

Date: 12 May 2005
Time: 9.00 - 12.30
Venue: National Assembly for Wales, Cardiff Bay
Title: Local government activity between Wales and Silesia

Purpose

1. The purpose of the report is to inform the Committee of the latest activity that is taking place between Wales and Silesia in the field of local government.

Summary / Recommendations

2. This paper provides details of a visit to Wales by representatives of the Silesian Union of Municipalities and Districts (SUMD) between 8 and 15 May. It follows a report to the European and External Affairs Committee on 9 December 2004 on activity taking place under the Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) between Wales and Silesia and Wales and Latvia. A member of the SUMD group will be present for this item with other members in the public seating area. The group will be guests of the Committee for lunch after the meeting.

Background

3. EUR(2) 09-04(P3) provided an update of the activity being undertaken between Wales and Silesia (and Wales and Latvia). In parallel with the activity that the Welsh Assembly Government is taking forward in relation to the MOU between Wales and Silesia, Welsh local government has established strong links with local government in Silesia. An initial study visit by Welsh local authorities to Silesia in August 2004, culminated with the signing of an MOU between the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) and its counterpart in Silesia - the Silesian Union of Municipalities and Districts (SUMD). A copy of the MOU is at **Annex A**.

Consideration

4. The delegation will comprise local officials and politicians from a range of municipalities across Silesia. A list of those participating is at **Annex B**. A copy of their itinerary is at **Annex C**. During their visit, the Silesians will visit eight local authorities (Wrexham, Powys, Torfaen, Blaenau Gwent, Swansea, Gwynedd, Isle of Anglesey and Denbighshire), as well as meeting with an additional five local authorities (Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire, Newport, Neath Port Talbot and Caerphilly). The delegation will visit a broad range of

local authority projects, many of which have had the benefit of European Funding, including the Wrexham URBAN project and the Swansea Techniums.

5. The purpose of the visit is to:-

- Increase the understanding of Welsh local government working for the Silesian delegation
- Forge potential links between Silesian and Welsh local authorities
- Take forward an action plan and discuss additional MOUs at a local authority level
- Facilitate meetings between local authority officers to discuss potential areas of co-operation
- Raise the profile of Welsh European funded projects to Silesian counterparts

6. The outcomes and benefits of the visit are to :-

- Share and identify common problems and obstacles
- Discuss the possibilities of working together to establish common answers and initiatives and funding arrangements
- 'Eye ball' potential future partners
- Open up possibilities for future co-operation
- Gain access to new ideas by learning from others
- Enhance capacity, through experimentation in areas of common interest
- Speed up the process of innovation and creative thinking

Implications for Wales

7. The Welsh Assembly Government welcomes this initiative which will serve to strengthen the developing relationship between Wales and Silesia. It will provide an excellent opportunity for sharing knowledge and experience in local government matters for the mutual benefit of Welsh local authorities and the Association and their counterparts in Silesia.

Action for Subject Committee

8. The Committee is asked to note the contents of the paper and is invited to hear first hand from the delegation about their experiences in Wales.

Rt Hon Rhodri Morgan AM
First Minister



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WELSH LOCAL
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ASSOCIATION
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LEOL CYMRU

Memorandum of Understanding

between

**Welsh Local Government Association (Cardiff, Wales, United Kingdom) and the
Silesian Union of Municipalities and Districts (Katowice, Republic of Poland)**

Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA), hereinafter referred to as Association, represented by Mr Steve Thomas, Director and Councillor Chris Holley, European Spokesperson and the Silesian Union of Municipalities and Districts (SUMD), hereinafter referred to as the Union, represented by Mr Zygmunt Frankiewicz, the President and Mr Tadeusz Wrona, the Vice-president.

acting in partnership, expressing the intention of strengthening the friendly relationship between members of both parties and developing mutually beneficial links between them as well as the will, that the partnership between Association and the Union will contribute to better cooperation within the framework of the European Union, with regards to legal systems of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Republic of Poland, agree as follows:

Article 1

1. The parties agree to work together in a practical way in order to improve their service to their members, to implement stronger cooperation and forge closer economic, Intergovernmental and cultural ties between Wales and Śląskie Voivodeship within the framework of cooperation between Welsh Assembly Government and Śląskie Voivodeship, signed on 16th October 2002.
2. The Memorandum is a covenant setting up co-operation between both Parties.
3. All possible disputes arising from implementation of this Memorandum should be resolved by mutual consent between both Parties.



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Article 2

1. Parties agree to strengthen mutual cooperation by:

- a. exchange of experience of local authorities from both Parties and Parties themselves in the field of:
 - 1) EU policies and projects;
 - 2) Promotion of economic development;
 - 3) Urban regeneration;
 - 4) Community regeneration;
 - 5) Development of rural areas;
- b. twinning between local government units of both Parties;
- c. organisation of joint conferences, seminars, workshops thematically relevant to interests of both Parties;
- d. organisation of study visits and fact finding missions;
- e. joint preparation and implementation of projects co-financed with EU funds;
- f. exploration the potential for identifying and taking forward joint projects that promote economic development, support employability and foster cooperation in the fields of urban regeneration, energy management, environmental protection; rural development and the knowledge based economy;
- g. carrying out exchanges of officials from local government units for training purposes;
- h. exchange of information on relevant areas of joint interest;
- i. others mutually agreed.

Article 3

In order to determine particular conditions of cooperation the Parties will be in regular contact.

