

Date: 31 October 2001

Time: 2.00 – 5.30pm

Venue: Committee Room 1, National Assembly for Wales, Cardiff Bay

Title: A Winning Wales – Final Draft

Introduction

1. This paper introduces the final draft of A Winning Wales for initial consideration by the Committee.

Background

1. At the last meeting of the Committee on 17th October, the Economic Development Minister undertook to circulate to members the final draft of the National Economic Development Strategy – "A Winning Wales" – for consideration at this meeting.
2. Since the consultation period ended on 6th July, we have considered the responses we received very carefully. We have also received input from a Task & Finish Group which included the CBI, Wales TUC, WLGA, academics and the main ASPBs, who commented on earlier drafts.
3. The consultation on A Winning Wales commenced on 24 October in conjunction with the press briefing on the Skills and Employment Action Plan. Consultation on the Skills and Employment Action Plan commences on 2 November. A Winning Wales will be open for consultation until 28 November and the Skills and Employment Action Plan until the end of December.
4. The structure of the document is as follows:
 - i. Introduction - this sets out the main themes running through the strategy.
 - ii. Approach - our general approach is described, in particular the need to work with our partners and address the three key themes of sustainable development, social inclusion and equality of opportunity
 - iii. The Challenge - this section describes the current situation in the Welsh economy and highlights our performance against a number of key economic drivers.
 - iv. What We Want to Achieve - this sets out in detail our economic objectives and describes the key measures we will take in pursuit of those objectives.
 - v. Targets - here, the headline objectives set out above are quantified into targets for 2010.
 - vi. Actions - the actions, key players, timetable and resources are laid out in this section.
5. The main document is underpinned by an economic and statistical analysis which

presents the Welsh economy in a UK, European and World context.

Discussion

1. The Committee is invited to offer its views on the draft. These will be taken into consideration, along with those responses received during the one month consultation, in drawing up the final strategy which will be launched at Plenary on 13th December.

Rhodri Morgan