

# POLICY WATCH

## November 2010



A monthly round-up of relevant UK, Welsh and local policy developments relevant to Caerphilly CBC during November, compiled by the Policy Unit.

### LOCAL GOVERNMENT

**The Minister for Business and Budget, Jane Hutt has laid the Welsh Assembly Government's Draft Budget for 2011/12**

[Resolved, Resilient and Responsible](#)

*Source: Welsh Assembly Government Press Release 17 November 2010*

**Local Government Minister, Carl Sargeant, pledged protection for schools and social services within the Assembly Government's funding of local authorities across Wales**

[Minister announces £4 billion settlement to protect key council services](#)

*Source: Welsh Assembly Government Press Release 23 November 2010*

**Minimising the impact of cuts on communities is now imperative, says WLGA** - the Draft Budget published by the Welsh Assembly Government shows that local government general revenue grant funding will reduce by 1.7% next year, 3.6% in real terms. By 2013-14 local government will see its revenue funding return to just below 2010-11 cash levels, equivalent to -7.1% in real terms.



101117 Minimising  
the impact of cuts on

*Source: Welsh Local Government Association Press Release  
17 November 2010*

**The onset of cuts signals tough spending choices ahead says WLGA** - the provisional settlement for local government, published by the Welsh Assembly Government, shows that councils' core revenue grant funding will reduce on average by 1.4% next year, 3.3% in real terms. Over the three years revenue funding is set to fall by 6.7% in real terms, despite indicative figures for 2012-13 and 2013-14 show small

cash increases. Capital funding is set to fall by 14% in 2011-12 with further cuts expected in years two and three.



101123 The onset of cuts signals tough sp

*Source: Welsh Local Government Association Press Release  
23 November 2010*

**Councils will seek to minimise council tax increases for 2011-12, says WLGA** - following the publication of the provisional local government settlement councils are coming to terms with the cash cuts, which they are facing in revenue and capital next year. With ever increasing demand for high quality services and inflationary pressures, councils will struggle to balance their books next year. Local government therefore welcomes the decision by the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government not to top slice the settlement to fund a council tax freeze in Wales, recognising the different circumstances which face each council and the need for decisions to be taken locally.



101129 Councils will seek to minimise cou

*Source: Welsh Local Government Association Press Release  
29 November 2010*

**Cuts in Public Sector jobs may inflict long term damage on communities and the Welsh economy, warns WLGA**



08112010 Cuts in Public Sector jobs me

*Source: Welsh Local Government Association Press Release  
8 November 2010*

**WLGA welcomes extra £7million for roads repair work and salt** - to spend on repairing potholes and buying road salt for gritting this winter.



011210- WLGA welcomes extra £7mi

*Source: Welsh Local Government Association Press Release  
1 December 2010*

**New Joint Committee meets to plan deeper council collaboration**  
Councillors from Ceredigion and Powys held first meeting of a new Joint Committee, set up to oversee collaboration between the two authorities

for the delivery of engineering, transport and property services. Building on the strong track record of collaboration between the two authorities, the Central Wales Shared Services Joint Committee paves the way for joint working in further service areas.



171110 New Joint  
Committee meets to

*Source: Welsh Local Government Press Release 17 November 2010*

**Newport council is predicted to overspend by a million pounds** - more than previously forecast a report to the council's cabinet shows because of increased demands on social services, worsening predictions on how much income Newport Council will generate, and delays to restructuring plans.

[http://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/8636416.City\\_council\\_overspend\\_increases\\_by\\_1m/?ref=mr](http://www.southwalesargus.co.uk/news/8636416.City_council_overspend_increases_by_1m/?ref=mr)

*Source: Argos 14 November 2010*

### **Plan to outsource social services at Swansea**

Swansea council is drawing up plans, which could see adult social services outsourced to save costs.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-politics-11759210>

*Source: BBC News 16 November 2010*

### **Departmental Business Plans Published**

The Prime Minister has published departmental business plans that set out in detail the work of Government for the next four years. They have been heralded as marking the start of a major change in the way government works, bringing about a power shift in favour of increased government accountability directly to the public. The plans include data such as financial information, structural reform plans and departmental priorities.

