

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.	December 2002/ January 2003.
Fourth meeting: 14 March 2001		
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.	February 2003. (Delay due to problems in obtaining data from Las and RSLs)
09-05 The Minister undertook to arrange informal meetings between the Committee and construction firms, in the context of 'Rethinking Construction'. [HD/Comsec]	Following her meeting with the industry professions' primary representative body in Wales, the Construction Industry Council Wales, on 24 June, the Minister has asked officials to liaise with CiC over future 6 monthly meetings and take forward a number of action points relating to training and capacity building. Officials will invite CiC to arrange 6 monthly diary dates Future presentations/meetings by construction firms to the committee will be developed in conjunction with the newly established Rethinking construction Centre for Wales. These to be arranged through Rethinking Construction Centre For Wales.	Ongoing
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]	Regular updates included in the Minister's written and oral reports.	Ongoing
11-05 The Minister will inform the Committee of the outcome of her review on the effectiveness of Tenant Participation Compacts. [HD]	A review of tenant participation compacts will be carried out as part of a wide-based review of the Assembly Government's policies on tenant participation and empowerment.	Review to be carried out in Summer 2003.
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		

but it is unlikely to be before Autumn 2004 (or possibly early 2005)

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]**

Principal guidance 'Preparing Local Housing Strategies' issued June 2002. The formal process calls for consultation to include the Assembly on draft Local Housing Strategies by July 2003. This will allow compliance to be assessed.

July 2003.

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.

11 December 2002.

Fourth meeting: 13 February 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]

Proposals for the future of the testing programme being worked up by NRPB and BRE.

Submission to Minister January 2003.

Fifth meeting: 6 March 2002

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]**

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.

The research project will be completed by April 2003

Sixth meeting: 18 March 2002

<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 has considered and has met representatives of Triangle on 25 June. The Minister is considering the Deputy Minister's conclusions and recommendations.</p> <p>The concerns identified in the report are addressed in the draft National Homelessness Strategy and the draft Code on guidance on allocations and homelessness for local authorities.</p>	<p>Minister updated Committee in oral report 30 October 2002. Further action will be as set out in national homelessness strategy.</p>
<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. [CSU]</p>	<p>Minister has discussed this further with the Probation Service – agreed that representations are not required at the moment</p>	<p>No further action at present.</p>
<p>Seventh meeting: 24 April 2002</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. [HD]</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>Awaiting further information from some authorities.</p>	<p>Post Xmas recess</p>
<p>07-14. The Minister to look at the changes in definitions of homelessness and report on their implementation. [HD]</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. Contract started October 2002.</p>	<p>Draft report due February 2003</p>
<p>Eighth meeting: 8 May 2002</p>		

08-03 The Minister to share with the Committee her eventual proposals for monitoring and evaluating Communities First. [CD]	Paper to be presented to the Committee in December.	December 2002
Ninth meeting: 22 May 2002		
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. [LGM]	Officials have written to local authorities seeking this information.	Completed table of responses provided to members. WLGA to address committee further on this matter in January.
09-03 The Minister's reports to include reports of her meetings with the voluntary sector when appropriate. [HD]	A report will be provided by the Minister following meetings with the voluntary sector. Next six-monthly meeting scheduled for 31 October 2002.	Next report to be provided for 11 December 2002 meeting.
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. [LGM]		October 2003.
Tenth meeting: 12 June 2002		
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. [HD]	Consultation underway. Responses awaited. Organisations chased.	Evidence to be submitted post Xmas recess.
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. [LGM]	Consultation ended 16 August. Paper programmed for LGH meeting on 27 November.	Complete 27 November 2002.
10-08 The Minister to provide a paper on the Community Fire Safety Trust. [HD]	Discussions with Fire Authorities ongoing.	Paper scheduled for 11 December 2002
10-09 The Minister agreed to make representations to the UK Government for the inclusion of fire safety measures in Building Regulations. [HD]	To be considered with the Building Regulations item under action point 11-15 above.	11 December 2002

