



House of Commons
Communities and Local
Government Committee

Formal Minutes

Session 2008–09

Communities and Local Government Committee

The Communities and Local Government Committee is appointed by the House of Commons to examine the expenditure, administration, and policy of the Department for Communities and Local Government and its associated bodies. Current membership

Dr Phyllis Starkey MP (Labour, Milton Keynes South West) (Chair)

Sir Paul Beresford MP (Conservative, Mole Valley)

Mr Clive Betts MP (Labour, Sheffield Attercliffe)

John Cummings MP (Labour, Easington)

Andrew George MP (Liberal Democrat, St Ives)

Mr Greg Hands MP (Conservative, Hammersmith and Fulham)

Anne Main MP (Conservative, St Albans)

Dr John Pugh MP (Liberal Democrat, Southport)

Andy Slaughter (Labour, Ealing, Acton and Shepherd's Bush)

Emily Thornberry MP (Labour, Islington South and Finsbury)

Mr Neil Turner MP (Labour, Wigan)

The following were also members of the Committee during the period covered by this report:

Jim Dobbin MP (Labour Co-op, Heywood and Middleton)

Mr Bill Oler MP (Labour, Nuneaton)

David Wright MP (Labour, Telford)

Powers

The committee is one of the departmental select committees, the powers of which are set out in House of Commons Standing Orders, principally in SO No 152 These are available on the Internet via www.parliament.uk.

Publications

The Reports and evidence of the Committee are published by The Stationery Office by Order of the House. All publications of the Committee (including press notices) are on the Internet at www.parliament.uk/clgcom

Committee staff

The current staff of the Committee are Huw Yardley (Clerk of the Committee), Andrew Griffiths (Second Clerk), Josephine Willows (Inquiry Manager), Clare Genis (Senior Committee Assistant), Nicola McCoy (Committee Assistant), Stewart McIlvenna (Committee Support Assistant), and Laura Kibby (Select Committee Media Officer).

Contacts

All correspondence should be addressed to the Clerk of the Communities and Local Government Committee, House of Commons, 7 Millbank, London SW1P 3JA. The telephone number for general enquiries is 020 7219 1353; the Committee's email address is clgcom@parliament.uk

Formal Minutes of the CLG Committee, Session 2008-09

Monday 1 to Friday 5 December

The Chairman, Mr Clive Betts and Emily Thornberry visited Denmark and Sweden in connection with the Committee's inquiry into the Balance of Power: central and local government, in accordance with the Committee's decision of 9 June 2007.

Monday 8 December 2008

Members present:

Dr Phyllis Starkey, in the Chair

Sir Paul Beresford

Mr Clive Betts

John Cummings

Jim Dobbin

Andrew George

Dr John Pugh

1. Petitions

The Committee considered the following petitions to the House:

From the Women's Institute ending violence against women campaign relating to ending violence against women (printed on 7 October 2008)

From David Head, Residents of Daws Heath, Hadleigh, Thundersley and others relating to planning and development (Essex) (printed on 13 November 2008).

The Committee considered the petition to the House from Residents of Cuddington and Sandiway, and others, relating to planning and development (Cheshire) (printed on 18 November 2008).

Ordered, That the Clerk of the Committee respond to this petition stating that it appears to the Committee to concern matters wholly within the responsibility of local government, and that the Committee has therefore not considered the matters raised.

2. Community cohesion and migration

The Committee considered this matter.

3. Housing and the credit crunch

Ordered, That the following written evidence relating to housing and the credit crunch be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

Memoranda from:

CRED 57 Building Societies Association
CRED 58 Defend Council Housing
CRED 59 London Assembly
CRED 60 Communities and Local Government.

Ordered, That the written evidence submitted by the Elderflowers Projects Company Ltd and reported to the House on 10 November 2008 (CRED 33) be withdrawn and replaced by a revised memorandum submitted by the witness; and that the revised memorandum be reported to the House for publication on the Internet.

4. Winter Supplementary Estimates

Ordered, that an explanatory memorandum relating to the Department for Communities and Local Government's Winter Supplementary Estimates 2008-09 (WSUP (08-09) 01) submitted by the Department be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

5. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

6. Planning Policy Statement 6 (town centres)

The Committee considered this matter.

7. Balance of Power

Professor George Jones OBE and Professor John Stewart gave oral evidence.

Professor Vernon Bogdanor CBE, Oxford University and Professor Tony Travers, London School of Economics gave oral evidence.

Rt Hon Lord Heseltine gave oral evidence.

Baroness Hamwee and Rt Hon Nick Raynsford MP gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Monday 15 December at 4.00 p.m.]

Monday 15 December 2008

Members present:
Dr Phyllis Starkey, in the Chair

Mr Clive Betts
John Cummings

Andrew George
Anne Main

1. Local authority investments

The Committee considered this matter.

Ordered, That the written evidence from the following witnesses relating to local authority investments be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

LAI 01	Bridgenorth District Council
LAI 02	Blackpool Council
LAI 03	Hartlepool Borough Council
LAI 04	Norfolk County Council
LAI 05	Society of District Council Treasurers
LAI 06	Guilford Borough Council
LAI 07	Harrogate Borough Council
LAI 08	National Association of Local Councils
LAI 09	Arlingclose Ltd
LAI 10	The Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers (SOLACE)
LAI 11	Cllr Davie Boothroyd, Cllr Paul Dimondenberg - Westminster City Council
LAI 12	Torbay Council
LAI 13	Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA)
LAI 14	Bournemouth Borough Council
LAI 15	Sefton Council
LAI 16	Brighton and Hove City Council
LAI 17	Reading Borough Council
LAI 18	Butlers
LAI 19	Society of County Treasurers
LAI 20	Leeds City Council
LAI 21	Luton Borough Council
LAI 22	CIPFA Scottish Directors of Finance Section and CIPFA Scottish Treasury Management Forum
LAI 23	Local Government Association
LAI 24	Financial Services Authority

LAI 25	Plymouth City Council
LAI 26	Society of London Treasurers
LAI 27	Communities and Local Government

2. Traditional retail markets

Ordered, That Professor Alan Hallsworth and Professor Sophie Watson be appointed Specialist Advisers to help the Committee in matters related to traditional retail markets.

Professor Hallsworth declared an interest as Adviser to the South East Regional Food Group Farmers Markets Policy Team; as the author of a report for SONY UK on UK retail market regulation; and as a participant in the Andrew George MP cross-cutting group co-ordinating minority responses to the Competition Commission Groceries Inquiry.

3. Work of the Committee in 2007-08

Draft Report (*Work of the Committee in 2007-08*), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

The draft Report was agreed to; the Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the First Report of the Committee, HC 102.

4. Balance of Power: central and local government

Jeremy Smith, Secretary General of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions, appearing in a personal capacity, and Martin Willis, Director of the Institute of Local Government Studies, University of Birmingham, gave oral evidence.

Cllr David Shakespeare OBE, Vice Chair and Leader of the Conservative Group, Cllr Richard Kemp, Deputy Chair and leader of the Liberal Democratic Group, Cllr Keith Ross, Deputy Chair and Leader of the Independent Group, and Cllr Sharon Taylor, Deputy Leader of the Labour Group, Local Government Association, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 16 December at 10.00 a.m.]

Tuesday 16 December 2008

Members present:
Dr Phyllis Starkey, in the Chair

Mr Clive Betts
Andrew George

Emily Thornberry

Housing and the credit crunch

Michael Coogan, Director General, Council of Mortgage Lenders, David Orr, Chief Executive, National Housing Federation, John Stewart, Director of Economic Affairs, Home Builders Federation, and Dr Peter Williams, Executive Director, Intermediary Mortgage Lenders' Association, gave oral evidence.

