

SOUTH EAST WALES REGIONAL COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Friday 4 February 2000
Time: 10.00am to 1.00pm
Venue: Civic Offices, Civic Centre, Newport

Attendance:

Members:

Carwyn Jones (Chair)	Bridgend
Lorraine Barrett	Cardiff South and Penarth
Peter Black	South Wales West
Rosemary Butler	Newport West
Christine Chapman	Cynon Valley
David Davies	Monmouth
Geraint Davies	Rhondda
Jocelyn Davies	South Wales East
Ron Davies	Caerphilly
Sue Essex	Cardiff North
Michael German	South Wales East
William Graham	South Wales East
John Griffiths	Newport East
Brian Hancock	Islwyn
Jane Hutt	Vale of Glamorgan
Pauline Jarman	South Wales Central
Peter Law	Blaenau Gwent
David Rhys Lloyd	South Wales West
David Melding	South Wales Central
Jonathan Morgan	South Wales Central
Owen John Thomas	South Wales Central
Phil Williams	South Wales West

In attendance:

Lisa Dobbins

Sustainable Development Unit,

Simon Bilsborough

Jim Poole

Sarah Hopkin

National Assembly for Wales

Countryside Council for Wales

Environment Agency Wales

Welsh Local Government

Colin Everett

Rob Hathaway

Association

Newport County Borough Council

Rhondda Cynon Taff County

John Taylor

Andrew Jones

Ruth Marks

Judith Scott

Borough Council

TEC South East Wales

Gwent Health Authority

Chwarae Teg

National Museum and Galleries of

Wales

Richard Knowles

Debra Stux

Katherine Campbell

Mark Rice

Richard Parnaby

Sylvia Davies

Tim Stowe

Margaret Bond

Chris Martin

Sue Cassell

Chris Hoyle

Sue Price

Steve Oliver

ESIS (Schools Advisory Service)

Freight Transport Association

Railtrack

House Builders Federation

Royal Society of Architects in Wales

Council for National Parks

RSPB Cymru

Wildlife Trusts Wales

Arena Network

Youth Hostels Association

Community Service Volunteers

Groundwork Wales

Oak Tree Community Development

Margaret Jarvis

Kathryn Hester

Services

Valleys Kids

Oxfam in Wales

Secretariat:

Martin Stevenson

Vaughan Watkin

Clerk

Deputy Clerk

Apologies for absence

1. Apologies for absence were received from Alun Cairns, Jane Davidson, Janet Davies, Janice Gregory, Huw Lewis, Rhodri Morgan, Lynne Neagle and Jenny Randerson.

Opening remarks

2. The Chair welcomed Members to Newport and thanked Newport County Borough Council for the use of their facilities. He explained that the purpose of the meeting was to seek views on the Assembly's draft sustainable development scheme. With a large number of organisations wanting to make presentations, it would be necessary to limit each presentation to three minutes. He suggested that the presentations be given in blocks of five organisations, with Members asking questions at the end of each block. There would be an open mike session at the end of the session for members of the public to ask questions.

Introduction by the Sustainable Development Unit

3. Lisa Dobbins said that the consultation document '*A Sustainable Wales - Learning to Live Differently*' had recently been issued, setting out a draft sustainable development scheme. The scheme would put sustainability at the heart of the Assembly's decision making process, with the aim of creating a sustainable Wales. The consultation exercise created an opportunity for the public to contribute to the development of the scheme. There was a three month time limit for responses to be made.

Presentations by:

- **Countryside Council for Wales;**
- **Environment Agency Wales;**
- **Welsh Local Government Association;**
- **Newport County Borough Council;**
- **Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council.**

4. Copies of the presentations are attached as an annex to these minutes.

5. The following points were made in discussion:

- It was noted that sustainable development was a long-term aim which was unlikely to be achieved in the lifetime of a single generation. It was suggested that in the past too much emphasis had been placed on economic development at the expense of wider environmental or social considerations. To achieve sustainable development would require the integration of economic, social and environmental concerns. In particular, it was felt that tackling social exclusion was an integral part of securing sustainable development.

- Members felt that any targets or indicators relating to sustainable development should be expressed in terms which were meaningful to lay people. It was important for the public to recognise the scale of the problems and the action being taken to address them, as part of a shared vision of sustainability.
- There was a need to increase awareness of the importance of sustainability at all levels, including children at school, the public at large and decision makers.
- It was felt that local authorities needed to develop their waste strategies with a view to reducing the amount of disposal by landfill. There was a need for greater emphasis on waste minimisation and innovative recycling and recovery schemes. It was suggested that the landfill tax credit scheme could be revised to make more resources available to local authorities for such schemes. It was also felt that it was important to tackle not just consumers but also those producing the goods.
- It was suggested that the problems associated with the Nant-y-Gwyddon landfill site might have been avoided if the site had remained under the direct control of the local authority.
- With action required across such a wide range of economic and social activity, there was a need to develop a list of priority areas which could be tackled in the short-term. It was suggested that one priority should be a reduction in carbon dioxide emissions.

Presentations by:

- **TEC South East Wales;**
- **Gwent Health Authority;**
- **Chwarae Teg;**
- **National Museum and Galleries of Wales;**
- **ESIS (Schools Advisory Service).**

6. Copies of the presentations are attached as an annex to these minutes.

7. The following points were made in discussion:

- Members were anxious to ensure that small and medium sized enterprises in particular were fully aware of the need for sustainable development and the benefits to be gained from its implementation. It was felt that such firms needed to become more involved in developing their workforces, and that '*Investors in People*' accreditation provided a basis for the implementation of a sustainable development policy.

- There was concern about the impact on sustainable development of the continuing disparity between men and women's pay. It was felt that there was a need for equal pay as well as flexible and family-friendly work practices. It was noted that Chwarae Teg were running a campaign to promote equal pay.
- It was noted that there were close links between sustainable development and sustainable health, in that a healthier population could make a more productive contribution to economic development with less need for social support in the form of health care and social benefits. It was felt that the new Health Improvement Programmes could form an important element of both national and local strategies to promote sustainable development.
- Members stressed the importance for sustainable development of integrated decision making, which took into account all relevant issues as well as the interaction between them. There was support for the common appraisal framework approach, which considered all the possible solutions to a particular problem from an independent viewpoint.

Presentations by:

- **Freight Transport Association;**
- **Railtrack;**
- **House Builders Federation;**
- **Royal Society of Architects in Wales.**

8. Copies of the presentations are attached as an annex to these minutes.

9. The following points were made in discussion:

- It was noted that road transport accounted for a high proportion of carbon dioxide emissions into the atmosphere. It was reported that the road haulage industry was investing in low emission vehicles and that consideration was being given to alternative sources of power.
- There was support for transferring freight from road to rail wherever possible, given that this would result in lower levels of emissions and also reduce road traffic. However, even where freight was moved by rail, it was noted that road journeys to and from the railfreight terminal were usually still necessary.
- It was suggested that good road and rail networks were an essential part of sustainable development and that consideration should be given to the identification and elimination of bottlenecks.

- It was suggested that house builders should be given incentives to develop brownfield sites in preference to greenfield sites. It was noted that there was a long history of development of brownfield sites in Wales, so that the remaining sites were often contaminated and in the worst locations.
- Members felt that new buildings should be insulated to above existing standards to reduce subsequent energy consumption. It was suggested that improved insulation might add about two per cent to the overall cost of the building, which represented excellent value for money in terms of the lifetime cost of the building.
- Some Members felt that there was a need for improved liaison between builders and local authorities on the adoption of roads. It was also suggested that action was necessary to improve build quality in some cases.

Presentations by:

- **Council for National Parks;**
- **RSPB Cymru;**
- **Wildlife Trusts Wales;**
- **Arena Network;**
- **Youth Hostels Association;**
- **Community Service Volunteers;**
- **Groundwork Wales;**
- **Oak Tree Community Development Services;**
- **Valleys Kids;**
- **Oxfam in Wales.**

10. Copies of the presentations are attached as an annex to these minutes.

11. The following points were made in discussion:

- Members felt that the voluntary sector had a vital role to play in sustainable development. The key issue was equality of opportunity and the development of sustainable solutions. Local communities must have a voice in how this would be achieved. It was vital for the voluntary sector to provide the Assembly with feedback on where the available resources should be targeted.
- It was suggested that a forum or advisory group should be created, in order to bring together those with expertise to contribute positively to the sustainability debate. One option was that separate forums might be established on a sectoral basis, and in particular an advisory group for education for sustainable development.

- It was suggested that it was vital to find new ways of involving young people in community regeneration and other sustainable development projects. There was strong support for the concept of lifelong learning.
- It was important to work with communities on capacity building, skill surveys and youth development to create sustainable communities which would be able to continue their development once Objective 1 funding was no longer available.

Conclusion

12. The Chair thanked all of the organisations for their presentations, which would help to inform the development of the Assembly's sustainable development scheme. Lisa Dobbins said that the consultation process would be completed by the end of April, and the aim was then for the scheme to be made in July.

13. At this point Carwyn Jones said that he had to leave the meeting and he asked Members whether they would be content for John Griffiths to take over as temporary Chair for the remaining business. In the absence of any objections, John Griffiths was appointed as temporary Chair for the open mike session. Members of the public put a number of questions to the Committee, and the Chair said that each question would receive a reply from the relevant Assembly Secretary.

Date of next meeting

14. The Chair thanked Members for attending the meeting and informed them that the next meeting would be held on Friday 10 March in Barry. The main theme of the meeting would be health inequalities in the region.

Committee Secretariat February 2000

SEWR-01-00 (min)

Annex



Sustainable Development

South East Wales Regional Committee

4 February 2000

Presentations

Index of Presenters

Countryside Council for Wales

Environment Agency Wales

Welsh Local Government Association

Newport CBC

Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council

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National Museum & Galleries of Wales

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Youth Hostels Association

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Groundwork Wales

Oak Tree Community Development Services

Valleys Kids

Oxfam in Wales

CYNGOR CEFN GWLAD CYMRU

Countryside Council for Wales

**PRESENTATION ABOUT SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT TO THE SOUTH EAST WALES
REGIONAL COMMITTEE ON 4 FEB 2000**

Our future quality of life depends on us adapting to sustainable patterns of development. CCW

will work hard to help make the Assembly's Scheme for sustainable development a success. A clean, healthy and diverse environment is fundamental to quality of life.

What is sustainable development?

- Improving quality of life for ourselves and future generations.
- Overcoming social exclusion, building the social economy and sustainable communities;
- Preventing and repairing damage to the environment that we depend on for our quality of life and economy.
- Capitalising on demand for environmental goods and services. Being more efficient and finding new ways of meeting needs that don't undermine our environment and quality of life.
- There are many issues that the Assembly's Scheme for sustainable development needs to tackle, as illustrated by the headline indicators of sustainable development published by the UK government (Annex 1). These show how sustainable development really does cover every aspect of our lives. In the past, we dealt with these issues in isolation. To overcome the problems this caused, the Scheme needs to promote a common agenda that is pursued through:
 - joined up government;
 - collaboration between the public, private and voluntary sectors;
 - participation by citizens; and
 - sustainable policies and programmes that address their broad impact on quality of life.
- **Quality of life indicators**
 - Quality of life indicators are a powerful way of setting the common agenda. They should lie at the heart of the Scheme and be widely adopted to:
 - help define our common aims;
 - measure the combined effect of all our efforts to improve quality of life;
 - be criteria for evaluating sustainability in policies and programmes; and
 - help promote action.
 - address the many quality of life issues that are not reflected in GDP and employment figures.
 - The UK strategy for sustainable development adopts a similar approach. We need to consider how we apply the UK indicators to Wales. In particular, rural and farming issues should be more fully reflected. State of the Environment reports and CCW's work on indicators for habitats and wildlife will help with environmental aspects. Getting into the countryside, enjoying green space around our homes and seeing wildlife are all important. We need to reflect these less tangible aims in the indicators as well.
 - The Scheme should also encourage local authorities and communities to develop their own indicators relevant to local issues and reflecting national priorities.
 - We recommend that Best Value performance indicators include appropriate sustainable development indicators that reflect national priorities.
 - Local Agenda 21 indicators ought to reflect national, as well as local, priorities.