<p>10-12 The Minister to involve the Committee in the proposed review of Assembly Government tenant participation / empowerment policies, programmes and funding. [HD]</p>	<p>A wide-based review of the Assembly Government's policies on tenant participation and empowerment to be carried out as part of the 2003-04 Housing Research Programme.</p>	<p>Review to be carried out in summer / autumn 2003.</p>
<p>Eleventh meeting: 26 June 2002</p>		<p>Eleventh meeting: 26 June 2002</p>
<p>11-01 The Minister to keep the Committee informed of developments on the draft Local Government Bill. [LGM]</p>	<p>Progress to be reported as appropriate.</p>	<p>Update included in Minister's Oral Report to Committee on 27 November 2002</p>
<p>Twelfth meeting: 10 July 2002</p>		
<p>12-01 The Minister to keep members informed, if necessary on a private and confidential basis of developments on the Management crisis in the Newtown Housing Association. [HD]</p>	<p>As an interim measure the Minister has made 3 statutory appointments on the committee of management of NHA to support the committee until the statutory inquiry is completed.</p>	<p>Progress report to Committee 27 November 2002</p>
<p>12-02 The Minister to report on the possibility of the inquiry into the Newtown Housing Association, prioritising issues which may effect the benefit claims of tenants. [HD]</p>	<p>The Minister agreed to institute statutory inquiry into the management of NHA. An independent consultant/enquirer will soon be appointed. Consultant's report imminent,</p>	<p>Consultant appointed. The inquiry is continuing and remains on target for the submission of an interim report by end November 2002. This item is linked to 12.1 above.</p>
<p>12-03 The Minister to provide a paper in December on the outcome of the consultation exercise on the recommendations of the Sunderland Report. [LGM]</p>	<p>To be included in the forward work programme.</p>	<p>December 2002</p>
<p>Thirteenth meeting: 16 October 2002</p>		
<p>13.3 The Minister to report on the "Good Practices" emerging from the Social Housing Management Grant Programme. HD</p>	<p>Reports from 2001-2002 projects are currently being received and analysed by Housing Directorate officials</p>	<p>Officials will prepare a summary of emerging good practice by Spring 2003</p>
<p>13.4 The Minister to report on how Local Authorities are consulting, involving partners etc. in accord with the community strategy process LGM</p>	<p>Work in Progress</p>	<p>January 2003</p>

13.9 The Minister to look at trends in polling clerks' employment status. LGM	Enquiries being made of Returning Officers	December 2002
Fourteenth meeting: 30 October 2002		
14.3 The Minister to provide a note on Partnership Council meetings in future written reports. LGM		Implementation from January 2003 meeting of the Council.
14.4 Issues of the similarity of house design to be raised with house builders. HD	Opportunities currently being considered as to best way of progressing issue	Ongoing
14.5 The Minister to consider with the WLGA a paper on the change in arrangements for libraries, museums and archives. LGF	LGF to liaise with Culture Division and report in due course.	The Minister wrote to the Culture Minister on 30 October covering the points raised by the WLGA. The Culture Minister responded on 17 November
14.8 Officials to examine the possibility of the Community Fire Safety Working Group broadening its social impact by linking with the Supporting Parenting initiative announced by Jane Hutt. The Minister to report back to Committee HD	Officials currently considering implications prior to discussion with CFSW Group membership and reporting back to Minister.	Ongoing
14.10 Officials to examine the prospects of sprinklers in schools HD	Currently under discussion with three Welsh Fire Services with a view to identifying appropriate schools.	Update provided in Minister's oral report 27 November 2002.
14.11 The Minister to report back to Committee at an appropriate time on the issues raised in the report by the Audit Commission in Wales on Rent Arrears & Housing Benefit HD	Officials have in hand.	
Sixteenth meeting: 13 November 2002		
16.2 The Minister to report to Committee on the lessons learnt from the Bridgend stock transfer ballot results HD	Report compiled by Bridgend (Matthew Spittles)	11 December 2002
16.3 The Minister to write to the WLGA on the importance of encouraging Councillors to attend courses in relation to their role as corporate parents LGM	Awaiting information from Minister for Health and Social Services as to the number who have already attended.	