Rt Hon Margaret Beckett MP, Minister for Housing, Richard McCarthy, Director General, Housing and Planning, CLG, Sir Robert Kerslake, Chief Executive-designate, Homes and Communities Agency, and Peter Marsh, Chief Executive, Tenant Services Authority, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Monday 12 January at 4.20 p.m.]

Monday 12 January 2009

Members present:

Dr Phyllis Starkey, in the Chair

Sir Paul Beresford
Mr Clive Betts
John Cummings
Jim Dobbin

Andrew George
Mr Greg Hands
Anne Main
Dr John Pugh

1. Petitions

The Committee considered the petition to the House from Residents of Redhill Grange in Wellingborough and the surrounding area about overdevelopment (printed on 10 December 2008).

Ordered, That the Clerk of the Committee respond to this petition stating that it appears to the Committee to concern matters wholly within the responsibility of local government, and that the Committee has therefore not considered the matters raised.

The Committee considered the petition to the House from Kevin Booth, editor of "The Press" York, and the people of York about Government funding for the North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service (printed on 15 December 2008).

2. Local authority investments

Ordered, That the written evidence relating to local authority investments from London Councils (LAI 28); Sector (LAI 29); and the Building Societies Association (LAI 30) be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

3. Balance of Power

Rt Hon Hazel Blears MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Monday 19 January at 4.20 p.m.]

Monday 19 January 2009

Members present:

Dr Phyllis Starkey, in the Chair

Sir Paul Beresford
Mr Clive Betts
Jim Dobbins

Andrew George
Mr Greg Hands
Anne Main

1. CLG Winter Supplementary Estimate

Resolved, That the Committee request further written evidence from the Department for Communities and Local Government on CLG's Winter Supplementary Estimate 2008-09.

2. Local authority investments

Howard Knight gave oral evidence.

Steve Freer, Chief Executive, and Chris Bisland, Chair of the CIPFA Local Government Policy Panel, Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Monday 26 January at 4.20 p.m.]

Monday 26 January 2009

Members present:

Dr Phyllis Starkey, in the Chair

Mr Clive Betts
John Cummings

Andrew George
Anne Main

Jim Dobbin

Local authority investments

Ordered, That the written evidence relating to local authority investments from Fitch Ratings (LAI 33); Martin Hickman (LAI 34); and Stephen Gilbert (LAI 35) be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

Mike Weaver, President, Society of County Treasurers, Peter Antill, Director of Resources, Tewkesbury Borough Council, representing the Society of District Council Treasurers, and Alan Cross, Head of Finance, Reading Borough Council, gave oral evidence.

Mark Horsfield, Director, Arlingclose, Chris Anthony, Managing Director, Butlers, and David Whelan, Managing Director, Sector, gave oral evidence.

Cllr Richard Kemp, Deputy Chair, Local Government Association, and Cllr Merrick Cockell, Chairman, London Councils, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Monday 9 February at 4.20 p.m.]

Monday 9 February 2009

Members present:

Dr Phyllis Starkey, in the Chair

Sir Paul Beresford

Mr Clive Betts

John Cummings

Mr Greg Hands

Anne Main

Dr John Pugh

1. Department for Communities and Local Government and Government Equalities Office Autumn Performance Reports

Resolved, That the Committee request a memorandum from the Government Equalities Office in relation to its Autumn Performance Report.

2. Balance of Power: central and local government

Ordered, That the written evidence from the Australian Local Government Association relating to the inquiry into the Balance of Power: central and local government (BoP 60) be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

3. Local authority investments

Ordered, That the written evidence from the following relating to the inquiry into local authority investments be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

Association of Corporate Treasurers (LAI 36)
 Investment Management Association (LAI 38)
 Kent County Council (LAI 39)
 Audit Commission (LAI 37 [revised])
 Moody's Investors Service (LAI 40)
 Sector (LAI 29A).

Jeremy Palmer, Head of Financial Policy, Building Societies Association, Guy Sears, Director, Wholesale, Investment Management Association, and Richard Warne, Head of UK Institutional Business Development, Aviva Investments, representing the Investment Management Association, gave oral evidence.

Steve Bundred, Chief Executive, and Martin Evans, Managing Director (Audit), Audit Commission, gave oral evidence.

John Healey MP, Minister for Local Government, Graham Duncan, Acting Director, Local Government Finance, and Mr Graham Fletcher, Head of Local Government Accounting Finance, Department for Communities and Local Government, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 10 February at 10.00 a.m.]

Tuesday 10 February 2009

Members present:
 Dr Phyllis Starkey, in the Chair

Mr Clive Betts
 Andrew George

Anne Main
 Emily Thornberry

1. Department for Communities and Local Government's Departmental Annual Report 2008

Draft Report (*Communities and Local Government's Departmental Annual Report 2008*), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

The draft Report was agreed to; the Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the Second Report of the Committee, HC 238.

2. Housing and the Credit Crunch

Draft Report (*Housing and the Credit Crunch*), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

The draft Report was agreed to; the Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the Third Report of the Committee, HC 101.

3. Future programme

Resolved, That the Committee visit the site of the 2012 Olympic Games at Stratford, east London, in connection with its inquiry into the legacy of the 2012 Olympic Games.

4. Balance of Power: central and local government

The Committee considered this matter.

5. Traditional retail markets

Resolved, That the Committee visit markets in London, and in a place elsewhere in England to be determined, in connection with its inquiry into traditional retail markets.

Ordered, That the written evidence from the following relating to the inquiry into traditional retail markets be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

Darlington Borough Council (MARKETS 01)
 Patricia Gray (Fareham Town Centre Manager) (MARKETS 02)
 Mr Mel Hilbrow (MARKETS 03)
 The Western International Tenants Association (MARKETS 04)
 Michael Felton Associates (MARKETS 05)
 St Albans District Council (MARKETS 06)
 Derby City Council (MARKETS 07)
 Chelmsford City Council (MARKETS 08)
 Vale Royal Borough Council (MARKETS 09)
 London Borough of Southwark (MARKETS 10)
 Mr C.R.Hurdman (MARKETS 11)
 Action for Market Towns (AMT) (MARKETS 12)
 Retail Markets Alliance (RMA) (MARKETS 13)
 Bradford Markets Service (MARKETS 14)
 National Association of British Market Authorities (MARKETS 15)
 Bletchley & Fenny Stratford Town Council (MARKETS 17)
 City of Westminster Council (MARKETS 18)
 New Markets Solutions (MARKETS 19)
 Quarterbridge Project Management (MARKETS 20)
 Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea (MARKETS 21)
 Leicestershire Food Links Ltd (MARKETS 22)
 The Fresh Produce Consortium (MARKETS 23)
 The National Retail Planning Forum (MARKETS 24)

Geraud Markets (UK) Ltd (MARKETS 25)
Alliance Against IP Theft (MARKETS 26)

6. Planning Matters

Resolved, That the Committee request a further memorandum from the Department for Communities and Local Government in relation to its report *Planning Matters* (HC (2007-08) 517).

7. Provision of public toilets

The Committee considered this matter.

8. New Towns: follow-up

The Committee considered this matter.

Ordered, That the memorandum submitted by the Department for Communities and Local Government in response to the Committee's report *New Towns: follow-up* (HC (2007-08) 889) be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

[Adjourned till Monday 2 March at 4.20 p.m.]

Monday 2 March 2009

Members present:
Dr Phyllis Starkey, in the Chair

Mr Clive Betts
Sir Paul Beresford
John Cummings

Andrew George
Anne Main
Dr John Pugh

1. Petition

The Committee considered the petition to the House from residents of Belmont, Cheam, Sutton, Stoneleigh and Worcester Park in the LB of Sutton, and others, about designation of garden land as brownfield land (presented on 4 February 2009).