*Source: Chartered Institute of Housing Bulletin 10 November 2010*

### **Freedom of Information Disclosure on the Abolition of the Audit Commission | [Details](#)**

CLG has published various documents detailing the discussions behind the decision to abolish the Audit Commission. The documents have been released under the freedom of information disclosure and cover advice notes, briefings, emails, papers and letters.

*Source: Chartered Institute of Housing Bulletin 10 November 2010*

### **Advisor 'sacked for refusing to let gay couples adopt'**

An adviser to an adoption panel was dismissed after refusing to recommend children live with same-sex couples, an employment tribunal has heard. She is bringing a claim of religious discrimination against Northamptonshire County Council.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-northamptonshire-11761089>

Source: BBC News 15 November 2010

### **People coming out as gay at younger age, research shows**

The average age at which people come out as gay, lesbian or bisexual has fallen steadily over the last four decades, according to Stonewall. A poll for Stonewall of 1,500 people who were already out found that among the over-60s the average age they had come out was 37. But those in their 30s had come out at an average age of 21, and in the group aged 18 to 24 it was 17.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/nov/15/gay-people-coming-out-younger-age>

Source: Guardian 16 November 2010

### **Gwent Police 'failed' deaf man who died, watchdog rules**

Two Gwent Police officers should have done more to assist a deaf man found dead after they helped him home, a watchdog has ruled. Anthony Lewis, 52, was helped home after officers found him in the street in Newport. He had speech difficulties which made it difficult to assess what was wrong, the Independent Police Complaints Committee (IPCC) said. It ruled the officers should have sought family or medical help for him. The officers were likely to have been the last people to see Mr Lewis alive, the police watchdog said.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-11791185>

Source: BBC News 17 November 2010

### **Polish Womens' support group among those celebrated**

A Big Lottery-funded scheme, which has led to the formation of community groups in a deprived estate has been celebrated in Wrexham. The Fair Share programme has provided grants which enabled people in Caia Park to set up their own support and advice groups in a bid to promote "community cohesion".

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-north-east-wales-11833305>

Source: BBC News 22 November 2010

**Vote of confidence in local government to commission social services** - these are the key findings of a major Social Services report published by the Independent Commission on Social Services in Wales 'From Vision to Action.' The report outlines the significant Social Services progress made in recent years and sets out the key challenges for the next 10 years for local government 'to lead a prioritised programme of change that will ensure services in the future respond to the challenges of our society.'



301110 Vote of  
confidence in local gc



Final ADSS Cymru PR  
- ICSSW - 30-11-10.c

*Source: WLGA Press Release 30 November 2010*

### **Major Supporting People Review published**

Deputy Minister Jocelyn Davies has launched the most wide-ranging review of the Supporting People programme ever undertaken in Wales. Around 50,000 of the most vulnerable people in Wales are supported through the programme every year and this report contains a number of recommendations including:

- A new unified Supporting People Programme Grant (SPPG) replaces the two current funding streams – Supporting People Grant (SPG) and Supporting People Revenue Grant (SPRG)
- SPPG should be allocated to local authorities and ring fenced solely to meet the needs of vulnerable people within the context of the Supporting People programme
- 'Multi-sectoral' committees should be established in each local authority area to administer the programme locally. The committees should include representatives of housing services, support people services, public health and Local Health Board
- the Welsh Assembly Government should promote and support cross boundary, regional working between local authorities.

The report and executive summary can be found at:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/housingandcommunity/housing/supportingpeople/supportedreview/finalreport/?jsessionid=p2f0MqxGHQILHc62gLBHcJmNjhfRmPQQH6w4KTT2nGbjP2h8nScT!-238050917?lang=en>

*Source: Chartered Institute of Housing Rapid Response  
22 November 2010*

## **Local Government In England To Take Over Responsibility For Public Health | [White Paper](#)**

A Public Health White Paper proposes that responsibility for health promotion and public health is transferred from the NHS to local authorities.