16.4 The Minister to write to the Committee on the level of activity during 2001-02 on HEES (this to include associated issues including possible mechanisms other than means testing to mitigate against the benefit system working against people accessing the fuel poverty scheme) HD	Report in preparation	Due for presentation as information paper to LGH Committee Dec 11
16.5 The Minister to consider adding a Coroner to the Working Group on the Implementation of the Substance Misuse Strategy CSU	The benefits of adding a coroner to the Working Group are being considered – advice to follow.	Advice to Mrs Hart in Early December.
16.6 The Minister to ask officials to examine the possibility of setting aside funds to assist GP's in counselling on substance misuse CSU	Paper and advice being drafted.	Advice to Mrs Hart in early January.
16.7 The Minister to provide the Secretariat with a list of organisations who may be invited by the Committee to make presentations on the approaches being adopted to counter substance abuse CSU	CSU are consulting the DAATs on suitable organisations.	Completed 27 November 2002
Seventeenth meeting: 27 November 2002		
17.01 The Minister to provide a note to members on the establishment of the new representative body for Town and Community Council's in Wales LGM		Completed 27 November 2002
17.02 The Minister to circulate further details of the new resources made available to the Rural Homebuy scheme. HD		Completed 27 November 2002
17.03 The Minister to provide a note to the Committee on the publicity arrangements that will be put in place to publicise the council tax revaluation in Wales. LGF		A note will be circulated to Members before 11 December 2002.
17.04 The Minister to provide a note to all Assembly members in due course on the publicity arrangements relating to the council tax revaluation in Wales. LGF		Update to be made to Committee in January 2003
17.05 The Minister to update the Committee on the outcome of the statutory enquiry into Newton HA. HD	See 12.01 and 12.02	

17.06 The Minister to provide a note to Committee on the involvement of young people with RSLs. HD		Completed 27 November 2002
17.07 The Minister to provide written information on the nature of complaints against RSLs. HD	Draft letter to Minister provided	Completed 27 November 2002
17.08 The Minister to update the Committee on the fitting of sprinklers in schools. HD	See 14 .10	
17.09 The Minister to update the Committee on the Housing Bill. HD		Updates will be given to Committee periodically in due course.
17.10 The Minister to write to DTI expressing concern over the non funding of a national roll out of the Your Guide General Practitioner Scheme for Post Offices and the inability of Post Offices to advertise services relating to benefit payments. CD	The Minister wrote to the Secretary of State for Wales on the 3 December 2002, requesting that he raise the Committee's concerns with DTI and DWP as appropriate.	
17.11 The Minister to provide the Committee with a Parliamentary timetable for the passage of the Local Government Bill. LGM		An update to be circulated to Members of Committee before 11 December 2002.
17.12 The Minister to invite the One Voice working group to comment on the draft guidance on the Code of Conduct under the new ethical framework. LGM	In hand	Letter to issue December 2002.
17.13 The Minister to report to the Committee on the issue of executive members being both school governors and members of an authority and the role of elected members of town and community councils and local authorities in the planning application process. LGM	To be considered alongside other comments on draft Code of Conduct guidance. Final guidance to be issued early in New Year	Report to LGHC early in New Year
17.14 Officials to look at guidance to Local Authorities on monitoring homelessness in BME sector. HD		Officials have in hand and will report in due course.
17.15 Minister to speak to Minister for Health & Social Services on the handling of Committee considerations of the Community Care (Delayed Discharges etc) Bill CD	The Minister has spoken to the Minister of Health and Social Services and will write to Committee in due course.	