

OUTSTANDING ACTION POINTS FROM LGH MEETINGS

Action point [lead Division]	Progress	Target completion date
Fourth meeting: 24 May 2000		
04-10 Peter Law undertook to inform the Committee of the membership of the Advisory Board on the Local Regeneration Fund. [WEFO-LAPD]	No longer relevant. LRF is being reviewed.	
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]	Report of the review due to be discussed in October/ November 2002.	Autumn 2002.
02-09 The Minister to keep the Committee informed of the work to develop a policy framework for children's play. [CFD]	Covered in Minister's written report to the 24 April meeting.	Complete.
Fourth meeting: 14 March 2001		

<p>04-02 The Minister undertook to provide a note on the Custodial Bond Scheme being developed by the Cardiff Bond Board, as well as a paper in due course reviewing the first year's operation of the Scheme [HD]</p>	<p>A note was circulated by the Committee Clerk on 19 March. A review of the Cardiff Bond Board will be conducted in April 2002, after which a paper will be scheduled.</p>	<p>8 May 2002</p>
<p>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]</p>	<p>The contract has been awarded to Cambridge University and has now commenced.</p>	<p>July 2002.</p>
<p>Fifth meeting: 28 March 2001</p>		
<p>05-09 The Minister undertook to bring forward a further paper following the consultation exercise on the draft Order allowing local authorities to take account of non-commercial matters when considering tenders and awarding contracts [LGM]</p>	<p>Included in local government policy statement to be published 1 March.</p> <p>Deadline for responses 17 May.</p>	<p>Summer 2002</p>

Sixth meeting: 2 May 2001

06-10 The Minister to keep the Committee informed of the timetable for taking forward Communities First
[CD]

Implementation stage is now underway. Regular reports will be given to the committee.

Complete. (See also 11-01 below)

Seventh meeting: 16 May 2001

07-02 The Minister to report back to the Committee in due course on the work on alternative methods of publishing explanatory information with council tax bills
[LGF]

Consultation ended late March. Responses being analysed. An update will be included in the Minister's next written report.

22 May 2002.

Ninth meeting: 20 June 2001

09-04 The Minister undertook to bring forward a paper in the autumn on the impact of equal opportunities policy on local government purchasing and construction activity.

[PEP/HD/LGM]

To be considered at 26 June meeting.

26 June 2002

<p>09-05 The Minister undertook to arrange informal meetings between the Committee and construction firms, in the context of 'Rethinking Construction'. [HD/Comsec]</p>	<p>Meeting to be arranged for the Spring term.</p>	<p>May 2002</p>
<p>Tenth meeting: 4 July</p>		
<p>10-06 The Minister undertook to discuss letting policies and estate management with tenant groups as part of the consultation on the review of exclusion from social housing. [HD]</p>	<p>A letter has been sent to tenants' groups and others seeking their views on the report.</p>	<p>Report back to Committee on responses to the consultation on 24 April, to link with discussion of responses to homelessness commission.</p>
<p>Eleventh meeting: 18 July 2001</p>		
<p>11-01 The Minister agreed to continue to update the Committee on progress on the <i>Community First</i> programme. [CD]</p>	<p>Progress report to be considered at 8 May 2002 meeting.</p>	
<p>11-05 The Minister will inform the Committee of the outcome of her review on the effectiveness of Tenant Participation Compacts. [HD]</p>	<p>A review will be undertaken during 2002 by external consultants. This will allow sufficient time between the introduction of compacts and the start of the review.</p>	<p>Autumn/Winter 2002.</p>

<p>11-10 The Minister agreed to consider further Dependent and Child Care Allowances when considering Councillors' Allowances with WLGA. [LGM]</p>	<p>Update included in the Minister's report to the 6 March meeting. Draft guidance out to consultation. Regulations to be introduced in June.</p>	<p>June 2002</p>
<p>11-11 The Minister undertook to bring forward a future paper on the ability of Local Authorities to raise more money locally. [LGF]</p>	<p>This is being taken forward as part of the work on the local government policy statement published on 1 March. Deadline for responses is 17 May.</p>	<p>Summer 2002</p>
<p>11-14 The Minister agreed to present a report on the collection of data for personal social services once the team from the Centre for Health Economics had completed their study. [SD]</p>	<p>Presentation on PSS data given to 30 January meeting.</p>	<p>Study ongoing.</p>
<p>11-15 The Minister agreed to report back to the Committee on where, in the Housing Research Programme, the following subjects are covered:(HD)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Houses in multiple occupation 		

- Building Regulations

To be considered following the introduction of the changes to the Renovation Grant regime and the publication of the associated guidance.