*Source: Chartered Institute of Housing Bulletin 1 December 2010*

## **Pembrokeshire Care Home Fees Review Granted | [Details](#)**

A High Court judge has granted permission for a judicial review of how Pembrokeshire Council sets the amount it pays in care home fees. A hearing in Cardiff heard that the weekly £390 it pays per resident is not enough to cover costs.

*Source: Chartered Institute of Housing Bulletin 10 November 2010*

**Mind Inquiry into Quality of Care for People with Mental Health Issues launched** – Mind is asking whether mental health in-patient wards and community crisis services are failing those who need them, and asking if staff receive the support they require and if services are caring or coercive. The deadline for submitting evidence is 17 November 2010. [Care in crisis / Mind](#)

*Source: Community Care 11 November 2010*

## **Mental Health Measure Passes through the National Assembly for Wales**

[Health Minister welcomes Assembly backing for Mental Health legislation](#)

*Source: Welsh Assembly Government Press Release 3 November 2010*

**Young carers 'deserve more help'** - there are four times as many young carers in the UK than previously officially recognised, figures published by the BBC suggest. One in 12 of the 4,029 schoolchildren asked by the BBC said they had caring responsibilities - such as dressing, washing or bathing family members. If the survey reflects the UK as a whole, it would mean there are about 700,000 young carers in the UK.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-11757907>

*Source: BBC News 16 November 2010*

## **Report shows benefit of new ways of caring for people with chronic conditions**

[Better chronic conditions management improving patient care and saving NHS millions of pounds](#)

*Source: Welsh Assembly Government Press Release 10 November 2010*

## **Jean White has been appointed as the new Chief Nursing Officer for Wales**

[New Chief Nursing Officer for Wales has been appointed](#)

*Source: Welsh Assembly Government Press Release 12 November 2010*

## **New five year plan to improve sexual health**

*Source: Welsh Assembly Government Press Release 8 November 2010*

## **REGENERATION**

### **Economic Woes Threaten Regeneration Gains | [More](#)**

The flagship Welsh regeneration programme Communities First needs stronger links with other initiatives to combat tough economic times, a report has found. *Regenerating Communities First Neighbourhoods in Wales* says the scheme has had some success in promoting community involvement and empowering residents, but that unemployment remains a concern.

*Source: Chartered Institute of Housing Bulletin 3 November 2010*

### **Social Enterprises**

Third sector businesses in South East Wales are set to gain greater help and recognition thanks to an additional £1 million in funding.

[Enterprising move for social enterprises](#)

*Source: Welsh Assembly Government Press Release 16 November 2010*

### **Boost for community groups in South East Wales**

A £13.5m initiative to help third sector organisations to grow and provide better services for their communities has been given the go-ahead following an EU funding boost from the Welsh Assembly Government. Community and third sector groups, as well as social enterprises, across Merthyr Tydfil, Torfaen, Caerphilly, Blaenau Gwent, Rhondda Cynon Taf and Bridgend will be among those receiving help.

[Boost for community groups in South East Wales](#)

*Source: Welsh Assembly Government Press Release 4 November 2010*

**Assembly Government and councils work together for future transport needs of Wales** - in response to local authority calls to recognise the pressing need for investment in transport when setting the Assembly budget, the Deputy First Minister said that whilst WAG's funding will inevitably decline, because of the overall scale of cuts in capital expenditure, by central and local government working together

and making the most of European and other funding opportunities, the impact of WAG funding cuts can be minimised.



0811010 Assembly  
Government and cou

*Source: Welsh Local Government Association Press Release  
8 November 2010*

### **Fund to Deliver New £100million Government Support for Third Sector | [More](#)**

A new £100million fund to help charities, voluntary groups and social enterprises that are most vulnerable to public spending cuts will be opened at the end of this month. Managed by BIG Fund, the non-lottery funding arm of the Big Lottery Fund, it is to open up new opportunities for civil society organisations to deliver public services and drive social action. The Government is also developing a Big Society Bank that will use money from dormant bank accounts to help capitalise the third sector and build capacity.

