

Date: 11th July 2001
Time: 2:00 pm – 5.30 pm
Venue: Committee Room 1 National Assembly Building

EDC ENERGY REVIEW

Purpose

1. To finalise the Job and Person specifications for the Committee's next Review and agree the membership of the selection panel.

Recommendation

2. That the Committee agrees the Job and Person specifications attached at [Annex B](#).

Background

3. The Committee will recall considering the Terms of Reference for this Review at their meeting on 7 March. [Annex A](#) shows these with the Committee's amendments incorporated. Members will note we have adopted the term 'Reference Group', in place of Steering Group, to emphasise the Committee's wish that all decisions on the Review are taken by the Committee itself.

4. The next step is to appoint an Expert Adviser and a draft of a Job and Person specification is [Annex B](#).

5. The Committee will also need to consider the composition of the selection panel. The Presiding Officer's guidelines say this should normally be the two committee members nominated to oversee public appointments plus the Chair and an independent assessor.

July 2001 Committee Secretariat

Terms of Reference for EDC policy review Annex A

(Based on Economic Development Committee paper EDC-04-01(p4) amended to reflect discussion at EDC meeting on 7 March)

Background

1. The Committee's Forward Work Programme for 2000-2001 indicated that its priorities for the next review were: Energy Policy, Information and Communication Technology and a Tourism Strategy. In the discussion on 7 March members agreed that they saw greatest importance attached to the first of these.
2. The nature of the subject area calls for a different method of working than for the Committee's previous review. The approach below has emerged from discussion with the Assembly's Innovation and Sustainable Growth Division

Proposed Review Objectives

3. To explore possible long term scenarios for (non-transport) energy production and use in Wales and make recommendations to the Assembly Cabinet on a strategic framework most appropriate to achieving the optimum use and generation of energy in Wales by 2010.

Proposed Process

4. The Committee will advertise for an expert advisor to assist in the review. The advisor would be expected to have a broad knowledge and understanding of the range of energy options, of current issues affecting energy use and the ability to undertake research and information gathering. They would work with a Reference group (see below). The complex nature of the work to be undertaken may also necessitate the recruitment of other specialist advisors from time to time.
5. It is proposed in this Review to work closely with Assembly officials and in close consultation with representatives of the WDA. This will allow the committee to draw on Assembly resources and expertise during the course of the Review.
6. One suggestion for structuring the work is that officials open the process by offering a possible outline vision of energy in Wales in 2010. The Committee could then call a wide range of expert witnesses to respond to this and to gather views on the range of potential energy scenarios Wales might face by 2010. The Assembly's responsibility to promote sustainable development, whilst facilitating economic growth and development will underpin all the work of the Review.

Key Questions

7. The Review will examine issues such as:

- a. The energy opportunities and needs of Wales in the future bearing in mind Wales' current distribution of energy sources and associated infrastructures;
- b. The desirability of self sufficiency in energy production with greater emphasis on small, local generating units. How much electricity production should move from being dependent on large grid-linked power plants to distributed, especially combined heat and power, systems at the domestic, company, and business park/public buildings levels;
- c. The potential to increase energy production from renewable sources;
- d. The potential to develop strong renewable energy service and manufacturing sectors and associated research and development activities;
- e. The economic potential of underground (onshore and offshore) fuel reserves in Wales and the environmental impact of exploiting them;
- f. Whether, recognising the designation of the Severn Estuary as a Special Area of Conservation, Wales should be pursuing the development of the 8GW Severn Barrage project;
- g. The current and future potential contribution of nuclear power;
- h. The kind of energy, especially gas and electricity infrastructures, (including storage systems) needed in the future in Wales;
- i. How electricity demand patterns will change with changing demographics, industrial and business patterns, transport fuels and greater dependence on ICT systems;
- j. Measures to reduce the overall consumption of energy and minimise fuel poverty in Wales;
- k. The implications for the planning system to enable the desired outcomes;
- l. The implications of the recommendations for structural fund programmes, development and other business support agencies, for central Government Departments and regulators and for the Assembly;
- m. The further powers which might need to be devolved from Whitehall Departments to enable the National Assembly to pursue its energy objectives effectively;

8. This represents a substantial amount of work and Members will need to consider the coverage of the study in the context of the time available. It is anticipated that the study will take at least one year. It may be feasible to undertake the work in stages and submit interim reports.

