

MINUTES

Date:	26 March 2003
Time:	9.00 – 12.30pm
Venue:	Committee Room 1, National Assembly for Wales
Attendance:	
Members	<p>Rhodri Glyn Thomas (Plaid Cymru, Carmarthen East and Dinefwr, Chair)</p> <p>Jenny Randerson (Liberal Democrat, Cardiff Central, Assembly Minister)</p> <p>Owen John Thomas (Plaid Cymru, South Wales Central)</p> <p>Lorraine Barrett (Labour, Cardiff South and Penarth)</p> <p>Delyth Evans (Labour, Mid & West Wales)</p> <p>Alison Halford (Labour, Delyn)</p> <p>Dafydd Wigley (Plaid Cymru, Caernarfon)</p> <p>Glyn Davies (Conservative, Mid & West Wales)</p>
Officials	<p>Arthur Emyr (Directorate of Culture, Sport and the Welsh Language)</p> <p>Peter Harding (Directorate of Culture, Sport and the Welsh Language)</p> <p>Margaret Evans (Directorate of Culture, Sport and the Welsh Language)</p>
Secretariat	<p>Marie Knox: Head of MRCS</p>
	<p>Lynsey Hazzard: Deputy Clerk</p> <p>Gareth Woodhead: Administrative Officer</p>

9.00am-9.05am**Item 1: Introduction, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest**

0. The Chair welcomed the Committee and members of the public.
1. Apologies were received from Rosemary Butler. No substitute was provided.
2. The Chair reminded Members of the declarations of interest requirement, in accordance with Standing Order 4.5. The following declarations were made:

Dafydd Wigley- Wife is employed in the arts sector. Vice President of Brecon Jazz and associated with the Criccieth Festival.

Rhodri Glyn Thomas – Board member Cardiff European Capital of Culture 2008 bid

9.05am to 10.00am

Item 2: Arts Council of Wales (ACW)- 5 Year Arts Development Strategy 2002-07

CC 06-03(p.1)

Presenters: Peter Tyndall, Chief Executive, Sybil Crouch, Chair

2.1 The Committee was asked to comment on the 5-Year Arts Development Strategy of the ACW, which was launched by Rhodri Glyn Thomas at Ruthin Craft Centre and by the Minister at Craft in the Bay, Cardiff. The following points were noted:

- The Strategy attempted to reflect the breadth and quality of arts in Wales and incorporated the Assembly's policy as set out in Creative Future: Cymru Creadigol. The long term goal was to improve the artistic and financial stability of the arts in Wales.
- The key elements of the 5-year strategy were a de-centralised structure for ACW and both specialist and cross cutting action plans, covering areas of work which did not fall into a particular art form. There would be 12 action plans, 5 concentrated on the main artform areas of Music, Dance, Drama, Literature and Visual Arts & Crafts, with an additional 7 plans covering broader art form issues, including capital and audience development.

The key objectives of the ACW were:

- To work on the arts infrastructure
- To invest in artistic development
- To encourage participation for all ages and communities
- To work in partnership with local authorities regarding funding
- To improve advocacy on behalf of the arts in Wales
- To improve access to the arts in every part of Wales.

Current corporate plan priorities were:

- Welsh Language Theatre
- Theatre for Young People
- Youth Arts Fund
- Policy & project development

- Year of Disability
- Grant schemes

Future corporate plan priorities were:

- Youth Theatre –(theatre by young people rather than for young people)
- Broadening access to drama
- Dance Action Plan
- Visual Arts & Crafts
- Revenue for major capital developments

The remit letter for 2002-2003 prioritised:

- Welsh Language National Theatre
- Theatre in education
- Year of Disability
- Welsh National Opera stabilisation
- Transfer of functions to Welsh Books Council
- Arts outside Cardiff
- Cardiff European City of Culture 2008 bid
- It was important that the arts were fully accessible in both the English and Welsh languages.
- A 33% increase in investment over 2 years had had a significant impact on what the ACW could achieve. Despite a decrease in lottery funding, the ACW would continue to fund individual artists and would ensure they were protected against the reduction in lottery money.
- The voluntary cultural sector played a substantial role in arts in Wales. A working group had been appointed and would shortly begin meeting
- Public investment in the arts accounted for 0.5% of public expenditure and accordingly, such investment achieved disproportionately good results.

