

# European and External Affairs Committee

**EUR(2) 05-06(p.8)**

**Date: Thursday 22 June 2006**

**Venue: Committee Room 3, Senedd, Cardiff Bay**

**Title: Other Committees' Forward Work Programmes**

## **Purpose**

1. This paper invites the Committee to consider the strategic forward work programmes of subject committees for the period until May 2007.

## **Background**

2. Standing Order 9.9 requires each subject committee to maintain rolling programmes of work covering periods of at least 12 months. Subject committees shall also invite the views of other committees and the Assembly Cabinet on their draft programmes, and shall have regard to the comments received in finalising them.

3. Attached are the detailed forward work programmes for the:

- Culture, Welsh Language & Sport Committee;
- Education, Lifelong Learning & Skills Committee;
- Enterprise, Innovation & Networks Committee;
- Environment, Planning & Countryside Committee;
- Health & Social Services Committee;
- Local Government & Public Services Committee;
- Social Justice and Regeneration Committee.

4. Any comments should be submitted to the Committee Clerk by 30 June.

**Sandy Mewies**  
**Committee Chair**

# **Annex 1**

# Culture, Welsh Language and Sport Committee

## Strategic Forward Work Programme

April 2006 to March 2007

### Introduction

1. The Culture, Welsh Language and Sport Committee is one of seven subject Committees in the National Assembly for Wales. This work programme sets out the strategic priorities of the Committee for April 2006 – March 2007, in accordance with Standing Order 9.9.

### Remit and responsibilities

2. The remit of the Committee 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 continue to take a strategic approach to its work balancing scrutiny of the Minister with policy development through committee reviews as well as consideration of subjects across the portfolio as the need arises.

### Priorities

5. Priorities for the coming period will be:

Policy development (SO 9.7(i)) – priorities for the coming period include:

- concluding and reporting on the short review on English language newspapers in Wales; and
- continuing with the review on the development of football in Wales. The Committee intends to report on this review towards the end of 2006.

Scrutiny of the Minister (SO 9.7(ii)) - the Committee will continue with its regular scrutiny of the Minister on current developments within the portfolio. In particular this year it will include within its programme:

- Scrutiny on arts policy and the role of the Arts Council of Wales in the light of the independent arts review commissioned by the Minister following a debate in plenary in early 2006. The report from the independent review is expected in December 2006.
- scrutiny of sports policy prior to the transfer of policy and other responsibilities from the Sports Council of Wales to the Welsh Assembly Government in April 2007
- scrutiny of policy on the Welsh language in anticipation of the transfer of the Welsh Language Board functions to the Welsh Assembly Government in April 2007.

Scrutiny of relevant bodies (SO 9.7 (iii)) – the Committee will continue with its annual scrutiny of the cultural ASPBs whilst taking account of the changes outlined above.

Scrutiny of proposed legislation affecting Wales (SO 9.8(i) and SO 24) – the Committee will identify for scrutiny items of secondary legislation where there is scope to influence content. In addition, the Committee will consider relevant proposed primary legislation where it is referred to it by plenary or otherwise.

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 23) – the Committee will consider any complaints referred to it under Standing Order 23.

Public appointments (SO 9.8(iv) and 22) – the Committee's two public appointment nominees (currently Rosemary Butler and Owen John Thomas) will take part in the process of appointments to public bodies within the culture portfolio.

## **Joint Working with others**

6. Where appropriate the Committee will work with other subject committees on relevant topics. 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**

7. The Committee will take account of the National Assembly's statutory schemes for relations with local authorities and the voluntary sector, and the sustainable development scheme. The Committee will have regard to the requirements of the Race Relations Act. The Committee will take account of the recommendations in the report of the Equality of Opportunity Committee on Mainstreaming Equality in the Work of the National Assembly.

## **MRCS**

**April 2006**

## **Education Lifelong Learning and Skills Committee**

### **Strategic Forward Work Programme May 2006 to May 2007**

Standing order 9.9 requires subject committees to maintain a rolling programme of work covering periods of at least 12 months. The strategic forward work programme sets out the Committee's priorities for the coming 10 months. It is complemented by detailed programmes covering around three months at a time.