2. Specialist advisers' interests

The interests of the following specialist advisers were declared to the Committee: Ted Cantle, Rita Hale, Alan Hallsworth, Helen Hayes, Steve Hilditch, Kelvin MacDonald, Alveena Malik, Rachel Pillai, Tony Travers, Dr Helen Walker, Dr Sophie Watson, Christine Whitehead and Steve Wilcox (see Appendix).

3. Local authority investments

Ordered, That the written evidence from Sterling Consultancy Services (LAI 42) relating to the inquiry into local authority investments be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

4. Department for Communities and Local Government's Departmental Annual Report 2008

The Committee considered this matter.

5. Traditional retail markets

Resolved, That the Committee host a web forum in connection with its inquiry into traditional retail markets.

Ann Coffey MP, Chair, All-Party Parliamentary Markets Group, gave oral evidence.

Dr Sophie Watson, Professor of Sociology, Open University, gave oral evidence.

Joe Harrison, Chief Executive, National Market Traders' Federation, Simon Quin, Chief Executive, Association of Town Centre Management, and Gareth Jones, Managing Agent, National Farmers' Retail and Markets Association, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Monday 16 March at 4.20 p.m.]

Tuesday 10 March

The Chairman, Sir Paul Beresford, Mr Clive Betts, Anne Main, Dr John Pugh and Emily Thornberry visited Ridley Road Market, in Hackney, and Chapel Market, in Islington, in connection with the Committee's inquiry into traditional retail markets, in accordance with the Committee's decision of 10 February 2009.

Monday 16 March 2009

Members present:

Dr Phyllis Starkey, in the Chair

Mr Clive Betts
Sir Paul Beresford
John Cummings

Emily Thornberry
Mr Neil Turner

1. Declaration of interest

Mr Neil Turner declared his interests, in accordance with the Resolution of the House of 13 July 1992, as follows:

Sponsorship or financial or material support

Provision of office by Wigan MBC, rent abated to reflect the public services offered from the office and benefits to the community and the council from the use of the premises.

2. Petition

The Committee considered the petition to the House from Portsmouth City Council tenants and others about the use of council tenants' rent (presented on 2 March 2009).

3. Future programme

Resolved, That the Committee inquire into the Supporting People programme.

4. Local authority investments

Ordered, That the written evidence from the Financial Services Authority (LAI 24A) relating to the inquiry into local authority investments be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

5. Traditional retail markets

Ordered, That the written evidence from Ian Harris (MARKETS 28) relating to the inquiry into traditional retail markets be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

6. Appointment of the Chair of the Infrastructure Planning Commission

Sir Michael Pitt, Government's preferred candidate for Chair of the Infrastructure Planning Commission, gave oral evidence.

Draft Report (*Appointment of the Chair of the Infrastructure Planning Commission*), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

The draft Report was agreed to; the Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the Fourth Report of the Committee, HC 354.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 24 March at 3.00 p.m.]

Tuesday 24 March

The Chairman, Sir Paul Beresford, Mr Clive Betts, Anne Main and Emily Thornberry visited Leicester Market in connection with the Committee's inquiry into traditional retail markets, in accordance with the Committee's decision of 10 February 2009.

The Committee met in the Town Hall, Leicester

Members present:

Dr Phyllis Starkey, in the Chair

Sir Paul Beresford
Anne Main

Emily Thornberry

Traditional retail markets

Graham Wilson, Chief Executive, National Association of British Market Authorities, gave oral evidence.

Chris Hurdman and Chris New gave oral evidence.

Tim Hirst, Assistant Director, Commercial and Support Services, City of Bradford Metropolitan Council, Malcolm Veigas, Assistant Director (Community Services), Bolton Metropolitan Council, and Nick Rhodes, Head of Leicester Markets and Enterprise, Leicester City Council, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Monday 30 March at 4.20 p.m.]

Monday 30 March 2009

Members present:

Dr Phyllis Starkey, in the Chair

Sir Paul Beresford
Mr Clive Betts

John Cummings
David Wright

1. Declaration of interest

David Wright confirmed, in accordance with the Resolution of the House of 13 July 1992, that he had no interests to declare.

2. Petition

The Committee considered the petition to the House from the residents of Isham on flooding (presented on 27 January 2009).

The Committee considered the petition to the House from the residents of Tarporley on planning application 08-2866-FUM for the development of a continuing care community (presented on 12 March 2009).

Ordered, That the Clerk of the Committee respond to this petition stating that it appears to the Committee to concern matters wholly within the responsibility of local government, and that the Committee has therefore not considered the matters raised.

3. Local authority investments

Ordered, That the written evidence from the Public Works Loan Board (LAI 44) relating to the inquiry into local authority investments be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

4. Winter Supplementary Estimate

Ordered, that a supplementary memorandum relating to the Department for Communities and Local Government's Winter Supplementary Estimate 2008-09 (WSUP (08-09) 03), submitted by the Department, be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

Resolved, That the Committee request further written evidence from the Department for Communities and Local Government on its Winter Supplementary Estimate 2008-09.

5. Spring Supplementary Estimate

Ordered, that an explanatory memorandum relating to the Department for Communities and Local Government's Spring Supplementary Estimate 2008-09 (SSUP (08-09) 01), submitted by the Department, be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

Resolved, That the Committee request further written evidence from the Department for Communities and Local Government on its Spring Supplementary Estimate 2008-09.

6. Government Equalities Office Autumn Performance Report 2008

Ordered, that a memorandum relating to the Government Equalities Office Autumn Performance Report 2008 (GEO 02), submitted by the Department, be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

7. Supporting People

The Committee considered this matter.

8. Planning Policy Statement 6

The Committee considered this matter.

9. New Towns

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 31 March at 10 a.m.]

Tuesday 31 March

Members present:

Dr Phyllis Starkey, in the Chair

Sir Paul Beresford
Mr Clive Betts

John Cummings
David Wright

Traditional retail markets

Michael Felton, Michael Felton Associates, and Jonathan Owen, Quarterbridge, gave oral evidence.

Cllr Melvyn Teare, portfolio holder for Culture and Heritage, St Albans District Council, and Cllr Robin Bowen-Williams, Chair of Finance and General Purposes Committee, Bletchley & Fenny Stratford Town Council, gave oral evidence.

Stephen Douglass, Area Management and Engagement Manager, London Borough of Southwark, Chris Wroe, Environmental Health Manager for Licensing Policy and Strategy, City of Westminster Council, and Tot Brill, Executive Director for Transport, Environment, and Leisure Services, Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Monday 20 April at 4.20 p.m.]

Monday 20 April 2009

Members present:

Dr Phyllis Starkey, in the Chair

Sir Paul Beresford
John Cummings
Mr Greg Hands

Anne Main
Dr John Pugh
David Wright

1. Petition

The Committee considered the petition to the House from tenants of the London Borough of Sutton and others about council tenants' rent (printed on 25 March 2009).

2. Local authority investments

Ordered, That supplementary written evidence from Martin Hickman of *The Independent* (LAI 34A) relating to the inquiry into local authority investments be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

3. Traditional retail markets

Ordered, That the written evidence from Market Place [Europe] Ltd (MARKETS 29); the Local Government Association (MARKETS 30); and Marion Gettleson (MARKETS 32) relating to the inquiry into traditional retail markets be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

George Nicholson, Secretary, National Retail Planning Forum, and Jean-Paul Auguste, Chairman, Geraud Group (UK) Ltd, gave oral evidence.

Iain Wright MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Communities and Local Government, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Monday 27 April at 4.20 p.m.]

