

Nid yw'r cyfieithiad Cymraeg ar gael ar hyn o bryd.

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME May 2001 to December 2002

Introduction

1. The Economic Development Committee is one of the National Assembly's subject Committees. Its remit is based on the portfolio of the Economic Development Minister which embraces:

- Inward investment, promotion of indigenous companies and regional development;
- European economic issues, including structural funding;
- Industrial policy and business support, including demand-side employment issues (minimum wage, working time, etc);
- Tourism;
- Urban development and regeneration.

Duties of the Committee

2. The Economic Development Committee is one of seven subject committees. The responsibilities of the subject committees are set out in the National Assembly's Standing Orders, an extract from which is at Annex A.

The Committee's Aims and Objectives

3. The Committee will seek to contribute to the achievement of the aims and objectives set out in "Better Wales", the National Assembly for Wales's strategic plan. In particular, 'To build a better, stronger economy.' Therefore the Committee's aim is "to build an advanced, dynamic and more diverse economy in which everyone has a chance to prosper".

The Statutory Schemes

4. The Committee will also take account of the National Assembly's statutory schemes for relations with the local authorities and the voluntary sector, the sustainable development scheme, and arrangements for consultation with business.

The Committee's Priorities

5. www.betterwales.com and the Partnership Agreement 'Putting Wales First' set out the Assembly's priorities. The Committee will play a role in 2 key action areas of www.betterwales.com: "A better, stronger economy" (Paras 4.6-4.9) and "Better opportunities for learning" (Pars 4.4-4.5). Its role in respect of Section 4 of the Partnership Agreement relates to Section 4 Enterprise and Economic Development and

6. In particular, it will contribute to the achievement of results in the following key areas:

- build an advanced, competitive and a more diverse economy with a dynamic small and medium enterprise sector;
- increase the number and quality of jobs and reduce economic activity particularly in less prosperous areas;
- raise the international profile and influence of Wales and establish it as a first class place to live, study, visit and do business;
- stimulate development that conserves natural resources and respects the environment;
- put more of our investment in people and lifelong learning so that everyone, and particularly our youth, can gain the range of knowledge and skills required to fulfil their potential and prosper in the new economy;
- promote active citizenship, creativity and entrepreneurship;
- improve training, assist small businesses to grow, promote stability and encourage the new technologies;
- ensure we exploit the full range of development opportunities open to the Welsh economy through the granting of Objective One status;
- continue to seek high-quality inward investment and to strengthen support to overseas trade.

FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

7. The Committee's work falls broadly into 2 categories – scrutinising the work of the Administration and the Assembly Secretary, and contributing to the development of Assembly policy through policy reviews and keeping abreast of, and responding to, issues as they arise. In practice Agenda items often contain aspects of both of these.

8. Alongside this the Committee has a range of 'ongoing' business:

- receiving and considering the Assembly Secretary's regular reports to it;
- annual reviews of the performance of the Welsh Development Agency and the Wales Tourist Board and advising on their strategic development;
- considering proposals for the Assembly's budget;

- considering secondary legislation as appropriate.

A) Scrutiny

9. The Committee will receive and discuss reports on current and critical issues from the Assembly Minister at each of its meetings.

10. It will undertake its first formal scrutiny of the Economic Development Minister in June 2001 against the published targets in 'Better Wales'. A similar scrutiny will be carried out the following year.

11. It will obtain regular reports from the Minister on the progress of the various European programmes of support and will keep a close watch on the performance of the programmes.

12. It will consider the performance of the WDA and the WTB alongside considering their forward plans. It will examine the business plan for the new Cardiff Harbour Authority.

B) Development of Policy

13. The Committee will undertake a new Review which should start shortly before the period this programme covers. The subject area has yet to be formally determined, but strong indications are that this will be based on renewable energy and energy policy. The previous forward work programme also indicated as priority areas for consideration: a Review of Information and Communications Technology and a Tourism Strategy. The final choice for this will be made shortly and terms of reference drawn up. A further Review will be initiated towards the end of the period this work programme covers

14. Consultation on the Committee's Review of Business Support and Development will end in May 2001 and the Committee will consider the outcome of this and such further development as is necessary.

15. The Committee will advise further on the development of the National Economic Development Strategy, in the light of the conclusions of the recently launched consultation exercise..

16. It will advise on the Welsh Development Agency's and the Wales Tourist Board's forward plans and the Minister's strategic guidance letters to these bodies.

17. It will maintain an overview of and advise on, developments in the Welsh economy - responding to urgent and significant issues as necessary.

18. It will advise on budgetary, financial, legislation, appointments and other matters as necessary and as required under Standing Orders.

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DETAILED PROGRAMME
SPRING TERM 2001

7 March 2001

Welsh Development Agency - Strategic Guidance letter
Wales Tourist Board - forward plan
Terms of Reference for EDC's next review
Consultation on the National Economic Development Strategy
Audit Committee Report on the Cardiff Bay Barrage

Information papers:

Other Committees' forward work programmes
WDA draft business plan

21 March

Objective 1 & 3 Programme Monitoring Committee reports
Discussion with Andrew Davies on ICT

4 April

Entrepreneurship Action Plan

Dates to be agreed:

Wales Wildlife and Countryside Link
Welsh Local Government Association
Cardiff International Airport
Cardiff Harbour Authority Business Plan

SUMMER TERM 2001

9 May

details to be finalised (see below)

Information paper:

Regional Selective Assistance statistics

23 May

details to be finalised (see below)

Information paper:
Office of National Statistics

13 June
Objective 3 Programme Monitoring Committee report

27 June
Conclusions from consultation on Business Support Review
Conclusions from consultation on National Economic Development Strategy
Objective 1 Programme Monitoring Committee reports

11 July
WDA Corporate plan and end of year review
EDD Budget

Dates to be agreed
Scrutiny of ED Minister
British Tourist Authority
British Resorts Association
Welsh Affairs Committee Report 'Wales in the World'
Arts Council of Wales
Education and Life Long Learning Committee - Higher Education Review
Ports in Wales
National Botanic Garden of Wales
EU enlargement

AUTUMN TERM

Dates to be agreed:
Economic Development Department Budget
Welsh Development Agency ½ yearly report
Wales Tourist Board new corporate plan

Information papers:
Office of National Statistics
Regional Selective Assistance statistics

Annex A.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF SUBJECT COMMITTEES

Standing Orders 9.7 and 9.8 set out the responsibilities of Subject Committees:

9.7 Each subject committee shall

(i) contribute to the development of the Assembly's policies within the fields for which the relevant Assembly Secretary is accountable to the Assembly;

(ii) keep under review the expenditure and administration connected with their implementation; and keep under review the discharge of public functions in those fields by public, voluntary and private bodies.

9.8 Each subject committee shall also, within the relevant fields,

- i. advise on proposed legislation affecting Wales, including performing its functions under SO22;
- ii. provide advice to the Assembly Cabinet on matters relating to allocation of the Assembly's budget in accordance with Standing Order 19;
- iii. perform its function under Standing Order 21(complaints);
- iv. perform any functions assigned to it under the Code of Practice on Public Appointments Procedure made by the Assembly under Standing Order 20; and
- v. consider matters referred to it by the Assembly within its fields."

2. Standing Order 9.9 requires the subject committee to maintain a rolling programme of work covering periods of at least 12 months.