#### **The Committee's Portfolio**

In accordance with s57(4) of the Government of Wales Act 1998, the Committee's portfolio mirrors that of the Assembly Minister:

- Nursery and early-years education in Wales;
- Standards of school education in Wales, including the activities of Estyn (Her Majesty's inspectorate of education and training in Wales);
- School organisation in Wales, including approval of school mergers and closures;
- Oversight of local education authorities in Wales;
- The national curriculum in Wales;
- All matters relating to pupils with special educational needs;
- All activities of ACCAC (the qualifications, curriculum and assessment authority for Wales) and matters relating to academic qualifications generally;
- Capital grants for schools in Wales;
- Teaching standards in Wales, in collaboration with the General Teaching Council for Wales;
- Appraisal of teachers in Wales, but not their pay and conditions;
- Policy on further and higher education in Wales;
- All activities of the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales and the National Council for Education and Training in Wales (ELWa);
- Powers relating to tuition fees and student support, conferred to the National Assembly by the Higher Education Act 2004;
- Careers policy, including all activities of Careers Service companies;
- Youth services and youth issues generally;
- Provision of, and support for, work-based and other vocational training in Wales;
- Inspection of training providers and careers service companies; and
- Oversight of the Children's Commissioner for Wales.

The Committee's Responsibilities are set out in Standing Orders :

"9.7. Each subject committee shall

- i. contribute to the development of the Assembly's policies within the fields for which the relevant Minister is accountable to the Assembly and in the areas for which that Minister has been allocated other responsibilities (with the exception of the management of the Assembly's business and its finances and matters within the terms of reference of the Committees on Equality of Opportunity and European and External Affairs);
- ii. keep under review the expenditure and administration connected with their implementation; and
- iii. keep under review the discharge of public functions in those fields by public, voluntary and private bodies.

Each subject committee shall also, within the relevant fields,

- i. advise on proposed primary, secondary and European legislation affecting Wales, including performing its functions under Standing Order 24;
- ii. provide advice to the Assembly Cabinet on matters relating to allocation of the Assembly's budget, in accordance with Standing Order 21;
- iii. perform its functions under Standing Order 23 (complaints);
- iv. perform any functions assigned to it under the Code of Practice on Public Appointments Procedure made by the Assembly under Standing Order 22; and
- v. consider matters referred to it by the Assembly within its fields and areas of responsibility."

## **The Committee's Aims and Objectives**

The Committee's aim is to scrutinise the policies of the Welsh Assembly Government and to monitor their implementation, to ensure that the people of Wales have access to a broad range of opportunities for education and lifelong learning. The Committee believes that education is the key to a fulfilling life and a prosperous nation.

In reviewing and developing policy, the Committee will make recommendations that will lead to high quality, cost effective services that are properly regulated and inspected.

## **The Committee's Priorities**

The Committee's strategic focus for the period of this forward work programme will be on the following issues which, together with its responsibilities under Standing Orders 9.7 and 9.8, will be its priorities for meetings:

- The implementation of policy stemming from the Assembly Government's response to the Committee's report on the first stage of its review of special educational needs, focusing on early identification and intervention;
- The implementation of policy stemming from the Assembly Government's response to the Committee's report on the second stage of its review of special educational needs, focusing on statutory assessment;
- The implementation of policy stemming from the Assembly Government's response to the Committee's report on its review of school transport;
- Policy Reviews:

### **Special Educational Needs (Part 3): Transition**

Scrutiny of the delivery of the newly established Department for Education Lifelong Learning and Skills following the merger of the Welsh Assembly Government and the National Council for Education and Training (ELWa) and ACCAC (Curriculum, Assessment and Qualifications Body)

The implementation and progress of the Youth Services in Wales merging into the Welsh Assembly Government

Scrutiny of relevant public, voluntary and private bodies; including undertaking rapporteur visits:

- Higher Education Funding Council for Wales
- Estyn (Inspectorate of Education and Training in Wales)
- General Teaching Council for Wales
- Careers Wales

Consideration of the annual reports of:

- The Chief Inspector of Education and Training in Wales (Estyn)
- The Children's Commissioner for Wales
- Higher Education, with particular regard to student support and reconfiguration;
- The Graham Review of the small firms loan guarantee with regard to into part time student support;
- The implementation of 'Flying Start' and the 'Foundation Phase';
- Primary legislation remitted to the Committee by the National Assembly;
- Secondary Legislation, as identified by the Committee for scrutiny, or remitted to the Committee by Business Committee;
- European legislation, as identified by Committee for scrutiny;
- Budget Priorities

### **The Statutory Schemes**

The Committee will take account of the National Assembly's statutory schemes for relations with local authorities and the voluntary sector, and the sustainable development scheme. The Committee will have regard to the requirements of the Race Relations Act.