*Source: Chartered Institute of Housing Bulletin 10 November 2010*

**A three year campaign, The Valleys – Heart and Soul** - is aiming to change perceptions, attract more tourists and bring long-term economic benefits to the area. The campaign has won a CANMOL Wales Marketing Award and two gold awards at the CIPR Cymru awards in the Community Relations category and the Public Sector category.

[Deputy Minister congratulates the Heart and Soul Campaign on its award winning performance](#)

*Source: Welsh Assembly Government Press Release 9 November 2010*

**A £26.7m investment to transform Merthyr Tydfil Town Centre and villages across the Taff Bargoed Valley announced**

[£26.7m boost to revitalise Merthyr](#)

*Source: Welsh Assembly Government Press Release 3 November 2010*

**Multi million pound plans to drive forward the regeneration of Llanelli town centre announced**

[Llanelli regeneration programme to benefit from £13.5million](#)

*Source: Welsh Assembly Government Press Release 3 November 2010*

## LIVING ENVIRONMENT

### **Proposals for the reform of Legal Aid in England & Wales**

The Government has published two consultation documents. One seeks views on proposals for the reform of legal aid in England and Wales, and the other seeks views on implementing a package of Lord Justice Jackson's recommendations on civil litigation funding and costs. These mark the first step in a wider programme of work to radically reform and rebalance the justice system, to make it quicker, cheaper and less combative wherever possible and to encourage more people to have the confidence to resolve disputes out of court, where it is sensible to do so. The consultation documents, along with the consultation questions, are available on the [consultations page](#) of the Ministry of Justice website. The closing date for responses is 14th February 2011.

*Source: Legal Services Commission - Communications letter  
16 November 2010*

### **Financial Inclusion and the impact of Financial Education**

Following the Communities and Culture Committee's inquiry into 'Financial Inclusion and the impact of Financial Education' a report has been published for consideration by the Welsh Assembly Government. The Caerphilly Borough Promoting Financial Inclusion task and finish group submitted evidence to this Inquiry - [report](#)

### **Morgan's Former Adviser Highlights Loss of £1bn to Wales | [More](#) | [Report](#)**

In a hard-hitting report for the Bevan Foundation *The Great Rent Robbery* Rhodri Morgan's former senior special adviser claims that Wales has lost £2bn over the past 20 years. In the report, Mr Griffiths states: "Over the past two decades about £2bn of Wales' council house rents has been used for purposes other than the provision of council housing. Expenditure on public services in Wales has been over £1bn less than it should have been because of the continued confiscation of council house rents." Under the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, he claims: "The rent paid by council tenants was being diverted from its proper purpose of providing housing; they were being confiscated and used for the purpose of financing housing benefit."

*Source: Chartered Institute of Housing Bulletin 3 November 2010*

### **Welsh Assembly Government publishes Draft Budget**

A few short weeks after the UK Government's Comprehensive Spending Review the Welsh Assembly Government has published its draft budget. Headline news for housing includes:

£61m decrease in available spending money with in the Department of Environment, Sustainability and Housing compared to 2010-11 £108m capital budget for Major Repairs Allowance protected in order to continue funding vital repairs and maintain commitment to achieving the Welsh Housing Quality Standard.

Revenue budgets for seven Regeneration areas have also been protected along with the £22m Home Energy Efficiency Programme In 2011-12 the Welsh Assembly Government has lessened the impact of the reductions by allocating £2m specifically to the Supporting People programme.

