

Date: Friday 8 October 1999

Time: 10.00am to 1.00pm

Venue: Guildhall, Wrexham

FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

Purpose

The Committee is asked to consider the proposed forward work programme.

Background

At the meeting on 2 July the Committee considered a paper on "Forward Work Programme and Methods of Working". It was agreed that:

- the Committee's role was to represent the people of North Wales and make their views and concerns known to the Assembly;
- the Committee should focus on the appropriateness of Government policy as it affected the area;
- the biggest task was to convince people, particularly in North East Wales, of the relevance of the Assembly to them;
- it would be important for the Committee to meet and develop relationships with local bodies, and provide a democratic overview;
- the Committee needed to concentrate on areas where it could add value;
- the Committee should meet the public in open forum from time to time.

The Committee will wish to keep these principles in mind when it considers its forward work programme.

The draft forward work programme, at annex 1, has been prepared based on the discussions held at the meeting on 2 July.

Meeting local bodies

Following decisions made then the Committee is to receive presentations, and hold discussions, with the North Wales Health Authority and the North Wales Economic Forum.

Continuing a programme to meet the main statutory authorities in North Wales the Committee may wish to invite the North Wales local authorities and the North Wales Fire Authority to the meeting on 10 December in Caernarfon.

Are there other local bodies from North Wales that the Committee feels it should meet?

Meet the people

The Committee considered that meeting the people of North Wales was important and agreed that it should hold some meetings in open forum and could do so on Friday 12 November.

Does the Committee wish to take the opportunity to meet in open forum on that date?

If so, how would it like the meeting to be structured? For example, it could be a relatively formalised debate concentrating on a specific subject area, or could allow people to bring up whatever concerns they have.

Appropriateness of Government policy

The Committee considered that it was important to look at the way Government policies impacted on North Wales. Are there any particular issues, where value can be added, which the Committee could consider?

Requests to meet the Committee

It is likely that, over the next few months, a range of organisations and individuals will contact members of the Committee or the Secretariat seeking to meet the Committee. Where such an approach is made it is proposed that the organisation should be told that the Committee will not discuss matters which fall to one of the subject committees unless there is a clear North Wales perspective. Where that appears to be the case the organisation will be invited to write to the Secretariat explaining the background to the issue for discussion. A few approaches have already been made and this is the line that has been taken.

Members are asked to pass any requests for meeting that they receive to the Secretariat. A record will be

kept of all meeting requests.

There are a number of options available to the Committee to deal with meeting requests. The Committee could:

- consider requests at its formal, twice a term, meetings. The disadvantage of this approach is that every agenda will need to include an item on the forward work programme. We do not know how many requests will be received but considering them would take up valuable committee time;
- set up a small subgroup to consider such requests with one member from each political group, or
- leave decisions on meeting requests to the Chair in consultation with the Secretariat.

Action for the Committee

The Committee is asked to:

- note the draft forward work programme at annex 1;
- indicate if the North Wales local authorities and the North Wales Fire Authority should be invited to the meeting on 10 December;
- suggest other local bodies from North Wales to meet;
- indicate whether it wishes to meet in open forum on Friday 12 November and, if so, (and options);
- indicate if there are any Government policies which impact on North Wales which the Committee wishes to consider;
- indicate how it wishes to deal with requests for meetings.

Annex 1

NORTH WALES REGIONAL COMMITTEE - DRAFT FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

Meeting	Venue	Agenda Item Number	Subject

<p>Joint meeting with Economic Development Committee</p> <p>10am Monday 20 September 1999</p>	<p>Rhyl Town Hall</p>	<p>Part 1 (Chaired by Gareth Jones)</p> <p>Part 2 (Chaired by Val Feld)</p>	<p>Brief introduction from the Task Force Secretariat (10 mins)</p> <p>Regional Committee questions members of the task force and those involved in drawing up the regional single programme documents (1 hour)</p> <p>(15 minute break)</p> <p>Committee hears from invited organisations and (some of) those who have requested to speak (3 mins for each organisation to present views, followed by questions).</p> <p>10 mins at end for members of the public to speak briefly.</p> <p>Summing-up by Chair.</p>
<p>NWR 02-99 (2nd formal meeting)</p> <p>8 October 1999</p>	<p>Wrexham County Borough Council Offices, Guildhall, Wrexham</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>Presentation by the North Wales Health Authority followed by discussion (1 hour)</p>
		<p>2</p>	<p>Presentation by the North Wales Economic Forum followed by discussion (1 hour followed by 15 minute break)</p>
		<p>3</p>	<p>Report from the informal group on north/south rail links (30 minutes)</p>
		<p>4</p>	<p>Consideration of forward work programme</p>

Informal meeting Friday 12 November (date to be confirmed)	To be decided		<i>Public open forum?</i> <i>Joint session?</i>
NWR 03-99 3 rd formal meeting 10 December (date to be confirmed)	Gwynedd Council Offices, Caernarfon	1	<i>Presentation by North Wales unitary authorities followed by discussion? (2 hours)</i> <i>(Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire, Gwynedd, Wrexham and Ynys Môn)</i>
		2	<i>Meet North Wales Fire Authority?</i>
		3	<i>Constituency matters?</i>
Informal meeting during January (date to be confirmed)			
NWR 04-99 4 th formal meeting [February] (date to be confirmed)			

Informal meeting during March (date to be confirmed)			
NWR 05-99 5 th formal meeting [April] (date to be confirmed)			
Informal meeting during May (date to be confirmed)			
NWR 06-99 6 th formal meeting [June] (date to be confirmed)			