

OUTSTANDING ACTION POINTS FROM LGH MEETINGS

Action point [lead Division]	Progress	Target completion date
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. Contract has been let and review has started.	Autumn 2002.
Fourth meeting: 14 March 2001		
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]	Paper discussed at 8 May 2002 meeting.	Complete.
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.	July 2002.
Fifth meeting: 28 March 2001		
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]	Included in local government policy statement to be published 1 March. Deadline for responses 17 May.	Summer 2002

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. Options for possible change currently in preparation. Advice will be submitted to the Minister by the end of May. An update will be included in the Minister's next written report.	June 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
09-05 The Minister undertook to arrange informal meetings between the Committee and construction firms, in the context of 'Rethinking Construction'. [HD/Comsec]	No meetings have been arranged as yet as Minister wishes to discuss this first with the industry's primary representative body in Wales, the Construction Industry Council Wales. This has taken some time to organise, but the Minister will meet them (on 24 June) and discuss how such meetings might best be managed - given the wide and varied constituency of construction firms in Wales. The Minister has asked officials to liaise with them and make suitable arrangements.	September 2002

Tenth meeting: 4 July		
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]	Covered by paper LGH-07-02 (p.3) on 24 April 2002.	Complete.
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]	Progress report discussed at 8 May 2002 meeting.	
11-05 The Minister will inform the Committee of the outcome of her review on the effectiveness of Tenant Participation Compacts. [HD]	A review will be undertaken during 2003 by external consultants. This will allow sufficient time between the introduction of compacts and the start of the review.	Now scheduled to start Spring 2003.
11-10 The Minister agreed to consider further Dependent and Child Care Allowances when considering Councillors' Allowances with WLGA. [LGM]	Update included in the Minister's report to the 6 March meeting. Draft guidance out to consultation. Regulations to be introduced in July.	July 2002
11-11 The Minister undertook to bring forward a future paper on the ability of Local Authorities to raise more money locally. [LGF]	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.	Summer 2002

<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 • Surplus Council houses and the effect on local authority budgets. • Stock Transfer impact. [HD] 	<p>To be considered following the introduction of the changes to the Renovation Grant regime and the publication of the associated guidance.</p> <p>The possibility of devolving is currently under discussion with the Minister. Issues and implications currently being evaluated.</p> <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>	<p>Summer 2002.</p> <p>September 2002</p>
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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 has been in place since April 2002.</p> <p>Fieldwork for the household survey is expected to start around the end of 2002-03. This is subject to the procurement process, and completion of consultation about the details of the survey questionnaire.</p> <p>The dwelling component of this survey is expected to start around the end of September 2003.</p>	<p>Detailed report on the proposed timing will be submitted in November 2002.</p>
Twelfth Meeting: 24 October 2001		
<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)</p>	<p>A presentation from Syniad on training for new political structures will be given to the 22 May 2002 meeting.</p>	<p>22 May 2002</p>

available to local authorities in developing the role of Scrutiny Committees. [LGM]		
Thirteenth meeting: 7 November 2001		
13.04 The Minister agreed to look at means of encouraging local authorities to comply with the new Local Housing Strategy guidance. [HD]	Will be considered as part of planning work to promote new local housing strategy process when launched.	June 2002.
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.
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]	See 11-15 above.	Summer 2002.
13.08 The Minister agreed to ask David A'Herne, Crime Director for Wales to update the Committee on Crime Reduction Partnerships. [CRU]	To be discussed at 22 May meeting.	22 May 2002.

Fifteenth meeting: 21 November 2001		
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. [CRU]	In preparation.	First report to be presented to the 22 May 2002 meeting.
Second meeting: 30 January 2002		
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. [SD/LGF]	To be discussed at 22 May meeting.	22 May 2002
Fourth meeting: 13 February 2002		
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. [LGM]	See 11-10 above.	July 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]	Discussions taking place with NRPB and BRE.	Proposals to Minister by end June 2002.
Fifth meeting: 6 March 2002		
05-01 The Minister agreed to provide a report to the Committee on the outcome of the responses to the consultation on	To be considered at 12 June meeting.	12 June 2002.

<p>'Freedom and Responsibility – A Policy Statement from the Welsh local Government.' [LGM]</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>06-03 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>The Deputy Minister and officials are meeting representatives of Triangle in June to discuss ideas for taking this forward.</p>	

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 with the Probation Directorate's Manager for Wales the service's precise requirements before Ministerial representations are made.	End May 2002.
Seventh meeting: 24 April 2002		
07-01. The Minister to provide a note on the work of the "Mediation Wales" service. [HD]	The Minister wrote to the Chair with details on 8 May 2002.	Complete.
07-03. The Minister to provide members with details of the rules and regulations for Community Trust Fund applications and proposals for publicity. [CD]	In preparation.	End May 2002.
07-04. The Minister to circulate a note of the points arising from the Partnership Council meeting on 22 April. [LGM]	The Minister wrote to the Chair with the action points on 8 May 2002.	Complete.
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, has been placed on the agenda of the All Wales Domestic Abuse and Violence against Women Working Group's meeting on 28 May.	

07-06. The Minister to circulate the guidance produced on Children First to the Committee. [CFD]	The Minister wrote to the Chair with this information on 16 May.	Complete.
07-07. The Minister to write to the Chair advising as to whether 15- 17 olds in Parc Prison are covered by the Waterhouse recommendations or whether they are excluded, being the responsibility of the Home Secretary. [CFD]	The Minister wrote to Jane Hutt on 19 March and she has taken the matter up with the Home Office.	End May 2002.
07-08. The Minister to report further to the Committee on how councils are expected to meet their corporate parenting responsibilities towards looked after children within the new political structures. [LGM]	Included in Minister's report to the 22 May 2002 meeting.	Complete.
07-09. The Minister to provide an update of the number of disqualified councillors. [LGM]	The Minister wrote to the Chair with an update on 8 May 2002.	Complete.
07-12 The Minister to provide details of LA regeneration non-match funding programme for 2002-03. [CD]	The Minister wrote to the Chair with details of approved projects 25 April 2002.	Complete.
07-13 The Minister to circulate the content of the draft guidance on the code of conduct relating to "Whistleblowers". [LGM]	Guidance in preparation. It will be circulated to members when complete.	End May 2002

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.	December 2002
Eighth meeting: 8 May 2002		
08-02 The Minister to inform the Committee of details of the £2.2 million funding to Neath, Port Talbot, Gwynedd and Wrexham. [CD]	Note in preparation.	End May 2002.
08-03 The Minister to share with the Committee her eventual proposals for monitoring and evaluating Communities First. [CD]	An update will be included in the Minister's next written report.	June 2002.
08-06 The Minister to provide a further update on the Cardiff Custodial Bond Scheme in November. [HD]		November 2002.
08-07 The Minister to provide the Committee with information on conditions which local authorities could impose on landlords in receipt of renovation grants. [HD]	The Minister wrote to the Chair with this information on 15 May 2002.	Complete.