

Health & Social Services Committee

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Date: Wednesday 22 June 2005

Venue: Committee Room 2, National Assembly for Wales

Title: Other Committees' Forward Work Programmes

Purpose

1. This paper invites the Committee to consider the detailed forward work programmes of other subject committees for the period until December 2006.

Background

2. Standing Order 9.9 requires each subject committee to maintain rolling programmes of work covering periods of at least 12 months. Subject committees shall also invite the views of other committees and the Assembly Cabinet on their draft programmes, and shall have regard to the comments received in finalising them.

3. Attached are the detailed forward work programmes for the:

- Economic Development & Transport Committee;
- Education & Lifelong Learning Committee;
- Local Government & Public Services Committee;
- Social Justice & Regeneration Committee.

Committee Service

13 June 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 co-ordinating 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

26. 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

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.

Education and Lifelong Learning Committee

Strategic Forward Work Programme

May 2005 to December 2006

1. Standing order 9.9 requires subject committees to maintain a rolling programme of work covering periods of at least 12 months. The strategic forward work programme sets out the Committee's priorities for the coming 18 months. It is complemented by detailed programmes covering around three months at a time.

The Committee's Portfolio

2. In accordance with s57(4) of the Government of Wales Act 1998, the Committee's portfolio mirrors that of the Assembly Minister:

- Nursery and early-years education in Wales;
- Standards of school education in Wales, including the activities of Estyn (Her Majesty's inspectorate of education and training in Wales);
- School organisation in Wales, including approval of school mergers and closures;
- Oversight of local education authorities in Wales;
- The national curriculum in Wales;
- All matters relating to pupils with special educational needs;
- All activities of ACCAC (the qualifications, curriculum and assessment authority for Wales) and matters relating to academic qualifications generally;
- Capital grants for schools in Wales;
- Teaching standards in Wales, in collaboration with the General Teaching Council for Wales;
- Appraisal of teachers in Wales, but not their pay and conditions;
- Policy on further and higher education in Wales;
- All activities of the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales and the National Council for Education and Training in Wales (ELWa);
- Powers relating to tuition fees and student support, conferred to the National Assembly by the Higher Education Act 2004;
- Careers policy, including all activities of Careers Service companies;
- Youth services and youth issues generally;
- Provision of, and support for, work-based and other vocational training in Wales;
- Inspection of training providers and careers service companies; and
- Oversight of the Children's Commissioner for Wales.

3. The Committee's Responsibilities are set out in Standing Orders :

"9.7. Each subject committee shall

- i. contribute to the development of the Assembly's policies within the fields for which the relevant Minister is accountable to the Assembly and in the areas for which that Minister has been allocated other responsibilities (with the exception of the management of the Assembly's business and its finances and matters within the terms of reference of the Committees on Equality of Opportunity and European and External Affairs);
- 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 primary, secondary and European legislation affecting Wales, including performing its functions under Standing Order 24;
- ii. provide advice to the Assembly Cabinet on matters relating to allocation of the Assembly's budget, in accordance with Standing Order 21;
- iii. perform its functions under Standing Order 23 (complaints);
- iv. perform any functions assigned to it under the Code of Practice on Public Appointments Procedure made by the Assembly under Standing Order 22; and
- v. consider matters referred to it by the Assembly within its fields and areas of responsibility."

The Committee's Aims and Objectives

4. The Committee's aim is to scrutinise the policies of the Welsh Assembly Government and to monitor their implementation, to ensure that the people of Wales have access to a broad range of opportunities for education and lifelong learning. The Committee believes that education is the key to a fulfilling life and a prosperous nation.

5. In reviewing and developing policy, the Committee will make recommendations that will lead to high quality, cost effective services that are properly regulated and inspected.

The Committee's Priorities

6. The Committee's strategic focus for the period of this forward work programme will be on the following issues which, together with its responsibilities under Standing Orders 9.7 and 9.8, will be its priorities for meetings:

- The implementation of policy stemming from the Assembly Government's response to the Committee's report on the first stage of its review of special educational needs, focusing on early identification and intervention;
- The implementation of policy stemming from the Assembly Government's response to the Committee's report on its review of school transport;
- The professional development framework for teachers and implementation of the teacher recruitment and action plan, in conjunction with the General Teaching Council for Wales;
- Further Education, with particular regard to the implementation of ELWa's national planning and funding system for post-16 education and training;
- Implementation of the Extending Entitlement strategy, including the 14-19 Learning Pathways;
- Higher Education, with particular regard to student support and reconfiguration;
- Iaith Pawb; increased provision through the medium of Welsh in schools, further education and higher education;
- Primary legislation remitted to the Committee by the National Assembly;
- Secondary Legislation, as identified by the Committee for scrutiny, or remitted to the Committee by Business Committee;

