

CULTURE WELSH LANGUAGE AND SPORT COMMITTEE

STRATEGIC FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2003-04

Introduction

1. This work programme sets out the strategic priorities of the Committee for the next twelve to eighteen months.

Remit and responsibilities

2. The Committee's remit is based on the portfolio of the Minister for Culture, Welsh Language and Sport, which covers: arts, museums, ancient monuments and libraries, the languages of Wales, media and broadcasting, sport and recreation, and lottery issues. The portfolio also includes oversight of nine Assembly sponsored (ASPBs) or grant aided public bodies.

3. The responsibilities of subject committees as set out in Standing Order 9 are principally: policy development; scrutiny of Ministers and relevant bodies; and scrutiny of legislation.

Aims

4. The Committee will develop a strategic approach to its work and aim to balance scrutiny of the Minister with contributing to policy development via committee policy reviews.

Priorities

5. Priorities for the coming period will be:

- *Policy development (SO 9.7(i))* – the Committee will focus on those areas of policy development where it can make the greatest impact. In the coming period the Committee proposes to review topics from the following policy areas:
 - English-medium Welsh culture: books and writing (autumn 2003; report to plenary – spring 2004). Further phases of this review (e.g. English-medium drama; e.g. new media and technology) may be undertaken in future years.
 - The contribution of art and sport to community regeneration (preparatory work – autumn 2003; review – spring 2004; report to plenary – summer 2004).

As time permits, consideration will be given to reviews of the following topics:

- Support for the craft industry (in liaison with EDT Committee as appropriate).

- Mechanisms for recognising and celebrating cultural and sporting achievements.
- *Scrutiny of the Minister (SO 9.7(ii))* - the Minister will report to the Committee every three weeks on current developments within the portfolio. The Committee will scrutinise the Minister on the following priority areas:
 - Implementation of A Culture in Common / Creative Futures
 - Implementation of Our Language: Its Future / Iaith Pawb
 - Increasing mass participation in sport and physical activity
 - Delivery of targets and commitments within budget
 - Results of the historic environment review
 - Promoting Welsh arts and artists abroad
 - Support for traditional music
- *Scrutiny of relevant bodies (SO 9.7 (iii))* – the Committee will scrutinise the Assembly Sponsored Public Bodies within the portfolio via the annual planning and reporting cycle (corporate plans and annual reports). The Committee will also scrutinise relevant bodies via “ad hoc” scrutiny sessions on specific topics. These sessions may include:
 - funding and viability of the National Botanic Garden;
 - the Arts Council for Wales’ review of public art;
 - the National Museum and Galleries of Wales’ review of the display of art.
- *Scrutiny of proposed legislation affecting Wales (SO 9.8(i) and 22)* – the Minister will provide regular schedules of forthcoming secondary legislation and the Committee will be informed of relevant proposed primary legislation. The Committee will identify for scrutiny those items of legislation where there is scope to influence content, and will also consider draft secondary legislation referred by the Deputy Presiding Officer, as appropriate. The Committee will continue to monitor progress with the Communications Bill and the Licensing Bill.
- *Other items (SO 9.8)* – the Committee will consider the following items as they arise:
 - *proposals for the Assembly’s budget (SO 9.8(ii))* – the Committee will indicate its budget priorities in the summer term and comment on the draft budget in the autumn term;
 - *complaints (SO 9.8(iii) and 21)* – the Committee will consider any complaints referred to it under Standing Order 21;
 - *public appointments (SO 9.8(iv) and 20)* – the Committee’s two public appointment nominees will monitor the process of appointments to public bodies as vacancies arise;

- *other matters referred by the Assembly (SO 9.8 (v))* – the Committee will consider other matters referred to it 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.

Joint Working and Other Activities

6. Where appropriate the Committee will work with other subject committees on relevant topics. Examples may include:
- Liaison with the Health and Social Services and the Education and Lifelong Learning Committees on promoting mass participation in sport and physical exercise.
 - Liaison with the Economic Development and Transport Committee on cultural tourism.
7. The Committee will also undertake off-site meetings and visits to obtain a greater insight into issues within the Committee's portfolio and to facilitate more direct contact with stakeholders and the public.

The Assembly's Statutory Duties

8. The Government of Wales Act 1998 places certain duties on the National Assembly, the Committee's work will be guided by the following:
- *Equality of Opportunity (s.48 and s.120)* – Committee meetings will be held in public and on occasion away from the National Assembly building to increase the accessibility of its business to people across Wales. Over the range of issues within its portfolio, the Committee will have regard to equality of opportunity;
 - *Sustainable Development (s.121)* – throughout its deliberations the Committee will focus on the need to balance economic and social growth with the conservation of the environment, through sustainable development. Its own policy review recommendations will reflect this principle.

Culture, Welsh Language and Sport Committee
2nd July 2003