

Economic Development Committee EDC 05-01 (p5)

Date: 21 March 01
Time: 2.00 – 5.30pm
Venue: Committee Room 1 National Assembly for Wales Building
Title: ICT Review

Briefing for Economic Development Committee Meeting 21st March 2001

Andrew Davies AM, Business Minister and e-Minister

Earlier this year I launched a major consultation study on ICT in Wales - the Information Age Strategic Framework Consultation – "Cymru Arlein, Online for a Better Wales". This consultation aims to provide strategic leadership and coherence in the development of ICT skills of people in Wales and the encouragement of small and medium-sized enterprises to exploit business opportunities such as the internet and electronic commerce. It will lead to a framework that will set out how the Assembly will ensure Wales benefits fully from the social and economic opportunities offered by information and communications technology. "Cymru Arlein – Online for a Better Wales" can be found on the National Assembly's web site under the "Themes and Strategies" tab or at www.wales.gov.uk/cymruarlein. The key parts of the consultation can be found in the attached document. The consultation remains open until 14th March 2001.

Once the consultation stage is completed, views and responses will be collated and used to update and extend the Information Age Strategic Framework for Wales. We will continue to use the website to share information relating to ICT matters in Wales.

By the time of the Economic Development Committee meeting on 21st March, my officials will be in the process of collating and analysing responses, but it will be by no means too late for us to receive reactions. My approach is to regard the Framework very much as a living document, which will be continuously updated throughout its life, including during implementation. At the meeting, I will therefore provide an overview of the framework, the consultation process and details of our initial findings. I am particularly keen that we have an overview on priorities as seen by each sector and I hope our discussion will focus on the areas where the Committee believes the Framework and action by the Assembly can have maximum impact. The occasion also provides the opportunity to add additional points and for those who may have not had an opportunity to respond during the formal consultation period to make a contribution.

Andrew Davies AM