- Budget Priorities:

Further Education: widening access;

Higher Education: student support and reconfiguration;

Schools: maintenance and upgrading of buildings and implementation of the teachers' workload agreement;

Iaith Pawb: support for teachers to extend their Welsh skills;

Special Educational Needs: joint commissioning by education and health bodies for speech and language services;

- Consideration of the annual reports of:

The Chief Inspector of Education and Training in Wales (Estyn)

The Children's Commissioner for Wales

- Policy Reviews:

Special Educational Needs (Part 2): Statutory Assessment

Special Educational Needs (Part 3): Transition

- Scrutiny of relevant public, voluntary and private bodies; including undertaking rapporteur visits:

National Council for Education and Training (ELWa)

Higher Education Funding Council for Wales

Estyn (Inspectorate of Education and Training in Wales)

ACCAC (Curriculum, Assessment and Qualifications Body)

General Teaching Council for Wales

Careers Wales

The Statutory Schemes

The Committee will take account of the National Assembly's statutory schemes for relations with local authorities and the voluntary sector, and the sustainable development scheme. The Committee will have regard to the requirements of the Race Relations Act.

The Committee will take account of the recommendations in the report of the Equality of Opportunity Committee on Mainstreaming Equality in the Work of the National Assembly.

The Committee will consider a report of the Assembly Minister's meetings with the Voluntary Sector at least once a year in accordance with section 3.7 of the Voluntary Sector Scheme.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC SERVICES COMMITTEE

STRATEGIC FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

JULY 2005 to DECEMBER 2006

Introduction

1. This work programme sets out the strategic priorities of the Committee for the next twelve to eighteen months.

Remit and responsibilities

2. The Committee's remit is based on the portfolio of the Assembly Minister for Finance, Local Government and Public Services and covers local government, the development of a strategic approach to the delivery of public services and the Wales Spatial Plan. It does not cover the Minister's responsibilities in respect of the Assembly's finances or policy or financial matters falling solely within another portfolio.

3. The responsibilities of subject committees, as set out in Standing Order 9, are principally: policy development; scrutiny of Ministers and relevant bodies; and scrutiny of legislation.

Aims

4. The Committee will develop a strategic approach to its work and aim to balance consideration of subjects across the portfolio and its range of responsibilities.

Priorities

5. Priorities for the coming period will be:

Policy development (SO 9.7(i)) – the Committee will focus on those areas of policy development where it can make the greatest impact. It will continue with its project on electoral arrangements in Wales, for which the terms of reference have been agreed. The Committee will continue to follow-up progress on implementation of recommendations from its inquiry reports *The operation of new political management structures in local government* and *Regulation and Inspection of Public Services in Wales*. In addition the Committee will seek to help shape any reform of the public services agenda in Wales, which is brought about as a result of proposals in *Making the Connections*.

- *Scrutiny of the Minister (SO 9.7(ii))* - the Minister will report to the Committee at alternate meetings on current developments within the portfolio. The Committee may also undertake inquiries into particular topics in greater depth.
- *Scrutiny of relevant bodies (SO 9.7 (iii))* – the Committee will consider the work of the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales, the Welsh Local Government Association, the Local Government Equalities Unit and the Local Government Data Unit of Wales.
- *Scrutiny of proposed legislation affecting Wales (SO 9.8(i) and 24)* – the Committee will receive, at alternative meetings, a timetable of forthcoming secondary legislation within its remit. The Committee will identify for scrutiny those items of legislation where there is scope to influence content and will also consider draft secondary legislation referred by the Deputy Presiding Officer as appropriate. In addition, the Committee will be informed of relevant proposed primary legislation.

The Committee will consider the following items as they arise:

- *proposals for the Assembly's budget (SO 9.8(ii))* – the Committee will indicate its budget priorities in the summer term and comment on the draft budget in the autumn term;
- *complaints (SO 9.8(iii) and 23)* – the Committee will consider any complaints referred to it under Standing Order 23;
- *public appointments (SO 9.8(iv) and 22)* – the Committee's two public appointment nominees will take part in the process of appointments to public bodies as vacancies arise;
- *other matters referred by the Assembly (SO 9.8 (v))* – the Committee will consider other matters referred to it by the National Assembly, but would ask Assembly Members to consult the Committee Chair before tabling motions inviting plenary to remit work to the Committee.

