

Local Government and Housing Committee remit

15 July 2021

Purpose

1. The paper sets out the remit and responsibilities of the Local Government and Housing Committee.

Recommendation

2. The Committee is invited to note its remit.

Background

3. The rules and procedures of the Senedd are laid out in Standing Orders. Standing Order 16.1 requires the Senedd to establish committees with power within their remit to:

"(i) examine the expenditure, administration and policy of the government and associated public bodies;

(ii) examine legislation;

(iii) undertake other functions specified in Standing Orders; and

(iv) consider any matter affecting Wales."

4. In doing this, the Business Committee has to ensure that every area of responsibility of the Welsh Government and associated public bodies, and all matters relating to the legislative competence of the Senedd and functions of the Welsh Ministers and of the Counsel General, are subject to committee scrutiny.

Committee remit

5. The remit of this Committee, as agreed by the Senedd on 23 June 2021, is:



"to examine legislation and hold the Welsh Government to account by scrutinising its expenditure, administration and policy matters, encompassing (but not restricted to): local government, communities, and housing."

In their report on title and remits of committees, the Business Committee stated that they have decided to make remits "broad" and that they have decided "not to provide a list of subjects attached to each committee."¹ However, to help the Committee understand the remit, an indicative list of Ministerial responsibilities which sit within the remit is included in Annex 1.

¹ Business Committee, Sixth Senedd Committees Titles and Remits, June 2021, paragraph 11

Annex 1 – Ministerial responsibilities covered by the Committee

Minister for Climate Change

- The housing and housing-related activities of Local Authorities and housing associations, including housing management and the allocation of social and affordable housing
- Supply and quality of market, social and affordable housing
- Second Homes
- Homelessness and housing advice
- Matters relating to housing provided by the private rented sector, including regulation of registered social landlords
- Aids and adaptations, including Disabled Facilities Grants and Physical Adaptation Grants
- The provision of housing-related support (but not the payment of Housing Benefit)
- The regulation of commercial tenancies let by Local Authorities

Minister for Finance and Local Government

- Structural, democratic, financial and constitutional reform of Local Authorities including co-ordination of regional collaboration models
- The Local Government Partnership Council
- Local Government performance, governance and constitutional matters, scrutiny arrangements, cabinets, elected mayors, the role of councillors, their diversity, conduct and remuneration.
- Local Government electoral arrangements, sponsorship of the Local Democracy and Boundary Commission for Wales and the timing of Local Authority elections
- Local Government finance policy including financial reform
- The un-hypothecated funding of Local Authorities and Policy and Crime Commissioners through the Local Government revenue and capital settlements

- Financial governance, financing and accounting relating to Local Government
- Public Service Boards
- Public libraries
- Local archive services
- Local Government workforce matters
- Academi Wales
- Oversight of audit, inspection and regulation as they relate to public services, including the organisation arrangements for Health Inspectorate Wales and the Care Inspectorate Wales.