

Finance Committee

Meeting Venue: **Committee Room 2 – Senedd**

Meeting date: **Wednesday, 25 January 2012**

Meeting time: **09:00 – 12:30**

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales



This meeting can be viewed on Senedd TV at:
<http://www.senedd.tv/archiveplayer.jsf>

Concise Minutes:

Assembly Members:

Jocelyn Davies (Chair)
Peter Black
Christine Chapman
Paul Davies
Mike Hedges
Julie Morgan
Ieuan Wyn Jones

Witnesses:

Neville Davies, Welsh Local Government Association
Lowri Gwilym, Welsh Local Government Association
David Evans, Director of Finance, Pembrokeshire College
Judith Evans, Principal, Coleg Morgannwg
Nicky Howells, External Funding Manager, Pembrokeshire College
Karen Phillips, Deputy Principal, Coleg Morgannwg
Marc Vermyle, DG Employment, European Commission
Agnes Linemans, DG Regional Policy

Committee Staff:

Naomi Stocks (Clerk)
Daniel Collier (Deputy Clerk)
Martin Jennings (Researcher)
Eleanor Roy (Researcher)
Susan Morgan (Legal Advisor)
Ben Stokes (Researcher)

1. Introductions, apologies and substitutions

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed Members and members of the public to the meeting.
- 1.2 Apologies had been received from Ann Jones.

1.3 Mike Hedges declared an interest as a former employee of Coleg Morgannwg.

2. The Effectiveness of European Structural Funding in Wales – DG Regional Policy and DG Employment

2.1 The Chair welcomed Guy Flament, DG Regional Policy, European Commission; Agnes Lindemans, DG Regional Policy; and Marc Vermyle, DG Employment to the Committee meeting via video conference.

2.2 Members questioned the witnesses.

Action points:

- DG Regional Policy agreed to provide verification of their evidence which stated that Wales's economy is highly reliant on the public sector.
- DG Employment agreed to provide information on the use of higher intervention rates to support new projects in Wales since 2009.

3. The Effectiveness of European Structural Funding in Wales – Welsh Local Government Association

3.1 The Chair welcomed Lowri Gwilym, Team Manager, Europe and Regeneration, WLGA; and Neville Davies, WLGA European Adviser and Head of European Policy and External Funding, Carmarthenshire County Council.

3.2 Members questioned the witnesses.

Action point:

- The WLGA agreed to provide details of how many local government-led projects in Wales have utilised higher intervention rates.

4. The Effectiveness of European Structural Funding in Wales – Pembrokeshire College and Coleg Morgannwg

4.1 The Committee welcomed Nicky Howells, External Funding Manager, Pembrokeshire College; David Evans, Director of Finance, Pembrokeshire College; Judith Evans, Principle, Coleg Morgannwg; and Karen Phillips, Deputy Principle, Coleg Morgannwg.

4.2 The Committee questioned the witnesses.

5. The Effectiveness of European Structural Funding in Wales – Programme Monitoring Committee

5.1 The Committee welcomed Dr Mark Drakeford, Chair of the Programme Monitoring Committee.

5.2 The Committee questioned the witness.

6. Papers to note

6.1 The Committee noted the letter from the Minister for Finance regarding the Welsh Government budget 2012–2013.

6.2 The Committee noted the letter from the Permanent Secretary regarding the Welsh Government budget 2012–2013.

6.3 The Committee ratified the minutes of the previous meeting.

7. Motion under Standing Order 17.42 to resolve to exclude the public from the meeting for the following business:

8. Inquiry into Prudential borrowing and innovative approaches to capital funding – suggested terms of reference and related background briefing

8.1 The Committee discussed its inquiry into prudential borrowing and innovative approaches to capital funding.

9. Draft Budget Protocol with the Welsh Government

9.1 The Committee discussed its draft budget protocol with the Welsh Government.