What are the opportunities and problems?

There are already projects and programmes, and proposals for new ones, that improve value for money by tackling issues in a joined up way. Some proposals have great potential for the economy, as well as improving the environment. There are also problems that we still need to solve. The rest of the paper outlines some good examples that CCW is working on and possible opportunities.

Greening the Valleys

This initiative is helping bring people together to consider all aspects of development in a joined up way. Bringing together citizens, businesses, public authorities and voluntary bodies ensures that development benefits local people and the environment as well as helping the economy.

Tir Gofal

The Wales-wide expansion of Tir Gofal will help sustainable development in rural Wales. It will help to create jobs, help farmers improve the quality of produce, reduce some farming costs and help people to enjoy a more attractive countryside.

An independent survey of the Tir Cymen pilot project by ADAS found that it safeguarded existing environmental work and enabled farmers to do more. For example, fencing, hedging, walling, woodland management, moorland management and removing eyesores. This created new work for farmers, their families, small-scale contractors and suppliers. Tir Cymen also helped farmers improve their farming performance. Reduced stocking helped to improve ewe quality, maintain lambing percentages and reduce spending on fertilisers. Better quality stock helps market the produce more effectively and helps the quality image of Welsh agri-food.

Common Land

South East Wales has large areas of Common Land. On the hills between Valley communities Common Land has potential for rural land uses and recreation for people living near by. However, there are many problems that hinder their management and enjoyment, all helping to diminish the image of the Valleys. The Commons are the backdrop to communities, but remain separate. They are contributing much less than they could to quality of life and the economy. There would be potential economic, social and environmental benefits of bringing together the numerous stakeholders to sort out future roles for Common Land.

ANNEX 1

UK HEADLINE QUALITY OF LIFE INDICATORS

	Indicator
Issue / Objective	
1 Our economy must continue to grow	Total output of the economy (GDP and GDP per head).
Investment (in modern plant, machinery, research and development) is vital to our	Total and social investment as a percentage of GDP.
2 future prosperity.	
3 Maintain high and stable levels of employment, so that everyone can share greater job opportunities.	Proportion of people of working age who are in work.
4 Tackle poverty and social exclusion	Indicators of success in tackling poverty and social exclusion (children in low income households, adults without qualifications and in workless households, elderly in fuel poverty).
5 Equip people with the skills to fulfil their potential.	Qualifications at age 19.
6 Improve the health of the population overall.	Expected years of healthy life.
7 Reduce the proportion of unfit housing stock.	Homes judged fit to live in.
8 Reduce both crime and fear of crime.	Level of crime.
9 Continue to reduce our emissions of greenhouse gases now, and plan for greater reductions in the longer term.	Emissions of greenhouse gases.
10 Reduce air pollution and ensure air quality continues to improve through the longer term.	Days when air pollution is moderate or higher.
11 Improve choice in transport; improve access to education, jobs, leisure and services; and reduce the need to travel.	Road traffic.
12 Improve river quality.	Rivers of good or fair quality.
13 Reverse the long term decline in populations of farmland and woodland birds.	Populations of wild birds.
Re-use previously developed land, in order to protect the countryside and encourage urban	New homes built on previously developed land.
14 regeneration.	
15 Move away from disposal of waste towards waste minimisation, reuse, recycling and recovery.	Waste arisings and management.

COMMENTS ON THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY'S SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

Environment Agency Wales has provided advice to the Assembly during the drafting of this scheme. We consider that it represents an essential contribution to the achievement of sustainable development in Wales. We present below our views on the scheme, set out under the four questions that the Assembly has raised for the regional consultation meetings.

Question 1: What should the Assembly do to make sure that it can fulfil its duty to promote sustainable development in the exercise of its functions?

In setting the scene, the Assembly should:

define what it means by sustainable development;

outline its vision for a sustainable Wales.

To demonstrate unequivocal commitment to sustainable development, the Assembly should:

set in place mechanisms for ensuring a cross-functional approach within the Assembly;

demonstrate how these mechanisms have been used in the development of policy.

Recognising that the Assembly can't achieve a sustainable Wales on its own, it should:

explain the role it intends to play itself;

state the roles that it expects other organisations, and individuals, to play.

To demonstrate a commitment to action, the Assembly should:

define indicators for measuring progress towards sustainable development;

set unambiguous targets in relation to those indicators;

demonstrate that it is supporting programmes based on their ability to close the gap between the current situation and the Assembly's targets for a sustainable Wales;

report at regular intervals on progress towards meeting these targets.

Question 2: What are the key sustainability issues the Assembly needs to address?

Wales is a diverse country, with different sustainability issues in different areas. In particular, the Assembly should address the problems of:

the rural economy, and the need to diversify away from agriculture in its current form;

social deprivation in areas of industrial decline – in particular the issues of poor lifestyle across all age-groups and the alienation of young people.

On an all-Wales basis the Assembly should develop strategies for:

integrated public transport, reducing dependence on the private car;

the information technology network in Wales, which affects the need to travel at all;

spatial planning, for resolving potential conflicts between local and all-Wales pressures;

energy, aiming to minimise demand and reduce dependence on fossil fuels;

waste minimisation, recognising the impact of European legislation eg Landfill Directive;

biodiversity, and the particular contribution that Wales can make to global biodiversity.

Question 3: What is needed to make public bodies more sustainable?

Mirroring the approach the Assembly sets for itself, it should require public bodies to take sustainability principles on board in their activities and plans. In practice, organisations:

with, for example, primarily an environmental remit should also address the social and economic implications of their actions (and so on for those bodies with primarily a social or economic remit);

should demonstrate that they are working together on those issues which demand such an approach if they are to be addressed sustainably.

In order to make this happen, the Assembly should:

provide guidance on a common sustainability appraisal methodology that can be applied across the various policy areas covered by different organisations;

use this guidance as a way of increasing awareness within public bodies;

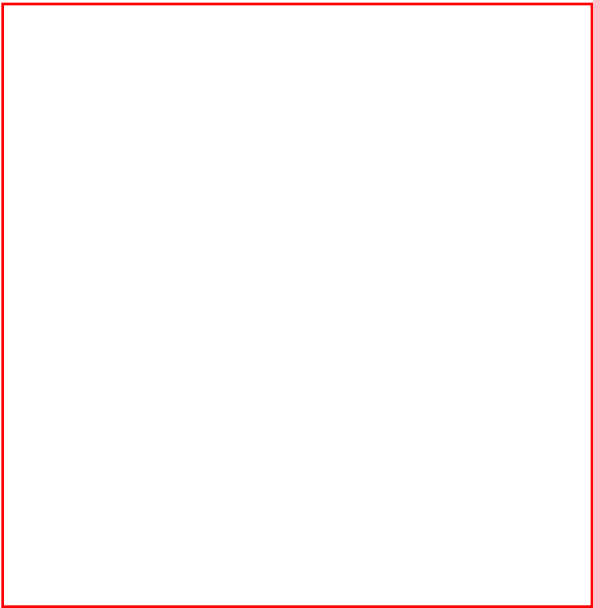
demonstrate that it is allocating funds to public bodies based at least partly on the extent to which they have taken sustainability principles on board.

Question 4: What areas of policy would bring simultaneous environmental, economic and social gains?

These are linked to the issues raised in answer to question 2. They include:

- refurbishment of the housing stock in deprived areas;
- improvements in public transport, and the transport infrastructure;
- helping business develop new technology in pollution prevention and waste minimisation;
- supporting agri-environment schemes;
- supporting agricultural initiatives based on high quality produce, local processing and proven supply chains from the farm to the dinner table;
- developing green tourism, recognising our heritage and environment as economic assets;
- raising public awareness of sustainable development across the board.

Environment Agency Wales
19 January 2000



Welsh Local Government Association

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, THE ASSEMBLY AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local Government and Sustainable Development

The twenty two local authorities in Wales have a key role to play in delivering the Assembly's agenda for sustainable development. Local authorities:

deliver essential local services

Through their responsibility for key services such as education, local transport, social services, land use planning, environmental protection and countryside management, economic development and waste, local authorities make a significant difference to sustainability.

respond to local needs

Local authorities can develop policies and actions that reflect the concerns of the communities they serve, and specifically address local needs and priorities. As leaders of their communities, they help to set the agenda for the locality.

are democratically responsible

Local authorities are accountable to the local community, both through local elections and through extensive consultation. Local authorities will be working with the Assembly to modernise local government further.

have specific responsibility for Local Agenda 21

Local authorities are working towards completing LA21 strategies by 2000.

Local authorities vary in the extent to which sustainable development is a priority and in the way in which they are promoting sustainability. Some are leading the way and have considerable expertise to offer. National Parks, as special purpose local authorities, have an especially important contribution. The Welsh Local Government Association is working with authorities to support and encourage sustainable policies and actions.

The Assembly's Role in Sustainable Development

The Assembly's contribution to sustainable development will be:

to reflect and **respond to the particular needs of Wales**, both protecting its very high quality environment and addressing the urgent economic and social needs of its people;

to provide the **policy framework** for sustainability and especially to **make connections** between policy areas;

to encourage and **support locally appropriate** solutions;

to provide **sufficient resources** to meet locally determined needs.

4. The Assembly will need to work with local government through the **Partnership Council** to achieve its objectives for sustainable development. We anticipate that the Assembly will fully consult local government on its scheme for sustainable development, and wherever possible, will agree shared objectives with local government.

5. The Assembly will also need to work closely with local government in its various subject committees to ensure that:

wherever possible the Assembly and local government are working towards shared objectives;

the Assembly's policies and actions are sustainable;

the Assembly's policies and actions are complementary across policy areas.

the Assembly fosters and encourages initiatives that are locally developed and locally appropriate

6. We recognise the potential value of a standing committee on sustainable development to champion its principles and to monitor progress. On the other hand, it is essential that sustainability is fully incorporated into all the Assembly's work and not confined to a single committee.

7. Local government looks forward to working with the Assembly to promote a sustainable Wales.

Newport CBC

Newport County Borough Council wish to address the National Assembly's duty to 'promote sustainable development' in the context of waste management and the need for the formulation of a Waste Management Strategy for Wales.

Three of the key issues that sustainable waste management policies should address are:

Responsibility for the management of landfill sites

How local authorities can be assisted to meet national targets for recycling;

The potential of the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme as a means of funding sustainable development initiatives.

Section 32 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 requires local authorities to transfer the management of waste disposal sites to waste disposal contractors either in the private sector or as 'arms length' local authority waste disposal companies.

Newport is one of two, possibly three, local authorities in Wales which is still directly managing a waste disposal site. This is possible as a result of successive suspensions by the Secretary of State for Wales and, more recently the National Assembly, of the transfer provisions of the 1990 Act so far as they relate to Newport.

Direct management of the Council's waste disposal site has been beneficial as it has enabled the Council to retain within its revenue budget the surplus generated by the landfill site and to reclaim 20% of its landfill tax liability in order to make contributions to sustainable environmental projects, including recycling initiatives.

Within the last few days we have been advised that the DETR intend to consult on proposals to repeal the transfer provisions of the 1990 Act in view of their incompatibility with best value. This is welcome news as, in the Council's view, the option of direct management of waste disposal sites has the potential for local authorities to enhance their contribution to sustainable development.

The introduction of the Landfill Tax was intended to accelerate the drive towards reducing the quantity of waste going to landfill site. The principle of the tax is accepted, but it is impacting very significantly on the expenditure of local authorities. The Council will be paying approximately £450,000 Landfill Tax for the disposal of domestic waste in 1999/2000.

Methods of transferring the tax to the producers of waste need to be urgently explored so that the impact of the tax on the local authority budgets can be reduced.

At the same time, local authorities are required to find the means of meeting the national recycling targets. The latest figures published by the Audit Commission for 1997/98 show that only 6% of household waste was recycled in Wales compared to the Government target of 25% by 2002.