*Source: Chartered Institute of Housing Rapid Response 17 November 2010*

### **Proposed housing measure laid before the National Assembly**

The proposed Measure includes two elements:

1. to take forward the commitment made in the *One Wales* coalition document enabling the Welsh Ministers, on application from a Local Housing Authority, to suspend the Right to Buy in areas of housing pressure
2. to provide the Welsh Ministers with enhanced enforcement and intervention powers concerning the provision of housing by Registered Social Landlords as part of the new regulatory framework

#### **Links:**

1. Online survey on the housing measure:

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/democracylive/hi/wales/newsid\\_9216000/9216283.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/democracylive/hi/wales/newsid_9216000/9216283.stm)

2. BBC Democracy Live Statement on the proposed housing measure:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Proposed-Housing-Wales-Measure>

3. National Assembly for Wales Proposed Housing Measure

[http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-legislation/bus-leg-measures/bus\\_legislation\\_measure\\_housing.htm](http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-legislation/bus-leg-measures/bus_legislation_measure_housing.htm)

*Source: Chartered Institute of Housing Rapid Response 23 November 2010*

**Social Housing Reform England** | [CIH Briefing](#) | [CIH Press Release](#) | [CLG Consultation Paper](#) | [Guardian Article](#)

The government has published its consultation on social housing reform *Local decisions: a fairer future for social housing*. The proposal sets out fundamental reform of the provision of social housing in England that could result in significant changes for prospective social tenants and people working around social housing. The main proposals within the consultation document include:

- The introduction of a new local authority flexible tenancy with a minimum fixed term of two years
- A new model of affordable rents to maintain future supply of affordable housing with less government funding
- New powers to local authorities to manage waiting lists and the ability to fully discharge their homelessness duty by housing people in the private rented sector
- £100m investment to bring empty homes back into use
- Replacement of the Housing Revenue Account subsidy system with a transparent self-financing arrangement
- The introduction of a nationwide Homeswap programme for social tenants
- Reforms to enable local authorities and landlords to tackle overcrowding.

*Source: Chartered Institute of Housing Bulletin 24 November 2010*

### **Charities' hardship fear over benefit sanctions**

New sanctions against those who refuse work could leave some families in "extreme hardship," charities warn. The sanctions are part of a wholesale shake-up of the benefit system aimed at making work pay. Those judged fit to work but who refuse jobs could lose benefits for three years in the most "extreme" cases. Oxfam said leaving people with no income could expose them to the risk of destitution. Save the Children said it would create a "climate of fear". Work and Pensions Secretary Iain Duncan Smith has published a white paper on detailing what he claimed was the biggest shake-up in benefits since the welfare state was founded in the 1940s.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-11742916>

*Source: BBC News 12 November 2010*

### **Proposals for Universal Credit launched | [CIH Briefing](#) | [White Paper](#) | [CIH Analysis](#) | [Guardian](#)**

DWP has launched its proposals on a universal credit, which sets out the basic allowance and the additional elements for children, disability, housing and caring responsibilities. Entitled 'welfare that works' the paper sets out the key objectives of the change, including: ensuring that it always pays to work; producing a fairer, more affordable and sustainable system; producing a simpler and more efficient system; reducing public spending, and reducing fraud, error or duplication.

*Source: Chartered Institute of Housing Bulletin 17 November 2010*

### **Clegg: Benefit Changes Will Help Families Into Work | [More](#) | [Article](#)**

The Deputy Prime Minister has stated that 300,000 households are likely to be moved into work with the government's adoption of a universal credit system. Writing in the Guardian, Mr Clegg said the universal credit plan would remove "artificial disincentives" to work.

*Source: Chartered Institute of Housing Bulletin 10 November 2010*

### **Impacts of Benefit Cuts on People in Work | [More](#)**

Analysis by the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) ahead of the forthcoming Welfare Reform White Paper reveals that benefit cuts announced in the Budget and Spending Review will hurt the living standards of low-paid working families. While at this stage it is difficult to calculate precisely where welfare cuts will fall, early IPPR analysis has factored out the change in up-rating benefits by Consumer Price Index rather than Retail Price Index and found that more than half of the remaining £12.8 billion of benefit cuts impact people in work. Of those, at least £5.3 billion of cuts will affect only those people who are in work and not people out of work.

*Source: Chartered Institute of Housing Bulletin 10 November 2010*

### **Fears That Reform of Welfare Will Make it Harder to House Homeless | [More](#)**

Councils in Wales could be hit with bills of hundreds of thousands of pounds because of cutbacks in the welfare system, local authority officials have warned. The amount spent on placing homeless families in bed and breakfast accommodation while they wait for something more permanent has plummeted in many councils in recent years.

