

Concise Minutes – Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee

Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 5 – Tŷ Hywel

Meeting date: Thursday, 21 January
2021

Meeting time: 13. – 17.00

This meeting can be viewed

on [Senedd TV](#) at:

<http://senedd.tv/en/11083>

Attendance

| Category | Names |
|------------------------|---|
| Members of the Senedd: | John Griffiths MS (Chair) Dawn Bowden MS Huw Irranca-Davies MS Mark Isherwood MS Delyth Jewell MS Mandy Jones MS |
| Witnesses: | Rebecca Evans MS, Minister for Finance and Trefnydd Hannah Blythyn MS, Deputy Minister for Housing and Local Government Julie James MS, Minister for Housing and Local Government Judith Cole, Welsh Government Emma Williams, Welsh Government Ian Williams, Welsh Government Debra Carter, Welsh Government |



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| | Jane Hutt MS, Deputy Minister and Chief Whip Alyson Francis, Welsh Government Sian Gill, Head of Financial Reporting,, Welsh Government |
| Committee Staff: | Naomi Stocks (Clerk) Catherine Hunt (Second Clerk) Chloe Davies (Deputy Clerk) Jonathan Baxter (Researcher) Osian Bowyer (Researcher) |

1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

- 1.1. The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting of the Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee.
- 1.2. In accordance with Standing Order 34.19, the Chair stated that he had determined that the public were excluded from the Committee's meeting in order to protect public health.
- 1.3. The Chair stated that if for any reason he dropped out of the meeting, the Committee agreed that Dawn Bowden MS would become Temporary Chair in accordance with Standing Order 17.22.

2 Scrutiny of the Welsh Government draft budget 2021–22 – evidence session 2

2.1. The Committee received evidence from:

Rebecca Evans MS, Minister for Finance and Trefnydd

Julie James MS, Minister for Housing and Local Government

Hannah Blythyn MS, Deputy Minister for Housing and Local Government

Judith Cole, Deputy Director Local Government Finance & Workforce Partnership
Division

Emma Williams, Director of Housing and Regeneration, Welsh Government

Ian Williams, Deputy Director, Homes and Places, Welsh Government

Debra Carter, Deputy Director, Local Government Strategic Finance, Welsh Government

2.2. During the evidence session the Deputy Minister for Housing and Local Government agreed to provide:

Updates on decision-making for the Discretionary Assistance Fund (DAF) and forecasted demand on the fund;

Examples of improvement works carried out by local authorities and town and community councils in response to the pandemic that are likely to have long term positive effects for the communities;

Updates to the Committee on the work between the Ministerial Town Centre Action Group and local authorities and town and community councils that aims to create local supply chains using small businesses.

3 Scrutiny of the Welsh Government Draft Budget 2021–22 – evidence session 3

3.1. The Committee received evidence from:

Jane Hutt MS, Deputy Minister and Chief Whip

Alyson Francis, Deputy Director of Communities Division, Welsh Government

Sian Gill, Head of Financial Reporting, Welsh Government

4 Paper(s) to note

4.1 Correspondence from the Deputy Minister and Chief Whip – safer streets and disability equality

4.1.a. The Committee noted the correspondence from the Deputy Minister and Chief Whip – safer streets and disability equality.

4.2 Correspondence from the Minister for Housing and Local Government – Renting Homes (Amendment) (Wales) Bill: Stage 3

4.2.a. The Committee noted the correspondence from the Minister for Housing and Local Government – Renting Homes (Amendment) (Wales) Bill: Stage 3.

5 Motion under Standing Order 17.42(ix) to resolve to exclude the public from the remainder of the meeting and from the meeting on 28 January 2021

5.1. The Committee agreed the motion.

6 Scrutiny of the Welsh Government Draft Budget 2021–22 – consideration of the evidence received under items 2 and 3

6.1. The Committee considered the evidence to inform its draft report.