Recycling is not a cheap option. The markets for many recyclable materials are volatile and companies involved in the collection of materials are increasingly seeking recycling payments from local authorities which match landfill disposal costs, albeit avoiding liability for landfill tax. As a site operator with a current annual tax liability of £900,000 the Council is able to reclaim annually £180,000 for the purpose of making contributions to registered environmental bodies under the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme.

In Newport, contributions of £178,000 have been made to Newport Wastesavers over the last 3 years which has enabled pilot kerbside collection recycling schemes to be introduced to 20,000 homes and a home composting scheme to be launched.

These are examples of what could be achieved across Wales if local authorities are given the opportunity to integrate their disposal and recycling policies as landfill site operators.

The provision to reclaim just 20% of the landfill tax liability is modest. An increase in the percentage. Linked, not just to the introduction of pilot recycling initiatives, but to sustaining and expanding recycling schemes would give a worthwhile incentive to greater investment.

Also, the link could be strengthened by giving local authorities direct access to the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme to good use. One particular innovation has been a partnership with the Princes Trust - Bro to establish the Newport Environment.

Action Fund which distributes grants of up to £5,000 to local voluntary organisations for environmental projects from a contribution of £100,000;

In conclusion, Newport County Borough Council hope that the National Assembly will be able to bring forward proposals for sustainable development in the context of waste management which:

Will facilitate the integration of disposal and recycling policies and operations;

Increase the percentage of landfill site operator's tax liability which can be reclaimed;

Find ways to offer financial support to local authorities for the introduction / extension of sustainable recycling schemes.

Newport County Borough Council

Civic Centre

Newport

Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council

The three key points for the Sustainable Development Scheme, highlighted below, focus on the central concern of **understanding what sustainable development is about** and draw on the experience of local government in tackling sustainable development issues over the last 10 years.

1. The key issue is an understanding of what sustainable development means and how far current policies and actions are from sustainable development.

Sustainable development is a long term aim which is unlikely to be achieved in the lifetime of one generation.

Sustainable development requires the integration of economic, social and environmental concerns; not balance or trade off between these. To be truly sustainable, development must not damage the ecosystem, must provide benefits for people (with a much greater degree of equity) and for the economy.

Sustainable development must have both global and local dimensions. Policy and action in Wales effects and is affected by policy and action elsewhere. Wales is a 'rich' country, currently utilising far more than its 'fair share' of world resources and waste assimilation capacity.

2. The Sustainable Development Scheme needs a clear long term objective (a Sustainable Wales by the 22nd century?) but also requires closer targets along the way (1 year, 5 years, 10 years, 20 years)

The long term vision which articulates the definition of sustainable development is important because it will shape the policy, the approach and the actions proposed to achieve it.

The current vision is too much like 'business as usual' and is unlikely to achieve sustainable development.

The vision will need to evolve, and the Assembly should seek to involve people in the development of the vision.

Cultural change of major proportions will be required to achieve sustainable development. The

Assembly will need to think about the small steps which will begin the long journey.

The proposal to establish a five year review of Assembly policy is supported. This will need to continue for several rounds of incremental change. The first round should focus on reducing the most damaging / unsustainable policies. Funding must follow policy and move towards the more sustainable options. The potential for change arising from this is significant, for example in the Assembly supported public bodies and in local authorities.

Relatively small changes, such as updating land use planning guidance, in line with UK sustainable development policy, will have an impact. A more radical review of planning and sustainability, as proposed by the UK Round Table on Sustainable Development, would require action by both the UK government and the Assembly.

Waste management is another area where significant short term gains are possible utilising existing techniques and practices but there are also opportunities for new and innovative responses to the EU landfill directive over the next 10-15 years.

The proposal for a sustainability appraisal framework is supported. The framework must include the more difficult issues like resource consumption, waste generation and global equity. Indicators must also address these issues.

Mechanisms will be required to ensure that 'short term' strategies and action plans (including the Assembly's Strategic Plan, plans of the Assembly supported bodies and Local Authority Community Plans) are making measurable progress towards the long term sustainable development objective.

3. Education, awareness raising and innovation are likely to be the most important drivers for sustainable development.

No one currently has a 'sustainable development solution'. Innovation and experiment are needed to explore sustainable options for Wales.

Developing an understanding of the issues, in all sections of Welsh society, is fundamental to the achievement of sustainable development. The interconnectedness of issues has to be recognised and 'joined up government' become a reality.

Awareness raising should be positive, focusing on action, solutions and continuous improvement. People in all sectors of Welsh society need to be involved and empowered in the search for sustainable development.

In the short term, best practice examples, research and dissemination, training etc. are important tools for mobilising change. The former Local Government Management Board (now

the IDEA) Sustainability Unit has been particularly helpful in supporting and encouraging local authorities in the UK.

The Assembly is an important focus for policy and action in Wales. The Assembly can set an example and has widespread influence in Wales. It can also seek to influence the UK government, to develop the commitment to sustainable development, as a result of its unique sustainable development scheme.

TEC South East Wales

Sustainable Development

People

The most valuable resource, which any organisation has, is its people. Truly sustainable development will only be achieved when people are educated to be aware of the critical need for sustainable development, the benefits to be gained from its implementation and the awesome long-term implications of ignoring it.

1.1 Education

Implicit in the above is the need to influence curricula at all stages of education from early school days through college and all aspects of lifelong learning. Establishing appropriate thinking early in a person's education will obviate the need for remedial action later. In all subjects where problem solving and synthesis play an important part, such as design, then sustainable development must feature prominently in the thinking. Education must encourage innovative thinking so that Wales can create indigenous products hence making the country less dependent on imported ideas and finance. Sustainable development must not be seen as a 'bolt on' appendage to education; it must form an overarching theme which also incorporates the philosophy of citizenship. This will help engender a culture of self respect with a consequent respect for fellow citizens and the environment in which we all live.

1.2 Industry

More companies (especially SMEs) should become involved in full in developing its workforce. IIP is an excellent example of this as it provides a firm basis for the formulation and implementation of a sustainable development policy. More emphasis should also be placed on the dissemination of appropriate information to SMEs so that they are made fully aware of their ecological responsibilities in local matters such as emission control and waste management and also with regard to more global aspects such as supply chains.

The awarding of contracts is now increasingly being influenced by the ability of companies to

adhere to the requirements of appropriate supply chains. More emphasis should be placed on this at Government level. Such a trend would have considerable long term effects on sustainable development. Already evidence is available which suggests that companies rising to the challenge of sustainable development are seeing benefits in terms of increased confidence of customers and financiers together with gains in entries to new markets.

1.3 Community aspects

Sustainable development is much more than the preservation of the environment. The overall objective encompasses the needs of people and the communities in which they live. Provision of high quality leisure facilities such as libraries, museums and sports complexes are the tangible outcomes of an effective sustainable development policy with regard to people. New technology contrary to its original expectation appears to do little to slow down the pace of life. The need for people to relax displays no sign of diminishing with the advancement of technology. This aspect is extremely important and forms a major plank in the sustainable development planning.

Growth Issues

2.1 Energy Utilisation and Conservation

The Welsh economy is broad based through manufacturing, financial services, agriculture and tourism to mention but a few. Growth in all these areas will impinge to a lesser or greater degree on the extent of energy utilisation. Wales is an overall importer of energy. Close analysis of energy utilisation and moves to optimise this usage will bring not only economic benefit but also environmental improvements. More work is needed on the consideration of renewable energy sources. This in turn could have benefits for other sectors such as the tourist industry.

2.2 Transport

Vehicle engine emissions are a major polluter of the environment and clearly there is a strong link between the buoyancy of the economy and the extent of transport-generated pollution. Technology must be used to optimise efficiencies both in the operation of power units and also in the overall management of the movement of goods. Opportunities for the movement of freight by rail should not be overlooked and the efficiency of this service must be brought to a level which is acceptable to manufacturers and inspires their full confidence.

An innovative approach must be used to improve rural passenger services with initiatives like concessionary fares hence ensuring the mobility of the workforce to help sustain industrial development.

2.3 Environmental Services

The maximum benefit must be derived from all the existing organisations and services such as the Environmental Agency Wales, the Countryside Council for Wales, the CBI, the Wales Relay Centre, Arena Network and the Environmental Education Centre. Within the ranks of these organisations lies a wealth of expertise which can be used to great advantage. A great deal of excellent work has already been done in this area and TEC South East Wales is at present forming a Sustainable Development group with partners from all the above organisations. The output of this group will doubtless be a valuable contribution to the work of the Assembly with regard to sustainable development.

Technology

3.1 Industrial Control

It is well understood that the effects of new technology on the whole industrialised world have already been tremendous and to date we have only seen the tip of the iceberg. The true extent of the forces which this technology will exert on all aspects of the economy and society are perhaps not even now fully appreciated. In manufacturing we see dramatic changes in plc control systems, inspection, quality control, optimisation of material utilisation, Computer Aided Design and Virtual Reality. These new techniques require new skills and methods of working which we must accommodate if the workforce is to be employable and contented. These developments must be sustainable in the context of social behaviour as well as economic progress.

3.2 E-Commerce

This area of application of technology through the Internet is set to revolutionise a wide range of industries from retailing through to high finance bringing with it exciting new business opportunities. The changes this will bring about in our way of life and the redistribution of skills demand must be accommodated in our planning in order to achieve sustainable development.

Technology

Wales is a country rich in opportunities for the tourist industry. Its rivers, beaches, and other areas of natural beauty must be maintained in order to sustain the industry which is so vital to the overall economy and character of the country. It is important that organisations such as Cadw are well funded in order to maintain buildings and sites of special interest as these generate wealth for the whole region in which they lie. An increased emphasis on customer focus is required. Sectors such as Hospitality and Catering must be supported with the encouragement and development of language courses. This would help attract and sustain the interest of foreign visitors, which is so vital for the long term health of the tourist industry.

Gwent Health Authority

The short presentation (3mins) addresses the main questions raised by the committee namely:

What are the key sustainability issues that the Assembly needs to address?

What areas of policy would bring simultaneous environmental, social and economic gains?

What is needed to make public bodies more sustainable?

What should the Assembly do to make sure that it could fulfil its duty to promote sustainable development in the exercise of its functions?

Summary

The Health Authority has restricted itself to addressing the issues surrounding the close relationship between sustainable development and sustainable health and well being. We wish to make three summary points:

Given the poor state of health in Wales compared to other regions and countries, a focus on **Investment for Health Gain** should be a central part of local and regional policies to promote economic regeneration and sustainable development.

The new **Health Improvement Programmes – HIP** (co-ordinated by Health Authorities) should be seen as an important element of national and local strategies to promote sustainable development.

The introduction of **Health Impact Assessment** into public policy making at central and local level provides a key opportunity to bring about social, economic and environmental gains which will themselves bring about health improvement in the population.

Key Issues

Sustainable Development and Sustainable Health

In taking forward a sustainable development strategy across its functions the NAW needs to highlight the **very close links between sustainable development and sustainable health and well being.**

A **healthier population** can make a more productive contribution to overall economic and

sustainable development, requires less social support in the form of health care and welfare benefits and is more able to support its community and avoid actions that, over the long term, damage its environment

The Governments vision of sustainable development is based on four objectives:

Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone;

Effective protection of the environment;

Prudent use of natural resources;

Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment.

It will be essential for the NAW within these objectives to highlight health, poverty and education as key sustainable development issues which should be addressed through a broadly based health promotion strategy which promotes socio, economic and environmental wellbeing.

The NHS will continue to provide people with access to effective health care based on patient's needs. However improved health is not just about providing better health services but is also about promoting social and economic changes. Identifying investments, which can improve health by attacking the main causes of ill health (determinants of health) will be an important part of promoting sustainable development. **Investment in positive health and wellbeing brings social and economic benefits for the whole community and should be promoted by the NAW through the sustainable development strategy.**

One of the priorities for the NAW in its recently published vision for Wales-‘A Better Wales’ is **Better Health**. ‘Better Health for All’ is similarly a key issue highlighted by the Governments Strategy for Sustainable Development – ‘A Better Quality of Life.’