Monday 27 April 2009

Members present:

Dr Phyllis Starkey, in the Chair

Sir Paul Beresford

Emily Thornberry

Mr Clive Betts

Mr Neil Turner

John Cummings

David Wright

Andrew George

1. New Towns: Follow-Up

Draft Report (*New Towns: Follow-Up—Government Response to the Ninth Report of the Committee in 2007-08*), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

The draft Report was agreed to; the Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the Fifth Report of the Committee, HC 253.

2. Balance of Power: central and local government

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Monday 11 May at 4.20 p.m.]

Monday 11 May 2009

Members present:
Dr Phyllis Starkey, in the Chair

Mr Clive Betts
Andrew George

Anne Main
David Wright

1. Traditional retail markets

Ordered, That written evidence from Urban Space Management Ltd (MARKETS 33) relating to the inquiry into Traditional retail markets be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

2. Future programme

The Committee considered this matter.

3. Planning Policy Statement 6: Town Centres

Kate Barker gave oral evidence.

Katherine Edwards, Director, Local Communities and Property Communications, Tesco, Sue Willcox, Head of Town Planning, Sainsbury's, Richard Williams, Property Director, Aldi Stores Ltd, and Mr Ruairidh Jackson, Head of Planning and Property Strategy, the Co-operative Group, gave oral evidence.

Brian Raggett, British Council of Shopping Centres, James Lowman, Independent Retailers' Confederation, and Stephen Wright, Principal Lawyer (Planning), John Lewis Partnership, gave oral evidence.

Andrew Sangster, Honorary Secretary, Association of North Thames Amenity Societies, Christine Haigh, Campaigns and Policy Officer, Women's Environmental Network, and Gaynor Brown, Tescopoly, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 12 May at 10.00 a.m.]

Tuesday 12 May 2009

Members present:
Dr Phyllis Starkey, in the Chair

Mr Clive Betts
John Cummings
Andrew George

Emily Thornberry
Mr Neil Turner
David Wright

1. Balance of Power: central and local government

Draft Report (*Balance of Power: central and local government*), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

The draft Report was agreed to; the Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the Sixth Report of the Committee, HC 33.

2. Local authority investments

Draft Report (*Local authority investments*), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

The draft Report was agreed to; the Formal Minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the Seventh Report of the Committee, HC 164.

3. Traditional retail markets

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Monday 18 May at 4.20 p.m.]

Monday 18 May 2009

Members present:

Dr Phyllis Starkey, in the Chair

Mr Clive Betts
John Cummings

David Wright

1. Balance of Power

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Supporting People

Ordered, That written evidence from the following relating to the inquiry into the Supporting People programme be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

SPP 01	David Hart
SPP 03	Endeavour Housing Association
SPP 04	Alpha (RSL) Ltd
SPP 05	Family Mosaic
SPP 06	London Borough of Bromley
SPP 07	Service Users Reference Forum (SURF)
SPP 08	Medway Supporting People Providers Forum
SPP 09	Byker Bridge HA & Brighter Futures

SPP 10	G3 “Inspiring Individuals”
SPP 11	Southdown Housing Association
SPP 12	Kent Probation
SPP 13	North Somerset Supporting People
SPP 14	UNISON
SPP 15	Southend-on-Sea Borough Council Supporting People Team
SPP 16	Look Ahead
SPP 17	Devon’s Housing Support Strategic Partnership and Devon’s Joint Commissioning Body
SPP 18	Tyneside Cyrenians Ltd
SPP 19	London Borough of Greenwich
SPP 20	Executive Board of Providers in Kent
SPP 21	Space East
SPP 22	Bournemouth Borough Council
SPP 23	West Midlands Voluntary & Community Sector Housing Network
SPP 24	Rethink
SPP 25	Dorset Supporting People Provider Forum
SPP 26	Plymouth City Council
SPP 27	Westminster City Council
SPP 28	YOU
SPP 29	Housing 21
SPP 30	The National Association of Almshouses
SPP 31	Nottinghamshire Supporting People Team
SPP 32	Supporting People Commissioning Body in Surrey
SPP 33	Stoke-on-Trent Supporting People
SPP 34	Gloucestershire Supporting People
SPP 35	Anchor Trust
SPP 36	Supporting People Team – Cornwall
SPP 37	Hyde Group
SPP 38	Commission for Rural Communities
SPP 39	SYHA (South Yorkshire Housing Association)
SPP 40	Doncaster Supporting People Providers Forum
SPP 41	Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
SPP 42	Casa Support
SPP 43	Guinness Care and Support
SPP 44	Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
SPP 45	Age Concern and Help the Aged
SPP 46	Raglan Housing Association Ltd
SPP 47	Salvation Army Housing Association
SPP 48	Refuge
SPP 49	Southern Housing Group and Subsidiaries, James Butcher Housing Association and South Wight Housing Association
SPP 50	Brighton and Hove City Council
SPP 51	St Mungo
SPP 52	Dudley Supporting People Commissioning Body

SPP 53	Three Oaks Homes Tenants' Federation (TOHTF)
SPP 54	Home Group Ltd
SPP 55	West Kent Housing Association
SPP 56	CIH (Chartered Institute of Housing)
SPP 57	Imkaan
SPP 58	Shropshire Provider Forum
SPP 59	Homeless Link
SPP 60	West Berkshire Supporting People
SPP 61	Foundations
SPP 62	Walsall Supporting People Services
SPP 63	Retirement Housing Group
SPP 64	Tameside MBC
SPP 65	ARC (Association for Real Change)
SPP 66	South Tyneside Council
SPP 67	Moat Homes Ltd
SPP 68	Mencap
SPP 69	North Somerset Council
SPP 70	Plymouth City Council Supporting People Independent Provider Forum
SPP 71	Hampshire Supporting People County Commissioning Group (CCG)
SPP 72	Cambridgeshire Supporting People Team
SPP 73	Cosgarne Supported Accommodation*
SPP 74	Depaul UK
SPP 75	Bath & North East Somerset Council
SPP 76	Staffordshire Joint Commissioning Unit or Staffordshire County Council
SPP 77	Norfolk Supporting People
SPP 78	Wolverhampton City Council
SPP 79	Bromford Support
SPP 80	Audit Commission
SPP 81	Centrepoint
SPP 82	Midland Heart
SPP 83	Action for Children
SPP 84	Martin Bellinger Cherchefelle
SPP 86	Milton Keynes Council
SPP 87	Regional Supported Housing Strategy Group (RSHSG) and North West Supporting People Strategic Group (NWSPSG)
SPP 88	Adult Social Care & Housing in Harrow
SPP 89	Stockport Supporting People Housing Team*
SPP 90	Kent County Council
SPP 91	Welsh Women's Aid
SPP 92	NAT
SPP 93	hact
SPP 94	Catch22
SPP 95	Swindon Borough Council
SPP 96	Thames Reach
SPP 97	Dorset Supporting People

SPP 98	National Housing Federation
SPP 99	ROCC
SPP 100	Warwickshire Supporting People
SPP 101	Supporting People in Suffolk
SPP 102	Somerset Supporting People
SPP 103	Framework Housing Association*
SPP 104	IRRV (Institute of Revenues Rating & Valuation)
SPP 106	Dimensions
SPP 107	SITRA
SPP 107A	SITRA (appendices to SPP 107)
SPP 108	Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS) and LGA
SPP 109	Retirement Security Ltd and the Association of Retirement Housing Managers
SPP 110	Department for Communities and Local Government

* *Part of the evidence reported.*

Resolved, That the Committee visit Brixton, Southwark and Lambeth in connection with this inquiry.

3. Planning Policy Statement 6: Town Centres

John Rhodes, Major Developers Group, Jim Fennell, Nathaniel Lichfield and Partners, appearing on behalf of Capital Shopping Centres, and Bill Hughes, Legal and General Property Ltd., gave oral evidence.

Rynd Smith, Royal Town Planning Institute, Tony Mulhall, Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, and David Brock, Law Society, gave oral evidence.

