assembly Government tenant participation / empowerment policies, programmes and funding. [HD]	A wide-based review of the Assembly Government's policies on tenant participation and empowerment to be carried out as part of the 2003-04 Housing Research Programme.	Review to be commissioned in Spring 2003.
Eleventh meeting: 26 June 2002		Eleventh meeting: 26 June 2002
11-01 The Minister to keep the Committee informed of developments on the draft Local Government Bill. [LGM]	Progress to be reported as appropriate.	Update included in Minister's Oral Report to Committee on 27 November 2002. Agenda item 15 January 2003.
Twelfth meeting: 10 July 2002		
12-01 The Minister to keep members informed, if necessary on a private and confidential basis of developments on the Management crisis in the Newtown Housing Association. [HD]	As an interim measure the Minister has made 3 statutory appointments on the committee of management of NHA to support the committee until the statutory inquiry is completed.	Progress report to Committee 27November 2002. The Appointment of the Statutory Appointees continuing and making effective contribution to the Management Cmtte
12-02 The Minister to report on the possibility of the inquiry into the Newtown Housing Association, prioritising issues which may effect the benefit claims of tenants. [HD]	Interim report received November 2002. Final report expected by end of December 2002.	. Consultant appointed. The inquiry is continuing and remains on target for the submission of an interim report by end November 2002.This item is linked to 12.1 above. The interim report has been considered and now waiting the final report by end of February 2003.
Thirteenth meeting: 16 October 2002		

<p>13.3 The Minister to report on the "Good Practices" emerging from the Social Housing Management Grant Programme.</p> <p>HD</p>	<p>Reports from 2001-2002 projects are currently being received and analysed by Housing Directorate officials</p>	<p>Officials will prepare a summary of emerging good practice by Spring 2003</p>
<p>13.4 The Minister to report on how Local Authorities are consulting, involving partners etc. in accord with the community strategy process LGM</p>	<p>Work in Progress</p>	<p>January 2003</p>
Fourteenth meeting: 30 October 2002		
<p>14.3 The Minister to provide a note on Partnership Council meetings in future written reports. LGM</p>		<p>Implementation from January 2003 meeting of the Council.</p>
<p>14.4 Issues of the similarity of house design to be raised with house builders. HD</p>	<p>Opportunities currently being considered as to best way of progressing issue</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>14.8 Officials to examine the possibility of the Community Fire Safety Working Group broadening its social impact by linking with the Supporting Parenting initiative announced by Jane Hutt. The Minister to report back to Committee HD</p>	<p>Officials currently considering implications prior to discussion with CFSW Group membership and reporting back to Minister.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>14.10 Officials to examine the prospects of sprinklers in schools</p> <p>HD</p>	<p>Currently under discussion with three Welsh Fire Services with a view to identifying appropriate schools.</p>	<p>Update provided in Minister's oral report 27 November 2002.</p>
<p>14.11 The Minister to report back to Committee at an appropriate time on the issues raised in the report by the Audit Commission in Wales on Rent Arrears & Housing Benefit HD</p>	<p>Officials have in hand.</p>	
Sixteenth meeting: 13 November 2002		
<p>16. 3 The Minister to write to the WLGA on the importance of encouraging Councillors to attend courses in relation to their role as corporate parents LGM</p>	<p>Awaiting information from Minister for Health and Social Services as to the number who have already attended.</p>	<p>WLGA to address Committee on corporate parenting on 15 January 2003.</p>

16.5 The Minister to consider adding a Coroner to the Working Group on the Implementation of the Substance Misuse Strategy CSU		Completed. A letter has been sent inviting a coroner to join the Working Group.
16.6 The Minister to ask officials to examine the possibility of setting aside funds to assist GP's in counselling on substance misuse CSU	Advice has been obtained from Senior Medical Officer and advice on a plan of action will be with the Minister (including a costing and service models) will be with the Minister by 24 January at the latest.	Advice to Mrs Hart by 24 th January
Seventeenth meeting: 27 November 2002		
17.04 The Minister to provide a note to all Assembly members in due course on the publicity arrangements relating to the council tax revaluation in Wales. LGF		Update to be made to Committee in January 2003. An update was provided to Committee on 15 th January.
17.05 The Minister to update the Committee on the outcome of the statutory enquiry into Newton HA. HD	See12.01 and 12.02	
17.08 The Minister to update the Committee on the fitting of sprinklers in schools. HD	See 14 .10	
17.09 The Minister to update the Committee on the Housing Bill. HD		Updates will be given to Committee periodically in due course.
17.11The Minister to provide the Committee with a Parliamentary timetable for the passage of the Local Government Bill. LGM	Minister has written to Chair of Committee and will provide further updates on timing and progress when available.	Completed 11 December 2002
17.12 The Minister to invite the One Voice working group to comment on the draft guidance on the Code of Conduct under the new ethical framework. LGM		Completed. The Minister wrote to the One Voice working group on 17 December 2002.
17.13 The Minister to report to the Committee on the issue of executive members being both school governors and members of an authority and the role of elected members of town and community councils and local authorities in the planning application process. LGM	To be considered alongside other comments on draft Code of Conduct guidance. Final guidance to be issued early in New Year	Report to LGHC early in New Year
17.14 Officials to look at guidance to Local Authorities on monitoring homelessness in BME sector. HD	Officials are considering wording in draft Code of Guidance on homelessness and allocations. Under consideration for housing research programme.	Officials have in hand and will report in due course.
Eighteenth meeting: 11 December 2002		

