

Date: Wednesday 28 February 2001

Venue: Committee Room 3, National Assembly for Wales

Title: **Environment, Planning & Transport Committee:  
Strategic Forward Work Programme May 2001-December 2002**

## **Introduction**

1. The Environment, Planning and Transport Committee is one of the National Assembly's seven subject committees. The Committee's remit is based on the portfolio of the Minister for Environment, Sue Essex, which embraces: sustainable development; environmental policy, including countryside issues; the National Parks Authorities; planning; transport and highways; and Cadw (ancient monuments and listed and historic buildings).

## **Duties of the Committee**

2. The responsibilities of the subject committees are set out in Standing Orders, as reproduced at **Annex 1**.
3. Standing order 9.9 requires subject committees to maintain a rolling programme of work covering periods of at least 12 months, and to consult other committees and the Assembly Cabinet on the programme before notifying plenary.
4. The Panel of Chairs has agreed that committees' work programmes should be strategic and cover an 18 month to 2 year time frame, supported by more detailed work programmes covering a three month period.

## **Aims and objectives**

5. With such a broad remit, the committee will focus on those areas of policy development where they can make the greatest impact. The committee will also seek to contribute to the achievement of the aims and objectives set out in *Better Wales*, the Assembly's strategic plan. In particular the committee will focus on areas that will: 'build a better, stronger economy' and 'a better quality of life' and the three main

themes of inclusivity, equality and sustainable development, which is within the committee's portfolio.

## Priorities

6. The Committee will be seeking to develop a strategic approach to its work, focusing for the coming year on two key priorities:

- **Independent investigation into the Nantygwyddon landfill site** - a forward looking investigation, seeking to identify lessons for the future, both in relation to the site and in relation to waste management issues more generally. The committee expects to receive a final report from the independent investigator by mid June 2001, and report its own recommendations to plenary by the end of the summer term;
- **Policy review of public transport in Wales** - considering ways of improving public transport provision in Wales. The review will identify: short term changes within the existing statutory, regulatory and organisational framework, which would facilitate the delivery and take-up of improved and integrated services; longer-term changes to the statutory, regulatory and organisational framework relating to public transport would facilitate the delivery of improved services. The committee plans to issue a draft report for public consultation by the end of the summer term 2001 and submit the final report to plenary by the end of the autumn term.

Priorities for 2002, such as potential policy reviews, will be considered and finalised in the autumn term. These are likely to focus on issues emerging from the developing Waste Strategy and Sustainable Development Action Plan, and will seek to complement, rather than duplicate policies being developed by the Minister.

7. Chapter 4 of "Better Wales" sets out a number of issues for early action by the Assembly. The Committee will play a major role in progressing these, in particular:

- 'Stimulate development that conserves natural resources and respects the environment' - the Committee will contribute to the ongoing development of the National Assembly's Sustainable Development Action Plan, and monitor performance against sustainability targets;
- 'Achieve high standards in the management of our environment' - the Committee will monitor the work of the Environment Agency, Countryside Council for Wales and Welsh National Park Authorities;
- 'Develop a better co-ordinated and sustainable transport system to support local communities and the creation of a prosperous economy' - the Committee will complete its policy review of public transport in Wales and make recommendations to the Environment Minister;
- 'Extend access to and awareness of the Welsh language, our culture, heritage and sporting

opportunities' - the Committee will keep these considerations in mind in its own proceedings and in the direction and monitoring of CADW: Welsh Historic Monuments.

## **Other issues**

8. Other items of committee business will include:

- regular performance reviews of the Assembly Sponsored Public Bodies (ASPBs) that fall under its remit (SO 9.7(iii) - see above);
- consideration of proposed legislation affecting Wales, as appropriate (SO 9.8(i) and 22);
- consideration of proposals for the Assembly's budget (SO 9.8(ii));
- complaints procedures (SO 9.8(iii) and 21);
- public appointments (SO 9.8(iv) and 20);
- other matters referred by the Assembly (SO 9.8 (v));
- scrutiny of the Assembly Secretary (SO 9.11).

9. A detailed work programme for the period May-July 2001 is attached at Annex 2.

## **Committee Secretariat January 2001**

**ANNEX 1**

## **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 standing order 22;
- 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."

## ANNEX 2

### ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE DETAILED FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME - SUMMER TERM 2001

Meeting	Item No.	Agenda Items
Wednesday 9 May  2.00 - 5.00 pm	1	Apologies and substitutions
	2	Report from Minister for Environment
	3	Policy review: Committee discussion and agreement of heads of report/outline report structure
	4	Minutes of the last meeting
Wednesday 23 May  2.00 - 5.00 pm	1	Apologies and substitutions
	2	Report from Minister for Environment
	3	Policy review: Committee discussion of outline list of key recommendations
	4	[Quinquennial review of CCW – draft final report]
	5	CCW bid/draft Corporate Plan
	6	National Parks - bid/draft Corporate Plan
	7	

		Minutes of the last meeting
<b>Recess: 28 May to 2 June</b>		
Wednesday 13 June  2.00 - 5.00 pm	1  2  3  4  5  6  7	Apologies and substitutions  Report from Minister for Environment  Nantygwyddon - final report from investigator  Env Agency - bid/draft Corporate Plan  Discussion of budget priorities  Quinquennial review of the Joint Nature Conservation Committee - draft report  Minutes of the last meeting
Wednesday 27 June  2.00 - 5.00 pm	1  2  3  4	Apologies and substitutions  Report from Minister for Environment  Nantygwyddon: Committee consideration of recommendations to plenary  Minutes of the last meeting

Wednesday 11 July  2.00 - 5.00 pm	1  2  3  4  5	Apologies and substitutions  Report from Minister for Environment  Policy review: Committee consideration of first draft report and recommendations  Discussion of budget priorities  Minutes of the last meeting
<b>Summer recess: 23 July - 12 October</b>		