The Committee will take account of the recommendations in the report of the Equality of Opportunity Committee on Mainstreaming Equality in the Work of the National Assembly.

The Committee will consider a report of the Assembly Minister's meetings with the Voluntary Sector at least once a year in accordance with section 3.7 of the Voluntary Sector Scheme.

## **Enterprise, Innovation and Networks Committee**

### **Forward Work Programme May 2006 to April 2007**

#### **Introduction**

1. The Enterprise, Innovation and Networks 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. In accordance with s57(4) of the Government of Wales Act 1998, the Committee's portfolio follows that of the Minister for Enterprise, Innovation and Networks 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 two categories – scrutinising the work of the Welsh Assembly Government and the Enterprise, Innovation and Networks 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;
- considering proposals for the Assembly’s budget;
- considering secondary and EU legislation as appropriate.

## **A) Scrutiny**

- The Committee will receive and discuss reports on current and critical issues from the Assembly Minister at each of its meetings.
- It will use these occasions to undertake a regular scrutiny of the Minister, his policies and their implementation.
- 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.
- It will scrutinise any new arrangements for Structural Funds post 2006 as well as the implications of the results of the review of Regional Aid Guidelines.
- It will monitor the impact of the merger the Welsh Development Agency and the Wales Tourist Board into the Welsh Assembly Government.
- It will maintain an overview of primary, secondary and European legislation within its subject area and scrutinise in more detail items it considers appropriate.

## **B) Development of Policy**

- The Committee will publish its review into Science Policy in Wales.
- It will continue to advise the Minister on development of the policy areas within Wales A Vibrant Economy.
- It will track progress of the Heads of the Valleys strategy – ‘Heads - we win’.
- It will consider the response from the Minister on the recommendations made in its Review of Science Policy and consider how it will monitor progress of implementation of the recommendations.
- The Committee will continue to maintain an overview of, and as appropriate advise on, further issues arising in connection with the recommendations in previous Committee reviews.
- It will monitor progress with the Minister’s review of transport policy and in particular consider in more detail progress with road and rail connections across Wales.
- It will monitor progress with the Creative Industries Strategy and implementation of the fund along with the Broadband Wales Strategy and developments generally in this area.
- It will advise on the Minister’s priorities for the work previously carried out by the Welsh Development Agency and the Wales Tourist Board’s.



- It will consider in more detail the impact and development of the Aerospace industry in Wales.
- It will maintain an overview of progress in the development of EU policies and in particular the effects of enlargement and cohesion.
- It will maintain an overview of and advise on, developments in the Welsh economy - responding to urgent and significant issues as necessary.
- It will advise on budgetary and financial issues, legislation, appointments and other matters as necessary and as required under Standing Orders.
- It will endeavour to hold at least two formal meetings a year outside Cardiff.

## **Statutory duties**

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 continue to 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.

## **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
- iii. 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.

## **Environment, Planning & Countryside Committee**

### **Forward Work Programme 2006-07 Strategic Forward Work Programme May 2006 to April 2007**

#### **Introduction**

1. The Environment, Planning and Countryside Committee is one of the Assembly's seven subject committees. Standing Order 9.9 requires subject committees to maintain a rolling programme of work covering periods of at least 12 months. The Strategic Forward Work Programme sets out the Committee's priorities for the coming 12 months. It is complemented by detailed programmes covering each term.

#### **Remit and responsibilities**

2. In accordance with s57(4) of the Government of Wales Act 1998, the Committee's remit is based on the portfolio of the Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside, which covers: the environment and sustainable development; town and country planning; countryside and conservation issues; agriculture and rural development including forestry and food production.