18.01 The Minister would look into why the leaflet by the Standards Board for England entitled "Councillors behaving badly" was issued in Wales. LGM	Officials wrote to Chief Executive of the Standards Board for England on 20 December. Response of 10 January gave an apology for leaflet having been sent inadvertently to a number of organisations in Wales.	Completed.
18.02 The Minister would determine specific targets on tackling substance misuse and would keep the Committee updated on any announcements relating to substance misuse. CSU	Ongoing.	
18.03 The Minister to draw the WLGA's attention to the 'best practices' that emerged from the Bridgend housing stock transfer exercise. HD		Completed. The Minister wrote to the WLGA on 18 December 2002.
18.04 The Minister would report back to Committee on a quarterly basis regarding the evaluation of Communities First. Communities	Ongoing. First report to be in March 2003.	
18.05 The Minister would ascertain the level of information (possibly down to ward level) that would be available from the evaluation of Communities First and report back to Committee. Communities	This information will not be available until evaluators have been appointed in April/May 2003.	June 2003.
18.06 The Minister would provide a note to Committee setting out the historical context of Police Authority precepts while outlining the main issues currently under discussion with the Home Office. LGF		Completed. The Minister wrote to the Chair on 18 December 2002.
18.07 The Minister would write to the Chair with details of the settlement for Police Authorities in Wales when the information was available. LGF		Completed. The Minister wrote to Chairs of Police Authorities on 19 December with details of the settlement for Police forces in Wales. The information was copied to all Assembly Members.
18.08 The Minister would advise the Committee of the name of the Chief Executive of the Community Fire Safety Trust once the appointment was confirmed. HD	Trustees were unable to make an appointment to the post of Chief Executive and are meeting 24 Jan to discuss options.	Awaiting meeting on 24 January of Trustees.
18.09 The Minister would arrange for an informal meeting between the Committee and the Chief Executive of the Community Fire Safety Trust once appointed. HD		

First Meeting: 15 January 2003

1.01 The Minister to circulate copies of the revaluation leaflet to members for information LGF	As soon as the draft leaflet has been agreed by the Minister, copies will be circulated .	
1.02 The Minister to circulate details of the forthcoming BME conference, which members are welcome to attend HD		Completed. The Minister wrote to the Chair on 20 January.
1.03 The Minister to include a section "race hate" in her next written report HD		Completed. A note has been included in the Minister's report to Committee on 29 January.
1.04 The Minister to share with Committee the results of the Homebuy review HD	Review due to be completed by end of February	
1.05 The Minister to circulate rules governing application arrangements for the Post Office development fund to members CD		Completed. The Minister wrote to the Chair on 20 January.
1.06 The Minister to update the Committee in due course on her further discussions on the police settlement LGF	Discussions with Home Office are ongoing.	
1.07 The Minister to write to the Deputy Prime Minister's office on further information on the "Right to Buy etc" qualifying years HD	ODPM is expected to make an announcement before the next Committee meeting	
1.08 The Minister to circulate a note on Prudential Borrowing systems, including the implications for housing LGF		Completed. The Minister wrote to the Chair on 20 January
1.09 The Minister to include a note on the effects of the new Licensing Bill on Local Authorities in her next written report LGM		Completed. A note has been included in the Minister's report to Committee on 29 January.
1.10 The Minister to include a note on the implications of the Probation Services intention to re-organise in her next written report CSU		The Minister is due to meet the Probation Service on 27 January and will update Committee on 29 January.

1.11 The Minister agreed to have a copy of the 'Right to Buy: Proposed change to the Maximum Discount Limit' consultation letter sent to Committee Members. **HD**

Completed. The Minister wrote to the Chair on 20 January 2003.