

## OUTSTANDING ACTION POINTS FROM LGH MEETINGS

Action point [lead Division]	Progress	Target completion date
<b>Second meeting: 7 February 2001</b>		
02-02 The Minister agreed to keep the Committee informed of progress with the review of core funding of voluntary organisations concerned with homelessness. <b>[HD]</b>	Report of the review due to be discussed in October/ November 2002. Contract has been let and review has started.	Autumn 2002.
<b>Fourth meeting: 14 March 2001</b>		
04-05 The Minister agreed to report in due course on the results of the planned research project to examine social housing rent levels <b>[HD]</b>	The contract has been awarded to Cambridge University and has now commenced.	September 2002. (Delay due to lateness of responses)
<b>Fifth meeting: 28 March 2001</b>		
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 <b>[LGM]</b>	Order came into force on 31 March 2002.  Guidance being finalised, and draft is to be considered by Committee on 26 June as part of the Committee's examination of the promotion of Equal Opportunity within procurement and construction industry.	26 June 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 mid June. 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]**

See 05-09 above.

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

September 2002

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.

**Eleventh meeting: 18 July 2001**

11-01 The Minister agreed to continue to update the Committee on progress on the *Community First* 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.

Complete.

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. The UK Government intends to create through primary legislation a general power for local authorities to charge for discretionary services, which is supported by the Welsh Assembly Government. This was supported by responses to the policy statement. Decisions have yet to be taken on other areas.

Summer 2002

11-15 The Minister agreed to report back to the Committee on where, in the Housing Research Programme, the following subjects are covered:(HD)

- 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
<p>11-20 The Minister agreed to provide an interim report on the Household and Dwelling survey. <b>[HD]</b></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</p>	<p>Detailed report on the proposed timing will be submitted in November 2002.</p>

September 2003.

**Twelfth Meeting: 24 October 2001**

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]**

Discussed at 12 June 2002 meeting.

Complete.

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]**

A presentation from Syniad on training for new political structures was given to the 22 May 2002 meeting.

Complete

**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.

<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><b>[LGM/LGF]</b></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. <b>[LGM]</b></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. <b>[HD]</b></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><b>[CRU]</b></p>	<p>Covered by LGH-09-02 (p.2) on 22 May 2002.</p>	<p>Complete.</p>

**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. <b>[CRU]</b></p>	<p>Covered by LGH-09-02 (p.9) on 22 May 2002.</p>	<p>Complete.</p>
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**Second meeting: 30 January 2002**

<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.  <b>[SD/LGF]</b></p>	<p>Covered by LGH-09-02 (p.3) on 22 May 2002.</p>	<p>Complete</p>
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**Fourth meeting: 13 February 2002**

<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. <b>[LGM]</b></p>	<p>See 11-10 above.</p>	<p>Complete.</p>
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<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><b>[HD]</b></p>	<p>Discussions taking place with NRPB and BRE.</p>	<p>To be considered as part of the review of current testing programme. Submission to Minister by September 2002.</p>
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**Fifth meeting: 6 March 2002**

<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.' <b>[LGM]</b></p>	<p>Covered by LGH-10-02 (p.1) on 12 June 2002.</p>	<p>Complete.</p>
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<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. <b>[LGM]</b></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>
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**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]**

The Deputy Minister and officials are meeting representatives of Triangle on 25 June to discuss ideas for taking this forward.

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**

<p>07-03. The Minister to provide members with details of the rules and regulations for Community Trust Fund applications and proposals for publicity.</p> <p><b>[CD]</b></p>	<p>The Minister wrote to the Chair with this information on 21 May 2002.</p>	<p>Complete</p>
<p>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. <b>[HD]</b></p>	<p>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's on 28 May. The WLGA representative undertook to gather information on the situation and policy in all 22 authorities. The issues will then be discussed again at the next Forum meeting.</p>	<p>Next meeting June/July 2002</p>
<p>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. <b>[CFD]</b></p>	<p>The Minister wrote to Jane Hutt on 19 March and she has taken the matter up with the Home Office.</p>	<p>End May 2002.</p>