Cllr Mike Haines, Local Government Association, Peter Gait, Sheffield City Council, and Carly Dockerill, Brighton and Hove City Council, gave oral evidence.

Iain Wright, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Communities and Local Government, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Monday 1 June at 4.20 p.m.]

Monday 1 June 2009

Members present:

Dr Phyllis Starkey, in the Chair

Mr Clive Betts
John Cummings
Mr Greg Hands
Anne Main

Dr John Pugh
Emily Thornberry
Mr Neil Turner

1. Local authority investments

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Housing and the credit crunch

Michael Coogan, Director General, Council of Mortgage Lenders; David Orr, Chief Executive, National Housing Federation; John Stewart, Director of Economic Affairs, Home Builders Federation; and John Heron, Deputy Chairman, Intermediary Mortgage Lenders' Association, gave oral evidence.

Rt Hon Margaret Beckett MP, Minister for Housing, and Richard McCarthy, Director General, Housing and Planning, Department for Communities and Local Government; Sir Robert Kerslake, Chief Executive, Homes and Communities Agency; and Peter Marsh, Chief Executive, Tenant Services Authority, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Monday 8 June at 4.00 p.m.]

Monday 8 June 2009

Members present:

Dr Phyllis Starkey, in the Chair

Sir Paul Beresford

Mr Clive Betts

John Cummings

Anne Main

Emily Thornberry

David Wright

1. Departmental Estimates

Ordered, That the supplementary memorandum relating to the Department for Communities and Local Government's Spring Supplementary Estimate 2008-09 (SSUP (08-09) 02), and the explanatory memorandum relating to the Department for Communities and Local Government's Main Estimate 2009-10 (MEST (09-10) 01), submitted by the Department, be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

2. Traditional retail markets

Ordered, That the written evidence from the London Borough of Bromley (MARKETS 34); the London Borough of Lambeth (MARKETS 35); the London Borough of Enfield (MARKETS 36); the London Borough of Brent (MARKETS 37); the London Borough of Bexley (MARKETS 38); the London Borough of Newham (MARKETS 39); the London Borough of Islington (MARKETS 40) and the London Borough of Hackney (MARKETS 41) relating to the inquiry into traditional retail markets be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

3. Supporting People

Ordered, That the written evidence from the London Borough of Camden (SPP 111); Crisis (SPP 112); the Women's Aid Federation England (SPP 113); and Unite (SPP 114) relating to the inquiry into the Supporting People programme be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

Roy Irwin, Chief Inspector for Housing, Audit Commission and Alan MacDonald, HM Assistant Chief Inspector of Probation (Supporting People Programme, Youth Offending Team Inspection Programme), HM Inspectorate of Probation, gave oral evidence.

Vic Rayner, Chief Executive Officer, and Nigel Hamilton, Interim Head of Policy and Public Affairs, Sitra; and Helen Williams, Assistant Director of Neighbourhoods, National Housing Federation, gave oral evidence.

Mike Short, National Officer, Community and Voluntary Sector, and Pete Challis, National Officer, Housing and Local Government, Unison; and Andrew van Doorn, Projects Director, Housing Associations Charitable Trust (Hact), gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Monday 15 June at 4.00 p.m.]

Monday 15 June 2009

Members present:

Dr Phyllis Starkey, in the Chair

Sir Paul Beresford
Mr Clive Betts

John Cummings
Anne Main

1. Petitions

The Committee considered the following petitions to the House:

From people concerned at the proposed development of an energy for waste plant at Ernesettle, Plymouth (printed on 11 May 2009)

From Mr and Mrs Hall and others, about development at 9B Westwood Road, Canvey Island (printed on 1 June 2009)

From Ashleigh Sharp and others, about building on Canvey's flood plain (printed on 1 June 2009)

Ordered, That the Clerk of the Committee respond to these petitions stating that it appears to the Committee to concern matters wholly within the responsibility of local government, and that the Committee has therefore not considered the matters raised.

The Committee considered the petition to the House from members of the Royal British Legion and others, relating to Council Tax Benefit (printed on 21 May 2009)

Ordered, That the Clerk of the Committee write to the petitioners enclosing a copy of the Committee's recent Report on council tax benefit.

2. Review of council housing finance

Ordered, That Professor Steve Hilditch be appointed a Specialist Adviser to help the Committee in matters related to the review of council housing finance.

Professor Hilditch declared the following interests: independent chair of the CLG Project Group on setting up the National Tenant Voice; work for the Chartered Institute of Housing to deliver its contract with CLG to facilitate a series of expert and practitioner workshops in relation to the CLG/HMT review of council housing finance; and Independent chair of the CLG Project Group on setting up the National Tenant Voice.

3. Future programme

Resolved, That the Committee inquire into the Government's policy on preventing violent extremism.

4. Liaison Committee evidence session with the Prime Minister

The Committee considered this matter.

5. Supporting People

Paul Corry, Director of Public Affairs, Rethink; David Congdon, Head of Campaigns and Policy, Mencap; Kate Jopling, Head of Policy and Public Affairs, Catch 22; and Jane Keeper, Director of Operations, Refuge, gave oral evidence.

Maurice Condie, CEO, Byker Bridge; Gill Brown, Chief Executive, Brighter Futures; Rachael Byrne, Executive Director, Home Group Ltd; and Charles Fraser, Chief Executive, St. Mungo's, gave oral evidence.

Joe Oldman, Senior Policy Adviser, Housing, Age Concern and Help the Aged; John Belcher CBE, Chief Executive, Anchor Trust; and Louis Loizou, Vice-Chair, Brighton & Hove Sheltered Housing Action Group, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Monday 29 June at 4.00 p.m.]

Tuesday 16 June 2009

The Chairman, Sir Paul Beresford and Mr Clive Betts visited the site of the 2012 Olympic Games at Stratford, east London, in connection with the Committee's responsibility for overseeing the regeneration legacy of the 2012 Olympic Games, in accordance with its decision of 10 February 2009.

Tuesday 23 June 2009

The Chairman and Mr Clive Betts visited Brixton, Southwark and Lambeth, in connection with the Committee's inquiry into Supporting People, in accordance with its decision of 18 May 2009.

Monday 29 June 2009

Members present:
Dr Phyllis Starkey, in the Chair

Mr Clive Betts
John Cummings
Andrew George

Anne Main
Mr Neil Turner

1. Petitions

The Committee considered the petition to the House from people concerned about the Regional Spatial Strategy for the South West with regard to Taunton Deane (printed on 10 June 2009).

2. Preventing violent extremism

The Committee considered this matter.

3. Traditional Retail Markets

Ordered, That the written evidence from the London Borough of Havering (MARKETS 42) relating to the inquiry into traditional retail markets be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

4. Supporting People

Ordered, That the written evidence from Bournemouth SP Providers Forum (SPP 116) relating to the inquiry into the Supporting People programme be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

Peter Rush, Supporting People Manager, Hampshire County Council and Gregory Roberts, Supporting People and Homelessness Strategy Manager, Westminster Council, gave oral evidence.

Andrew Meakin, Supporting People Manager, Stoke-on-Trent City Council, Val Bourne, Head of Housing Services, Stoke-on-Trent City Council, Julie Nixon, Head of Housing, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council, and Cllr Ann McCoy, Cabinet Member for Adult Services and Health, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council, gave oral evidence.

Rod Craig, Executive Director for Community and Adult Services, Cambridgeshire County Council, Stephen Cheetham, Supporting People Manager, Cambridgeshire County Council, Rebecca Potter, Supporting People Manager, Bath and NE Somerset Council, and Lisa Moon, Supporting People Contract Review Officer, Bath and NE Somerset Council, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Monday 6 July at 4.00 p.m.]