The NAW public health strategy ‘**Better Health Better Wales**’ and the resultant ‘**Strategic Framework**’ clearly highlighted the importance of such links and provide a firm policy foundation.

A person's social and economic circumstance is probably the strongest influence on health, avoidable sickness and premature death. There are strong links between the patterns of deprivation and the pattern of ill health and disease. Whilst an economic regeneration strategy has been in place for many years, **the interaction between social, economic, environmental and health issues is not always understood. This should be clearly understood within the context of developing a sustainable development strategy.**

A **major priority** must be to recognise **the importance of sustainable health in economic and social regeneration.**

This requires improvements in the quality of health care services but also for organisations to think about the causes of ill health and how to secure healthier lifespans. **This requires key issues including housing, transport, environmental protection etc to be seen in a sustainable health context.**

POLICY AREAS

The Public Health Policy for Wales '**Better Health Better Wales**' represents an important area of policy, which can facilitate socio, economic and environmental gains. The policy recognises the key determinants of health that give rise to ill health in Wales.

The framework for partnership laid out in the resultant '**Strategic Framework**' is of crucial importance in developing sustainable communities across Wales. The introduction of local multi-sector partnerships '**Health Alliances**' to take forward local action to promote **Community Health Development** is an important influence on local policies for Sustainable Development.

The newly developed **Health Improvement Programmes (HIP)** which are being co-ordinated by the five Health Authorities including Gwent will form an important part of the local action to promote sustainable development. **HIP will seek to improve health as well as health services locally and will therefore be an important part of sustainable development.** Health constitutes an important part of community well being and should therefore also be reflected in the new **Community Plans** being co-ordinated by local authorities. Many local authorities are already developing Local Agenda 21 action plans under such an umbrella. **HIP's** represent the overarching planning mechanism for Health Improvement across Wales. **Locally there must be close links between priorities for sustainable development and health improvement.**

This will require all public policy which has an effect on health and health inequality e.g environment, employment, housing to be considered together.

The recent introduction of **Health Impact Assessment** as a major policy to be adopted by the NAW provides a real opportunity, if adopted across public organisations to deliver improvements in socio, economic and environmental wellbeing which will bring about improvements in the health of the Welsh population. **NAW should promote the adoption of Health Impact Assessment across organisations as an important part of the sustainable development strategy.**

Chwarae Teg

Strategic Overview

1992-1999

Set up in 1992 by a consortium of public sector agencies to support, develop and expand the role of women in the Welsh economy, Chwarae Teg is now recognised as a lead organisation in the field of women's economic development in Wales, the UK and in Europe.

Working in partnership with a wide range of organisations in the public, private and voluntary sectors, Chwarae Teg's aims and objectives have been delivered by means of a national Action Plan which has focused on the following key areas:

family friendly work practices, training and career development, childcare provision, support for women entrepreneurs and raising awareness amongst employers, training providers and government agencies.

2000 and beyond

Chwarae Teg is actively working towards influencing policy development and programme documents reflecting and relating to the new political and economic agenda in Wales and the wider European context to achieve practical outcomes linked to women's economic development.

In preparing the strategic plan Chwarae Teg has considered the agendas of the National Assembly for Wales and the European Commission, in addition to the views of members and partners. The plan for the next three years will focus on the following four key areas:

Employment, Enterprise, Education and Training, Public Policy.

Approach to sustainable development

The Assembly should continue its consultative and participative approach to implement its duty. Equality of opportunity and the link to economic development should be mainstreamed throughout the key elements of the proposed scheme.

Priorities for action that would bring simultaneous gains

Education, training and skills development –

For young people and all those underrepresented in these fields. Full access to opportunities,

softer skills in addition to vocational abilities, management development.

Flexible employment practices -

Equal pay, childcare and other dependant care, family friendly provision.

Public body sustainability

Increased understanding across all three sectors.

Ongoing consultancy & participation exercises.

Secondment opportunities between agencies

Wider representation on the boards and advisory groups of all bodies.

National Museum & Galleries of Wales

Oral presentation to the SE Wales Regional Committee of the National Assembly from the National Museums and Galleries of Wales

Sustainable Development Consultation Meeting

A key part of sustainable development is matching human activity in relation to renewable resources, in industry, agriculture, manufacturing and the use of natural resources (earth and natural sciences).

The National Museums & Galleries of Wales has departments which are involved in all of these. While the National Museums & Galleries of Wales, by its very nature, is concerned with the past, a major role is to inform about the future.

The National Museums & Galleries of Wales have a role to play in **the public awareness, education and research** relating to sustainable development. These surely underpin the success of the sustainable development initiatives in the Assembly's proposals and document.

In relation to Public Awareness and Education, the Museums' SCAN (Schools and Communities Agenda 21 Network) project aims to deliver 'education for sustainability' in response to Local Agenda 21 in Wales and beyond. SCAN is an internet project with its hub at NMGW. The SCAN web site provides educational materials to encourage local neighbourhood surveys and it provides for the communication of survey results between schools, communities and other key organisations.

The NMGW promote a range of events that support life-long learning in sustainability. For example, in May, the Museum of Welsh Life is hosting a 2 day 'Ecofun' festival promoting sustainable living as fun. This is a partnership between NMGW, CCW, EA, FC & RSPB.

Public awareness of sustainable development is also promoted through permanent and temporary/travelling exhibitions.

Through research, in industrial and social history and biodiversity, the National Museums & Galleries of Wales can enhance understanding of sustainability.

To summarise.. With museums throughout Wales and exploiting the potential of the internet, the National Museums & Galleries of Wales is well placed to act as a focal point for the public awareness of sustainable development issues, as outlined in the consultation document. The diversity of museums and collections allows industrial and agricultural issues to be considered alongside those of the environment and biodiversity – it is important that sustainability proposals embrace a holistic approach.

ESIS: Schools' Advisory Service

PUPILS PLANNING FOR REAL (PPfR)

PROPOSALS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL STRATEGY

A national Pupils Planning for Real Strategy for Wales will provide:

A mechanism for pupils to play a major role in the implementation of a range of environmental improvements throughout Wales;

A coherent framework to enable funding to be matched to identified priority outcomes;

The Issues

Pupils Planning for Real has the potential to have impact on sustainable development in Wales, than any other strategy;

The current mechanisms, which encourage PPfR activities, are currently piecemeal and lack a national strategic framework.

The PPfR process

Identification of issues

Investigation of factors

Generation of ideas

Consideration of alternatives/constraints

Discussion of dilemmas

Decision making

Presentations

FUNDING

Negotiations

Action

PPfR Partners

Pupils

School staff

Governors

LEA professional officers

LEA curriculum advisers

Environmental organisations

ACCAC

Estyn

National Assembly

Developing the Strategy

A working group of PPfR partners could make recommendations for the establishment of a national strategy based upon:

An audit of current practice;

The establishment of a set of performance indicators;

A consideration of current and potential funding arrangements and how these can be organised to maximise the effectiveness of all PPfR partners.

Some aspects of Sustainable Development

Energy conservation

Safe Routes to Schools/sustainable transport

Sustainable food production

Water conservation

Recycling

National PPfR Strategy outcomes:

A substantial and increased number of effective environmental improvements with a focus upon Sustainable Development will be established throughout Wales;

A significant cultural change regarding attitudes towards Sustainable Development;

The generation of new and innovative ideas to ensure that sustainable development initiatives are continually improving people's quality of life.

Council for National Parks

Submission to National Assembly of Wales'

Sustainable Development Regional Committee Public Meeting, Newport 4 February 2000

Introduction

The Council for National Parks (CNP) welcomes the Assembly's aim to have a Scheme which

will establish sustainable development as central to all its thinking. CNP is the national charity that works to protect and enhance the National Parks of England and Wales and areas that merit National Park status, and promote understanding and quiet enjoyment of them for the benefit of all.

What should the Assembly do to make sure that it can fulfil its duty to promote sustainable development in the exercise of its functions?

Definition of Sustainable Development

A definition of sustainable development would be a starting point on which to base the Scheme. The definition needs to be comprehensive and simple, clearly stating that sustainable development is a long-term strategy which underpins and influences all policy and actions continually.

Partnership with National Parks

CNP believes that the three Welsh National Parks have a special role in helping the Assembly to meet its sustainable development objectives. The Welsh National Parks cover 20% of the land area of Wales, and are areas upon which the Assembly has conferred the highest possible status of protection as far as landscape and scenic beauty are concerned. The Government has stated that the National Parks are well placed to be "models for the sustainable management of the wider countryside"*. CNP would like to see a strategy where National Parks have a distinct and recognised role in helping the Assembly deliver sustainable development objectives.

*paragraph 20 of Circular 13/99

Policy and Guidance

The Assembly should provide strategic guidance on sustainable development in order to ensure that the interests of Wales as a whole are considered.

CNP would welcome the establishment of an independent Sustainable Development Forum (integrating social, environmental and economic issues) which could act as a sounding board for the Assembly. Members should be drawn from a wide network of stakeholder organisations.

What are the key sustainability issues the Assembly needs to address?

CNP believes that the key sustainability issues for National Parks are:

Demand for energy

Intensification and diversification of agriculture

Increasing demand for aggregates

Road transport

Development, including land use changes

Degradation of water quality and demand for water

Unless steps are taken to address these negative trends now, they will significantly affect National Parks (and the rest of Wales) and our quality of life. The Assembly can address these trends by:

Protecting the environment, including enhancing and conserving natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage

Providing incentives for agri-environment schemes/sustainable land management practices

Directing the demands on the landscape through robust policies on planning and minerals

Encouraging and promoting alternatives to private motorised transport

Developing opportunities for social inclusion, remembering that "people won't care about what they haven't experienced" Judy Ling Wong, CNP conference, Snowdonia, June 1999

Influencing waste management policies and practice, working to reduce the amount of waste produced and favouring re-use and recycling initiatives

Encouraging a reduction in the demand for natural resources and energy e.g. through energy conservation and increased energy efficiency schemes. Raising awareness will be an important part of achieving this objective.

Indicators

Many of the qualities of National Parks do not lend themselves to scientific measurement. They include beauty, tranquillity, remoteness, semi-wilderness and opportunities for quiet enjoyment. These are indicators of the contribution that National Parks make to our quality of life, in addition to the more measurable indicators such as

water supplies, arable land, wildlife and forests. Indicators that are not so easily measured therefore need to be included in the scheme.

What is needed to make public bodies more sustainable?

Policies

The principles of sustainable development need to underpin all policies. It is vital that an appropriate policy framework is used, particularly in areas which are nationally important in environmental terms. National Park Authorities for example, in pursuing the purposes of conservation and recreation, also have a duty to seek to foster the social and economic well being of their local communities.

Funding

Funding of National Park Authorities in Wales is below that in England and well below the funding increases recommended by the 1991 National Parks Review Panel. Sustained funding increases are therefore needed for the three National Parks in Wales.

The continued underfunding of the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW*) is extremely worrying and is in stark contrast to its sister bodies in England and Scotland who have had substantial budgetary increases. The inadequate level of funding is having knock on effects: grant aid has been cut and some voluntary sector partnerships have been hit hard. Valuable initiatives already in place are being undermined and progress is being limited in several important areas.

* the Assembly's statutory advisor on the countryside, inshore waters and wildlife

Getting to the heart of individuals

By making explicit and publicising connections between people's lifestyles and protected landscapes, public bodies will be helping people to help society to move towards more sustainable development.

What areas of policy would bring simultaneous environmental, economic and social gains?

