

ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Date: Wednesday 17 April 2002
Time: 2.00 to 4.00 pm
Venue: Committee Room 2, National Assembly Building

ANNUAL REPORT 2001-02

Purpose

1. To invite the Committee to agree its an annual progress report for 2001-02.

Background

2. SO 9.9 requires subject committees to maintain a rolling programme of work covering periods of at least 12 months, and to report to plenary from time to time on progress. The Panel of Chairs has agreed that subject committees' annual progress reports and forward work programmes will be laid before plenary in May, but will not be debated.

Annual Report

3. A **draft report** is attached at **Annex A**. It provides a brief summary of the Committee's activities between May 2001 and April 2002. Further details are provided in endnotes and references to documents on the National Assembly's website. A draft report covering the activities of the **Planning Decision Committees** is also attached at **Annex B**.

Recommendation

4. The Committee is invited to agree the attached draft annual reports.

Committee Secretariat

April 2002

ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**[DRAFT] REPORT TO PLENARY UNDER STANDING ORDER 9.9:****MAY 2001 TO APRIL 2002****1 Introduction**

1.1 This report summarises our activities from May 2001 to April 2002. Copies of our reports, agendas, papers, minutes and transcripts of meetings can be found on the National Assembly website.

2 Membership

2.1 Our current membership is: Richard Edwards (Chair), Eleanor Burnham, David Davies, Janet Davies, Sue Essex (Minister for Environment), Brian Hancock, Val Lloyd, Tom Middlehurst, Karen Sinclair and Phil Williams. There were several changes to our membership during the reporting period.

3 Remit and Responsibilities

3.1 Our remit mirrors the portfolio of the Minister for Environment, Sue Essex, which embraces: environmental protection; countryside issues; planning; transport; sustainable development; and ancient monuments, listed and historic buildings.

3.2 The responsibilities of subject committees are set out in SO 9.

4 Priorities

4.1 We have sought to develop a strategic approach to our work, focusing during the reporting period on two key priorities: the independent investigation into the Nantygwyddon landfill site; and the policy review of public transport in Wales.

4.2 We are committed to making our proceedings more accessible to the people of Wales. To this aim, we met in Brecon in the summer term and twice in the Rhondda in the autumn term as part of the Nantygwyddon investigation, and launched our public transport consultation report at the bus/rail interchange in Caerphilly.

5 Work and Achievements to Date

5.1 During the reporting period we met eighteen times. Our principal achievements were as follows:

Nantygwyddon investigation

5.2 Following concerns expressed by local residents about the effect of the Nantygwyddon landfill site in Gelli, Rhondda, on their health and environment, the National Assembly resolved that we should undertake an independent investigation into the establishment, management and regulation of the site.

5.3 Our independent investigator reported to us in December 2001 and we reported to plenary in February 2002. Some recommendations were specific to the Nantygwyddon landfill site, others drew general lessons for the future of waste management in Wales, including the need to address health concerns associated with waste disposal facilities. Our recommendations were endorsed in full by plenary, and the Minister of Environment will be reporting back on progress before the summer recess. The site has been closed.

5.4 Our investigation was a first for the National Assembly, using an independent investigator to meet locally to undertake detailed evidence gathering and analysis on behalf of a committee, and has set a precedent for the work of our subject committees. We will now be reviewing the process to identify lessons for any future investigations.

Policy development (SO 9.7 (i))

- **Policy review of public transport**

5.5 We reviewed public transport in Wales, to identify action needed to facilitate improved and integrated services. Our consultation report was published in July and our final recommendations presented to plenary in December 2001. We defined a vision for public transport in Wales, and recommended increased investment, structural change and greater powers for the National Assembly.

5.6 The Welsh Assembly Government accepted all our recommendations, implementation is underway. The Minister for Environment will be bringing further proposals for structural change to plenary in the summer term and the Welsh Assembly Government has included a Passenger Transport Bill in its proposals for Westminster primary legislation.

5.7 We also presented our recommendations to the UK Parliament's Welsh Affairs Committee (the first subject committee of the National Assembly to do so), and they will be addressing our

calls for primary legislative change as part of their transport inquiry.

5.8 Linked to our review of public transport, we also scrutinised the performance of train operating companies providing passenger services in Wales, and met the Strategic Rail Authority to discuss their emerging plan for Britain's railways.

Contribution to policy development

5.9 In addition to our own review, we also contributed to the Culture Committee's policy review of the Welsh language, as well as key policy developments being taken forward by the Minister for Environment.

Review of Expenditure and Administration (SO 9.7 (ii))

5.10 We regularly scrutinised the Minister for Environment via her Report.

Review of Assembly Sponsored Public Bodies (ASPBs) (SO 9.7 (iii))

5.11 We scrutinised the performance against annual targets of the Countryside Council for Wales, Environment Agency and Welsh National Parks (Brecon Beacons, Pembrokeshire Coast and Snowdonia), and Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments. We also contributed to quinquennial reviews of Cadw (terms of reference) and the Countryside Council for Wales (draft final report), and joint England and Wales Financial Management and Policy Review of the Environment Agency (stage 1).

Legislation (SO 9.8(i))

5.12 We reported to plenary on the draft Transport Act 2000 (Commencement No.1) (Wales) Order 2001, which had been remitted to us. We scrutinised various draft proposals to implement the provisions of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, including amendment of existing regulations. We were also advised of progress during various stages of the development of other secondary legislation.