*Source: Chartered Institute of Housing Bulletin 17 November 2010*

### **Child poverty indicators show how the Welsh Assembly Government is meeting its child poverty milestones and targets** [Huw Lewis welcomes child poverty statistics](#)

*Source: Welsh Assembly Government Press Release 25 November 2010*

### **Derelict Homes Sell-Off Planned In Carmarthenshire | [More](#)**

Owners of empty homes in Carmarthenshire could be forced to sell up under new proposals. Housing chiefs are planning to introduce enforced sales in a bid to tackle the problem of empty properties and to recover council debts. The debts include unpaid council tax and money the council has spent on making derelict houses safe.

*Source: Chartered Institute of Housing Bulletin 3 November 2010*

### **Welsh Claim Success On House Building | [More](#)**

Wales has already reached its target of delivering 6,500 new affordable homes by March 2011, according to Welsh Assembly Government figures. The official figures show 2,472 new affordable homes were built between April 2009 and March 2010, making a total of 6,707 in three years. This means the affordable housing goal set out in the One Wales agenda in 2007 has been reached a year ahead of schedule.

*Source: Chartered Institute of Housing Bulletin 1 December 2010*

### **£26m Cut Threatens New Home Building In Wales | [Details](#)**

The Welsh social housing sector is trying to find ways to boost supply after it emerged social housing grant is the biggest loser in the country's budget. In its budget last week, the Welsh Assembly Government cut its housing funds by 6%, from £430 million for 2010/ 11 to £404 million for 2011/12. Housing took the biggest hit of any department being cut.

*Source: Chartered Institute of Housing Bulletin 1 December 2010*

### **JRF Publish Report On Minimum Income Standard For Rural Households | [Summary](#) | [Report](#)**

This study considers what rural households need to afford the same standard of living as their urban counterparts. It examines issues such as how meeting needs in key areas of expenditure such as transport and fuel can differ significantly in different types of location, and how much income people in rural areas therefore require in order to afford a minimum socially acceptable standard of living.

*Source: Chartered Institute of Housing Bulletin 24 November 2010*

### **Morrisons To Hire 1000 Homeless People | [More](#)**

Retail giant Morrisons has pledged to create 1,000 jobs for homeless people over the next three years. The retailer, which is planning further expansion in the period including opening several new stores, has said that it aims to offer 10% of the jobs it creates in its new stores to vulnerable people. Applicants under the scheme will receive three months training and will then be eligible to take up an apprenticeship at the company. Morrisons has agreed a partnership with the Salvation Army and Leeds-based social enterprise Create to deliver the plan.

*Source: Chartered Institute of Housing Bulletin 3 November 2010*

### **Advice on Dealing With Squatters in Owner Occupied Home | [Details](#)**

Housing Minister Grant Shapps has launched a new guide for homeowners, setting out their rights and detailing action to take if their property is taken over by squatters. The guidance, produced jointly with the Ministry of Justice, makes clear that it is an offence for a squatter to

fail to leave a residential property when required to do so by or on behalf of either a displaced residential occupier or certain other occupiers whose interest in the premises is protected under the legislation.

*Source: Chartered Institute of Housing Bulletin 11 November 2010*

### **Fire Statistics Published | [Details](#)**

The latest UK-wide fire statistics were published at the end of November. They show that the majority of fire-related deaths occur in dwelling fires (three quarters in 2008). The highest fire fatality rates were for people aged 80 or over, and for males, and in Scotland. Meanwhile, the proportion of households with a working smoke alarm continued to rise, reaching 91% in 2008.

*Source: Chartered Institute of Housing Bulletin 1 December 2010*

### **Low Carbon Housing | [Download Report](#)**

A new Joseph Rowntree Foundation report *Low Carbon Housing: Lessons from Elm Tree Mews* sets out the findings from a low carbon housing trial in York. The report analyses the procurement, design and construction of the dwellings, evaluates the energy and carbon performance of the dwellings, and draws out lessons learned and proposes a programme for change.

