

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Date:	14 July 2005
Time:	2.00 - 4.30
Venue:	National Assembly for Wales
Title:	EDT Forward Work Programme EDT2 10-05 (p6)

Final EDT Forward Work Programme

Attached is the final EDT Forward Work Programme. This was discussed at the meeting on the 26th May and Members comments were taken on board.

It was circulated to Committee Chairs and Cabinet for Comment by 24 June. No comments were received and the Forward Work Programme has now been formally laid.

Committee Service

July 2005

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT and TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

May 2005 to December 2006

Introduction

1. The Economic Development and Transport Committee is one of the National Assembly's seven subject Committees. The responsibilities of subject committees are set out in the National Assembly's Standing Orders, an extract from which is at Annex A.

Duties of the Committee

2. The remit of the Economic Development Committee is based on the portfolio of the Economic Development and Transport Minister which includes:

- Innovation and enterprise;
- Industrial policy and business support;
- Inward investment, promotion of indigenous companies and regional development;
- Transport;
- Energy;
- Tourism;
- Strategic coordinating responsibility for ICT;
- Structural Funds.

Forward Work Programme

3. The Committee's work falls broadly into two categories – scrutinising the work of the Welsh Assembly Government and the Economic Development and Transport Minister, and contributing to the development of policy through policy reviews and keeping abreast of, and responding to, issues as they arise. In practice, Agenda items often contain aspects of both of these.

4. Alongside these the Committee has a range of 'ongoing' business:

- receiving and considering the Assembly Minister's regular reports;
- annual reviews of the performance of the Welsh Development Agency and the Wales Tourist Board, and advising on their strategic development;
- considering proposals for the Assembly's budget;
- considering secondary and EU legislation as appropriate.

A) Scrutiny

5. The Committee will receive and discuss reports on current and critical issues from the Assembly Minister at each of its meetings.

6. It will use these occasions to undertake a regular scrutiny of the Minister, his policies and their implementation.

7. It will obtain regular reports from the Minister and the Chairs of the Programme Monitoring Committees, on the progress of the various European programmes of support and will keep a close watch on the performance of the programmes.
8. It will scrutinise any new arrangements for Structural Funds post 2006 as well as the implications of the results of the review of Regional Aid Guidelines.
9. It will consider the ASPB merger process with particular regard to the impact on business and the staff involved in the transfer of functions. During this time it will continue to consider the performance of the Welsh Development Agency and the Wales Tourist Board and seek transparency in the merger process and resulting structural changes within the EDT department. The Committee will also be involved with scrutiny of any legislation affecting statutory registration of tourist accommodation and the arrangements for its implementation.
10. It will maintain an overview of primary, secondary and European legislation within its subject area and scrutinise in more detail items it considers appropriate.
11. It will consider the Minister's proposals for a review of A Winning Wales and analyse progress towards the achievement of the targets laid out in the strategy.
12. It will continue to track progress of the Transport (Wales) Bill. The Committee will scrutinise any changes to the proposed legislation and its implementation if it is passed. It will also scrutinise arrangements for implementation of the Welsh clauses in the Railways Act and the new arrangements for rail services in Wales that will arise from the Act.

B) Development of Policy

13. The Committee will undertake a review into Science Policy in Wales.
14. It will continue to advise the Minister on development of the policy areas within A Winning Wales.
15. It will track progress of the Heads of the Valleys strategy – 'Heads - we win'.
16. It will consider the response from the Minister on the recommendations made in its Review of Economic Inactivity and consider how it will monitor progress of implementation of the recommendations.
17. The Committee will continue to maintain an overview of, and as appropriate advise on, further issues arising in connection with the recommendations in previous Committee reviews. In particular it will look at the progress the Welsh Assembly Government has made with the recommendations it adopted from EDC's reviews of renewable energy and energy efficiency.

18. It will monitor progress with the Minister's review of transport policy and in particular consider in more detail progress with road and rail connections across Wales.
19. It will monitor progress with the Creative Industries Strategy and implementation of the fund along with the Broadband Wales Strategy and developments generally in this area.
20. It will advise on the Welsh Development Agency and the Wales Tourist Board's forward plans and the Minister's priorities for the work previously carried out by these bodies after they are merged with the Welsh Assembly Government.
21. It will consider in more detail the impact and development of the Aerospace industry in Wales.
22. It will maintain an overview of progress in the development of EU policies and in particular the effects of enlargement and cohesion.
23. It will maintain an overview of and advise on, developments in the Welsh economy - responding to urgent and significant issues as necessary.
24. It will advise on budgetary and financial issues, legislation, appointments and other matters as necessary and as required under Standing Orders.
25. It will endeavour to hold at least two formal meetings a year outside Cardiff.

Statutory duties

25. The Government of Wales Act 1998 places certain duties on the National Assembly, the Committee's work will be guided by the following:

- Equality of Opportunity - Committee meetings will be held in public and on occasion away from the National Assembly building to increase the accessibility of its business to people across Wales. Over the range of issues within its portfolio, the Committee will continue to have regard to equality of opportunity.
- Sustainable Development - throughout its deliberations the Committee will focus on the need to balance economic and social growth with the conservation of the environment, through sustainable development. Its own policy review recommendations will reflect this principle.

Annex A.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF SUBJECT COMMITTEES

1. Standing Orders 9.7 and 9.8 set out the responsibilities of Subject Committees:

9.7 Each subject committee shall

- i. contribute to the development of the Assembly's policies within the fields for which the relevant Assembly Secretary is accountable to the Assembly;
- ii. keep under review the expenditure and administration connected with their implementation; and
- iii. keep under review the discharge of public functions in those fields by public, voluntary and private bodies

9.8 Each subject committee shall also, within the relevant fields,

- i. advise on proposed legislation affecting Wales, including performing its functions under SO22;
- ii. provide advice to the Assembly Cabinet on matters relating to allocation of the Assembly's budget in accordance with Standing Order 19;
- iii. perform its function under Standing Order 21 (complaints);
- iv. perform any functions assigned to it under the Code of Practice on Public Appointments Procedure made by the Assembly under Standing Order 20; and
- v. consider matters referred to it by the Assembly within its fields."

2. Standing Order 9.9 requires the subject committee to maintain a rolling programme of work covering periods of at least 12 months.