

## ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

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

### WORK PROGRAMME 2002-03

#### Purpose

1. To invite the Committee to agree:
  - a strategic work programme for 2002-03;
  - a detailed work programme for the summer term.

#### 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.

#### Strategic Work Programme

3. The Committee agreed a draft strategic work programme for 2002-03 via correspondence in January and invited comments from other subject committees and the Cabinet. No comments were received from other subject committees. The Cabinet was content with the draft work programme. A final draft **strategic programme** is attached at **Annex A**.

- **The Committee is invited to agree the final draft strategic work programme attached.**

#### Detailed Work Programme

4. A suggested **detailed programme** for the summer term is attached at **Annex B**. Committee time is provisionally given over to following up the Nantygwyddon investigation and policy review of public transport, consideration of major Ministerial policy and legislative developments on which the Committee has asked to be consulted, scrutiny of sponsored bodies, and consideration of budget priorities. This leaves limited formal meeting time for policy review activities, however there are two informal meeting slots this term.

5. The Committee has indicated that it proposes to review (a) topic(s) from the following policy areas: biodiversity, radioactive waste (and possibly hazardous waste generally), and incineration of waste. Members are invited to express their preferences for the next topic to be considered.

- **The Committee is invited to agree the topic of its next policy review.**

6. Given the pressure on Committee time this term, Members are invited to indicate how they wish to proceed with the review:

- free up space this term by limiting the time devoted to Ministerial policy and legislative developments (i.e. identify those areas they do not wish to consider); or
- agree terms of reference this term, call for evidence over the summer recess, and dedicate most of the sessions in the autumn term to the review.
- **The Committee is invited to agree the timing for the next policy review.**
- **The Committee is invited to agree a detailed work programme for the summer term.**

## **Recommendation**

7. The Committee is invited to agree the attached strategic and detailed work programmes, and finalise the topic and timing of its next policy review.

## **Committee Secretariat**

April 2002

**ANNEX A**

## **ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING & TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**

### **[FINAL DRAFT] STRATEGIC FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

**May 2002 to May 2003**

## **Introduction**

1. This work programme sets out our strategic priorities between May 2002 and the next Assembly elections in May 2003. A detailed work programme for the period May to July 2002 is attached.

## Remit and responsibilities

2. Our remit is based on 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. The responsibilities of subject committees are set out in SO 9.

## Aims

4. We aim to champion: the sustainable management of the environment; development that respects the environment and sustains local communities; a sustainable integrated transport system; and Welsh heritage.

## Priorities

5. With such a broad remit, we have developed a strategic approach to our work. Priorities for the coming year are as follows:

- *Policy development (SO 9.7(i))* - we will focus on those areas of policy development where we can make the greatest impact, and will seek to complement, rather than duplicate policies being developed by the Minister. In the coming year we propose to review topics from the following policy areas:
  - Biodiversity
  - Radioactive waste (and possibly hazardous waste generally)
  - Incineration of waste
- *Scrutiny of the Minister (SO 9.7(ii))* - the Minister for Environment will report to us regularly on current developments within the portfolio. Once a year we will scrutinise the Minister on performance against targets, but may also undertake thematic scrutiny sessions from time to time. We also intend to scrutinise the delivery of the Sustainable Development Action Plan.
- *Scrutiny of sponsored bodies (SO 9.7 (iii))* - we will hold an annual session in the summer term to scrutinise the work of the Countryside Council for Wales, Environment Agency and Welsh National Parks and comment on their future work programmes. Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments will also be scrutinised annually in the spring term, when we will also comment on Cadw's draft Corporate Plan. We will continue to advise on the quinquennial reviews of the sponsored bodies and Cadw at the relevant times.
- *Other items (SO 9.8)* - we will consider the following items as they arise:
  - *proposed legislation affecting Wales (SO 9.8(i) and 22)* – each term the Minister will outline

forthcoming secondary legislation to enable us to identify areas where we wish to be consulted. Following the National Assembly's consideration of the Queen's speech, we will consider any draft primary legislation remitted to us by plenary. We will also consider draft secondary legislation referred to us by the Business Committee, as appropriate;

