

Culture Committee - CC-2-02(p.1)

Date: 17th January 2002

Time: 2.00pm-3.30pm

Venue: Committee Room 1, National Assembly

CULTURE COMMITTEE'S REVIEW OF THE WELSH LANGUAGE: DISCUSSION WITH MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND HOUSING COMMITTEE

PURPOSE

The Committee is meeting the Chair of the Local Government and Housing Committee, Gwenda Thomas AM and the Deputy Minister for Local Government and Housing, Peter Black AM, to discuss the effect of policies and programmes within the remit of that Committee on the Welsh language.

BACKGROUND

Housing issues have been prominent in the evidence received during the course of the review and the Committee may wish to consider whether it should comment on them in its final report. Early in the review, Dr Dylan Phillips of Aberystwyth University drew the Committee's attention to the effect of holiday homes on social and linguistic networks in rural areas; Gwynedd and Ceredigion County Councils have commented on the lack of affordable housing to meet local needs. The Local Government and Housing Committee considered these issues at meetings on 7th November and 21st November. At the former, it took evidence from Cymuned, who put forward a number of policy solutions to help combat what they saw as a housing crisis in Welsh-speaking communities.

Cymuned's written evidence to the Local Government and Housing Committee is attached at Annex A. The relevant extracts from the LGH meetings are attached at Annexes B & C.

SOME THEMES AND QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

Various themes under this portfolio have cropped up in the Committee's evidence taking to date, but Members may wish to focus their attention on the following:

- The extent to which the Assembly's housing policies and proposals provide support to Welsh language "heartland" areas

- The affordability of housing for local people in the "heartland" areas
- The contribution of the rural housing strategy to sustaining Welsh in these areas
- The effect of holiday homes on social and linguistic networks in rural areas

ACTION FOR COMMITTEE

The Committee is invited to discuss these and other relevant themes with Members of the Local Government and Housing Committees and to suggest solutions where possible.

Committee Secretariat January 2002