2.2 There followed a question and answer session in which the following points were noted:

- Three-year revenue funding agreements for organisations took into account inflationary increases, which accounted for approximately £350,000 of the ACW budget. Any further developments in the various organisations beyond the 3-year agreement would require additional investment over and above that which was currently being provided.
- The ACW had devised a single grant scheme, comprising a single set of conditions, combining both lottery and Grant in Aid funding. This scheme had now been running for a year and had necessitated the development of a combined standard conditions of grant. Minor amendments were currently being made to the conditions of grant following consultation with umbrella organisations and input from revenue clients. Full consultation will be undertaken later in the year with a view to further improving the conditions.
- Monitoring and evaluation of the outputs from expenditure was important to ensure that the money was being effectively targeted.
- The ACW were looking for increased support each year to take on extra revenue clients. The ACW had recently taken on new gallery revenue clients, on a modest scale, many of which had previously been run by volunteers. The ACW action plans were looking at where gaps lay in ACW support of organisations and where certain organisations required strengthening.

- David Prattley had undertaken a review on the display of art. That review related to galleries while ACW's interest was also in the needs of artists. The ACW was in the process of preparing its Visual Arts Action Plan which would take account of both. It was felt that in the long term there was a need for both a national gallery for the national collection and a non-collection based national gallery for contemporary art. ACW would continue to support regional galleries in developing links with National Museums and Galleries of Wales.
- The "arms length" principle of ASPBs was fundamental. The strategic framework now in place was compatible with the Assembly. Wherever possible funding decisions for individual organisations should be made via the ACW not the Assembly to ensure transparency.
- Art in the community also included the promotion of music. Community Music Wales was a venture sponsored by the ACW.
- The ACW had established formal partnerships with local authorities and met regularly with the WLGA. Local authorities are represented on the ACW's regional committees.
- At present, due to lack of funds for re-location, the South Wales regional office was based in Cardiff.
- Additional funding for Brecon Jazz Festival had been a priority of the ACW to ensure the Festival's survival. There had been discussions between the Minister and ACW prior to the Minister allocating the funding as ACW was unable to fund the venture with its remaining funding for the year.
- Feasibility studies for the development of marketing consortia were being undertaken to consider the needs of areas of Wales not currently covered. More investment was needed to enable Welsh work to be seen abroad.
- Committee members thanked Sybil Crouch for her work as Chair during a difficult period of re-structuring.

Action Points

- The ACW to provide the Committee with a list of cultural festivals in Wales this year.
- The ACW to provide more detailed information in writing on points they did not have sufficient time to cover in Committee.

10.00am to 10.35am

Item 3: Minister's Monthly Report

CC 06-03(p.2); CC 06-03 (p2) Annex A1; CC 06-03 (p2) Annex A2; CC 06-03 (p2) Annex B

3.1 The Minister made the following points in addition to those in her report:

- Full details of the 2002-2003 budget readjustment were in the report. There had been a 30% uplift during 2002-2003.
- Peoples Network Event – there would be an event in the milling area at 1pm, highlighting the policy of free access to computers in all Welsh libraries.

3.2 The Committee was invited to make comments on the Minister's report. The following points were made:

- Alison Halford repeated her concern that the business plan for the Cardiff European Capital of Culture 2008 bid was not being released, especially considering that the television programme "Week In, Week Out" had obtained a copy. She also expressed concern as to the amount of funding being channelled into the bid and the lack of transparency due to the non-release of the business plan. The Minister added that it was not within her gift to release the business plan. The Chair advised the Committee that minutes of all the meetings of the European Capital of Culture 2008 bid had been distributed to the Committee. Further, Cardiff 2008 was making a presentation to the Economic Development Committee on 3rd April and all Committee members were welcome to attend.
- Free swimming in school holidays – It was suggested that funding should be shared between free entrance and transport to and from the facilities. The Minister advised that local authorities had been asked to look at the possibility of providing free access to related activities as well as swimming.
- "Iaith Pawb" – the outputs from expenditure on "Mentrau Iaith" needed to be evaluated and its success monitored. The Minister advised that funding for each Mentrau Iaith was the subject of an annual grant process and the level of funding was based on past progress and future plans. The Minister held six monthly meetings with the Welsh Language Board to monitor overall progress.
- Welsh Books Council – it was suggested that the WBC did not have sufficient capacity to deal with the expansion of their role in accommodating English language publishing. The Minister advised that the transfer of funding to the WBC did take its new duties into account. Additional staff had been taken on and the WBC's progress was being carefully monitored.
- Wales' national teams – it was asked whether the Welsh rugby and football teams could share the same training facilities. The Minister advised that she had spoken to David Moffat informally regarding this question. Further she had asked the Football Association of Wales (FAW) to provide her with details of their plans several months ago and was still waiting for a response. Ultimately however it was for the governing bodies of both sports to decide.
- The expenditure covered by the budget adjustment related to announcements made during the year and reported to the Committee previously. The Minister agreed to provide a full list for clarification.
- Turner House – It had been suggested to the South Wales Arts Society, currently based at Turner House that they should be looking at alternative venues as their base.

Action Points

- The Minister to provide the Committee with a complete list of the additional projects funded in-year as detailed in the budget.

