

Date: 8 May 2002
Time: 14.00 - 17.30
Venue: Committee Room 1, National Assembly for Wales, Cardiff Bay
Title: Draft Interim Report on the Quinquennial Review of the Wales Tourist Board

Purpose

1. To consult the Committee on the draft Interim Report on the Quinquennial Review of the Wales Tourist Board. Standing Order 9.7 provides that the subject committees shall keep under review the discharge of public functions in their field by public bodies. Following the receipt of the final version of the Interim Report and the Committee's views, the Minister for Economic Development and the Minister for Finance, Local Government and Communities will come to a view on the Report's main findings. They will determine whether the Review should proceed to its second stage and whether the Terms of Reference need to be adjusted.

Recommendation

2. That the Committee comments on the findings of the draft Interim Report at Annex A and on whether the Terms of Reference for the second stage (Interim Report Appendix 1) need amending.

Background

3. The Quinquennial Review of the Wales Tourist Board was formally commissioned by the First Minister and Minister for Finance, Local government and Communities in July 2001 following consultation with Committee on the Terms of Reference. The Review is being carried out by Jonathan Price, a member of the Assembly staff on attachment to the Finance Group and his Interim Report covers the first stage of the Review. This addresses the question,

‘In the light of the statutory duties of the WTB, as set out in the Tourism Acts of 1969 and 1992, the objectives of the National Assembly and models of good practice elsewhere in the UK or EU, is there a continuing need for all the functions of the WTB and, if so, is the current organisational framework for delivering those functions the most appropriate?’

4. The Committee is invited to discuss the reviewer's draft before a final version of the Interim Report is submitted to ministers along with the Committee's comments. The next part of the Review will look at performance issues including the Board's strategic effectiveness and its

corporate governance. It is here that issues such as operational efficiency will be explored. Findings on this second stage will be set out in a Final Report.

The Interim Report

5. The Draft Interim Report is attached at Annex A. It sets out the findings of the reviewer following a wide-ranging consultation with stakeholders and partners as well as with the WTB itself. The executive summary (pp 3-9) sets out the findings of the Report. The main conclusion is that there is a continuing need for the functions carried out by the WTB, and that the functions should continue to be performed by an Assembly Sponsored Public Body. However, a number of recommendations are made for changes in the way those functions are undertaken and for developing the evidence base that underpins the WTB's activities.

Compliance

6. The Review has been undertaken in accordance with the published Quinquennial Review guidelines. In addition to its participation in the Review, the WTB has been consulted on all matters of fact.

Action for Committee

7. The Committee is asked to comment on the draft Interim Report and on the terms of reference as they relate to the second stage of the Review.

Contact point

8. Financial Planning Division.