

South Wales West Regional Committee

SWaWR (2)-01-07 (p.5)

Date: Friday 02 March 2007

Venue: North Cornelly Community Centre, North Cornelly, Bridgend

Title: The Committee's Report for the Period May 2005 to March 2007

Purpose

The Committee is invited to consider and agree the draft report attached. Subject to any amendments the Committee proposes it will then be tabled.

Committee Service

February 2007

Annex

National Assembly for Wales

South Wales West Regional Committee

Report for the Period May 2005 to March 2007

Introduction

1. The South Wales West Regional Committee first met on 20 May 2005, following the Assembly's decision to increase the number of regional committees to five, aligned to the five National Assembly electoral regions. The region covers the local authority areas of Swansea, Neath Port Talbot, Bridgend and small areas of Rhondda CynonTaff and the Vale of Glamorgan.
2. Regional committees are established under s63 of the Government of Wales Act 1998 and Standing Order 10. Standing Order 10 provides that their role is to advise the Assembly on matters affecting their regions and the work of public bodies there. Regional Committees are required to meet at least twice a year in the region.
3. The Committee has 11 members:

Peter Black	South Wales West
Alun Cairns	South Wales West
Andrew Davies	Swansea West

Janet Davies	South Wales West
Janice Gregory	Ogmore
Brian Gibbons	Aberavon
Edwina Hart	Gower
Carwyn Jones	Bridgend
Dai Lloyd	South Wales West
Val Lloyd	Swansea East
Gwenda Thomas	Neath

In accordance with regional committees' practice the Chair changed after the first year. Janet Davies was elected Chair from May 2005 until June 2006, when Janice Gregory was elected.

The Meetings

4. The Committee has met six times; details are set out below. Meetings have focused on a single topic, with several organisations making presentations followed by discussion and questions. Members of the public have been encouraged to take part in the questioning and discussion and at some meetings the public have been able to give their views and ask Members questions on any subject that is within the remit of the National Assembly.

5. Topics for the meeting were chosen by the Committee as issues where the local perspective could inform the Assembly Government's policy, or where one of the subject committees of the Assembly was undertaking a review of Assembly Government policy. Following each meeting the Chair has reported on the meeting either to the appropriate Minister or to the Chair of the subject committee.

20 May 2005

Venue: The Dylan Thomas Centre, Swansea

Topic: The Economic Regeneration of the Valleys

The Chair subsequently wrote to Andrew Davies AM, Minister for Economic Development and Transport and to other Cabinet Ministers drawing their attention to the issues raised at the meeting.

14 October 2005

Venue: Civic Centre, Neath

Topic: Electoral Arrangements in Wales

The Chair reported on the meeting to Ann Jones AM, Chair of the Local Government and Public Services Committee, which was undertaking a scrutiny project on the subject.

17 March 2006

Venue: Pencoed Welfare Hall, Bridgend

Topic: Education for 16 to 19-year olds, with particular reference to the Welsh Baccalaureate.

Following the meeting the Chair wrote to Jane Davidson AM, Minister for Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills, and copied the letter to Peter Black AM, Chair of the subject committee.

9 June 2006

Venue: New Community Hall, Gwaun Cae Gurwen

Topic: Energy

The Chair wrote to Andrew Davies AM, Minister for Enterprise, Innovation and Networks setting out the main issues raised at the meeting.

20 October 2006

Venue: The Dylan Thomas Centre, Swansea

Topic: Domestic Abuse

The Chair reported on the meeting to Edwina Hart AM, Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration.

2 March 2007

Venue: North Cornelly Community Centre

Topic: Maintaining the Health Wellbeing and Independence of Older People

Janice Gregory
Chair
March 2007