

Audit Committee

Minutes AC(2) 10-05

Meeting date: 1 December 2005

Meeting time: 9:30am – 12:30pm

Meeting venue: Paxton Room, Principality House, National Botanic Garden of Wales

Assembly Members in Attendance

Assembly Member	Constituency
Janet Davies (Chair)	South Wales West
Leighton Andrews	Rhondda
Mick Bates	Montgomeryshire
Alun Cairns	South Wales West
Jocelyn Davies	South Wales East
Mark Isherwood	North Wales
Irene James	Islwyn
Denise Idris Jones	Conwy

Officials in Attendance

Jeremy Colman	The Auditor General
Gillian Body	Wales Audit Office
James Verity	Wales Audit Office
Mark Jeffs	Wales Audit Office
Manel Dencker	Wales Audit Office
David Powell	Assembly Compliance Officer
Ian Gibson	Assembly Compliance Office
Sarah Rees	Assembly Compliance Office

Witnesses

Sir Jon Shortridge	Permanent Secretary, National Assembly for Wales
David Richards	Principal Finance Officer, National Assembly for Wales
Martin Swain	Acting Head of Branch, Lottery Policy, Major Events and Corporate Business, National Assembly for Wales
Jonathan Jones	Chief Executive, Wales Tourist Board
Lucy O'Donnell	Development Director, Wales Tourist Board
Gareth Hall	Chief Executive, Welsh Development Agency
Ron Slater	Director of Property Development, Welsh Development Agency

Committee Service

Name	Job title
Kathryn Jenkins	Committee Clerk
Michael Lewis	Acting Deputy Committee Clerk

Item 1: Introduction, Apologies, Substitutions, Quorum and Declarations of Interest

1.1 The Chair welcomed Committee Members and members of the public to the meeting

Item 2: Funding for the National Botanic Garden of Wales Papers: AC(2) 10-05(p1); AC(2) 10-05 (p2)

2.1 The Committee took evidence from Sir Jon Shortridge, Permanent Secretary, National Assembly for Wales, David Richards, Principal Finance Officer, National Assembly for Wales, Martin Swain, Acting Head of Branch, Lottery Policy, Major Events and Corporate Business, National Assembly for Wales, Gareth Hall Chief Executive, Welsh Development Agency, Ron Slater, Director of Property Development, Welsh Development Agency, Jonathan Jones, Chief Executive, Wales Tourist Board, and Lucy O'Donnell, Development Director, Wales Tourist Board

Action Points

The Permanent Secretary undertook to provide the following:

A note on the views of Welsh Office officials and Ministers as to whether to support financially the development of the garden and its scientific activities.

Copies of minutes of the liaison group.

Check records to show whether the Welsh Office was aware of the Liaison Group and provide details of any involvement.

A note on how ERDF procedures have evolved with regard to the appraisal, approval and monitoring of projects.

A note on how the Millennium Commission appraise projects.

A note on whether the Welsh Office promoted the concept of a "national" botanic garden.

A note on whether WEPE consulted appropriately and considered the sustainability of establishing the Bio Technium.

Item 3: Minutes of the previous meeting

Paper: AC(2) 09-05(mins)

3.1 The Committee approved the minutes of its meeting on 10 November 2005.