3. The responsibilities of subject committees as set out in Standing Orders 9.7 and 9.8, which are:

9.7: Each Subject Committee shall:

- (i) contribute to the development of the Assembly's policies within the fields for which the relevant Minister is accountable to the Assembly and in the areas for which that Minister has been allocated other responsibilities (with the exception of the management

of the Assembly's business and its finances and matters within the terms of reference of the Committees on Equality of Opportunity and on European and External Affairs);  
(ii) keep under review the expenditure and administration connected with their implementation; and  
(iii) keep under review the discharge of public functions in those fields and areas of responsibility by public, voluntary and private bodies.

9.8 Each Subject Committee shall also, within the relevant fields and areas of responsibility,

(i) advise on proposed primary, secondary and European legislation affecting Wales, including performing its functions under Standing Order 24;  
(ii) provide advice to the Assembly Cabinet on matters relating to the allocation of the Assembly's budget in accordance with Standing Order 21;  
(iii) perform its functions under Standing Order 23 (complaints);  
(iv) perform any functions assigned to it under the Code of Practice on Public Appointments Procedure made by the Assembly under Standing Order 22; and  
(v) consider matters referred to it by the Assembly within its fields and areas of responsibility.

## **Aims**

4. With such a broad remit, the Committee will develop a strategic approach to its work and aim to balance consideration of subjects across the portfolio and its range of responsibilities.

## **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 will:

- examine the potential for growing biocrops the Committee examined the potential of the biomass and bio-fuel industry in Wales.
- consider planning aspects of electronic communications apparatus
- continue to monitor the work of the Welsh Assembly Government with regard to the management and control of bovine tuberculosis
- undertake work on the marine environment
- consider the future of agri-environment research in Wales

Scrutiny of the Minister (SO 9.7(i)) - the Minister will report to the Committee by providing written reports at alternate meetings on current developments within the portfolio. At all other meetings, the Minister, if appropriate, will provide an oral update of current or urgent issues within his portfolio. The

Committee may also undertake inquiries into topics in greater depth.

Scrutiny of relevant bodies (SO 9.7 (iii)) – the Committee will scrutinise the work of relevant bodies undertaking activities within the EPC portfolio. Rather than undertake scrutiny of performance against the full range of targets, the Committee will concentrate on scrutinising particular aspects of relevant bodies' work, or joint delivery of services. The Committee will also advise on any quinquennial or other reviews of the public bodies.

Scrutiny of proposed legislation affecting Wales (SO 9.8(i) and 24) – the Minister will regularly outline forthcoming secondary legislation. The Committee will be informed of relevant proposed primary legislation and scrutinise and report on primary legislation remitted to it by Plenary. 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. With regard to EU legislation, the Committee, in line with the method of working and protocol agreed by the Panel of Chairs identified, as its priorities, the Green Paper on adaptation to climate change, the Green Paper on a Future EU Maritime Policy; and the Review of the health rules on animal by-products. In addition, the Committee will receive regular updates on issues it identified within the 2005 Programme, as well as GMO co-existence, bio-fuels and energy crops.

### **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) and 21) – the Committee will indicate its budget priorities in the summer term and comment on the draft budget in the autumn term. It will monitor the Assembly Government's progress in the areas that the Committee will identify as priorities in the 2005-06 budget;
- complaints (SO 9.8(iii) and 23) – the Committee will consider any complaints referred to it under Standing Order 23;
- public appointments (SO 9.8(iv) and 22) – the Committee's two public appointment nominees will take part in 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.

### **The Assembly's Statutory Duties**

6. 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) – the Committee will scrutinise the relevant parts of annual progress reports on meeting the commitments of the Assembly’s Sustainable Development Scheme and Welsh Assembly Government Action Plan, and the extent to which sustainable development is integrated in the work of ASPBs. As part of the budget planning round, the Committee will consider whether budget decisions support sustainable policy making. The Committee’s own policy review recommendations will be consistent with the principles of sustainable development. As co-ordination for sustainable development forms part of the Minister’s responsibilities, the Committee will undertake detailed policy development and scrutiny work in this area, such as scrutiny of the development of sustainability indicators.