Monday 6 July 2009

Members present:

Dr Phyllis Starkey, in the Chair

Mr Clive Betts
Anne Main

Dr John Pugh
Mr Neil Turner

Supporting People

Martin Cheeseman, Supporting People Lead, Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS), Cllr Dr Gareth Barnard, Vice-Chair, LGA Community Wellbeing Board, Sue Talbot, Service Inspector, and Peter West, Head of Commissioner Methods, Care Quality Commission (CQC), gave oral evidence.

Ian Austin MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, and Lorraine Regan, Head of the Northern Regional Resource Team, Department for Communities and Local Government, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 7 July at 10.00am.]

Tuesday 7 July 2009

Members present:

Dr Phyllis Starkey, in the Chair

Sir Paul Beresford
Mr Clive Betts
John Cummings

Anne Main
Emily Thornberry

1. Housing and the credit crunch: follow-up

Draft Report (*Housing and the credit crunch: follow-up*), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

The draft Report was agreed to; the formal minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the Eighth Report of the Committee, HC 568.

2. Market Failure?: Can the traditional market survive?

Draft Report (*Market Failure?: Can the traditional market survive?*), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

The draft Report was agreed to; the formal minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the Ninth Report of the Committee, HC 308.

3. Need and impact: planning for town centres

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Monday 13 July 2009 at 4.00pm.]

Monday 13 July 2009

Members present:

Dr Phyllis Starkey, in the Chair

Sir Paul Beresford
Mr Clive Betts
Mr John Cummings

Mr Greg Hands
Mr Neil Turner

1. Petition

The Committee considered the petition to the House from people concerned about the Regional Spatial Strategy for the South West with regard to Woodspring (printed on 2 July 2009).

2. Need and impact: planning for town centres

Draft Report (*Need and impact: planning for town centres*), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

The draft Report was agreed to; the formal minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the Tenth Report of the Committee, HC 517.

3. Preventing violent extremism: appointment of specialist advisers

Ordered, That Professor Andrew Silke and Dr Tahir Abbas be appointed Specialist Advisers to assist the Committee in respect of the seminar to be held on 14 July 2009 in connection with its inquiry into preventing violent extremism (see appendix for declaration of interests).

4. Traditional retail markets

The Committee considered this matter.

5. Decent Homes

The Committee considered this matter.

6. Review of council housing finance

Rt Hon John Healey MP, Minister for Housing, Peter Ruback, Deputy Director, Local Authority Housing Finance, and Ken Swan, Team Leader, Decent Homes Housing Finance, Department for Communities and Local Government, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 14 July at 10.00am.]

Tuesday 14 July 2009

Members present:

Dr Phyllis Starkey, in the Chair

Sir Paul Beresford

Dr John Pugh

Mr Clive Betts

Alison Seabeck

John Cummings

Mr Neil Turner

1. Declaration of interest

Alison Seabeck declared her interests, in accordance with the Resolution of the House of 13 July 1992, as follows:

Nil interests.

2. Preventing Violent extremism

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Monday 20 July 2009 at 4.20pm.

Monday 20 July 2009

Members present:

Dr Phyllis Starkey, in the Chair

Sir Paul	Dr John Pugh
Beresford	Alison Seabeck
Mr Clive Betts	Mr Neil Turner
John	
Cummings	

1. Preventing violent extremism

Ordered, That Alveena Malik and Dilwar Hussein be appointed as Specialist Advisers to assist the Committee in its inquiry into Preventing violent extremism. They declared their interests as follows (see appendix for declarations of interests).

2. Beyond Decent Homes

Ordered, That Steve Partridge be appointed as a Specialist Adviser to assist the Committee in its inquiry into Beyond Decent Homes. Stephen Partridge declared his interests as follows (see appendix for declaration of interests).

3. Supporting People

The Committee considered this matter.

4. Department for Communities and Local Government's Departmental Annual Report 2009

The Committee considered this matter.

5. National Policy Statements

The Committee considered this matter.

6. Balance of Power: central and local government

The Committee considered this matter.

7. Public Toilets

The Committee considered this matter.

8. Appointment of the Deputy Chairs of the Infrastructure Planning Commission

Robert Upton and Dr Pauleen Lane, the Government's preferred candidates for Deputy Chairs of the Infrastructure Planning Commission, gave oral evidence.

Draft Report (*Appointment of the Deputy Chairs of the Infrastructure Planning Commission*), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

The draft Report was agreed to; the formal minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the Eleventh Report of the Committee, HC 749.

[Adjourned till Monday 12 October at 4.20 p.m.]

Monday 12 October 2009

Members present:

Dr Phyllis Starkey, in the Chair

Sir Paul Beresford

Anne Main

Mr Clive Betts

Alison Seabeck

John Cummings

Draft Report (Appointment of the Local Government Ombudsman and Vice Chair of the Commission for Local Administration in England), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

The draft Report was agreed to; the formal minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the Twelfth Report of the Committee, HC 1012.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 13 October at 10.00am.]

Tuesday 13 October 2009

Members present:

Dr Phyllis Starkey, in the Chair

Mr Clive Betts

Alison Seabeck

John

Neil Turner

Cummings Dr

John Pugh

1. Petitions

The Committee considered petitions to the House from the following:

John Hogarth, parents of Jotmans Hall School, local residents and others on the proposed development of a SureStart Centre at Jotmans Hall School.

Those opposed to UK Coal's proposals for surface mining in Huntingdon Lane and New Works.

Tenants of Sutton Housing Partnership on the funding of the Decent Homes programme.

2. The Supporting People Programme

Draft Report (*The Supporting People Programme*), proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

The draft Report was agreed to; the formal minutes relating to the consideration of the Report are published in the Thirteenth Report of the Committee, HC 649-I.

3. Beyond Decent Homes

Ordered, That the following Memoranda relating to *Beyond Decent Homes* be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

- BDH 1 SHAL Housing Ltd
- BDH 2 Michael Barratt, tenant of Crawley Council
- BDH 3 College of Occupational Therapists (COT)
- BDH 4 Care & Repair England
- BDH 5 Waterwise
- BDH 6 Stoke-on-Trent City Council
- BDH 7 The National Organisations of Residents Associations (NORA)
- BDH 8 The Tenant Participation Advisory Service (TPAS)
- BDH 9 Circle Anglia Ltd
- BDH 10 G15
- BDH 11 Gentoo Group
- BDH 12 Nottingham City Council
- BDH 13 West Kent Housing Association
- BDH 14 St Albans City and District Council
- BDH 15 The Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH)
- BDH 16 Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
- BDH 17 Places for People
- BDH 18 Sustainable Housing Action Partnership (SHAP)
- BDH 19 Fusion21

BDH 20	Residential Landlords Association (RLA)
BDH 21	Ridge and Partners Limited Liability Partnership (LLP) (Ridge)
BDH 22	Construction Products Association
BDH 23	National Energy Action (NEA)
BDH 24	The Hyde Group
BDH 25	Newham Borough Council
BDH 26	Defend Council Housing
BDH 27	Southwark Borough Council
BDH 28	Westminster City Council
BDH 29	Foundations
BDH 30	Age Concern and Help the Aged
BDH 31	Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML)
BDH 32	Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH)
BDH 33	Energy Saving Trust
BDH 34	National Housing Federation
BDH 35	Sustainable Development Commission (SDC)
BDH 36	Communities and Local Government
BDH 37	The Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE)
BDH 38	Hanover Housing Group
BDH 39	Birmingham City Council
BDH 40	BRE Housing Group
BDH 41	Tenant Services Authority (TSA)
BDH 42	Local Government Association (LGA)
BDH 43	Bolton at Home (Arms Length Management Organisation of Bolton Council)
BDH 44	Sheffield City Council
BDH 45	Association for the Conservation of Energy (ACE)

4. Local authority investments

Draft Special Report (*Local authority investments: Government, CIPFA, FSA and Audit Commission Response to the Committee's Seventh Report of Session 2008–09*), proposed by the Chairman, brought up, read the first and second time, and agreed to.