The possibility of devolving is currently under discussion with the Minister. Issues and implications currently being evaluated.

- Surplus Council houses and the effect on local authority budgets.

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.

A review of research evidence to be carried out

Summer 2002.

- Stock Transfer impact. **[HD]**

		September 2002
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<p>11-20 The Minister agreed to provide an interim report on the Household and Dwelling survey. [HD]</p>	<p>Survey to be carried out in collaboration with Local Government Data Unit. It is hoped that carrying out the survey this way will mean greater partnership working with local authorities. The project management arrangement for the survey will be in place from about April 2002. Fieldwork for the household survey is expected to start towards the end of 2002-03. This is subject to the procurement process, and completion of consultation about the details of the survey questionnaire. The dwelling component of this survey will start in September 2003.</p>	<p>Detailed report on the proposed timing will be submitted in November 2002.</p>
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<p>12-03 The Minister agreed to provide further details on the proposed severance scheme for councillors following her discussions with the Welsh Local Government Association. [LGM]</p>	<p>See 11-10 above</p>	<p>June 2002</p>
<p>12-04 The Minister agreed to report back to the Committee following her discussions with the WLGA on the support (for example training) available to local authorities in developing the role of Scrutiny Committees. [LGM]</p>	<p>Syniad are scheduled to give a presentation to the 22 May 2002 meeting on training for new political structures.</p>	<p>22 May 2002.</p>
<p>12-06 The Minister agreed to discuss the statutory provision of bilingual road signs at her next meeting with the WLGA. [LGM]</p>	<p>Discussions ongoing with DTLR regarding necessary changes to legislation in this area.</p>	<p>Complete.</p>
<p>12-07 The Deputy Minister agreed to provide an update to the Committee on the responses to the Homelessness Commission report. [HD]</p>	<p>To be included in paper to be discussed at 24 April meeting.</p>	<p>24 April 2002.</p>

Thirteenth meeting: 7 November 2001

<p>13.04 The Minister agreed to look at means of encouraging local authorities to comply with the new Local Housing Strategy guidance. [HD]</p>	<p>Will be considered as part of planning work to promote new local housing strategy process when launched.</p>	<p>May 2002.</p>
<p>13.05 The Minister agreed to look into the possibility of assisting town and community councils in increasing access to the internet.</p> <p>[LGM/LGF]</p>	<p>This issue has been included in the specification for the research study on town and community councils</p> <p>(see also 05-03 below).</p>	<p>April 2003.</p>
<p>13.06 The Minister agreed to report back to the Committee on the outcome of the scoping study. [LGM]</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Spring/summer 2003.</p>
<p>13.07 The Minister agreed to consider how the issue of devolution of the building regulations to the Assembly might best be taken up with the UK Government. [HD]</p>	<p>See 11-15 above.</p>	<p>Summer 2002.</p>

<p>13.08 The Minister agreed to ask David A'Herne, Crime Director for Wales to update the Committee on Crime Reduction Partnerships.</p> <p>[CRU]</p>	<p>To be discussed at 22 May meeting.</p>	<p>22 May 2002.</p>
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Fifteenth meeting: 21 November 2001

<p>15-05 The Minister agreed to make regular reports to the Committee on Crime Reduction Initiatives and to identify suitable ways of linking these with the wider social exclusion agenda.</p> <p>[CRU]</p>	<p>Crime Reduction Unit discussing format of the reports with Communities Directorate.</p> <p>Home Office funding in future will be designed to complement social regeneration projects in England and Wales</p>	<p>First report to be presented to the 22 May 2002 meeting.</p>
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Sixteenth meeting: 5 December 2001