Development should not be confused with economic growth. National Park Authorities have invested a great deal of effort into promoting the local produce and cultures, partly in order to develop a market advantage for the residents. These show that National Parks can be models of economic development, compatible with contributing to a high quality environment. Examples of innovative policy areas that meet the above objectives are as follows:

Sustainable transport provision in Wales (e.g. Snowdon Sherpa bus network)

Entrepreneurship, food production and marketing of produce in Wales, providing incentives to sell/buy locally, thereby helping the local economy & reducing unnecessary food miles and transport pollution (e.g. Beacons Country Produce, Coed Cymru)

Access to countryside and recreation (e.g. Pembrokeshire Coast National Park's Coastal Path) and "green tourism" (conserved landscapes in SW England support 97,200 jobs) National Trust's study published in NT Press Release 6 April 1999

Business planning, such as preferring "virtual travelling" through ICT development rather than company cars (cf. Crickhowell televillage in Brecon Beacons National Park)

Providing incentives and support for agri-environment schemes and sustainable land management practices (Tir Cymen generated 62 person years of environmental work)

Freight Transport Association

Sustainable Development and the Transport of Freight in Wales

The Freight Transport Association represents the transport interests of some 12,000 businesses in the UK .

We speak for Welsh companies that make the goods and need to get them to their customers in Wales, the rest of the UK, the rest of the EU and, in some cases, the rest of the world.

The transport of freight is an essential activity in all industrial economies. Efficient freight transport ensures availability of goods for consumers and reliable distribution for manufacturers.

This is especially important in Wales in view of its geographic distance from the main consuming and producing areas in Britain and the rest of Europe.

Efficient freight transport links are therefore an essential ingredient in any economic development strategy that may be promoted by the Welsh Assembly.

But moving freight is an energy intensive business. It creates noise, atmospheric pollution and intrusion. Road and rail networks are becoming congested. Achieving major change is expensive and takes many years.

How can the Welsh Assembly help to make existing patterns of freight transport in Wales more compatible with the environment, whilst allowing the economy to grow and consumer demands to be met?

Here are 10 things the Welsh Assembly could do/encourage/promote in the quest for sustainable distribution in Wales:

Develop "Freight Quality Partnerships" to help make deliveries to town and city centres resident-friendly and business-efficient.

Go with the flow: legislative changes already in hand will ensure a reduction of atmospheric emissions from lorries of almost two-thirds by 2010.

Identify all bottlenecks and congestion hot spots on the road and rail networks in Wales and develop a strategy for their elimination.

Ensure that freight transport issues are taken into account at the planning stage of new economic development.

In rural areas develop and signpost a network of lorry routes to serve economically important areas and keep lorries on suitable roads.

Provide incentives for the use of low-noise or low emission lorries: Reward best practice.

Where road congestion is rife give economically-essential traffic (buses and lorries) priority.

Encourage the adoption of "Out of Hours" deliveries to business premises wherever possible
Relax planning restrictions that force deliveries to be made in the peak congestion times.

Undertake studies to determine the origin and destination of freight traffic into and out of Wales so as to inform investment decisions.

Work with industry - i.e. the freight owners - in developing freight transport plans.

JEH

30/01/00

Railtrack

Introduction

Railtrack welcome the opportunity to take part in the consultation on how the National Assembly for Wales will promote sustainable development in the exercise of its functions. As the owner of the rail infrastructure within Wales we have a responsibility to maintain and enhance the network and wish to work closely with the National Assembly to establish and understand their priorities.

Definition

The phrase "sustainable development" is becoming very fashionable and often appears now as an objective for projects, but it can and does mean different things to different people. The "needs" in the Brundtland definition is also open to wide interpretation. To have a definition which is meaningful for the Assembly we feel it needs to be more specific and suggest that it should spell out the need to integrate economic, social and environmental policies.

Targets

The Assembly will need to produce current figures to use as a base and targets to make it clear to other bodies what they are setting out to achieve. Rail transport is energy efficient, producing significantly less carbon dioxide emissions per passenger kilometre or freight tonne kilometre than road transport. Indeed the external costs of air and noise pollution, congestion, accidents and infrastructure damage are all less for rail than for road. Rail infrastructure also requires less space than the road network, reducing the impact of the transport sector on land. We would like to see targets for these areas.

Method of Appraisal

For prioritising schemes a method of appraisal is required. Railtrack is investing heavily in renewing the rail network. much of the work will be undertaken on a commercial basis but some enhancement schemes will require partnership funding. To prioritise these schemes we need to be able to quantify the potential social and environmental value that will be generated by the project. Railtrack is currently developing a methodology for doing this which will be integrated into standard investment appraisal processes. The appraisal methodology is being developed inline with work being carried out by the Government and the shadow Strategic Rail Authority. This will be a powerful decision-making tool, enabling Railtrack and others to prioritise investment funding by considering both monetary and non-monetary benefits in order to capture maximum social, economic and environmental value from proposed rail schemes. We would welcome the opportunity to share the methodology with the National Assembly.

Strategic View

Ensuring that we have an efficient rail infrastructure will help improve all our lives, and will

facilitate further growth in passenger and freight traffic. We are already working closely with many local authorities looking at rail developments but to be truly efficient we need to look at the bigger picture within Wales. We feel a sustainable development forum should be set up to provide a strategic focus.

Summary

Railtrack would like to see the establishment of a sustainable development forum within the Assembly. This would be responsible for producing a clear definition, a set of targets and a method of project appraisal.

RAILTRACK

January 2000



The House Builders Federation

South East Wales Regional Committee

Meeting on Sustainable Development on 4 February

Newport Civic Centre

My name is Mark Rice and I am the External Affairs Manager for the House Builders Federation. HBF is the principal trade federation for house builders in Wales.

Our membership ranges from very large international companies, through to small local companies. We are responsible for 80 per cent of new homes built in Wales in any one year – both for private ownership and in partnership schemes.

Discussions on the need for new housing often begin with numbers – the numbers of new homes that need to be built. The problem with this approach is that the reasons why new homes are needed are forgotten or neglected. Access to decent housing is a vital part of creating a more sustainable future for Wales.

Economic

New housing must play a significant role in achieving the much-needed step-change in the Welsh economy. If the industrial structure is to be shifted away from low-growth towards high-growth sectors then housing must be available where there is potential for the expansion of high growth sectors, to support the expansion of new industries and services.

The housing stock is, by its nature, highly inflexible. Homes cannot be moved and there is only limited potential for adapting the size and accommodation of most dwellings. New housing therefore has a contributory role in ensuring the housing stock can adapt to the changing needs of the labour force, businesses and the wider economy.

Social

If we are to have a more inclusive society then it is vital that everyone has access to a decent home. This is a pressing issue in Wales – initial results of the 1997-1998 Welsh House Condition Survey indicate that approximately 98,000 dwellings or 8.5 per cent of the existing stock is estimated to be unfit. This figure is significantly higher than in England (6.7 per cent).

These problems have been recognised in **betterwales** and the greater use of private funding to improve poor quality housing estates is vital. However, whilst it will be possible to improve the condition of many poor dwellings through renovation, some will require replacement through new build. This will add to the overall demand for new house building.

Regeneration of Wales' worst housing is not simply a bricks and mortar issue. Those parts of our towns, cities and valley communities suffering high levels of deprivation and social exclusion will need action at all levels. This is a key national priority and requires a focus on the economy and the creation of jobs. Tackling crime, environmental degradation and poor education and health are top priorities. Whilst house builders wish to be part of that process they cannot build where housing markets do not exist.

Environment

Wales faces new choices in meeting employment and housing needs whilst protecting precious environmental assets. Responsibility for providing the planning framework in which those choices must be made lies with the Assembly.

It is UK Government and Assembly policy that new housing should be focused on existing urban areas. House builders in Wales are committed to bringing forward vacant and derelict land for new housing. Development on brownfield sites has a long history in Wales. The land that remains is often the most contaminated and in the worst locations. Gap funding must be

an Assembly priority.

In those places where recycled land cannot bear the brunt of meeting housing need, sustainable urban extensions are increasingly regarded as the next option to look at. Urban Extensions will give the critical mass needed to achieve genuinely integrated transport solutions; mixed use development to reduce car journeys, as well as efficient water management and properly planned open spaces.

Beyond this, there will remain a need for some housing in rural communities, often to maintain their social and economic activity. But planning will rightly continue to focus on the urban area and its periphery as the most sustainable way of meeting housing need.

Royal Society of Architects in Wales

Cymdeithas Frenhinol Penseiri yng Nghymru

Presentation to National Assembly for Wales

South East Wales Regional Committee Meeting on Sustainable Development Newport Civic Centre

4 February 2000

Building the Sustainable Nation

The Royal Society of Architects in Wales (RSAW) enthusiastically supports the commitment of the National Assembly for Wales to the principle of sustainable development. We recognise that the idea of sustainability is at once breathtakingly simple and almost incomprehensibly complex. The four objectives of the UK Governments strategy for sustainable development are broad statements of aspiration. It is not easy to understand how they are all truly compatible -- is it really possible to maintain high and stable levels of economic growth and effectively protect the environment? However it is a challenge worth accepting – it is the only really important game in town.

Architects are used to (and are trained to) act on partial information -- the client and contractor are rarely willing to wait for the definitive results of research -- and we believe that despite the difficulties of defining sustainable development we already have sufficient knowledge to make substantial progress on two of the main themes identified by the UK Government – the effective protection of the environment and the prudent use of natural resources.

TWO ISSUES

The particular area of expertise of the architect is the understanding of and design of the built environment. We consider that there are two issues of overarching importance in this area of human activity in terms of sustainability:

- 1 the reduction of the use of fossil fuel energy with the aim of reducing the emission of carbon into the atmosphere and arresting global warming and consequent climatic change.
- 2 the promotion of environmentally responsible material specification to limit the waste of fossil fuel energy (for example in excessive transportation of building materials) and minimise the pollution of the biosphere by the by-products and waste from industrial process.

In both of these areas there is sufficient knowledge to make concrete progress in the short term

Approximately 50% of the energy used in developed economies is used in buildings -- building professions have the knowledge and the skills to reduce this drastically both in new buildings and in the existing building stock. There are no technical reasons why new building should not be three times more energy efficient than the average of existing buildings. Improving the stock of existing buildings is rather more difficult but refurbishment can routinely result in the reduction of energy demand by half.

Environmentally responsible material specification is more problematic -- architects and builders are presented with stark choices every day. When choosing replacement windows for a new development which of the following options is better environmentally ? Polyester powder coated aluminium, PVCu from a Welsh supplier, factory painted softwood made in Denmark, Welsh Oak made to measure by a local joinery shop or tropical hardwood from a certified sustainable source? And how much does each cost? A difficult choice -- and just one of dozens of such choices to be made in every building project. Fortunately there is help available --research on life cycle environmental costing is being carried out in centres around the world with a view to giving practical advice top designers and specifiers and several useful guides have been published.

ACTION

To reduce energy use in buildings we believe that some of the most effective action can only be taken by Government at the UK level -- further improvements in Building Regulations standards for energy performance for example. There are however ways in which the National Assembly could improve the environmental performance of new and existing buildings in Wales including:

- 1 a requirement that all public funded development achieves best practice standards (through,

for example, mandating high scores on the BREEAM assessment method for all new development).

2 incorporating environmental performance as a material consideration in the determination of planning applications (once again using the BREEAM system as the benchmark).

3 embarking on a programme of focused demonstration projects illustrating how developers of new housing, social landlords, householders and SMEs can improve their environmental performance cost effectively.

These are all sensible, perhaps predictable, proposals which we nevertheless feel it is our professional responsibility to press. However our main recommendation is more radical and has the potential to make Wales a world leader in sustainable design and construction.

At the Rio Earth summit in 1992 Swedish local authorities proposed establishing "global networks for local work". the internet has made what was then a farsighted but somewhat fanciful idea a reality. We propose the establishment of a pioneering website or family of websites to promote sustainability in construction.

The principles of sustainable development require that materials, components and services should be procured locally. While Wales is rich in natural and intellectual resources the means of accessing them are haphazard. More and more businesses and individuals in the country are ICT literate and linked to the web. They need a Welsh interactive website giving the whole development and construction sector (from the Wales-based international manufacturer to the independent professional and local builder) access to the full range of the material and human resources which can meet their well established need, and desire, to act now for sustainable development.

The site would be node giving access to key sustainability information relevant to actual development projects -- embodied energy figures, transport energy data, life cycle costs, environmental impacts etc. Hypertext links would give access to architects engineers, surveyors and other professionals, contractors, artists, craftspeople and the full range of suppliers of materials, fixtures and furniture.

