

National Assembly for Wales

Cross Party Housing Group

Annual Report and Statement of Accounts 2014

1. Membership:

- Sandy Mewies AM, group chair and representing the Labour Party, an Assembly Commissioner and previous chair of the Communities and Local Government Committee that produced the ground breaking report on the Private Rented Sector.
- Jocelyn Davies AM, Plaid Cymru representative and former Housing Minister.
- Mark Isherwood AM, Shadow Housing Minister, representing the Conservatives.
- Peter Black AM, former Deputy Housing Minister representing the Liberal Democrats.

2. Secretariat:

Keith Edwards, Director, Chartered Institute of Housing.

3. Meetings/ Events in 2014:

One event took place in 2014, at 5pm on the 22nd September 2014, a 'Housewarming party' event in Room C & D, Ty Hywel building, Cardiff Bay.

Housewarming Party: The activity highlight for the group was undoubtedly the Housewarming Party in September to celebrate the passing of the Housing (Wales) Act and to acknowledge the roles of AMs and Homes for All Cymru (H4AC) in constructively engaging in this historic process. The event was very well attended by the housing community and AMs including group chair Sandy Mewies AM, Lesley

Griffiths AM the current minister and her predecessors Jocelyn Davies AM, Huw Lewis AM and Carl Sergeant AM.

Meeting November 5 2013:

Minutes and list of attendees are available at:

<http://www.senedd.assembly.wales/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?lId=7652>

4. Financial Statement

CROSS PARTY HOUSING GROUP

2014 ACCOUNTS

INCOME	
sponsorship / subscriptions from H4AC members to housewarming party XPHG event	£752.00
TOTAL INCOME	£752.00
EXPENDITURE	
catering: Housewarming party	£720.00
translation: Housewarming party invitation	£32.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£752.00
BALANCE	£0.00

5. The Year of Housing

2014 proved to be one of the most significant for housing since the National Assembly was established and cross party group members and partners in the housing community played a major role. Undoubtedly the most significant event was the passing of the first Housing (Wales) Act which received Royal Assent in the autumn. Members of the group across all parties played a constructive role in all the main stages and whereas there were and remain areas of disagreement, there is substantial consensus on the intent and many of the provisions it contains.

Beyond legislation a number of other significant issues have arisen that have impacted on and been shaped by the group and its members including:

- The report of the Co-operative and Mutual Commission which recommended an enhanced role for housing organisations.
- An upward revision of Welsh Government's affordable homes target from 7,500 to 10,000 during this Assembly term which was cemented in the Housing Pact with Community Housing Cymru.
- Securing of additional funding for affordable housing in the Welsh Government budget approved in the autumn.

The year also saw a change of Ministers with Carl Sergeant AM handing the ministerial baton for housing on to Lesley Griffiths AM.

Looking Forward

The group has proved its value not just in terms of building a consensus on housing issues but in keeping the focus on the role it can play in delivering wider social, economic and environmental objectives. The challenges to come are immense with further austerity and budget cuts in the offing. There are however also opportunities through for example the forthcoming Renting Homes Bill to craft policies and practices developed in Wales with the broad support of all parties and the housing community

Acknowledgments

A major strength of the group is the continued high level commitment across all parties and we are grateful for the full and active support of:

The Group enjoys wide support from the housing community through the umbrella network Homes for All Cymru, Chaired by Shelter Cymru (H4AC- a list of members are in the annex).

A particular thank you is due to Paul Mewies who has supported the cross party housing group tirelessly, and been responsible for organising meetings and coordinating activities with CIH Cymru and H4AC.

Report by: Keith Edwards, CIH Cymru

Secretary, Cross Party Housing Group

ANNEX: Homes for All Cymru (H4AC) members 2015

Chair: John Puzey, Shelter Cymru

Age Concern Cymru

Care and Repair Cymru

Chartered Institute of Housing Cymru

Community Housing Cymru

Cymorth Cymru

Disability Wales

Home Builders Federation

National Landlords Association

Residential Landlords Association

RNIB Cymru

Rough Sleepers Cymru

Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors

Shelter Cymru

Tai Pawb

Tenant Participation Advisory Service Cymru

Welsh Local Government Association

Welsh Refugee Council

Welsh Tenants

Welsh Womens Aid

NOTE:

No professional lobbyists participated in or attended any meetings or events during the year.

Voluntary and charitable organisations who attended and/or participated in meetings or events are listed elsewhere.