10.35am to 10.45am

Item 4: National Library of Wales: Quinquennial Review Action Plan

CC 06-03 (p3)

1. The members were content with the NLW Action Plan and agreed to pass any comments to the Minister outside the meeting.

Break 10.45am to 11.00am

11.00 to 11.30am

Item 5: Quinquennial Review of Sports Council for Wales (SCW) – Second Stage Report

CC 06-03 (p4); CC 06-03 (p6) Annex A

Presenters: Robin Moulson, Graham Hastings-Evans, Yvonne Barker, GCL Consultants

5.1 The Committee was invited to make comments on the Second Stage of the SCW quinquennial review draft report. The following points were made:

- The report suggested that a project manager be appointed to oversee the changes recommended in the Report.
- Although it was noted that in the past the SCW had been slow in responding to change, it was not thought to be a barrier to future progress. Adequate resources needed to be in place to ensure that changes occurred.
- The Report's recommendations and issues had been openly discussed with SCW and the SCW had agreed that the recommendations were broadly fair. Adequate resources needed to be in place, however to implement the recommendations.
- The health promotion agenda needed to be shared between health and sport. There needed to be movement on both sides to develop a better understanding of how professionals in sport and health can make a more effective joint contribution.
- Plas Menai – recommendations had been made concerning the future operation of Plas Menai. One option would be to continue to fund the centre in the same way as currently.
- The SCW needed to strengthen its advocacy role. There needed to be better collaboration between sporting organisations and the SCW. At present many Welsh sporting governing bodies, in particular the professional bodies, appeared to view the SCW's role as peripheral. It was felt that the Sports Council of England had a stronger relationship with English sporting bodies, in particular with football.
- In the past, there had been weaknesses in relation to compliance with the financial memoranda , although there was no reason to believe that this was ongoing.
- There needed to be more detailed explanation as to why the SCW prioritised funding for certain sports rather than others. Clearer guidelines were required for funding, as in other countries.
- If the Welsh Institute of Sport was to become an elite sports venue, this would have an impact on the administrative function of SCW.
- The quinquennial review report would go to plenary debate after the election.

11.30am to 12.15pm

Item 6: National Botanic Garden of Wales (NBGW)

CC-05-03 (p5)

Presenters: Alan Hayward, Chair, Evelyn Thurby, Chief Operating Officer, Professor Diane

Edwards, Acting Science Director

6.1 The following points were made:

- The branding of the National Botanic Garden of Wales (NBGW) had been changed to "Middleton, National Botanic Garden of Wales". It was felt that the NBGW needed a geographic locator and it was hoped that "Middleton" would eventually be used in the same way as "Kew". Some members commented that the name did not represent what the garden was about and was too anglicised.
- The NBGW had a new marketing team in place to help raise awareness of the garden and attract more visitors. Market research indicated that the unprompted awareness was only 6% in the primary market of one hour's drive. The NBGW aimed to increase visitor numbers by an extra 100,000 over the next 5 years. Extra investment in the NBGW's facilities would be required and it was hoped that a greater relationship would be forged with Carmarthenshire County Council in this regard.
- The NBGW had commenced plans to make the garden more user friendly. It was suggested that a children's play area be installed. A number of "quick fixes" had also taken place, such as a land train to give easier access to the areas of the garden, an apothecary's garden and installing tables and chairs in the courtyard area. It was also hoped to increase the plant sales area. "Wisley" was considered to be a role model in generating revenue from plant sales.
- Science played an important role at NBGW. The WDA had provided for a biotechnium to be located at the garden.
- The NBGW received approximately 20,000 children last year. However education facilities at the garden were currently limited and needed to be improved.
- The Eden Project was said to differ from NBGW in that Cornwall attracted 3 million holidaymakers per year who would go to the Eden Project when the weather was bad. In addition the iconic architecture and the interior had the "wow" factor. However NBGW had a natural advantage in terms of scenic location.
- The additional £1 million funding which had been provided to the NBGW was not open ended. It was intended to be spent on marketing and market research, training and creating more horticultural posts. It was suggested that the NBGW report back its progress to the incoming Committee in the Autumn.

12.15pm

Item 7: Draft Legacy Paper and Forward Work Plan

CC 06-03 (p6)

1. The Members agreed the report. Members also agreed to put on record their view that the creation of a Culture Committee had been beneficial.

12.30pm

Item 8: Minutes of Previous Meeting

CC 05-03 (min)

8.1 Several amendments were suggested to the minutes of the previous meeting:

- Amendments were circulated to Members prior to the meeting regarding points made by Alison Halford regarding the Wales Millennium Centre and the European Capital of Culture 2008 bid.
- Paragraph 1.3 – the first bullet point should read £1.382 million not £1.5 million.
- Paragraph 4.1 – the figure should read £30,000 not £130,000.

Members' Research and Committee Services March 2003