SOCLAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

AGENDA

7th Meeting, 2002

Wednesday 1 May 2002

The Committee will meet at 9.45 am in the the Chamber, Assembly Hall, The Mound, Edinburgh

1. **Items in private:** The Committee will consider whether to take items 7 and 8 in private.

2. **Scottish Fuel Poverty Statement: Consultative Draft:** The Committee will take evidence from—

   **Sustainability and Consumer Issues:**
   - Scottish Warm Homes Campaign:
     - Kirstie Shirra, Parliamentary Officer, Friends of the Earth Scotland
     - Gavin Corbett, Head of Campaigns, Shelter Scotland
   - Ann Loughrey, Director, Energy Action Scotland
   - Norrie Kerr, Deputy Director, Energy Action Scotland
   - David Brownlee, Policy Officer (Income), Age Concern
   - Angela Yih, Policy Officer (Housing), Age Concern

   **Implementation Issues:**
   - Councillor Alistair Gray, Housing Spokesperson, COSLA
   - Ron Ashton, Head of Housing, Angus Council, COSLA
   - Stephen Cunningham, West Lothian Council, COSLA
   - Alan McKeown, Housing Development Officer, COSLA
   - Mr John Clough MBE, Chief Executive, EAGA Partnership
   - Stephen Morrison, Scottish Manager, EAGA Partnership

   **Provision Issues:**
   - Hammie Smillie, Director of Community and Business Relations, Scottish Power
   - Gordon McGregor, Social and Environmental Manager, Scottish Power
   - Steve Gorry, General Manager, Scottish Gas, Edinburgh
   - Hamish McPherson, Corporate Affairs Manager, Scottish Gas
3. **Inquiry into the Voluntary Sector Report:** The Committee will consider the following draft motion—

Johann Lamont MSP on behalf of the Social Justice Committee: Inquiry into the Voluntary Sector—

That the Parliament notes the 1\textsuperscript{st} Report, 2002 of the Social Justice Committee on the Inquiry into the Voluntary Sector (SP Paper 556)

4. **Community Budgeting:** The Committee will consider its approach to the Scottish Executive consultation.

5. **Carers Week:** The Committee will consider a paper on Carers Week.

6. **Social Inclusion:** The Committee will consider a paper on future action on social inclusion.

7. **Budget 2003–04:** The Committee will consider its approach to its Stage 1 report.

8. **Licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation:** The Committee will consider further the response of the Minister to its Interim Report.

Jim Johnston
Clerk to the Committee
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The following papers relate to the meeting:

**Agenda Item 2**

*Fuel Poverty – Paper by the Clerk*  
SJ/02/7/2

**Agenda Item 3**

*Inquiry into the Voluntary Sector Report – Paper by the Clerk*  
SJ/02/7/3

**Agenda Item 4**

*Community Budgeting – Paper by the Clerk*  
SJ/02/7/4
**Agenda Item 5**
Carers week – Paper by the Clerk  SJ/02/7/5

**Agenda Item 6**
Social Inclusion – Paper by the Clerk  SJ/02/7/6

**Agenda Item 7**
Budget 2003-04 – Paper by the Clerk [PRIVATE]  SJ/02/7/7

**Agenda Item 8**
Licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation  - Paper by the Clerk [PRIVATE]  SJ/02/7/8
Social Justice Committee

Fuel Poverty

1. The Committee will hear oral evidence from 3 panel sessions of witnesses on sustainability and consumer issues, implementation issues and provision issues respectively. Each panel is expected to last for around 40 minutes.

2. Given the number of witnesses attending and in order to maximise the time available for questions there will be no opportunity for opening statements. However, the Committee has received a number of written submissions and these have been circulated to Members.

3. Following oral evidence Members are invited to agree that the Committee considers a paper summarising the evidence at its meeting on 15 May. The Committee is also invited to consider whether it wishes to publish a report on its inquiry, as part of its response to the Executive.

Jim Johnston
Clerk to the Committee
April 2002
Social Justice Committee

Inquiry into the Voluntary Sector - draft motion

1. The Committee is asked to consider the following draft motion by Johann Lamont MSP on behalf of the Social Justice Committee on the Inquiry into the Voluntary Sector:


Jim Johnston
Clerk to the Committee
April 2002
SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

COMMUNITY BUDGETING

1. The Scottish Executive has issued a consultation on community budgeting with a response date of 14 June. Community budgeting is defined as:

…the identification of the level and nature of mainstream spend in local areas by local authorities and other statutory agencies, and the subsequent use of this information to develop and deliver the services that a community demands, potentially through the vehicle of locally based partnership structures and on the principles of community engagement, social inclusion and equality.

2. The Executive is of the view that community budgeting offers the opportunity to identify the greater demands, resources and needs for services in many disadvantaged communities, often taking into account particular circumstances within communities that need a particular service delivery response. Therefore the development of community budgeting is largely seen as being aimed towards those communities that are at a disadvantage and/or in a vulnerable position.

3. “Social Justice…A Scotland Where Everyone Matters” (1999) sets out the strategy for communities and raises the issue of community expenditure patterns, stating that:

One way of improving spending decisions by agencies and of giving communities a greater say is to produce detailed information on local spending patterns.