9. Some of these issues will need to be explored jointly with other Assembly Committees, in particular the Environment and Transport Committee and the possibility of one or more consultation exercises might need consideration.

Method of Working

10. The Committee agreed to establish a Reference Group to oversee the Review and the preparation of its final report. In conjunction with the Clerks, the Group will:

- a. draw up a detailed work programme, targets and time frame for the Review;
- b. consider the expert advice needed for the study;
- c. in conjunction with the adviser(s), consider the individuals, companies and organisations which should be invited to give evidence to the Committee and the way in which this should be approached.
- d. consider the liaison arrangements with other Committees and officials within the National Assembly
- e. consider a programme of visits to provide members with an initial overview of the main issues.

Membership Of Reference Committee

11. EDC agreed that a Reference Group should be established to facilitate the process of carrying out the Review but stressed that responsibility for the Review would remain with the Committee as a whole and that the Committee would not be bound by decisions taken by the Reference Group.

12. It was agreed that the Group should comprise the Chair, the Economic Development Minister and representatives of the Plaid Cymru and Conservative party groups.

13. The Group would be assisted by Dr Ron Loveland – ISG Division, NafW and invitations extended to representatives from

- the Welsh Development Agency;
- Carbon Trust Wales;
- the Environment Agency;
- the Countryside Council for Wales
- the Energy Saving Trust.

July 2001

Committee Secretariat

Energy Policy Review: Expert Adviser Annex B

Job Specification

1. The Economic Development Committee of the National Assembly for Wales, is undertaking a policy review of energy and energy policy in Wales. The review is scheduled to be completed in about a year, although consideration may be given to extending this.

2. The Terms of Reference for the review and the proposed method of working are attached.
3. The Committee is looking for some assistance with the review which will include consideration of written and oral submissions to the Committee and appropriate intelligence gathering visits. It wishes to appoint an 'expert adviser' to support the Committee in its considerations and in the production of its report.
4. Whoever is appointed will need to be able to demonstrate a broad knowledge and understanding of the range of energy matters, current issues affecting energy use and the ability to undertake research and information gathering. The Committee is looking for someone who is able to take an objective view of the issues, and be capable of imaginative and fresh thinking.
5. The Committee recognises the wide range of the study and will consider applications based on the range of expertise being provided by a group of individuals where it can be satisfied that the overall requirement can be met in this way.
6. The Adviser will be expected to attend the meetings of the Committee, which are open to the public, to offer advice on the direction of the review, liaise with potential evidence providers, comment on the submissions and evidence received, and assist with the drafting of the review recommendations under the committee's guidance.
7. Apart from advice and attendance at the review sessions, the expert adviser will be expected to assist the Committee Clerk in the production of the draft report for the Committee to consider.
8. The Adviser will be entitled to travel and subsistence, at normal Assembly rates, for any travelling undertaken as part of his or her duties. Additional childcare costs may also be reimbursed as appropriate.
9. Remuneration would be on a per diem basis to reflect the complexity of the issues involved.
10. The Assembly is an Equal Opportunities employer.

Person Specification

The expert adviser should be someone who :

- has a broad knowledge and understanding of energy issues and of the key organisations and influences in the sector.

- has experience at a senior level either directly connected with or advising the energy sector on technical, regulatory and commercial matters;
- has a proven track record of strategic and innovative thinking;
- has experience of gathering information, organising and assessing evidence and developing policy proposals from evidence;
- has experience of working with committees;

Candidates with experience across a broad range of energy issues are more likely to be successful.

Skills and Abilities

The expert adviser should be someone who:

- is able to take an objective view of the issues;
- has experience of managing conflicting aspirations and viewpoints, and gaining consensus;
- is able to demonstrate good analytical skills;
- has a track record of problem solving;
- is capable of imaginative and innovative thinking;
- is able to demonstrate effective communication skills, both oral and written;
- is able to work closely with the Committee and be flexible about hours;

The ability to speak Welsh would be desirable but not essential.