The Government's response, together with the responses from CIPFA, FSA and the Audit Commission, to the Seventh Report from the Committee were appended to the Report.

Resolved, That the Report be the First Special Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Chairman make the Report to the House.

Ordered, That embargoed copies of the Report be made available, in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order No. 134.

5. Balance of Power

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Monday 20 October at 4.20pm.]

Monday 19 October 2009

Members present:

Dr Phyllis Starkey, in the Chair

Sir Paul	Anne Main
Beresford	Alison Seabeck
Mr Clive Betts	Mr Neil Turner
John	
Cummings	
Mr Greg Hands	

1. Preventing violent extremism

Ordered, That the following Memoranda relating to *Preventing violent extremism* be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

- PVE 1 East Staffordshire Racial Equality Council
- PVE 2 Federation of Muslim Organisations
- PVE 3 Board of Deputies of British Jews
- PVE 4 Network of Sikh Organisation
- PVE 5 Iqbal Wahhab
- PVE 6 Insted Consultancy, London
- PVE 7 Islamic Human Rights Commission
- PVE 8 UK Youth Parliament
- PVE 9 Black and Ethnic Minorities Infrastructure in Scotland
- PVE 10 Institute of Race Relations
- PVE 11 London Borough of Barking and Dagenham
- PVE 12 Oxfam
- PVE 13 Dr Paul Thomas, University of Huddersfield
- PVE 14 International School for Communities, Rights and Inclusion, University of Central Lancashire
- PVE15 Institute of Community Cohesion
- PVE 16 Quillam
- PVE 17 Vishwa, Hindu Parishad, UK
- PVE 18 Amina - the Muslim Women's Resource Centre
- PVE 19 Institute for Policy Research & Development
- PVE 20 Muslim Women's Network UK

PVE 21	Hull City Council
PVE 22	Arts and Humanities Research Council
PVE 23	PeaceMaker
PVE 24	Muslim Council of Scotland
PVE 25	Birmingham City Council
PVE 26	Somali Family Support Group
PVE 27	Economic and Social Research Council
PVE 28	Association of Police Authorities
PVE 29	Leicester City Council
PVE 30	LGA Group
PVE 31	Indian Muslim Welfare Society
PVE 32	Muslim Council of Britain
PVE 33	West Midlands Police Authority
PVE 34	Barrow Cadbury Trust
PVE 35	Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies
PVE 36	National Muslim Women’s Advisory Group
PVE 38	ENGAGE
PVE 39	An-Nisa Society
PVE 40	Faith Associates
PVE 41	Lancashire’s PVE Forum
PVE 42	Aylesbury Vale PVE Strategic Advisory Group
PVE 43	Dialogue Society
PVE 44	London Borough of Tower Hamlets
PVE 45	London Borough of Harrow
PVE 46	London Borough of Waltham Forest
PVE 48	Newcastle City Council
PVE 49	Forward Thinking
PVE 50	JUST West Yorkshire
PVE 51	Susan Seymour
PVE 52	Mohammed Mushtaq
PVE 53	Markmudar Ahmed
PVE 54	Michael Ryan
PVE 55	Jackie Lukes
PVE 56	Professor Gary Craig
PVE 57	Mumtaz Ahmed Khan
PVE 58	Oxford Council of Faiths
PVE 60	ACPO
PVE 61	Islamic Society of Britain
PVE 62	Mayor of London
PVE 63	Department for Communities and Local Government
PVE 64	Ms Nahid Majid OBE and Ms Alveena Malik

2. Beyond Decent Homes

The Committee considered this matter.

3. Housing and the credit crunch: follow-up

The Committee considered this matter.

4. Department for Communities and Local Government Departmental Annual Report 2009

Ordered, That the following Memoranda relating to the Department for Communities and Local Government Departmental Annual Report 2009 be reported to the House for publication on the internet:

DAR-09 02, 04, 05 and 07	Department for Communities and Local Government
DAR-09 03	Association of North East Councils
DAR-09 06	National Housing Federation
DAR-09 08	LGA
DAR-09 09	National Council for Voluntary Organisations.

Peter Housden, Permanent Secretary, Richard McCarthy, Director General, Housing and Planning, Irene Lucas, Director General, Local Government and Regeneration, and Sir Ken Knight, Chief Fire and Rescue Adviser, Department for Communities and Local Government, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Monday 26 October at 4.20pm.]

Monday 26 October 2009

Members present:

Dr Phyllis Starkey, in the Chair

Mr Clive Betts	Alison Seabeck
John Cummings	Mr Neil Turner

1. Petition

The Committee considered a petition to the House from Emma Shamshoum, residents of Thundersley and others concerning development in Thundersley.

Resolved, That the Clerk of the Committee respond to this petition stating that it appears to the Committee to concern a matter wholly within the responsibility of local government and the Committee has therefore not considered the matter raised.

2. Preventing violent extremism

The Committee considered this matter.

3. **Beyond Decent Homes**

Ordered, That the memorandum from the National Federation of ALMOs (BDH 47) relating to Beyond Decent Homes be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

Dr Stephen Battersby, President, and Andrew Griffiths, Principal Policy Officer, Chartered Institute of Environmental Health, and Sarah Webb, Chief Executive, and Richard Capie, Director, Policy and Practice, Chartered Institute of Housing, gave oral evidence.

Nigel Long, Head of Policy, Tenant Participation Advisory Service, Michael Gilling, Chair, Tenants and Residents Organisations of England, and Trish Canham, Communications Officer, National Organisation of Residents Associations, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Monday 2 November at 4.20p.m.]

Monday 2 November 2009

Members present:

Dr Phyllis Starkey, in the Chair

Mr Clive Betts

Alison Seabeck

Sir Paul Beresford

Mr Neil Turner

John Cummings

1. Need and impact: planning for town centres

Draft Special Report (*Need and impact: planning for town centres: Government response to the Tenth Report from the Committee*) proposed by the Chairman, brought up, read, the first and second time, and agreed to.

The Government's response to the Tenth Report from the Committee was appended to the Report.

Resolved, That the Report be the Second Special Report of the Committee to the House.

Ordered, That the Chairman make the Report to the House.

2. Government Equalities Office Departmental Annual Report and Accounts 2008-09

The Committee considered this matter.

3. Beyond Decent Homes

Ordered, That the memorandum from Savills (BDH 48) relating to the inquiry into Beyond Decent Homes be reported to the House for publication on the internet.

Rt Hon John Denham MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Rt Hon John Healey MP, Minister for Housing and Planning, and Rt Hon Rosie Winterton MP, Minister for Local Government, Department for Communities and Local Government, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Monday 9 November at 4.20p.m.]

Monday 9 November 2009

Members present:

Dr Phyllis Starkey, in the Chair

Mr Clive Betts	Alison Seabeck
John Cummings	Andy Slaughter
Andrew George	Mr Neil Turner
Anne Main	

1. Declaration of interest by a new Member

Andy Slaughter MP disclosed his interests in accordance with the Resolution of the House of 13 July 1992:

Remunerated employment, office, profession etc

On 10 July 2009 I took part in a televised panel debate on UK-Iran relations for Al-Jazeera Satellite Channel Limited of Westminster Towers, 7th Floor, 3 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7SL. The time engaged included briefing, research, travel and the programme itself was 3.5 hours. I received a payment of £150. (*Registered 13 July 2009*).