<p>16.06 The Minister agreed to discuss with private developers the possibility of providing Lifetime Homes. [HD]</p>	<p>See 04-06 below.</p>	<p>Mid-April 2002.</p>
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Second meeting: 30 January 2002

<p>02-04 The Minister agreed to bring forward a paper outlining the respective responsibilities under the local government and health and social services portfolio concerning implementation of the recommendations of the Waterhouse report and that any further action would be agreed in the light of that paper.</p> <p>[LGM]</p>	<p>To be discussed at 24 April meeting.</p>	<p>24 April 2002.</p>
<p>02-05 The Minister agreed that the Statistical Directorate would prepare a paper for a future Committee meeting outlining the possibility of incorporating some of the changes in PSS data in the 2003-04 settlement.</p> <p>[SD/LGF]</p>	<p>To be discussed at 8 May meeting.</p>	<p>8 May 2002</p>
<p>Fourth meeting: 13 February 2002</p>		
<p>04-02 The Minister agreed to circulate to the Committee further details of the proposals for Dependent and Child Care Allowances to be included in Councillors' Allowances.</p> <p>[LGM]</p>	<p>See 11-10 above.</p>	<p>June 2002.</p>

<p>04-06 The Minister agreed to raise the question of incorporating Lifetime Homes Standards in private sector dwellings with house builder representatives. [HD]</p>	<p>Letter to Federation of Housebuilders offering discussion on promotion of Lifetime Homes in the private sector in preparation.</p>	<p>Submission to Minister mid-April 2002.</p>
<p>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.</p> <p>[HD]</p>	<p>Discussions taking place with NRPB and BRE.</p>	<p>Proposals to Minister by end May 2002.</p>
<p>Fifth meeting: 6 March 2002</p>		
<p>05-01 The Minister agreed to provide a report to the Committee on the outcome of the responses to the consultation on 'Freedom and Responsibility – A Policy Statement from the Welsh local Government.' [LGM]</p>	<p>To be considered at 12 June meeting.</p>	<p>12 June 2002.</p>

<p>05-02 The Minister agreed to provide details of progress on the identification of potential sources of funding to repair flood damage in Caerleon, following discussions with the Minister for Environment. [ENV]</p>	<p>Officials have been unable to identify a means of providing additional financial support from existing sources. Advice is being prepared on funding mechanisms that would enable support to be made available for a variety of environmental hazards.</p>	<p>Complete.</p>
<p>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]</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>The research project will be completed by April 2003</p>
<p>Sixth meeting: 18 March 2002</p>		
<p>06-01 The Minister agreed to provide a note on the number of councillors who had been debarred as a result of not signing the code of conduct. [LGM]</p>	<p>The Minister wrote to the Chair with this information on 18 April 2002.</p>	<p>Complete.</p>

<p>06-02 The Minister agreed that officials would provide advice to community councils on the model code of conduct for members and to inform the Committee of the timetable for doing so. [LGM]</p>	<p>The Minister wrote to the Chair with this information on 18 April 2002.</p>	<p>Complete.</p>
<p>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>	<p>Officials will submit advice to the Minister on the terms of reference and timing of this work in April 2002.</p>	
<p>06-04 The Minister agreed to provide a note on the Local Regeneration Fund Local Authority Non Match Funding Bidding Round 2002-03, including details of the allocation of £9.267 million, which had already been committed and the quality of the bids received. [CD]</p>	<p>The Deputy Committee Clerk circulated details of the bidding round on 22 March 2002. Further information to follow.</p>	<p>In w/c 22 April 2002.</p>

06-06 The Minister agreed to provide further details of Post Offices involved in the Start-up Capital Scheme and to include details of its operation and the action taken to publicise the scheme. [CD]	Details of the Scheme and its operation were circulated by the Deputy Committee Clerk on 22 March. Further information to follow.	In w/c 22 April 2002.
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. [CRU]	Officials discussing form these representations should take with the Probation Directorate's Manager for Wales.	End April.