*Source: Chartered Institute of Housing Bulletin 3 November 2010*

### **New Website For Homeowners To Get Advice On Energy Efficiency | [News Release](#) | [Website](#) | [CIH Seminar](#)**

CLG Minister Andrew Stunell has launched a new Government advice website for homeowners and private tenants to help them improve energy efficiency in their home. Visitors to the website can access information on increasing the energy efficiency of their home through smallscale moves, such as using low-energy lighting, or get advice on larger-scale changes such as installing solar panels or wind turbines.

*Source: Chartered Institute of Housing Bulletin 1 December 2010*

### **Home Building Skills Action Plan | [Download](#)**

A new report by the National House Building Council, Construction Skills, and the Zero Carbon Hub maps the skills needed within the homebuilding industry up to 2020. The report looks at the potential future changes to home building and what this means in terms of skills and knowledge for the industry. The authors have come up with checklists around eight key roles within the building supply chain, providing some indication of the core skills and knowledge needed for each role in the light of 'best guess scenarios' centred around the likely challenges in the years ahead.

*Source: Chartered Institute of Housing Bulletin 11 November 2010*

**Between 50% and 80% of the actions that we will take to tackle climate change will be delivered at a local level**

[Local action key to tackling climate change](#)

*Source: Welsh Assembly Government Press Release 23 November 2010*

**Wales's plan to introduce a charge for carrier bags will now become law following approval by Assembly Members with Wales the first country in the UK to introduce statutory recycling targets for local authorities**

[Shoppers in Wales on course to get greener](#)

[Wales passes legislation on 70 per cent recycling target](#)

[Wales' carrier bag charge becomes law](#)

*Source: Welsh Assembly Government Press Releases 1, 2 & 30 November 2010*

## EDUCATION FOR LIFE

**Ofsted inspectors say literacy standards 'fall short'**

Too many children leave primary school unable to read or write well enough, Ms Gilbert, England's chief schools inspector says stating standards of reading and writing among many 11-year-olds fell "stubbornly short" of achievable levels. One in five is not at the level expected for English at age 11. Rigorous teaching of phonics, which focuses on the sounds of letters and letter combinations, could help all pupils, of any background, she said. Ms Gilbert said: "Despite some major initiatives in recent years to raise standards in reading and writing, the levels achieved by many children at the end of primary school fall stubbornly short of what is achievable."

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-11735317>

*Source: BBC NEWS 16 November 2010*

**21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme New Website Launched** - aimed at providing local authorities and other stakeholders across with details on the programme from the Welsh Assembly Government & the Welsh Local Government Association

[www.21stcenturyschools.org](http://www.21stcenturyschools.org) / [www.ysgolion21ganrif.org](http://www.ysgolion21ganrif.org)



21st Century Schools  
Website Launch - Pre

*Source: Press Release WLGA 17 November 2010*

**Universities Heads of the Valleys Institute (UHOVI) launched**  
[Minister celebrates launch of universities Heads of the Valleys Institute](#)

*Source: Welsh Assembly Government Press Release 4 November 2010*

**Education Minister Leighton Andrews sets out his vision for Adult Community Learning**

[Way forward for adult community learning announced](#)

*Source: Welsh Assembly Government Press Release 26 November 2010*

**Education Minister Leighton Andrews has welcomed new powers coming into force which clarify teacher's roles when it comes to discipline and exclusions**

[Commencement of new powers on school discipline welcomed by Minister](#)

*Source: Welsh Assembly Government Press Release 1 November 2010*

**Llanelli teacher denies bullying autistic unit's pupils**

A teacher in an autistic unit dragged children across the classroom and denied some children food, a disciplinary hearing has been told. The hearing in Cardiff was told that videos were used as a threat against one child who became extremely distressed by videos being fast-forwarded or re-wound.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-11789084>

*Source: BBC News 17 November 2010*

This is a bulletin for Council Members and officers produced by the Council's Policy Unit each month.

We hope you have found it useful and would welcome any comments – please send to **Jackie Dix (dixj1@caerphilly.gov.uk)**