

Economic Development and Transport Committee

Date: Wednesday 7 July 2004
Time: 9.00 - 12.30
Venue: Committee Room 1, National Assembly for Wales, Cardiff Bay
Title: EDT Draft Forward Work Programme

Introduction

1. Standing Order 9.9 requires subject committees to maintain rolling forward work programmes of at least 12 months and to submit their work programmes to plenary, having first consulted other subject committees and the Assembly Cabinet.

Issues

2. The attached draft programme reflects discussion at the previous meeting and with Party Spokespeople and seeks to achieve a balance between policy development and scrutiny of the Minister.

Action

3. The Committee is invited to discuss and agree the attached work programme.

Chris Gwyther
June 2004

DRAFT

**Economic Development And Transport Committee
Forward Work Programme
June 2004 to December 2005**

Introduction

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

Duties of the Committee

2. The remit of the Economic Development Committee is based on the portfolio of the Economic Development and Transport which includes:
 - Innovation and enterprise;
 - Industrial policy and business support;
 - Inward investment, promotion of indigenous companies and regional development;
 - Transport;
 - Energy;
 - Tourism;
 - Strategic coordinating responsibility for ICT;
 - Structural Funds.

Forward Work Programme

3. The Committee's work falls broadly into 2 categories – scrutinising the work of the Welsh Assembly Government and the Economic Development and Transport Minister, and contributing to the development of 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.
4. Alongside these the Committee has a range of 'ongoing' business:
 - receiving and considering the Assembly Minister'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

5. The Committee will receive and discuss reports on current and critical issues from the Assembly Minister at each of its meetings.
6. It will use these occasions to undertake a regular scrutiny of the Minister, his policies and their implementation.
7. It will obtain regular reports from the Minister and the Chairs of the Programme Monitoring Committees, on the progress of the various European programmes of support and will keep a

- close watch on the performance of the programmes.
8. It will consider the performance of the Welsh Development Agency and the Wales Tourist Board.
 9. It will maintain an overview of primary, secondary and European legislation within its subject area and scrutinise in more detail items it considers appropriate.
 10. It will continue to maintain an overview of the development of Cardiff Bay and the implementation of the business plan for the new Cardiff Harbour Authority.
 11. It will analyse progress towards the achievement of the targets laid out in a Winning Wales.
 12. It will review the progress made by the Government and its agencies in simplifying the support available to businesses in Wales.
 13. It will examine the availability of skills in the tourism sector and whether these meet the needs of the industry.
 14. It will continue to scrutinise the Transport (Wales) Bill and its implementation once passed.

B) Development of Policy

15. The Committee will conclude its policy Reviews into Economic Inactivity and undertake a further policy review [into the need for a Science Policy in Wales] It will also examine the issue of whether regulatory bodies in Wales could be more business-friendly.
16. The Committee will continue to maintain an overview of, and as appropriate advise on, further issues arising in connection with the recommendations in the Economic Development Committee's Reviews of Business Support and Development and of Energy Policy in Wales.
17. It will monitor the Implementation of the recommendations of the Environment Planning and Transport Committee's Policy Review of Public Transport and the development of transport policy in Wales more generally.
18. The Committee will advise further on the development of the Government's economic development strategy Winning Wales as this is developed.
19. 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.
20. It will maintain an overview of progress in the development of EU policies and in particular enlargement and cohesion.
21. It will maintain an overview of and advise on, developments in the Welsh economy - responding to urgent and significant issues as necessary.
22. It will advise on budgetary, financial, legislation, appointments and other matters as necessary and as required under Standing Orders.
23. It will endeavour to hold at least two formal meetings a year outside Cardiff.

Statutory duties

24. 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 - 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 - 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.

Detailed Programme

25. The Committee will publish a detailed programme for each term at the times specified for all Committees in the Committee Secretariat Management Plan.

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

- contribute to the development of the Assembly's policies within the fields for which the relevant Assembly Secretary is accountable to the Assembly;
- 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,

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

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