## **Environment, Planning and Countryside Committee, May 2006**

## **Health and Social Services Committee**

### **Forward Work Programme**

#### **Part 1: Strategic Forward Work Programme**

**May 2006 to April 2007**

Standing order 9.9 requires subject committees to maintain a rolling programme of work covering periods of at least 12 months. The Strategic Forward Work Programme sets out the Committee’s priorities for the coming 18 months. It is complemented by detailed programmes covering around three months at a time.

### **The Committee’s Portfolio**

In accordance with s57(4) of the Government of Wales Act 1998, the Committee’s portfolio follows that of the Assembly Minister:

- All aspects of the National Health Service in Wales, including general practice and primary care, other than (i) oversight of the medical professions; (ii) policy on surrogacy, xenotransplantation\*, embryology and human genetics; and (iii) licensing of medicines. (These matters are not devolved to the National Assembly.)
- Charges for NHS services, including prescription, dental and ophthalmic and optical charges.
- The provision of services in Wales to the mentally ill.
- All aspects of public health in Wales, including food safety.
- The regulation of poisons.
- The activities of the Food Standards Agency in Wales.
- Genetically-modified food (but not the cultivation of genetically-modified crops - this is for the Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside).

- Oversight of the Audit Commission's activities so far as relating to the National Health Service in Wales.
- Policy on care in the community.
- Policy on the provision of social services for children, including the regulation of playgroups, activity centres and childminding.
- Oversight of the social services activities of local authorities in Wales including the issuing of statutory guidance.
- Oversight of

- i: the Care Council for Wales;
- ii: the Wales Centre for Health;
- iii: the Healthcare Inspectorate Wales;
- iv: the Care Standards Inspectorate for Wales.

- Regulation of private care and nursing homes in Wales.
- Inspection of, and reporting on, the provision of social services by local authorities in Wales (via the Social Services Inspectorate for Wales).
- Adoption and fostering services in Wales (but not adoption of children by UK residents abroad).
- Cross-cutting responsibility for health improvement and older people and carers.

### **The Committee's Responsibilities are set out in Standing Orders :**

"9.7. Each subject committee shall

- i. contribute to the development of the Assembly's policies within the fields for which the relevant Minister is accountable to the Assembly;
- ii. keep under review the expenditure and administration connected with their implementation; and
- iii. keep under review the discharge of public functions in those fields by public, voluntary and private bodies.

Each subject committee shall also, within the relevant fields,

- i. advise on proposed primary, secondary and European legislation affecting Wales, including performing its functions under SO24;
- ii. provide advice to the Assembly Cabinet on matters relating to allocation of the Assembly's budget in accordance with Standing Order 21;
- iii. perform its functions under Standing Order 23(complaints);
- iv. perform any functions assigned to it under the Code of Practice on Public Appointments Procedure made by the Assembly under Standing Order 22; and
- v. consider matters referred to it by the Assembly within its fields."

## **The Committee's Aims and Objectives**

1. The Committee's aim is to scrutinise the policies of the Welsh Assembly Government and to monitor their implementation to ensure that the people of Wales have access to services to improve their health and provide health and social care when it is needed.
2. In reviewing and developing policy the Committee will make recommendations that will lead to high quality, cost effective services that are properly regulated and inspected.

## **The Committee's Priorities**

3. The Committee's strategic focus for the period of the forward work programme will be on the following issues which, together with its responsibilities under Standing Order 9.7 and 9.8, will be its priorities for meetings:

- undertaking a review of cancer services for the people of Wales;
- Monitoring the Assembly Government's progress in achieving the objectives set out in the strategic document "designed for Life", published in 2005 with particular regard to
  - i: Reduction in hospital waiting times
  - ii: Addressing inequalities in funding and access to services;
- Preventative measures and services for the mentally ill, especially for children and adolescents;
- Social Care - Standards and Quality:
  - i: Child Protection and
  - ii: The Care Standards Inspectorate;
- Legislation

## **Primary legislation remitted by the Assembly;**

- Secondary Legislation as identified by the Committee for scrutiny. The Committee may wish to scrutinise a substantial volume of legislation emanating from the Health Bill, which was still before Parliament at the beginning of May 2006. (Current legislation identified at 30 April 2006 is appended).
- Scrutiny of Assembly Sponsored Public Bodies.