4. The intention at the time was that local spend information would be developed and in due course could lead to the production of total spending budgets for all area-based Social Inclusion Partnerships. The consultation on community budgeting takes forward this commitment, by exploring the potential for community budgeting processes to develop as one possible tool for improving service delivery, concentrating on the specific service needs and priorities of communities.

5. A summary of the consultation questions is annexed.

6. The Committee may wish to consider inviting limited written evidence with a view to considering a draft response to the consultation at its meeting on 12 June.

7. The Committee may also consider referring to its conclusions on community budgeting in its final report on Social Inclusion and Community Engagement.

Jim Johnston
Clerk to the Committee
April 2002
Summary of Consultation Questions

1. Community Planning partnerships are currently developing joined-up strategic frameworks within which initiatives such as SIPs, BNSF pathfinders and local community groups can be better co-ordinated. From your perspective, what do you think the role for Community Planning partnerships is in relation to community budgeting where local community planning structures are either in existence and/or being developed?

2. What are your views on the role of Social Inclusion Partnerships in community budgeting?

3. How do the BNSF pathfinders want to build upon the work they are currently undertaking on determining mainstream spend?

4. How do you think the community budgeting approach can support community engagement?

5. What ability do statutory agencies have to map local spend in areas, that are smaller than local authority areas eg SIP area?

6. What are the implications for statutory agencies in terms of developing and refining these systems in terms of resources, be it staffing, software, equipment etc?

7. How can agencies operate their systems across a range of different boundaries, due to the lack of co-terminosity for service provision compared to other agencies delivering services into communities? Eg in some SIP areas there is more than one health board within its boundaries.

8. How important is it that data generated is truly consistent between agencies in the Community Budgeting process? Is this a practical aim?

9. How do you think that a response from both the community and voluntary sector can be facilitated at Level 2 above? How can the agencies respond to this type of approach also, taking into account various working cultures and practices?

10. What systems are required to engage the community in contracting for service delivery and local spend?

11. How can communities assess their needs and priorities in service delivery and utilise emerging data sources such as neighbourhood statistics?

12. Are these systems already in place in either your particular community area or one that you are familiar with?

13. What are your views on the challenges for community budgeting?

14. What can be done to meet these challenges?
SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

CARERS WEEK

1. The Convener has been approached by Carers Scotland about the possibility of the Social Justice Committee holding an informal fact-finding event as part of Carers Week which is during the week beginning 10 June. The theme of Carers Week this year is “Carers in their Communities”.

2. Carers Scotland lead a group of organisations involved in raising awareness of carers. Members of this group are Carers Scotland, Crossroads Scotland, Capability Scotland, Contact a Family and the Princess Royal Trust for Carers.

3. The Committee is invited to consider hosting a buffet lunch in Committee Room 3 on Thursday 13 June. The primary aim of the event will be to allow representatives of carers groups to meet with Committee members and to raise the profile of Carers Week. The Committee may also consider that it would be useful to hold a joint event with the Health and Community Care Committee and the Equal Opportunities Committee. The Committee may also wish to invite the Convener of the Cross Party Group on Carers to attend the event.

Jim Johnston
Clerk to the Committee
April 2002
Social Justice Committee

Social Inclusion – further action

1. At its meeting on 17 April the Committee took evidence from Brian Henderson of Reid Howie Associates Ltd on research entitled “Setting the Priorities – Effective Engagement in the Social Inclusion Process.” The Committee agreed to consider a further paper on possible action regarding social inclusion.

2. The following have already been undertaken in the Committee’s consideration of social inclusion issues:

   - General consultation seeking views on the structures, policies and realities of social inclusion in Scotland;
   - An Open Space event was held in February 2000 aimed at exploring the current social inclusion agenda and raising and discussing the issues affecting those involved in the field;
   - External research on community engagement and Social Inclusion Partnerships (SIPs);
   - Meeting with Communities Against Poverty (CAP) on SIPs and community representation.

3. The Committee is invited to consider that it may wish to publish a report highlighting the action taken to date and making recommendations to the Scottish Executive on areas and issues arising from the evidence on social inclusion. The Committee may also wish to consider publishing the research paper by Reid Howie Associates as an annex to its report.

4. The Committee is also being invited to respond to an Executive consultation on community budgeting. If the Committee agrees to consult on this issue, it may consider that there could be issues which arise out of its response which are relevant to its inquiry on social inclusion. If so, the Committee may wish to await the outcome of that consultation before finalising its report.

Jim Johnston
Clerk to the Committee
April 2002
MEETING OF THE SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE:

Please note there will be a meeting of the Social Justice Committee at 9.45am on Wednesday 1 May 2002 in The Hub.

The meeting will begin at 9.45am. The meeting will be broadcast. Official Report will be present.

The external EMAIL address is not in use.

There are no Special Needs flagged.

There are no translation needs flagged.

Catering requirements:

The Hub will provide catering.

If there are any queries, or anything you wish to discuss further please do not hesitate to contact myself or any member of the Social Justice Team.