

# European and External Affairs Committee

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## Future of Cohesion Policy and the involvement to date of the All Wales Programme Monitoring Committee

### Purpose

1. This paper is provided in response to an invitation from the Chair of the European and External Affairs Committee to present evidence for the Committee's inquiry into the consultation on the Future of Cohesion Policy and the involvement to date of the All Wales Programme Monitoring Committee which I chair.

### Background

2. The All-Wales Programme Monitoring Committee (PMC) is responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Convergence and Regional Competitiveness and Employment (ERDF and ESF) programmes 2007-2013 in Wales.

3. The Committee consists of a panel of 10 expert members appointed via the public appointments process and 14 members nominated on a representative basis (meeting regulatory requirements) from partners and statutory bodies including local government, higher and further education, the public, private and voluntary sectors, trade union, social partners and those with statutory responsibilities for the cross-cutting themes of environment and equality. A list of members is attached at Annex A. This formation helps ensure that there is a balance of members who, together, have a range of abilities, experiences and qualifications relating to the functions of the PMC. With cross sector representation on the PMC it also ensures messages can be communicated across all sectors.

4. The European Commission (DG REGIO and DG EMPL), the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the European Investment Fund (EIF) are invited to participate in the committee in an advisory capacity. Senior officials from WEFO attend meetings of the PMC to update members on the preparation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the programmes.

5. All papers presented at PMC meetings are available via the WEFO website at <http://wefo.wales.gov.uk/programmes/allwalespmc/?lang=en>.

### The role of the PMC in the Future of Cohesion Policy

6. In line with regulatory requirements, the Terms of Reference of the PMC (agreed at the first meeting of the PMC in May 2007) state that the PMC should satisfy itself as to the effectiveness and quality of the implementation of the Operational Programmes for Convergence (West Wales and the Valleys) and Regional Competitiveness and Employment (East Wales) covering the ERDF and ESF funds.

7. During the then First Minister's evidence to this Committee inquiry, on 30 June 2009, both he and I raised the potential role the All-Wales PMC could have in the debate on the future of Cohesion Policy, with specific reference to its expertise and the accountability of the 10 nominated representatives to their sectors. I asked members at the next meeting (September 2009) to consider whether and how the Committee could contribute in this area in addition to its core responsibilities for monitoring the 2007-2013 programmes. The duties of the PMC were thus agreed by members to be expanded to include under the roles of the PMC and its sub-committees:

"monitor and offer views on the future of Cohesion Policy with emphasis on sustainability of Structural Funds investments beyond 2013 and the lessons learned from implementing the 2007-2013 programmes"

### Information provided to the PMC

8. The Terms of Reference of the PMC do not allow it to act as a forum to enter into political debate over the future of Cohesion policy; however, the PMC does need to be aware of the political debate and to understand the likely parameters under which any new programmes will operate. Papers to the PMC on the future of Cohesion policy to date have been limited to updates on the nascent debate, with members rightly focussing on steering the 2007-2013 programmes through a challenging period. The PMC have been provided with updates at each meeting in September 2009, December 2010 and March 2010 which have included:

The current status of the debate and Welsh Assembly Government contribution

Information on the progress of the Europe 2020 strategy. Members were encouraged to respond to the consultation from their individual organisations and sectors and were informed of the Welsh Assembly Government's response

Approximate timelines for the key debates and additional links for further information

### Other relevant PMC discussions

9. The primary focus of the PMC's work remains ensuring the successful implementation of the 2007-2013 programmes in a challenging and rapidly changing socio-economic climate. There are, however, some important linkages between the 2007-2013 programmes and

any post 2013 programmes; for example lessons learned under the current programmes will directly influence the shape and design of future programmes. Consequently, much of the work already being undertaken by the PMC will have a bearing on any future programmes. In terms of the additional role envisaged for the PMC, examples of activities in the two main areas have included:

**(i) Sustainability of investments:**

The PMC have placed a strong emphasis since the very first PMC meeting on ensuring investments made for 2007-2013 will be sustainable. Members have discussed and facilitated the progression of financial engineering instruments such as JEREMIE and JESSICA that will continue long after the programmes have finished. More widely, the PMC have asked WEFO to ensure they are looking to measure and report on the longer-term and wider impacts of investments.

**(ii) Lessons learned / best practice:**

The PMC are presented with a six-monthly update informing them of progress of the various research and evaluation studies undertaken by WEFO, and providing them with the opportunity to feed into programme evaluation plans. These evaluations and discussions will have an important bearing on the future shape of programmes as lessons are learned and the respective impact and effectiveness of different interventions are measured.

**Next Steps**

10. It is still relatively early in the debate on the future of Cohesion Policy and there remains a great deal of uncertainty over the EU Budget review as a whole.

11. The PMC will continue to consider its role in contributing to the debate on the future of Cohesion Policy within the remit of its functions and responsibilities for the 2007-2013 Structural Funds programmes.

12. Following the publication of the Budget Review White paper, and the results of the Deputy First Minister’s Economic Renewal Programme, both due in summer 2010, the PMC will have a clearer picture of the context in which any new programmes will need to be developed and implemented.

13. In summary, the principles of ensuring sustainability of investments and learning lessons from programme implementation are at the heart of the work of the PMC and are regular points of discussion across the entire scope of our work programme to date. These remain vital for the successful delivery of the 2007-2013 programmes, and we hope will also form the basis for any successor programmes.

Jeff Cuthbert, AM  
 Chair of the All-Wales Programme Monitoring Committee  
 April 2010

**Annex A**

**All Wales Programme Monitoring Committee Membership**

**Chair:**

Jeff Cuthbert, Assembly Member

**14 Members nominated, on a representative basis, from partners and statutory bodies:**

Cllr Bob Wellington	Local Government (West Wales & the Valleys)
Filippo Compagni	Local Government (East Wales)
Ed Bampton	Welsh Assembly Government: Economy and Transport
Grenville Jackson	Welsh Assembly Government: Education and Lifelong Learning
Terri Thomas	Welsh Assembly Government: Rural Affairs and Heritage
Greg Walker	Higher Education

Glyn Jones	Further Education
Jocelyn Llewellyn	Jobcentre Plus
Paul O'Shea	Unison
Ann Beynon	Private Sector - Business Wales
Phil Fiander	Voluntary Sector
Simon Harris	Social Economy
Ceri Davies	Environment Agency/Countryside Council for Wales
Kate Bennett	Commission for Human Rights and Equality

**10 Members selected via the Public appointments process:**

Prof Richard B. Davies	Vice Chancellor University of Wales Swansea
Mr Ifan Evans	Private Sector Director, Welsh Language Board
Mrs Carol Greenstock	Grants Manager, National Trust Wales
Dr Graham Guilford	Private Sector, Chemist. Director of Manufacturing GE Healthcare, Cardiff (previously Amersham plc).
Ms Gillian Hurley	Self-Employed EU Project Manager
Mr Siôn Jones	Economist working in Wales as a Divisional Director for consultancy London Economics.
Mr Peter Mortimer	Local Government Official - Regeneration Resources Manager
Martin Mansfield	Regional Officer, Amicus Trade Union
Dr Alan Tillotson	Chief Executive and Founding Trustee of ARENA Network
Ms Karen Turnbull	Head of Enterprise and Research Services at University of Wales Newport.

**Advisors:**

Guy Flament, DG Regio, European Commission

Ruth Nugent, DG Regio, European Commission

Renate Schopf, DG Empl, European Commission