Article 4

Starting from 2005 a detailed list of fields of cooperation will be set out in an annual cooperation programme, undertaken by the Associations European Office and the Union.



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Article 5

The forms of mutual cooperation are agreed to take form of:

- a. implementation of joint projects;
- b. organisation of joint seminars, conferences, workshops;
- c. study visits and fact finding missions;
- d. trainings for officials in self-government units of both Parties;
- e. co-operation with the Welsh Local Government Association, European Office and Regional Bureau of Śląskie Voivodeship, Brussels.

Article 6

The Memorandum is valid for 3 years and will be reviewed thereafter.

Article 7

This Memorandum will come into effect the day it is signed by both parties.

This Memorandum was signed on 27 of August 2004, in two identical copies, in three language versions: Polish, English and Welsh. Every party will get one copy of each language version. All copies are equivalent and in case of discord with their interpretation the text in English will be the arbitrary one.

Mr Steve Thomas
Director
Welsh Local Government Association

Councillor Chris Holley
European Spokesperson
Welsh Local Government Association

Mr Zygmunt Frankiewicz
President
Silesian Union of Municipalities and District

Mr Tadeusz Wrona
Vice-President
Silesian Union of Municipalities and District

JACEK MROZIŃSKI



WELSH LOCAL
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Itinerary for Silesian Union of Municipalities and Districts

Official visit to Wales: 8th – 15th May 2005

The list of participants of study visit to Wales

	Name and Surname	Post	Municipality
1.	Anna Pawłowska	Director of Organization Department	City Hall Częstochowa
2.	Józef Korpak	Chief Executive (starosta)	Distirct Tarnowskie Góry (powiat)
3.	Piotr Czarnynoga	Chief Executive (starosta)	District Bieruńsko-Lędziński (powiat)
4.	Sławomir Adamczyk	Vice - chief Executive (wicestarosta)	District Gliwice (powiat)
5.	Józef Kazik	Mayor (burmistrz)	Town Hall Lubliniec
6.	Tadeusz Kopeć	Vice - chief Executive (wicestarosta)	District Cieszyn (powiat)
7.	Joachim Smyła	Chief Executive (starosta)	District Lubliniec (powiat)
8.	Eugeniusz Kapuśniak	Chief Executive (wójt)	Municipality Żarnowiec
9.	Grzegorz Osyra	President	City Hall Mysłowice
10.	Andrzej Stania	President	City Hall Ruda Śląska
11.	Paweł Silbert	President	City Hall Jaworzno
12.	Ferdynand Morski	Director	SUMD



Itinerary for Silesian Union of Municipalities and Districts

Official visit to Wales: 8th – 15th May 2005

Sunday 8 May

Arrive in Wrexham

Monday 9 May "EUROPE DAY"

09:00 – 14:00 Host: Wrexham County Borough Council

Will include: presentations on police and youth Co-operation, visit to Brynteg – URBAN project and official visit to Polish war memorial. Lunch reception hosted by Mayor of Wrexham, Councillor David Rogers.

14:00 Travel to Powys

15:00 – 21:30 Host: Powys County Council

Presentations on rural development/tourism and sustainable energy issues. Evening reception and dinner hosted by Powys County Council.

Tuesday 10 May

09:00 – 11:00 Free time

11:00 – 13:30 WLGA organised meeting with local authorities

Presentation by the Silesian Delegation to five local authorities. WLGA hosted lunch at Rhayader Leisure Centre

Late afternoon Arrival in Cardiff

Wednesday 11 May

09:00 – 14:00 Host: Torfaen County Borough Council

Visit to Objective 1 and Industrial heritage projects, plus a visit to Big Pit. Lunch hosted by Torfaen County Borough Council

14:45 – 20:30 Host: Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

Presentations concerning regeneration in Blaenau Gwent, post Corus. Visit to former steelworks. Reception and dinner hosted by Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

Thursday 12 May

09:30 – 14:00 Host: Welsh Assembly Government / National Assembly for Wales
 Tour of Cardiff Bay. Participation in National Assembly for Wales European and External Affairs Committee. Lunch hosted by National Assembly for Wales European and External Affairs Committee

14:45 – 17:00 Host: WLGA
 Visit to WLGA Cardiff – meetings with Heads of Policy

17:00 Depart Cardiff for Swansea

19:00 – 21:30 Host: Swansea City and County Council
 Evening Reception in Technium 2 / SA1, hosted by Swansea City and County Council

Friday 13 May

09:00 – 10:00 Free time

10:30 Depart Swansea and travel to Aberystwyth

12:30 Lunch at National Library

15:00 – 21:30 Host: Gwynedd Council
 Afternoon presentations on skills development and cultural industries. Dinner/reception hosted by Gwynedd Council

Saturday 14 May

10:00 – 12:00 Visit Objective 1 projects in Gwynedd

12:30 – 17:00 Host: Anglesey County Council
 Lunch reception hosted by Isle of Anglesey County Council, visit to Objective 1 funded projects.

17:00 Depart Anglesey and travel to Denbighshire

20:15 Dinner hosted by WLGA

Sunday 15 May

09:00 – 15:00 Host: Denbighshire County Council
 Tour of St Asaph Business Park and Nant Clwyd House. Canal boat trip on the Llangollen Canal to include tour of Objective 1 funded marina and the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct. Lunch hosted by Denbighshire County Council.

15:30 Depart Denbighshire for Liverpool Airport. Depart to Katowice