

Economic Development Committee EDC-02-01(p4)

NATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (NEDS)

DATE: 31 January 2001

VENUE: Committee Room 1, National Assembly Building

TITLE: Draft NEDS – Consultation Document

Purpose

To provide committee with the final draft National Economic Development Strategy consultation paper. This paper is designed to inform the development of the National Economic Development Strategy and will be accompanied by an executive summary, which concentrates on the vision and key actions of the strategy.

Background

At EDC-01-01 the committee was presented with the first draft Neds consultation paper for approval. At this stage the paper was firmly work in progress and proposed changes could be incorporated. The committee agreed that the paper needed more work.

The document has moved forward since EDC-01-01 and proposed changes have been inserted. There has been a further meeting with some members of EDC to discuss the issues further. The paper is still technically work in progress so there is an opportunity for fine tuning.

The paper is currently with the translators and text processing, who are making amendments as they come. They are stretching deadlines to accommodate the process.

Timing

The consultation document is due to be launched in plenary on February 8. There are very tight timescales involved given the short time between now and plenary, meaning a printed hard copy of the Neds consultation paper may not be ready in time for plenary. Officials will do all they can to get Desk Top Published documents ready in time for plenary but there is a possibility they may not be. A copy on the internet and intranet will be ready by February 8 however.

A consultation period of 12 weeks will begin after plenary. Officials are drawing up an extensive distribution list, in addition to the informal consultative group and our virtual group. Copies will be sent to all relevant parties on the Better Wales distribution list and anyone else who it is thought should receive one. Consultation is open to all however, through the web.

Conclusions

The Committee is invited to consider the paper. It is proposed that the Committee approve the document as a consultation paper that provokes opinion on the hard choices facing Wales. This paper will then inform the development of a National Economic Development Strategy.

Economic Policy Division

January 2001