- *proposals for the Assembly's budget* (SO 9.8(ii)) – we will indicate our budget priorities in the summer term and comment on the draft budget in the autumn term;
- *complaints* (SO 9.8(iii) and 21) – we will consider any complaints referred to us;
- *public appointments* (SO 9.8(iv) and 20) – our two public appointment nominees will take part in the process of appointments to public bodies as vacancies arise;
- *other matters referred by the Assembly* (SO 9.8 (v)) – we will consider other matters referred to us by the National Assembly, but would ask Assembly Members to consult the Committee Chair before tabling motions inviting plenary to remit work to the Committee.

## Environment, Planning and Transport Committee

May 2002

ANNEX B

### ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

#### [DRAFT] DETAILED FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME - SUMMER TERM 2002

Meeting	Item No.	Agenda Items
Wednesday 17 April 2.00 – 4.00 pm	1	Apologies and substitutions
	2	Report from Minister for Environment
	3	Draft annual report
	4	Work programme
	5	Minutes of the last meeting

<p>Wednesday 1 May</p> <p>2.00 – 5.00 pm</p>	1	Apologies and substitutions
	2	Subordinate Legislation: forward look
	3	[Policy review: draft terms of reference]
	4	[Glas Cymru: performance review and forward look]
	5	Minutes of the last meeting

<p>Thursday 9 May</p> <p>2.00 - 5.00 pm</p> <p>Slot for informal session or, with Business Committee approval, a formal meeting</p>		[Visit by Northern Ireland Regional Development Committee]
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<p>Wednesday 15 May</p> <p>2.00 – 5.00 pm</p> <p>Off-site meeting (Blaenavon)</p>	1	Apologies and substitutions
	2	Report from Minister for Environment (to include walking & cycling strategy)
	3	Draft statutory guidance to Environment Agency Wales
	4	Cadw quinquennial review: draft interim report
	5	Draft guidance on CROW Act Rights of Way Improvement Plans
	6	Minutes of the last meeting

<p>Wednesday 29 May</p> <p>2.00 – 5.00 pm</p>	1	Apologies and substitutions
	2	Nantygwyddon: review of process (feedback)
	3	Wales Spatial Plan
	4	Health and the Planning System
	5	[Initial discussion of budget priorities]
	6	Minutes of the last meeting

**Whitsun recess: 3 – 7 June 2002**

<p>Wednesday 19 June</p> <p>2.00 – 5.00 pm</p>	1	Apologies and substitutions
	2	Report from Minister for Environment
	3	[Final discussion of budget priorities]
	4	Policy review of public transport: progress report from Minister for Environment
	5	Planning: delivering for Wales and Planning Obligations – report back on consultation
	6	Minutes of the last meetings

<p>Wednesday 3 July</p> <p>2.00 – 5.00 pm</p>	1	ASPBs – scrutiny session around bids/draft Corporate Plans
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Thursday 11 July  2.00 – 5.00 pm  Slot for informal session or, with Business Committee approval, a formal meeting		[Policy review]
Wednesday 17 July  2.00 – 5.00 pm	1  2  3  4  5  6  7  8	Apologies and substitutions  Report from Minister for Environment  Nantygwyddon: progress report from Minister for Environment  Planning: delivering for Wales – way forward  [Flood and Coastal Defence Funding Review]  [Community Transport strategy]  [Policy review]  Minutes of the last meeting
Summer recess: 22 July – 11 October 2002		

## ITEMS TO BE INCLUDED:

### Legislation

- UK Safety Bill (remitted by plenary)
- Draft subordinate legislation (as appropriate)

### Other

- Update from Strategic Rail Authority

**Committee Secretariat**

**April 2002**