

ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE

Date: Wednesday 19 June 2002
Time: 2.00 to 5.15 pm
Venue: Committee Room 2, National Assembly Building

REVIEW OF BIODIVERSITY: CONSULTATION ARRANGEMENTS

Purpose

1. To consider arrangements for consultation as part of the review of Local Biodiversity Action Plans.

Background

2. On 1 May the Committee agreed the following terms of reference:

To review current progress and ensure that Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAPs) are in place for all areas of Wales, and identify further action needed at the national and local levels to support LBAP implementation through partnerships.

3. The Committee also agreed a work programme, which included the following activities for today's meeting:

- Consideration of the legislative and policy background, role of the National Assembly and its partners – these are covered in paper EPT-11-02 (p 3) from Welsh Assembly Government officials;
- Agreement of arrangements for consultation on progress and key issues associated with drawing up and implementing LBAPs - suggested arrangements are set out in this paper from the Secretariat.

Consultation themes

4. Given the focus of the terms of reference on assessing progress and identifying action

needed to ensure that LBAPs are in place across Wales, the following themes for consultation are suggested:

(i) Progress

- Seeking reports from LBAP partnerships outlining progress in drawing up and implementing LBAPs

(ii) Best practice

- Inviting LBAP partners and others to identify best practice that could be applied across Wales

(iii) Key issues

- Identifying barriers to progress in drawing up and implementing LBAPs, with specific reference to:
 - Effectiveness of LBAP partnerships and the role of partners in the various stages of developing and implementing LBAPs
 - Co-ordination between local and national levels (both organisations and plans), in particular in agreeing targets and priorities for action
 - Resources available to support LBAP preparation and implementation
 - Guidance available to LBAP partners and others

 - Arrangements for involving diverse groups within local communities

 - Access to biodiversity information
 - Access to expertise

 - Arrangements for monitoring and reporting

(iv) Action

- Identifying action needed at local and national levels to support LBAP partnerships

Q: Do Members agree with the suggested themes?

Consultees

5. It is suggested that the Committee invites the individuals and organisations listed at the

Annex to give their views, with a copy of the consultation letter being published on the National Assembly website. An article drawing attention to the review and providing contact details for those interested in taking part will also appear in the June edition of the UK publication *Biodiversity News*.

Q: Do Members agree with the suggested consultees?

Timing

6. To enable sufficient time for individuals and organisations, particularly those in the voluntary sector, to respond over the summer a twelve week consultation period was factored in to the review work programme. The consultation will start on 1 July and close on 20 September.

Next steps

7. Responses to the consultation will be considered at the first Committee meeting in the autumn term. Evidence sessions with local and national groups and fact finding visits will take place early in the term, with analysis of key issues and consideration of draft recommendations towards the end of term.

Recommendation

8. The Committee is invited to agree themes for consultation (para. 4) and a list of consultees (para. 5 and Annex).

Committee Secretariat

June 2002

ANNEX

SUGGESTED CONSULTEES

Members of the Wales Biodiversity Group

Members of the Wales Biodiversity Group Local Issues Advisory Group

Local Biodiversity Action Plan co-ordinators

Assembly Members

Black Environment Network

British Horse Society

BTCV Cymru (environmental charity)

Cadw: Welsh Historic Monuments

CBI Wales

Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales

Chwarae Teg

Coed Cymru

Commission for Racial Equality Wales

Countryside Council for Wales

Country Landowners Association

Cyclist Touring Club Cymru

Disability Rights Commission, Wales

Disability Wales

Education Learning Wales (ELWa)

English Local Authorities bordering Wales

Environment Agency Wales

Environment Committee, Northern Ireland Assembly

Environment, Food & Rural Affairs Committee, UK Parliament

Equal Opportunities Commission

Farmers Union of Wales

Federation of Small Businesses

Forestry Commission Wales

Friends of the Earth Cymru

Highways Agency

Institute of Civil Engineers

Institute of Grassland and Environmental Research (IGER)

Institute of Highways and Transportation

Institute of Welsh Affairs

Ministry of Defence

National Farmers' Union of Wales

National Museums and Galleries of Wales

National Trust

National Botanic Garden for Wales

National Assembly Regional Committees

National Assembly Subject Committees

North Western and North Wales Sea Fisheries Committee

Pedestrians Association

Ramblers' Association

Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)

Secretary of State for Wales

Strategic Rail Authority

The Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust

The Woodland Trust

Transport and Environment Committee, Scottish Parliament

TUC Wales

Wales Association of Community and Town Councils

Wales Association of County Voluntary Councils

Wales Council for Voluntary Action

Wales European Centre

Wales Pensioners

Wales Social Partners Unit

Wales Tourist Board

Wales Wildlife and Countryside Link

Wales Youth Agency

Welsh Affairs Committee, UK Parliament

Welsh Consumer Council

Welsh Development Agency

Welsh Economic Fora (includes Mid Wales Partnership)

Welsh Language Board

Welsh Local Authorities

Welsh Local Government Association

Welsh Water Dwr Cymru

Welsh National Park Authorities

Welsh MPs and MEPs

World Wide Fund (WWF) Cymru

Welsh Wildlife Trusts

UK Department for the Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA)

University of Glamorgan

University of Wales colleges