

# Concise Minutes – Local Government and Housing Committee

Meeting Venue:

Video Conference via Zoom

Meeting date: Wednesday, 22 September 2021

Meeting time: 08.46 – 12.27

This meeting can be viewed

on [Senedd TV](#) at:

<http://senedd.tv/en/12427>

## Remote

## Attendance

Category	Names
Members of the Senedd:	John Griffiths MS (Chair) Mabon ap Gwynfor MS Alun Davies MS Joel James MS Carolyn Thomas MS Samuel Kurtz MS
Witnesses:	Julie James MS, Minister for Climate Change Emma Williams, Welsh Government Amelia John, Welsh Government Francois Samuel, Welsh Government Dr Jess Pearce, Welsh Government Rebecca Evans MS, Minister for Finance and Local Government Reg Kilpatrick, Welsh Government



	Claire Germain, Welsh Government
Committee Staff:	Manon George (Clerk) Catherine Hunt (Second Clerk) Chloe Davies (Deputy Clerk) Stephen Davies (Legal Adviser) 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 Local Government and Housing Committee.
- 1.2 Apologies for absence were received from Sam Rowlands MS. Samuel Kurtz MS substituted for Sam in accordance with Standing Order 17.48.
- 1.3 The following Members made declarations of relevant interests under Standing Order 17.24A:
- Carolyn Thomas MS
  - Samuel Kurtz MS
  - Joel James MS
  - Alun Davies MS
- 1.4 The Chair stated that if for any reason he dropped out of the meeting, the Committee agreed that Alun Davies MS would become Temporary Chair in accordance with Standing Order 17.22.

## **2 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 to resolve to exclude the public from items 3 and 7 of the meeting today and from the meeting on 6 October 2021**

2.1 The Committee agreed the motion.

## **3 Consideration of the Legislative Consent Memorandum (LCM) on the Leasehold Reform (Ground Rents) Bill**

3.1 The Committee considered the Legislative Consent Memorandum (LCM) and agreed to write to the Minister for Climate Change on a number of matters raised.

## **4 Ministerial scrutiny session – Minister for Climate Change**

4.1 The Committee received evidence from:

- Julie James MS, Minister for Climate Change
- Emma Williams, Director, Housing and Regeneration, Welsh Government
- Amelia John, Deputy Director, Housing Policy Division, Welsh Government
- Francois Samuel, Head of Building Regulations, Welsh Government
- Dr Jess Pearce, Deputy Director, Housing Safety, Regulation and Improvement Division, Welsh Government

## **5 Ministerial scrutiny session – Minister for Finance and Local Government**

5.1 The Committee received evidence from:

- Rebecca Evans MS, Minister for Finance and Local Government
- Reg Mitchell-Kilpatrick, Director General, Covid Crisis Coordination, Welsh Government

Claire Germain, Deputy Director, Local Government Transformation and Partnerships, Welsh Government

5.2 The Minister for Finance and Local Government agreed to provide:

- A note on the work of the independent remuneration panel in relation to Councillor remuneration, as well as a copy of the panel's annual report, when published;
- A note on the remaining £2billion that was unallocated in the June 2021 supplementary budget;
- An update on the recommendations and current work of the Independent Review Panel on community and town councils.

## **6 Papers to note**

### **6.1 Letter from the Finance Committee in relation to the Welsh Government Draft Budget 2022–23**

6.1.a The Committee noted the letter from the Finance Committee in relation to the Welsh Government Draft Budget 2022–23.

### **6.2 Letter from the Welsh Language Commissioner in relation to the Committee's work**

6.2.a The Committee noted the letter from the Welsh Language Commissioner in relation to the Committee's work.

### **6.3 Letter from the Children, Young People and Education Committee in relation to its priorities**

6.3.a The Committee noted the letter from the Children, Young People and Education Committee in relation to its priorities.

### **6.4 Report by the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales "Homes Fit for the Future: The Retrofit Challenge"**

6.4.a The Committee noted the report by the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales "Homes Fit for the Future: The Retrofit Challenge".

## **6.5 Letter from the NHBC in relation to the housing sector and "NHBC Accepts"**

6.5.a The Committee noted the letter from the NHBC in relation to the housing sector and "NHBC Accepts".

## **6.6 Letter from the Bevan Foundation in relation to poverty and inequality policy areas**

6.6.a The Committee noted the letter from the Bevan Foundation in relation to poverty and inequality policy areas.

## **6.7 Letter from Llyr Gruffydd MS to the Minister for Finance and Local Government in relation to local authority electoral boundaries**

6.7.a The Committee noted the letter from Llyr Gruffydd MS to the Minister for Finance and Local Government in relation to local authority electoral boundaries.

## **6.8 Parliamentary briefing from the Electoral Commission in relation to the Elections Bill**

6.8.a The Committee noted the Parliamentary briefing from the Electoral Commission in relation to the Elections Bill.

## **6.9 Letter from the Equality and Social Justice Committee in relation to joint working between committees**

6.9.a The Committee noted the letter from the Equality and Social Justice Committee in relation to joint working between committees.

## **6.10 Briefing from Llamau in relation to Upstream Cymru**

6.10.a The Committee noted the briefing Llamau in relation to Upstream Cymru.

## **7 Ministerial scrutiny sessions – consideration of the evidence received under items 4 and 5**

7.1 The Committee discussed the evidence received under items 4 and 5 and agreed to write to the Minister for Climate Change and to the Minister for Finance and Local Government on a number of matters raised.