The Assembly's Statutory Duties

6. 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 (s.48 and s.120)* - 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 have

regard to equality of opportunity;

- *Sustainable Development (s.121)* - 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.

Local Government and Public Services Committee

May 2005

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

STRATEGIC FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2005/6

Introduction

1. The Social Justice and Regeneration Committee is one of the Assembly's seven subject committees. Standing Order 9.9 requires subject committees to maintain a rolling programme of work covering periods of at least twelve months. The Strategic Forward Work Programme sets out the Committee's priorities for the period June 2005 – December 2006. It is complemented by detailed programmes covering each term.

Remit and Responsibilities

2. In accordance with s57(4) of the Government of Wales Act 1998, the Committee's remit is based on the portfolio of the Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration which covers: the Government's programme for regenerating the communities of Wales; anti-poverty initiatives; the social economy; the voluntary sector; community safety and relations with the Police and the National Offender Management System; the Fire Service; drug and alcohol misuse, youth justice, Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS) and housing.

3. The responsibilities of subject committees as set out in Standing Order 9.7 and 9.8 are principally: policy development; scrutiny of Ministers and relevant bodies; and scrutiny of legislation.

Aims

4. With such a broad remit, the Committee will develop a strategic approach to its work and aim to balance consideration of subjects across the portfolio and its range of responsibilities.

Priorities

5. Priorities for the coming periods will be:

- *Policy development (SO 9.7(i))* - the Committee will focus on those areas of policy development where it can make the greatest impact. In the coming period the Committee will continue with its major review into drug and alcohol misuse and will consider undertaking inquiries in the following areas:
 - Implementation, development and delivery of Welsh Assembly Government Housing Strategy
 - The provision of affordable housing
 - Funding of the Voluntary sector
 - Debt and anti-poverty measures
 - The part played by the Social Economy in Community Regeneration
 - Transfer and development of CAFCASS functions
 - Devolution of fire service
 - Addressing anti-social behaviour
- *Scrutiny of the Minister (SO 9.7(ii))* - the Minister will report at each Committee meeting on current developments within the portfolio. In particular the Committee will be interested in monitoring the implementation of the Domestic Violence strategy, the continuing development of the various components of the Housing Strategy, Communities First, the devolution of the Fire Service to Wales, community safety, child anti-poverty strategy and how equality is being mainstreamed.
- *Scrutiny of sponsored bodies (SO 9.7 (iii))* - there is only one ASPB within the Committee's remit – the Advisory Panel on Substance Misuse. This is an advisory panel only with no financial responsibility.

Other items (SO 9.8) - the Committee will consider the following items as they arise:

- *Scrutiny of proposed legislation affecting Wales (SO 9.8(i) and 24)* the Minister will regularly outline forthcoming secondary legislation. The Committee will be informed of relevant proposed primary legislation and will scrutinise and report on any such legislation remitted to it by Plenary. The Committee will identify for scrutiny those items of legislation where there is scope to influence content and will also consider draft secondary legislation referred by the Deputy presiding Officer, as appropriate. With regard to EU legislation, the Committee, in line with the method of working and protocol agreed by the Panel of Chairs, has identified two thematic strategies it wishes to influence, EU Drugs Action Plan and Youth Matters, and will seek to do so in a timely and appropriate way.
- *Proposals for the Assembly's budget (SO 9.8(ii) and 21)* – the Committee will indicate its budget priorities in the summer term and comment on the draft budget in the autumn term. It will monitor the Welsh Assembly Government's progress in the areas that the Committee will identify as priorities in the 2005 –06 budget.
- *Complaints (SO 9.8(iii) and 23)* – the Committee will consider any complaints referred to it under Standing Order 23
- *Public appointments (SO 9.8(iv) and 22)* – the Committee's two public appointment nominees will take part in the process of appointments to public bodies as vacancies arise.

- *Other matters referred by the Assembly (SO 9.8 (v))* – the Committee will consider other matters referred to it by the National Assembly, but would ask Members to consult the Committee Chair before tabling motions inviting plenary to remit work to the Committee.

The Assembly's Statutory Duties

6. 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 (s.48 and s.120)* – 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 have regard to equality of opportunity notably, race, gender, disability, sexual orientation, welsh language, religion and beliefs and age.
- *Sustainable Development (s.121)* – 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

Committee Services

May 2005