The site would be an invaluable resource for Assembly Members, the WDA and other agencies, local authorities, health authorities and trusts, schools, colleges and universities as well as private and commercial clients. It would provide access to information on the rich and varied design and building traditions of Wales and be a forum debate on emerging policies on design, planning and, of course, sustainable development.

Such resource would facilitate the goals of Agenda 21 by supplying hard information of real use to those making development and construction decisions. By addressing the process of

design and specification rather than focusing on the *style* of buildings it would transcend the limitations of conventional design guides.

This proposal is put forward in partnership with the Welsh School of Architecture's internationally recognised Centre for Research in the Built Environment led by Prof. Phil Jones and Prof. Richard Weston's work on "glocalisation".

The project identifies Wales internationally as the **Sustainable Nation**.

Richard Parnaby

Past President Royal Society of Architects in Wales

*in association with **Dr Wayne Forster** and **Prof Richard Weston** Welsh School of Architecture, Cardiff University*

February 2000

Council for National Parks

Submission to National Assembly of Wales'

Sustainable Development Regional Committee Public Meeting, Newport 4 February 2000

Introduction

The Council for National Parks (CNP) welcomes the Assembly's aim to have a Scheme which will establish sustainable development as central to all its thinking. CNP is the national charity that works to protect and enhance the National Parks of England and Wales and areas that merit National Park status, and promote understanding and quiet enjoyment of them for the benefit of all.

What should the Assembly do to make sure that it can fulfil its duty to promote sustainable development in the exercise of its functions?

Definition of Sustainable Development

A definition of sustainable development would be a starting point on which to base the Scheme. The definition needs to be comprehensive and simple, clearly stating that sustainable development is a long-term strategy which underpins and influences all policy and actions continually.

Partnership with National Parks

CNP believes that the three Welsh National Parks have a special role in helping the Assembly to meet its sustainable development objectives. The Welsh National Parks cover 20% of the land area of Wales, and are areas upon which the Assembly has conferred the highest possible status of protection as far as landscape and scenic beauty are concerned. The Government has stated that the National Parks are well placed to be "models for the sustainable management of the wider countryside". CNP would like to see a strategy where National Parks have a distinct and recognised role in helping the Assembly deliver sustainable development objectives.

Policy and Guidance

The Assembly should provide strategic guidance on sustainable development in order to ensure that the interests of Wales as a whole are considered.

CNP would welcome the establishment of an independent Sustainable Development Forum (integrating social, environmental and economic issues) which could act as a sounding board for the Assembly. Members should be drawn from a wide network of stakeholder organisations.

What are the key sustainability issues the Assembly needs to address?

CNP believes that the key sustainability issues for National Parks are:

Demand for energy

Intensification and diversification of agriculture

Increasing demand for aggregates

Road transport

Development, including land use changes

Degradation of water quality and demand for water

Unless steps are taken to address these negative trends now, they will significantly affect National Parks (and the rest of Wales) and our quality of life. The Assembly can address these trends by:

Protecting the environment, including enhancing and conserving natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage

Providing incentives for agri-environment schemes/sustainable land management practices

Directing the demands on the landscape through robust policies on planning and minerals

Encouraging and promoting alternatives to private motorised transport

Developing opportunities for social inclusion, remembering that "people won't care about what they haven't experienced"

Influencing waste management policies and practice, working to reduce the amount of waste produced and favouring re-use and recycling initiatives

Encouraging a reduction in the demand for natural resources and energy e.g. through energy conservation and increased energy efficiency schemes. Raising awareness will be an important part of achieving this objective.

Indicators

Many of the qualities of National Parks do not lend themselves to scientific measurement. They include beauty, tranquillity, remoteness, semi-wilderness and opportunities for quiet enjoyment. These are indicators of the contribution that National Parks make to our quality of life, in addition to the more measurable indicators such as water supplies, arable land, wildlife and forests. Indicators that are not so easily measured therefore need to be included in the scheme.

What is needed to make public bodies more sustainable?

Policies

The principles of sustainable development need to underpin all policies. It is vital that an appropriate policy framework is used, particularly in areas which are nationally important in environmental terms. National Park Authorities for example, in pursuing the purposes of conservation and recreation, also have a duty to seek to foster the social and economic well being of their local communities.

Funding

Funding of National Park Authorities in Wales is below that in England and well below the

funding increases recommended by the 1991 National Parks Review Panel. Sustained funding increases are therefore needed for the three National Parks in Wales.

The continued underfunding of the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) is extremely worrying and is in stark contrast to its sister bodies in England and Scotland who have had substantial budgetary increases. The inadequate level of funding is having knock on effects: grant aid has been cut and some voluntary sector partnerships have been hit hard. Valuable initiatives already in place are being undermined and progress is being limited in several important areas.

Getting to the heart of individuals

By making explicit and publicising connections between people's lifestyles and protected landscapes, public bodies will be helping people to help society to move towards more sustainable development.

What areas of policy would bring simultaneous environmental, economic and social gains?

Development should not be confused with economic growth. National Park Authorities have invested a great deal of effort into promoting the local produce and cultures, partly in order to develop a market advantage for the residents. These show that National Parks can be models of economic development, compatible with contributing to a high quality environment. Examples of innovative policy areas that meet the above objectives are as follows:

Sustainable transport provision in Wales (e.g. Snowdon Sherpa bus network)

Entrepreneurship, food production and marketing of produce in Wales, providing incentives to sell/buy locally, thereby helping the local economy & reducing unnecessary food miles and transport pollution (e.g. Beacons Country Produce, Coed Cymru)

Access to countryside and recreation (e.g. Pembrokeshire Coast National Park's Coastal Path) and "green tourism" (conserved landscapes in SW England support 97,200 jobs)

Business planning, such as preferring "virtual travelling" through ICT development rather than company cars (cf. Crickhowell televillage in Brecon Beacons National Park)

Providing incentives and support for agri-environment schemes and sustainable land management practices (Tir Cymen generated 62 person years of environmental work)

The National Assembly's Sustainable Development Scheme

What should the Assembly do to make sure that it can fulfil its duty to promote sustainable development in the exercise of its functions?

Agree a working definition of sustainable development in order to progress the debate to real action. We would suggest the international 1987 Brundtland report definition.

Create the appropriate mechanisms to ensure a properly integrated approach to policy making. Currently there are no mechanisms - eg inter or cross-departmental forums and policy integration systems at civil service level, cross-cutting committees at the political level - to facilitate the kind of integrated policy development that the scheme mentions. The policy development process must be, and must be seen to be, transparent and to be making a difference for Wales.

Produce a plan of action with a timetable to progress the scheme. An Action Plan will help the public and partners work with the Assembly to achieve its the scheme's objectives. It will also show the external audience the extent of the Assembly's commitment to sustainable development.

Assemble an independent external expert panel to provide advice on sustainable development. There are a number of people who are experts in the field within Wales and beyond, whose experience and knowledge we should draw on as a high priority.

Draw up a set of indicators, based on the UK set of 147, but also including ones specifically relevant to Wales. These will be vital in monitoring progress towards more sustainable living in Wales.

Draw up a set of targets for where Wales wants to be in 1, 2, 5 and 10 years' time. These targets should be for the priority issues and success in achieving them should be monitored by the indicators.

Promote policies that reverse the damage caused by unsustainable development in recent years, as well as policies that meet equally the economic, social and environmental objectives.

What are the key sustainability issues the Assembly needs to address?

Biodiversity. The conservation of biodiversity is a key test of sustainable development. Wales relies on the health and beauty of its countryside for many of the economic and social activities, including farming, the Rural Development Plan and the Objective 1 programme. Yet we are losing biodiversity at an alarming rate (eg 12 birds species in Wales in the last century).

CCW/FC's and EA Wales' State of the Environment Reports illustrate just how badly we have treated the Welsh environment. The Assembly must reverse the decline in biodiversity in Wales as a high priority.

The myth that high and stable levels of economic growth deliver sustainable development. Current patterns and rates of growth have led to many social inequalities and much environment damage, and have not raised the standard of everyone's living. We need a higher quality of life in Wales.

The concepts of sustainable agriculture and transport, both of which would significantly benefit sustainable development, improve the environment and benefit the people of Wales.

What is needed to make public bodies more sustainable?

Covered by items 2, 3, 5, 6 and 7 under question one above.

What areas of policy would bring simultaneous environmental economic and social gains?

There are many policies which could contribute towards sustainable development and reverse the damage caused by unsustainable development. Here are some examples:-

promotion of agri-environment schemes such as Tir Gofal and organic farming

the replacement of all production-based subsidies in agriculture with environment ones

implementation of a sustainable transport policy which improved public transport, reduced car and HGV use, and reduced the NEED to travel by use of better spatial planning and ICT.

embedding education for sustainable development in the school curriculum to help our children

promotion of initiatives which better manage the countryside, protect and manage SSSIs, and promote rural development initiatives such as green tourism

community regeneration and involvement initiatives

RSPB Cymru 6 March, 2000

Wildlife Trusts Wales

The seven Wildlife Trusts in Wales care for over 5500 hectares of Wales, managing and

nurturing the biodiversity of plants, birds, animals, reptiles and insects alike. There are 227 nature reserves throughout Wales with over 13,500 people belonging to their local wildlife trust. With the help of individual volunteers and community groups, the Wildlife Trusts in Wales play a leading role in looking after, restoring and improving the countryside of Wales upon which this rich variety of life depends. Volunteer effort contributes some £5m in added value to the work of the trusts.

Addicted to Growth?

Before any real progress can be made towards a more sustainable future there is a fundamental question which needs to be addressed. Professor JK Galbraith as long ago as 1958.

"If we are concerned about our great appetite for materials, it is plausible to decrease waste, to make better use of stocks available and to develop substitutes. But what about the appetite itself? Surely this is the ultimate source of the problem. Yet in the literature of the resource problem this is the forbidden question. Over it hangs a nearly total silence." (J.K.Galbraith, 1958)

Views were sought on 4 questions but as Professor Galbraith says unless we tackle the appetite itself, much of what we do is negated before we start.

What should the Assembly do to make sure that it can fulfil its duty to promote sustainable development in the exercise of its functions?

Tackle the question of what is acceptable growth.

Publicise its definition of *sustainable development* in relation to its own affairs and the affairs of Wales.

Develop and publicise policies to assist it to conduct its affairs in a manner consistent with the principles of *sustainable development*.

Develop and implement targets and monitoring to assess the Assembly's impact on the economic, social and environmental health of Wales.

Make available the results of its monitoring on a regular basis.

Promote *sustainable development* by example through its own actions.

Encourage those it has contact with to conduct their affairs in a manner consistent with the principles of *sustainable development*.

Assess the impact of its actions on the economic, social and environmental health of Wales giving equal consideration to these three elements when deciding on integrated action at local, regional and national levels.

Promote *sustainable development* to others by its spending and policies at local, regional and national levels.

What are the key sustainability issues the Assembly needs to address?

Growth - recognition that short-term economic gains do not generally promote the principles of sustainable development. Any environmental gains through agri-environment schemes can be negated if targets for economic growth are set artificially high or influenced by other factors.

Community regeneration – locally based development using measures other than economic as indicators of success

Social equity – to be sustainable society must be inclusive

Planning – sustainable development needs to be made integral to all planning policy and decision making processes

Biodiversity – recognition that biodiversity is not limited to SSSIs and most key sites fall outside regulation

Finance – all monies managed and distributed in whatever form by the National Assembly should be subject to the sustainable development test

Education – public knowledge and awareness of sustainable development issues at all ages and levels is key to the ultimate success of the process.

Re-use and recycle - reduction in use of primary materials

Transport – considering all transport systems together

Balance – removing compartmentalised thinking.

