

## **Economic Development Committee EDC-04-99(p.2)**

**Date:** 26 July 1999

**Venue:** Committee Room 1, National Assembly Building

**Title:** **HANDLING OF CONSIDERATION OF CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS**

### **PURPOSE**

1. This paper provides some background information for the Committee on handling of the consideration of the consultation documents as set out in the agenda:

- (i) agree the basis for the Committee's consideration of the documents (paragraph 2);
- (ii) consider the proposed arrangements for consultation, in conjunction with regional committees, on the programme documents (paragraphs 3 and 4 and Annex1);
- (iii) note the dates when other committees will be considering the documents (Annex 1);
- (iv) note the dates when the Committee can further consider the documents and draw up its advice to the Assembly Secretary (Annex 1);
- (v) consider what expertise or further information the committee needs to access to assist it to undertake the tasks outlined below. (paragraph 5).

### **BACKGROUND**

2. At its last meeting the Committee discussed how it wished to take forward consideration of the consultation documents. I suggest the Committee undertakes the following tasks between now and October 19<sup>th</sup> when the National Economic Development Strategy and Single Programme Documents must be presented to the full Assembly:

- (i) agree the overall strategic objectives;
- (ii) scrutinize the measures proposed in the documents and be satisfied they are realistic and will be effective;

- (iii) prioritise and agree appropriate targets;
- (iv) develop a spending profile for the funding period;
- (v) ensure effective integration of cross-cutting issues;
- (vi) consider the options for implementation and make recommendations.

## **Consultation**

3. The Committee agreed that as the Task Force partners should be left to consult with their sectors, but that there was a need for the Committee to consider views on the programmes as a whole, regional views, and the views of those who had experience of implementing and evaluating such programmes.
4. The Committee Secretariat has been working to ensure that consideration of these documents by the various committees (both subject and regional) is structured and coherent. The draft timetable is at Annex 1. The Committee's views on this would be welcomed.
5. The Committee needs to consider which local/regional organisations it wishes to invite to attend the regional meetings. The public will also be invited to attend and contribute.

Chair

Economic Development Committee

July 1999

Annex 1

15 September Meeting of the Economic Development Committee

Consider cross-cutting issues on sustainability.

(as well as more generally the WDA , Budgets and ETAG).

29 September Meeting of the Economic Development Committee

To consider:

equal opportunities (hopefully including Rona Fitzgerald who works for the European Policy Centre at the University of Strathclyde currently undertaking a national study into this particular field.);

a paper on targets (methodology in arriving at them, possibility of subdividing them spatially, achievability, etc);

the distribution of resources between priorities and measures and the spending profile.

Joint meetings with regional committees:

South West (Swansea) 13 September

Mid Wales 17 September

South East Wales 17 September

North Wales (say Rhyl) 20 September (provisionally)

These meetings would be to secure widespread reaction. The committees would invite bodies to attend and would also encourage the public to attend and give their views. (A standardised presentation could be used to facilitate the debate.)

Other subject committee's consideration of documents

15 September Agriculture Committee

16 September Post-16 Committee (special meeting)

22 September (possibly) Health and Social Services

The Environment and Local Government Committee considered the documents on 21 July.

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4 October Meeting of the Economic Development Committee

To take evidence from the Task Force on the revised documents and on implementation.

(It would be useful if there could be a pre meeting to allow the Committee to prepare for the

evidence session.)

### 13 October Meeting of the Economic Development Committee

To finalise the Committee's position on the documents in the light of the discussions and consultation undertaken and the views of other committees.

19 October: Plenary Session of the Assembly to effectively adopt the documents prior to their submission to Brussels (1 November deadline).