Survey completed for Populus Limited, Northburgh House, 10 Northburgh Street, London, EC1V 0AT. Hours: 20mins. Fee of £50 donated to my local Party. (*Registered 29 August 2009*).

Survey completed for ComRes, 4 Millbank, London, SW1P 3JA. Hours: 40mins. Fee of £50 donated to my local Party. (*Registered 29 August 2009*)

Overseas visits

14-20 February 2009, to Gaza and the West Bank following the recent conflict in Gaza. Accommodation and travel funded by the Welfare Association UK. (Registered 3 April 2009)

Land and Property

One residential property in Eastbourne.

Miscellaneous and unremunerated interests

Barrister (not practising).

2. Future programme

Resolved, That the Committee inquire into the Fire Control project.

3. Beyond Decent Homes

Ordered, That the following Memorandum relating to Beyond Decent Homes be reported to the House for publication on the internet: Confederation of Co-operative Housing (BDH 49) and East Durham Homes (BDH 50).

Cllr Nick Stanton, Leader of the Council and Cllr Kim Humphreys, Deputy Leader of the Council and Executive Member for Housing, Southwark Borough Council, Cllr. John Lines, Cabinet Member for Housing and Sukvinder Kalsi, Assistant Director of Finance (Housing), Birmingham City Council, gave oral evidence.

Peter Morton, Chief Executive of Sheffield Homes, Cllr Bob McCann, Sheffield City Council, Tomos Jones, Home Improvement Manager, Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council and John Clayton, Investment Director, Sandwell Homes, gave oral evidence.

David Orr, Chief Executive National Housing Federation, Andy Doylend, Executive Director (Operations), Circle Anglia and Bruce Moore, Chief Executive, Hanover gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 10 November at 10.15a.m.]

Tuesday 10 November 2009

Members present:

Dr Phyllis Starkey, in the Chair

Sir Paul Beresford

Alison Seabeck

John Cummings

Andy Slaughter

Anne Main

Beyond Decent Homes

Sue Adams, Director, Care and Repair, Joe Oldman, Senior Policy Adviser for Housing, Age Concern/ Help the Aged and Steve Malone, Director, Foundations gave oral evidence.

Ron Campbell, Head of Policy and Information, National Energy Action, Professor Anne Power, former Commissioner, Sustainable Development Commission, and John Sharpe, Director, Sustainable Housing Partnership gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Monday 23 November at 4.20.pm.]

APPENDIX

Declarations of interests by the Committee's specialist advisers

Ted Cantle

Professor and Executive Chair, Institute of Community Cohesion (iCoCo)
 Associate Director, Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA)
 Non Executive Director, the Unity Partnership, Oldham
 Chair, Nottinghamshire County Sports Partnership (unpaid)
 President, Framework Housing Association (unpaid)
 Chair, Sustainability First, Registered Charity (unpaid)

Rita Hale

No current interests

Alan Hallsworth

Advisor, South East Regional Food Group Farmers Markets Policy Team
 Writing a report for SONY UK on UK retail market regulation
 Participant in the Andrew George MP cross-cutting group co-ordinating minority responses to the Competition Commission Groceries Inquiry

Helen Hayes

Urban Practitioners Limited, a planning, urban design and regeneration consultancy practice of which I am a Joint Managing Director
 Turner Contemporary, an arts-based charity and gallery in Margate, Kent, of which I am a Trustee (from December 2008)
 Husband, Ben Jupp, is a director-level civil servant in the Cabinet Office

Steve Hilditch

Currently working for the Chartered Institute of Housing to deliver its contract with CLG to facilitate a series of expert and practitioner workshops in relation to the CLG/HMT review of council housing finance
 Independent chair of the CLG Project Group on setting up the National Tenant Voice

Kelvin MacDonald

Current Positions

2007 - date Associate Director, the placeteam
 2004 - date Affiliated Lecturer, Department of Land Economy, University of Cambridge

Current Voluntary Activities

2008 Member of the SEEDA Steering Group for the Collaboration to Address a Slowing Market study
 2008 Member of the RTPI Global Planners Network Research Steering Group
 2008 Site Champion for www.communityplanning.net

2008	RTPI Dialogue Member for the University of the West Indies
2008	Adviser to Shelter
2007 - date	Chair, RTPI Partnership Board, South Bank University
2007 - date	External Examiner, M.Phil. Spatial/International Planning, Bartlett School, UCL
2006 - date	Organising Committee of the Oxford Planning Law Conference
2006 - date	Member of the Editorial Board of Town Planning Review

Alveena Malik

Currently a freelance consultant working on equality, human rights and cohesion issues. In particular I am contracted to work for 2 days a week with the Institute for Community Cohesion (iCoCo) as Principal Associate with lead responsibility for Education and Cohesion. From time to time I undertake short pieces of work for other organisations such as the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC), Citizenship Foundation and voluntary and community organisations. However at this moment in time I am solely working for iCoCo.

Rachel Pillai

No interests to declare

Tony Travers

Board Member (unpaid) Centre for Cities

Honorary Member, Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) (unpaid)

Honorary Member, Institute of Revenues Rating and Valuation (IRRV) (unpaid)

Irregular research and consultancy undertaken for a number of public and private sector bodies. None permanent (paid)

Regular contributions to a number of national and regional publications, including *The Times*, *The Guardian*, *The Daily Telegraph*, *Financial Times*, *Evening Standard*, *Local Government Chronicle* and *Public Finance* (paid)

Professor at LSE

Dr Helen Walker

No interests to declare

Dr Sophie Watson

No interests to declare

Christine Whitehead

Director of Cambridge Centre for Housing and Planning Research (CCHPR)

Steve Wilcox

Member of the advisory boards for Roof (the Shelter Housing magazine), the NHBC Foundation, and the Cambridge Centre for Housing and Planning Research (all are unpaid).

Employed (half time) at the University of York and (half time) self employed. In both capacities I have undertaken research projects for sundry government departments and public and private sector organisations.

Only on going project is the annual UK Housing Review; with the 17th 2008/09 edition just about to be published.

Professor Andrew Silke declared that he was: Professor at the University of East London (paid); a Member of the British Psychological Society (unpaid); a Member of the, International Association for Counter-terrorism & Security Professionals (unpaid); an Honorary Fellow of the University of Leicester (unpaid); an Honorary Senior Research Associate at the University of St Andrews (unpaid); and that he had undertaken irregular research and consultancy for a number of public and private sector bodies ((None permanent) (paid)).

Dr Tahir Abbas declared nil interests.

Alveena Malik declared the following interests: a freelance consultant working on cohesion, equality and human rights issues; contracted to work 2 days a week with the Institute for Community Cohesion (iCoCo) as Principal Associate with lead responsibility for Education and Cohesion; contracted to work one day a week for the Young Foundation as adviser on the Maslaha Project (start up Muslim web based organisation) providing strategic advice on business planning, fundraising and stakeholder engagement; and from time to time undertakes short pieces of work for other organisations and might be undertaking research work on Visual Arts and Cohesion commissioned by the Arts Council in the autumn.

Dilwar Hussein declared the following interests: Head of Policy Research Centre; Advisor to Weidenfeld Institute for Strategic Dialogue on their Islam in Europe programme of research; advising on a short-term Prevent related research project run by the Royal United Services Institute; on a review panel for HM Prison Service looking at literature in prisons; occasionally undertakes research and training projects related to identity, cohesion and preventing extremism for a variety of sources (including the Association of Local Government, the Communities and Local Government Department of HMG, the Change Institute, St Philips Centre in Leicester and the Apex Partnership).

Stephen Partridge declared the following interests: Non-Executive Director, Solihull Community Housing Ltd (Arms Length Management Organisation) since 2003, this would change from the 1st August when he would take up the position of Director of Financial Policy and Development with the Chartered Institute of Housing.