If you address these issues then you do promote growth in a sustainable manner that serves to maintain and protect the quality of life and land of Wales

3. What is needed to make public bodies more sustainable?

Take an Holistic view – removing compartmentalised thinking and acting across boundaries be they subject, departmental or geographical

Using demonstrably **integrated policy making and action taking**

Use the Common Appraisal Framework approach – looking at all the options from an independent viewpoint without bias

All public bodies should undertake **Environmental Management and Audit System (EMAS)** - the European Union's voluntary system for environmental management and environmental auditing designed originally for the commercial sector but applicable everywhere

Greater communication, co-operation and integrated action between public bodies with differing remits – eg EA, CCW and WDA

Measure performance against set criteria and publish results

4. What areas of policy would bring simultaneous environmental, economic and social gains?

There are many policies that would contribute towards sustainable development and reverse the damage caused by unsustainable development.

integrating social and environmental policies with economic policies

planning policies

promotion of whole-farm agri-environment schemes such as Tir Gofal

promotion of organic farming schemes

the removal of all production based subsidies in agriculture,

community regeneration and participation initiatives

localised community enterprise

promotion of "green tourism" initiatives

education for sustainable development embedded in the school curriculum

a presumption against development of SSSIs

increased use of technology to communicate and so reduce time and travel

reducing inward investment which focuses on huge single site development for relatively short periods

And finally a quote from:

Thorbjørn Berntsen, Norwegian Minister of the Environment summing up at the Oslo Roundtable 10 January 1995, Oslo, Norway

Making the transition to sustainable production and consumption patterns will require courage, determination and a strong political will

..... sustainable production and consumption will involve long-term structural change to our economies and our lifestyles

..... governments must take responsibility for putting the necessary framework in place

..... governments and business should use their purchasing power to influence the overall pattern of demand for goods and services through the introduction of environmental strategies for procurement.....

.....strengthened international co-operation is vital for fair and sustainable production and consumption on a global basis.....

.....business must bear its full share of the responsibility for change.....

..... And finally, people themselves are a force for positive change. They need practical tools that are attractive and cheap to enable them to live sustainably. In particular, citizens have a right to know the environmental impact of the goods and services they consume.

Margaret Bond

on behalf of the Wildlife Trusts Wales

ARENA Network

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR WALES CONSULTATION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Submission by ARENA Network, Wales Environment Centre to the South-East Wales Regional Committee meeting at the Civic Centre, Newport on 4 February 2000.

ARENA Network, Wales Environment Centre ("Arena"), welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the debate on how the National Assembly should implement its duty "to promote sustainable development in the exercise of its functions".

Over the past six years, Arena has developed extensive experience of working with business to improve environmental awareness and assist companies in moving towards environmental best practice. In fact, it has supported approximately 90% of the 80+ companies in Wales who have obtained the much-vaunted ISO 14001 accreditation badge for their environmental management systems. Notwithstanding this considerable success, Arena considers that there is still much needed to be done under the banner of "continual improvement" to move business and industry towards understanding and responding to the challenge which the concept of sustainable development provides.

To date, Arena has been active in stimulating the debate and seeking to persuade companies of the need to "move up a gear" to meet the sustainability challenge. Assembly Members may well be aware that Arena's Chairman, Brian Charles, spoke convincingly on this theme at the last Welsh Office Conference National on Sustainable Development in February of last year.

In terms of the present consultation, Arena is delighted to see that a number of issues which it highlighted in the previous consultation have been acknowledged, in particular, the importance of the partnership approach and the need to use mechanisms which will successfully engage business. In principle, Arena also welcomes the suggestion of a forum to bring together those with the requisite expertise to contribute positively to the sustainability debate. However, given the expectations for positive progress to be demonstrated now, Arena is concerned as to the practicability of such a vehicle for bringing the necessary focus to specific issues, mainly because of the difficulties in encompassing a Wales-wide approach and of taking account of a wide and diverse range of interests. From a business standpoint, Arena considers a better approach might be to adopt a more specific and possibly sectoral approach which would cross the geographical and topographical divides and at the same time, ensure a focussed input from key partnership members. Early exemplars are crucial and a "one on one" attack on the key sectors is essential in order to produce a list of "winners". In addition, there could well be an advantage in examining in depth and detail, the impacts of the separate constituent elements in the sustainability debate – environmental, economic and social – prior to them being subjected to the inevitable balancing exercise which integration of these issues

necessarily involves.

Arena would very much commend such an approach and would be keen to facilitate the various business inputs from its wide member base across Wales (a "pool" in excess of 560 members) and at the same time build upon its existing relationships with other partnership members both in the public and private sectors. Furthermore with the recent appointment of its Chief Executive to the Advisory Committee on Business and the Environment ("ACBE"), Arena is looking forward to playing its full part in advising Government on business and sustainability issues.

Youth Hostels Association

The Youth Hostels Association welcomes the National Assembly's commitment to put sustainable development at the heart of policy making. We are keen that words are matched by action, and we believe that the National Assembly's internal practices must match their external comment on sustainability (especially on issues such as environmental good practice and social inclusion).

As well as setting a good example, the National Assembly should inspire and motivate others throughout Wales to embrace the principles of sustainable development in everything that they do. The National Assembly should give clear guidance on best practice and also offer expert advice, particularly on environmental matters, to local authorities, the private sector and voluntary bodies.

In terms of the key sustainability issues that the Assembly should address, in addition to the cores ones (namely, economic development, social fairness and environmental good practice), the YHA would like to see the following issues given priority in plans and programmes:

protection and enhancement of Wales' natural and built heritage;

the health and fitness of people in Wales (especially young people);

lifelong learning (especially through experience - eg learning about conservation by visiting a National Park; learning about farming from those who work the land);

sustainable agriculture;

sustainable, low-impact tourism;

Local Agenda 21 initiatives;

a fully integrated, affordable, reliable and attractive public transport system; and

citizenship and volunteering.

The YHA, which operates 37 hostels in Wales (many of which are located in the three National Parks), is looking closely at sustainable development issues. An environmental audit has been carried out at all the hostels in Wales, looking at energy efficiency, waste recycling. Transport issues, etc. A programme is being put in place, based on an International Environment Charter for Youth Hostels worldwide, to ensure that environmental progress is achieved. Youth Hostels already embrace low-impact environmental principles eg many of the facilities at hostels are communal, and visitors are encouraged to walk and cycle to and from hostels, wherever possible.

Youth Hostel staff are usually keen to integrate with the local community. Our hostels at Manorbier and at Trefin have the local village halls on their sites, and many YHA staff across Wales are active with local bodies such as the Wildlife Trusts, the Women's Institutes, etc.

Visitors to our hostels come for a stunning coast and countryside experience and to soak up the heritage and culture of Wales. Their spending in local communities not only helps to sustain visitor attractions, but also supports local public transport, shops, cafes and pubs, etc.

The charitable object of the YHA is "to help all, especially young people of limited means, to a greater knowledge, love and care of the countryside, particularly by providing hostels or other simple accommodation for them in their travels and thus to promote their health, rest and education". With this in mind, the YHA is keen to extend its reach to sections of society who currently find it difficult, for whatever reason, to visit the countryside.

In August 1999, Ty'n y Caeau Youth Hostel, near Brecon, played host to a group of multi-ethnic young people from inner cities. This was a partnership project: the Brecon Beacons National Park Authority provided countryside activities, in conjunction with the Council for National Parks; corporate donors - namely BT and National Grid - paid for food, transport and accommodation. The young people loved being out in the countryside, and their leader remarked on how relaxed and refreshed the group seemed at the end of their stay.

The YHA believes that partnerships like the one described above, which involve joint working between statutory agencies, the private sector and voluntary bodies can be very powerful in terms of achieving sustainable development objectives.

In conclusion, the YHA welcomes the National Assembly's positive approach to sustainable development. We look forward to working with the National Assembly on this. In particular, we would be keen to be represented on the proposed Sustainable Development Forum.

Sue Cassell

Head of Countryside and Environment Youth Hostels Association

20 January 2000

Community Service Volunteers

Information

Community Service Volunteers Cymru/Wales (Volunteering Partners).

Presentation to the South-east Regional Committee, National Assembly. "developing a sustainable approach"

Community Service Volunteers (CSV) operates through a number of divisions to address a wide range of social and environmental needs. We are a UK wide organisation, a registered charity and operate across Wales. I am here today representing CSV Volunteering Partners division.

CSV VP operates a number of volunteering initiatives encouraging, recruiting and supporting people from all social backgrounds to contribute to the well being of communities. These volunteers will benefit from new experiences and gain a wide range of new skills. Many that could not be taught on a training course or in college.

CSV believes that the NA should recognise that one of the key sustainability issues for volunteering organisations such as ourselves is funding. CSV does not imagine that the pieces of work that have been piloted, funded by charitable trusts, proven as effective have fallen by the way side for lack of on going funding. CSV, in common with much of the voluntary sector, is effective in drawing in funds into Wales from UK wide charitable trusts and corporate sponsors to support community and volunteering initiatives. The NA has a role to play in ensuring that staff, expertise and experience brought together by these initiatives is not dissipated by a lack of on going support. Whether that support comes directly from the NA or through ring fenced LA funding.

Volunteers provide their time, energy, commitment and enthusiasm free of charge to their community. But well organised and supported volunteering doesn't come free and shouldn't be seen as the poor relative of formal education or training. It is an integral of the jigsaw of opportunities presented to our young people. Well supported and organised volunteering builds self confidence in individuals, it helps develop basic skills, even basic social and communication skills, it promotes capacity building within communities so that they can own and develop their own innovative projects. Volunteering prepares people to make that move on to take advantage of training, education and employment opportunities. The NA needs to

recognise volunteering as part of the jigsaw of opportunity that helps to create a highly trained, effective and well motivated workforce thus assisting in maintaining high and stable levels of economic growth.

Volunteering activity brings together the voluntary and statutory sectors, it involves individuals and communities in a unique way. Volunteering activity brings environmental improvement, encourages the involvement of individuals within community life and makes a valuable contribution to the economic success of the nation. For many of the young people CSV works with volunteering is the first step towards social inclusion.

In terms of sustainability, volunteering is the key that many young people from educationally, economically and socially disadvantaged backgrounds need to turn before they can access formal training, education and employment opportunities.

In short CSV believes that the National Assembly should recognise the important contribution volunteering can make to the lives of people and communities, protecting our environment and sustaining economic and social gain.

Groundwork Wales

Groundwork is a leading environmental partnership organisation in the UK. Our approach is to work with business, communities, government and others to develop programmes that link environmental, social and economic regeneration and thereby progress sustainable development. Groundwork addresses the social, economic and environmental needs of disadvantaged communities on a holistic basis to enable communities to improve their quality of life. Groundwork has a track record in the Valleys and Wrexham of implementing programmes of work that demonstrate this approach.

Comments in response to the Committees' questions

What should the Assembly do to make sure it can fulfil its duty to promote Sustainable Development in the exercise of its functions?

Have a vision for Wales that includes a definition of sustainable development and particularly sustainable growth. A very broad range of organisations have already indicated their support in previous consultations. The Assembly must take the lead and put Wales in the forefront of sustainable development. The vision needs to encompass the scale of the step change we want to make and positively encourage it for businesses and communities alike.

Produce an Action Plan with specific targets, indicators and a timetable. The timetable should include immediate, short term, medium and long term targets. These would form the basis of monitoring not just for the Assembly but for all other key bodies.

Use the UK sets of 150 indicators as a basis for those in Wales.

Create the means of enabling policies to be both developed and evaluated that achieve sustainable development. This will require holistic systems at civil service level, mechanisms for cross - cutting communities, and particularly new ways of looking at and improving budgets.

Consider the early changes needed to key legislation e.g. planning, building regulations etc with a plan as to how these can be changed and a timescale.

Put in place an advisory panel/forum of independent experts from outside Wales as well as from within.

Ensure that sustainable development is central to the remit of all the public bodies in Wales.

What are the key sustainability issues that the Assembly needs to address?

The definition of sustainable growth and its relationship to current mainstream economic development via so many different agencies and transport policy.

The understanding that sustainable development is not just a question of balancing competing targets but reducing all and this is going to mean changes to life styles.

