

Enterprise and Business Committee

Meeting Venue: **Committee Room 3 – Senedd**

Meeting date: **Wednesday, 29 April 2015**

Meeting time: **09.15 – 12.30**

This meeting can be viewed on [Senedd TV](http://senedd.tv/en/2990) at:
<http://senedd.tv/en/2990>

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales



Concise Minutes:

Assembly Members:

William Graham AM (Chair)
Jeff Cuthbert AM
Byron Davies AM
Keith Davies AM
Eluned Parrott AM
Joyce Watson AM

Witnesses:

Lesley Griffiths AM, The Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty, Welsh Government
Andrew Godfrey, Boots and British Retail Consortium
Russell Greenslade, Swansea Business Improvement District
Neil Hemington, Welsh Government
Rhiannon Kingsley, Bridgend County Borough Council
Ojay MacDonald, Association of Town and City Management
Kath Palmer, Welsh Government
Antonia Pompa, Merthyr Tydfil Business Improvement District
Steffan Roberts, Welsh Government

Committee Staff:

Marc Wyn Jones (Clerk)
Martha Da Gama Howells (Second Clerk)
Rachel Jones (Deputy Clerk)
Ben Stokes (Researcher)

TRANSCRIPT

View the [meeting transcript](#).

1 Introductions, apologies and substitutions

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Gwenda Thomas, Dafydd Elis-Thomas, Mick Antoniw and Rhun ap Iorwerth.

2 Regeneration of town centres – follow-up scrutiny

2.1 Lesley Griffiths, The Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty, Kath Palmer, Steffan Roberts and Neil Hemington answered questions from Members of the Committee.

2.2 The Minister agreed to provide further information on the following:

- A note on the footfall statistics for Bargoed, following the location of Morrisons in the town centre.
- Information on the criteria used to allocate funding from the Tackling Poverty Fund, Vibrant and Viable Places and clarification on how it coincides with the Town Centre First policy with specific reference to the example of the funding provided for Barry Island.
- A note on why it appears the Welsh Government's 'town centre first' policy is only being applied in practice to retail and not to the location of office developments or the location of local authority services and staff.

3 Regeneration of town centres

3.1 Andy Godfrey answered questions from Members of the Committee.

4 Regeneration of town centres

4.1 Russell Greenslade, Antonia Pompa, Ojay McDonald and Rhiannon Kingsley answered questions from Members of the Committee.

4.2 Ojay McDonald agreed to provide a copy of the ATCM's report on their consultation on business rates when the consultation has ended.

4.3 Russell Greenslade agreed to provide further information on the advantages of Business Improvement Districts and the activities of the Swansea Business Improvement District.

5 Papers to note

5.1 ATCM Report on Town Centre Parking

5.1.1 The paper was noted by the Committee.