

ANNEX C – EXTRACT OF THE MINUTES OF 21 NOVEMBER

Item 5: Culture Committee's Welsh language review – Consideration of the effect of policies and programmes within the remit of the Local Government and Housing Committee on the Welsh language:

LGH-15-01 (p.3)

5.1 The Minister said that the Culture Committee was currently conducting a review of the Welsh language. The Local Government and Housing Committee had been invited to consider in an integrated way its area of responsibility and how its work may impact upon the growth of the Welsh language.

5.2 The following points were raised in discussion:

- Some Members sought reassurance on the extent to which the Assembly's housing policies and proposals, including affordable housing, provided support to areas with high concentration of Welsh speakers. In addition, there was some question about the contribution of the rural housing strategy to sustaining Welsh in areas, which were considered to be under the greatest threat.
- However, there was general agreement that Assembly had thus far made a significant contribution to protect the needs and interests of Welsh speaking communities. In particular, it had successfully begun to address the housing needs of rural communities through the Rural Homebuy Scheme. It was recognised that rural housing was an ongoing agenda and that further work would be necessary to help sustain the Welsh language in rural communities throughout Wales.
- It would be important to assess thoroughly the impact of all proposals aimed at addressing the needs of Welsh speaking communities. Members felt that no policies or proposals should introduce any element of discrimination on a linguistic basis.
- It was felt that Unitary Development Plans and subsequent housing development must take account of all social and cultural factors within communities, including those where the Welsh language was under threat.

5.3 The Minister said she would take account of the Committee's views, including those expressed during discussions with Cymuned (7 November meeting) when considering further policies to contribute to the sustainability of Welsh speaking communities.

5.4 The Chair said that the minutes of the meeting, along with those of 7 November would be

sent to Rhodri Glyn Thomas, Chair of the Culture Committee as the Committee's formal response to the Welsh language review.