Education for sustainability needs development and promotion in schools, colleges, businesses and the community.

Recognition of the need for investment in social capital - its promotion as mainstream, the development of measures of measures of appropriate outputs, acceptance of the timescale involved in securing and maintaining significant positive change and the need for resources to support this.

What is needed to make public bodies more sustainable?

A remit from the Assembly that puts sustainable development at the heart of the roles and responsibilities of all key public bodies, with targets and timescales.

The application of sustainable development criteria to all funding programmes.

A requirement for integrated action between public bodies

A breakdown or extension of the boundaries between professional career disciplines.

Changes to the finance and regulatory structures.

Accreditation to recognised environmental standards such as the Environmental Management and Audit System (EMAS).

Early establishment of the key barriers to the implementation of processes and policies that further sustainable development and the means to overcome them.

What areas of policy would bring simultaneous environmental, economic and social gains?

We support the list of policies set out in the LINK response to this consultation i.e.

Policies that reverse the damage caused by unsustainable development should be supported as well as those that promote sustainable development.

Establish a Strategic Spatial Planning Policy System that takes a long term view, and reduce the occurrence of short term decision making.

Halt the decline of wildlife, prevent destruction of sites of wildlife importance and maintain and improve landscape quality, heritage features and access to the countryside.

Reduce the use of primary materials. Reduce the amount of domestic waste. Introduce effective waste management systems.

Halt the increase in per capita power consumption with innovative schemes for transport, energy efficiency, building design and recycling.

Halt increases in road traffic while developing alternative integrated transport systems, with prominence given to public transport, and the provision of safe walking and cycling facilities. Encourage all employers to reduce car dependency for commuting and business.

Enhance the quality of the urban environment.

Manage water resources sustainably.

Give more emphasis to community development and regeneration in economic development.

Rural development: promote whole-farm agri-environment schemes such as Tir Gofal; promote organic farming schemes and the development of new products; remove all production based subsidies in agriculture; promote green tourism initiatives.

Oak Tree Community Development Services

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE FUNDING STOPS?

On the face of it this may seem a negative question, considering the promised Objective 1 funding, and trust and voluntary sector funding available now and for sometime into the future. But the question is far more positive than you might think.

We all have to admit that eventually all this funding will stop, and that is why the work undertaken with communities now on capacity building, skill surveys and youth development is so important. A community can only be sustainable if it is able to continue its development after the support has gone.

It is extremely important at this time for the National Assembly to concentrate not only on the practical projects grant aid can bring, but also the building of a communities confidence in its own main asset, the people who live there, with special emphasis on youth development.

It is well documented that unless we are able to interest the young people in their own community, that community is unlikely to continue its development to its full potential. But involving the youth, as with the older generation, should not be just involve consultation, but a full commitment to participating in the long term future of that community. This is where the influence of the National Assembly should come to bear. A commitment to long term funding on building the confidence of a community through project development, capacity building, skill evaluation, training and committee skills, both adult and young people is essential. Too often the grant aid is given for community consultation for a period of 2-3 months, and from then on reliance on community development workers or the voluntary sector, who in turn have to secure funding for themselves. Whilst the grant aid is available, emphasis must be put on the continuing development work after a consultation, and not on the headline practical project such as a community or sports centre, even though these are important where they are needed.

What happens after the funding stops? No one really knows, but it should be the duty of the National Assembly to consider just that question. There is a duty to give the next generation a better future, but they must have the confidence to take that future into their own hands with confidence. What better time, with Objective One funding becoming available, not only to match fund a community financially, but also in confidence, and its capacity to be what it wants to be, a long term sustainable community with reliance on itself and not on short term fixes, which become a millstone and not the solution it was meant to be.

Valleys Kids

Sustainable Development Public Meeting 4th February 2000

I work with Valleys Kids. Our work over the past 22 years has been about community and neighbourhood development in the Valleys of South Wales. In the past resources and policies have been piece meal and short term which results in wasted resources and disillusioned communities.

The people of these Valley communities contributed significantly to the industrial growth in Wales and indeed the world.

Unfortunately much of this growth happened with disregard to the environmental impact and the human impact.

The economic decline in these areas over the last few decades has also disregarded the impact on the people.

From being one of the most important wealth producing areas in Britain it is now one of the poorest in Europe.

I am here today to ask you to ensure this does not happen again.

Inclusion

The Assembly has to ensure that the policies it makes improves the opportunities and quality of life of all the people but in particular the communities that are excluded from the benefits of economic growth at present.

It is not a level play field and equality of opportunity is not enough.

There has to be positive action focused on areas most in need and those people most in need.

We cannot have a sustainable future for all based solely on equality of opportunity.

For the future to be sustainable it must be sustainable for everyone.

Much is made of the success of the American economy and the equality of opportunity for American citizens. This success is bought at a price. The price includes the getthoes, the growth of an under class and the retreat of the rich into exclusive gated communities.

The Assembly must ensure that any measures it uses to judge success of its policies includes measures that take into account the development of the most socially excluded neighbourhoods. We must measure our success in the most deprived areas specifically and not rely on average measurements across the board.

Working Together - At a National Level

To ensure sustainable development people have to work in partnership at neighbourhood level, at local authority level and at national level.

In the past it often appeared that the departments of the Welsh Office worked independently of each other. This resulted in a multitude of individual initiatives that often overlapped and had little cohesion.

The Assembly must ensure that its departments work co-operatively guaranteeing that policies are devised so that they dovetail together to meet the needs of the people and the communities of Wales and not the administrative needs of the departments.

Working Together - At a Neighbourhood Level

This co-operative approach has to extend to all levels. It has to reach the neighbourhood level and especially the neighbourhoods suffering from social exclusion at present.

Too often there has been a dislocation between the Local Authority and the communities they are providing for. Services have been provided 'at' the community rather than with them.

For a future to be sustainable everyone in the community must have a stake in it. They have to help plan it and feel that their views are taken into account. They have to participate in bringing about the changes that are needed because only with their active involvement and by empowering them to have a greater vision of the future will there be simultaneous environmental, economic and social gains.

Valley Kids

1 Cross Street

Penygraig

Tonypandy

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Oxfam in Wales

Sustainable Development

The Development Education Team of Oxfam in Wales warmly welcome this opportunity to contribute to The National Assembly of Wales' consultation process on Sustainable Development. This is a valuable opportunity to devise and implement a framework for ensuring that future generations inherit a Wales that is healthy, efficient, socially just and sustainable. The key to achieving this goal is of course,

"Education! Education! Education!"

Education for Sustainable Development

In order to transfer the rhetoric of Sustainable Development into meaningful policy and practice, we must enable people to make lifestyle choices, both personal and professional, that reflect a set of core values and attitudes. The new Curriculum 2000, in referring directly to Sustainable Development, can support the National Assembly in this endeavour. There are already many examples of good practice in schools, where students are meaningfully involved in projects that incorporate theoretical study with 'active citizenship' projects. These range from conservation projects to school councils that discuss energy efficiency. In many respects some schools are ahead of the game in terms of implementing the principles of Sustainable Development. It is important that every child in Wales is given access to such opportunities.

Advisory Panel for Education for Sustainable Development

In order to support and inform the National Assembly we feel that an Advisory Panel for Education for Sustainable Development is needed to perform three distinct functions:

Further define the content of ESD within the context of the National Curriculum, and support teachers to integrate this in to their work.

Develop holistic indicators for ESD, through which schools can monitor their success against criteria developed as part of a whole school policy.

Coordinate the energies of both government and non-government bodies providing support for ESD (in terms of human and material resources), to enable teachers to access necessary support.

Supporting papers for Education for Sustainable Development

A great deal of work has already been done, and resources produced, to explain ESD and to promote good practice in this area. Here are short extracts from four such documents:

A Curriculum for Global Citizenship: Oxfam DE Programme 1997

‘ Many of the ideas and principles we seek to promote through a curriculum for Global Citizenship are complimented and reflected in the work of those involved in other areas of education. Whilst the broad approach and principles of development education provide a strong support for Global Citizenship, it also clearly builds on education for sustainable development which itself embraces both development education and environmental education...the distinctive difference is that Global Citizenship is a specific response to meeting the challenge of poverty. It provides both a clear goal and outcome as well as a framework which can embrace many other ‘educations’ including anti-racist, multicultural, intercultural, human rights, environmental education, world studies, world citizenship and equal opportunities.’

Education for Sustainable Development in the Schools Sector: Panel for ESD 1998

Education for sustainable development enables people to develop the knowledge, values and skills to participate in decisions about the way we do things individually and collectively, both locally and globally, that will improve the quality of life now without damaging the planet for the future.

Seven key concepts of sustainable development

Interdependence – of society, economy and the natural environment, from local to global

Citizenship and stewardship – rights and responsibilities, participation and co-operation.

Needs and rights of future generations

Diversity – cultural, social, economic and biological

Quality of life, equity and justice

Sustainable change – development and carrying capacity

Uncertainty and precaution in action

Personal and Social Education: ACCAC Consultation Draft 1999

‘PSE empowers pupils to be active, informed and responsible citizens, aware of their rights and committed to the practices of participative democracy and the challenges of being a citizen of Wales and the world...Schools make an important contribution, through the teaching of PSE to: ..rights of citizenship... understanding development issues and the global considerations that shape their lives education for sustainable development.

Sustainable Development Education: Teacher Education Specification – HE21 project

‘SDE enables people to develop knowledge, values and skills to improve their quality of life in ways that simultaneously protect and enhance the Earth’s life support systems.

SDE enables people to become responsible global citizens.’

Education for the Future

A position paper on Education for Sustainable Development developed and supported by a growing number of organisations including Oxfam in Wales, RSPB, Cyfanfyd, VSO, CEWC Cymru, WEA, LEA Humanities Advisors, National Botanic Garden for Wales, Princes Trust Cymru,

Sustainable Development

We are committed to building a Wales that is economically efficient, socially just and environmentally sustainable. These changes to society will demand innovation and a willingness to learn. This process - sustainable development - is crucial. It enables us all to make the necessary provision for the present without jeopardising the future for succeeding generations. It is built on foundations of shared understanding, a shared sense of values and a commitment to making responsible choices and decisions.

The role of education

These aims for sustainability cannot be achieved without the support of an interested, informed and motivated public. Education has a central role in achieving sustainability. It can ensure that every individual is well informed, is empowered to participate fully and equally in the process by which positive change may come about, understands the interdependence of environmental, social and economic issues, has improved decision making skills and has well developed attitudes of care and responsibility. Sustainable development needs to be part of a holistic approach to education that aims to develop an individual’s sense of identity within a meaningful local and global environment.

What do we need to do?

We need real changes in thinking and action to make progress towards a sustainable world. Re-orientation of education towards sustainable development is urgent in all parts of our life: business and industry; community and youth organisations; the home; schools, colleges and

universities.

ACTION NEEDED

Integrated policy

Ensure a coherent approach to sustainable development and education consistent with it in all departments, branches and agencies of the National Assembly for Wales.

Place education for sustainable development at the heart of government policy.

Strengthen and promote the education component of Local Agenda 21 in action.

Ensure partnerships in decision making at all levels. Education should be a major component of the consultation on sustainable development in Wales and ensure that decisions are based on full information across all sectors.

Lifelong learning

Assembly Members should give a clear lead to the people of Wales by promoting 'education for sustainability' at home, in the workplace, through leisure experiences and in colleges and schools

Encourage education for sustainability to be included as a major element in continuing professional development of business and industry, youth and community workers, teachers and lecturers,

Incentives

Ensure that all funding bodies, whether for research, specific sectors of formal education and beyond, work to principles and criteria which ensure that education consistent with sustainable development becomes integral to all thinking and action.

Funding should be linked to the implementation of clear policies on sustainable development.

This is a truly historic time for Wales. The new National Assembly will help to create a 'new' Wales – proud of its past, clear of its identity and confident of its future. Representatives of organisations with social, cultural, educational, health, international, economic and environmental interests need to come together to advocate, and influence, improvement and change in education to secure a sustainable Wales.