Budget (SO 9.8 (ii))

5.13 Our budget preferences were set out in the summer term, and we commented on the draft budget in the autumn term.

Complaints (SO 9.8(iii))

5.14 No complaints were referred to us during the reporting period.

Public Appointments (SO 9.8(iv))

5.15 Our public appointments nominees were consulted on numerous appointments to public bodies during the reporting period.

6 Forward Programme

6.1 Looking to the future, our strategic work programme for 2002-03 and detailed work programme for May to July 2002 are attached.

Environment, Planning and Transport Committee

May 2002

ANNEX B

PLANNING DECISION COMMITTEES

[DRAFT] REPORT TO PLENARY UNDER STANDING ORDER 9.9:

MAY 2001 TO APRIL 2002

1 Introduction

1.1 This report summarises the activities of the Planning Decision Committees (PDC) from May 2001 to April 2002.

2 Membership

2.1 Each PDC is elected anew for each appeal or application (or group of appeals/ applications). Members are selected from the Planning Decision Panel comprising Members of the Environment, Planning and Transport Committee who have been trained for the purpose.

3 Remit and Responsibilities

3.1 The responsibilities of Planning Decision Committees are set out in SO 35.

4 Meetings

4.1 The following cases were considered during the reporting period:

PDC 2001/2

- Application by Anglesey Boat Company Ltd for proposed construction of a marina and facilities building, car park and boat storage at Gallows Point, Beaumaris, Anglesey. **No decision taken, further information requested**
- Planning appeal by Mrs R E Davies for proposed creation of ground floor flat at Manor House, Vine Square, Llanfyllin, Powys. **Permission refused**
- LINKED CASE: Listed Building Consent appeal for proposed internal alterations to form two flats and art gallery, creation of new window and alteration to existing external door at Manor House, Vine Square, Llanfyllin, linked to the planning appeal by Mrs R E Davies. **Permission refused**

PDC 2001/3

- Application by Mr S G Greenow for proposed reconstruction of former dwelling and barn incorporating parts of the existing remains to former dwelling and barn at Cae Marchog, Llanigon, Hay-on Wye. **Permission granted subject to conditions**
- Application by Mr and Mrs Brown for the proposed change of use and alterations to old farmhouse to form two self-catering holiday units at Trewyn, Meanaddwyn, Llanerchymedd, Anglesey. **Permission refused**

PDC 2001/4

- Called in application by Marks and Spencer PLC for proposed extension to the existing Marks and Spencer retail store on land west of existing Tesco Store, Culverhouse Cross, Ely, Cardiff. **Decision deferred** *In view of the press reports issued on the date of the meeting regarding the closure of the Marks and Spencer store at 82 Queen Street, Cardiff, (the former Littlewoods store), the Committee decided that a decision on the application should not be taken until the parties had been given the opportunity to make representations on the implications of the closure for the application. (see PDC 2001/8)*

- Planning appeal by Cardiff Community Health Care NHS Trust for outline planning permission for mixed use development at Whitchurch Hospital, Park Road, Cardiff including hospital, residential, leisure, community and retail uses with playing fields. **Permission granted subject to conditions**

PDC 2001/5

- Planning appeal by National Windpower Ltd for proposed windfarm development comprising 17 wind turbine generators, access tracks, substation and ancillary equipment on land at Jordanston, Fishguard, Pembrokeshire. **Permission refused**
- Planning appeal by Mr P Davies, Eurogate Project Ltd, for proposed development of a new millenium village settlement at Brynglas, St Brides, Wentloog, Newport. **Permission refused**
- Planning appeal and listed building consent appeal by BT Cellnet Ltd for proposed installation of telecommunications equipment cabins with aerials on land at Empire House, 54-57 Mountstuart Square, Butetown, Cardiff.

Permission refused

PDC 2001/6

- Called in application by Mr and Mrs S George for proposed conversion of barn and reconstruction of remains of former dwelling and demolition of derelict buildings at Enfield, Portfield Gate, Haverfordwest. **Permission granted subject to conditions**

PDC 2001/7

- Called in application by Mr D J and Mrs M D Price for proposed erection of agricultural workers dwelling at Ddyfadfa Isaf, Gwynfe, Llangadog. **Permission refused**
- Called in application and section 174 appeal by Miss S Williams and Mr O Isaac for proposed renovation of former farmhouse to be used as a dwelling at Thornhill, Llandyfan, Ammanford. **Permission refused - enforcement notice upheld**
- Planning appeal by Carillion Development for proposed high density residential apartment development of 174 units in three blocks ranging from 4-15 storeys (including undercroft parking) at Schooner Way, Atlantic Wharf, Cardiff. **Permission granted**

subject to conditions

PDC 2001/8 (meeting held in 2002 Session)

- **(See PDC 2001/4)** Called in application by Marks and Spencer PLC for proposed extension to the existing Marks and Spencer retail store on land west of existing Tesco Store, Culverhouse Cross, Ely, Cardiff. **Permission granted subject to the submission of a completed agreement with the relevant Highway Authority for highway improvements in relation to access to the site**
- Planning appeal by Welsh Water for proposed extension and alterations to Llanbedr Wastewater Treatment Works, Llanbedr, Harlech. **Permission granted subject to conditions**

PDC 2002/2

- Application by Welsh Development Agency for proposed business and industrial development on land north-east of Shotwick Road, Deeside Development Zone, Flintshire. **Permission refused**

PDC 2002/3

- Application by Castle Cement Ltd for proposed new kiln line and associated plant, limestone store, fuel storage buildings, re-profiling of former licensed waste site, and ancillary works at Padeswood Cement Works, Padeswood, Mold, Flintshire. **Permission granted subject to conditions**

Planning Decision Panel

May 2002