<p>07-13 The Minister to circulate the content of the draft guidance on the code of conduct relating to "Whistleblowers".</p> <p><b>[LGM]</b></p>	<p>Draft guidance circulated to members on 13 June 2002.</p>	<p>Complete.</p>
<p>07-14. The Minister to look at the changes in definitions of homelessness and report on their implementation.</p> <p><b>[HD]</b></p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>December 2002</p>
<p><b>Eighth meeting: 8 May 2002</b></p>		
<p>08-02 The Minister to inform the Committee of details of the £2.2 million funding to Neath, Port Talbot, Gwynedd and Wrexham. <b>[CD]</b></p>	<p>The Minister wrote to the Chair with this information on 21 May 2002</p>	<p>Complete</p>
<p>08-03 The Minister to share with the Committee her eventual proposals for monitoring and evaluating Communities First. <b>[CD]</b></p>	<p>The Minister will provide the Committee with regular updates on the progress being made on Monitoring and Evaluation.</p>	

<p>08-06 The Minister to provide a further update on the Cardiff Custodial Bond Scheme in November. <b>[HD]</b></p>		<p>November 2002.</p>
<p><b>Ninth meeting: 22 May 2002</b></p>		
<p>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. <b>[LGM]</b></p>	<p>Officials have written to local authorities seeking this information.</p>	<p>Autumn 2002.</p>
<p>09-03 The Minister's reports to include reports of her meetings with the voluntary sector when appropriate. <b>[HD]</b></p>	<p>A report will be provided by the Minister following meetings with the voluntary sector. Next six-monthly meeting scheduled for October/ November 2002.</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p>
<p>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. <b>[LGM]</b></p>		<p>June 2003.</p>

<p>09-05 The Minister to provide a progress report on electoral arrangements for the local government elections. <b>[LGM]</b></p>	<p>Update to be included in the Minister's report to 10 July meeting.</p>	<p>10 July 2002.</p>
<p>09-06 The Minister to report to next Committee meeting progress on discussions between the home Office and the Treasury on the capital/ revenue split for "Communities Against Drugs" funding.</p> <p><b>[CRU]</b></p>	<p>Included in the Minister's report to the 12 June meeting.</p>	<p>Complete.</p>
<p>09-08 The Minister to report on progress of the TASC scheme.</p> <p><b>[CRU]</b></p>	<p>Included in the Minister's report to 12 June meeting.</p>	<p>Complete.</p>
<p><b>Tenth meeting: 12 June 2002</b></p>		
<p>10-01 The Minister agreed to circulate a note to members on the funding for Wales under the Counter Terrorism project and to make enquiries about funding for the port at Holyhead.</p> <p><b>[CRU]</b></p>	<p>Officials presently consulting the Home Office.</p>	<p>Mid-July 2002.</p>

<p>10-02 The Minister to include reference to the Goods and Services Order on Local Authorities' trading with the Assembly in her next written report.</p> <p><b>[LGM]</b></p>	<p>Included in Minister's written report to 26 June meeting.</p>	<p>26 June 2002.</p>
<p>10-03 The Minister to press the Home Office on continued funding for the TASC project in 2002-03.</p> <p><b>[CRU]</b></p>	<p>Discussions ongoing.</p>	
<p>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. <b>[HD]</b></p>	<p>Consultation underway. Responses awaited.</p>	
<p>10-05 The Minister to raise with Home Office the question of the Capital/ Revenue split in administering the Community Against Drugs Fund. <b>[CRU]</b></p>	<p>Awaiting outcome of discussions between the Home Office and Treasury.</p>	
<p>10-06 The Minister agreed to bring forward a paper in the autumn term on the Code of Conduct following consultation on the new ethical framework. <b>[LGM]</b></p>	<p>Consultation ends 16 August.</p>	<p>Autumn 2002.</p>

<p>10-07 The Minister to update the committee before the summer recess on her discussions with audit bodies concerning audit arrangements. <b>[LGM]</b></p>	<p>To be included in the Minister's next report.</p>	<p>July 2002.</p>
<p>10-08 The Minister to provide a paper on the Community Fire Safety Trust. <b>[HD]</b></p>	<p>Discussions with Fire Authorities ongoing.</p>	
<p>10-09 The Minister agreed to make representations to the UK Government for the inclusion of fire safety measures in Building Regulations. <b>[HD]</b></p>	<p>To be considered with the Building Regulations item under action point 11-05 above.</p>	
<p>10-12 The Minister to involve the Committee in the proposed review of Assembly Government tenant participation / empowerment policies, programmes and funding. <b>[HD]</b></p>	<p>A review of the early impact of local authority and RSL Tenant Participation Compacts is scheduled for Autumn 2002. A report will be brought to the Committee on completion.</p>	<p>April 2003.</p>