## **Budget priorities**

7. The Committee will monitor the Assembly Government's progress in the following areas which the

committee identified as priorities for the 2006-07 budget:

- i. children's hospitals
- ii. Townsend implementation
- iii. Ambulance services in Wales (including Air Ambulance)
- iv. cancer services
- v. services for diabetes
- vi. epilepsy services
- vii. implementation of the Mental Health National Service Framework.

## **The Statutory Schemes**

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

## **Equality**

9. The Committee will also have regard to the requirements of the Government of Wales Act of 1998 for the Assembly to ensure that there is due regard to the principle of equality of opportunity and will comply with the Race Relations Act.

10. The Committee will consider a report of the Assembly Minister's meetings with the Voluntary Sector at least once a year in accordance with section 3.7 of the Voluntary Sector Scheme.

\* Xenotransplantation is the transplantation of tissue and organs between different species, and in particular the transplantation of animal tissue into humans.

# **Local Government and Public Services Committee**

## **Strategic Forward Work Programme**

**May 2006 to April 2007**

### **Introduction**

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

### **Remit and responsibilities**



2. The Committee's remit is based on the portfolio of the Assembly Minister for Finance, Local Government and Public Services and covers local government, the development of a strategic approach to the delivery of public services and the Wales Spatial Plan. It does not cover the Minister's responsibilities in respect of the Assembly's finances or policy or financial matters falling solely within another portfolio.

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 consideration of subjects across the portfolio and its range of responsibilities.

## **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. It will continue with its project on electoral arrangements in Wales, for which the terms of reference have been agreed. The Committee will continue to follow-up progress on implementation of recommendations from its inquiry reports The operation of new political management structures in local government and Regulation and Inspection of Public Services in Wales. The Committee will continue with its scrutiny project in Electoral Arrangements in Wales and will publish its final report in the autumn of 2006. In addition the Committee will seek to help shape any reform of the public services agenda in Wales, which is brought about as a result of proposals in Making the Connections.

- Scrutiny of the Minister (SO 9.7(ii)) - the Minister will report to the Committee at alternate meetings on current developments within the portfolio. The Committee may also undertake inquiries into particular topics in greater depth.
- Scrutiny of relevant bodies (SO 9.7 (iii)) – the Committee will consider the work of the Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales, the Welsh Local Government Association, the Local Government Equalities Unit and the Local Government Data Unit of Wales.
- Scrutiny of proposed legislation affecting Wales (SO 9.8(i) and 24) – the Committee will receive, at alternative meetings, a timetable of forthcoming secondary legislation within its remit. 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. In addition, the Committee will be informed of relevant proposed primary legislation.

## **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 23) – the Committee will consider any complaints referred to it under Standing Order 23;
- public appointments (SO 9.8(iv) and 22) – the Committee's two public appointment nominees will take part in 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.

## **The Assembly's Statutory Duties**

6. 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.

## **Local Government and Public Services Committee May 2006**

## **Social Justice and Regeneration Committee**

### **Strategic Forward Work Programme 2006/7**

#### **Introduction**

1. The Social Justice and Regeneration Committee is one of the Assembly's seven subject committees. Standing Order 9.9 requires subject committees to maintain a rolling programme of work covering periods of at least twelve months. The Strategic Forward Work Programme sets out the Committee's priorities for the period July 2006 – April 2007. It is complemented by detailed programmes covering each term.

## **Remit and Responsibilities**

2. In accordance with s57(4) of the Government of Wales Act 1998, the Committee's remit is based on the portfolio of the Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration which covers: the Government's programme for regenerating the communities of Wales; anti-poverty initiatives; the social economy; the voluntary sector; community safety and relations with the Police and the National Offender Management System; the Fire Service; drug and alcohol misuse, youth justice, Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service (CAFCASS) and housing.
3. The responsibilities of subject committees as set out in Standing Order 9.7 and 9.8 are principally: policy development; scrutiny of Ministers and relevant bodies; and scrutiny of legislation.

## **Aims**

4. With such a broad remit, the Committee will develop a strategic approach to its work and aim to balance consideration of subjects across the portfolio and its range of responsibilities.

## **Priorities**

5. Priorities for the coming periods 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 will continue with its review into drug and alcohol misuse specifically looking at prevention and complete its second review into Restructuring the Constabulary – Democratic Structures. The Committee will consider undertaking an inquiry into youth homelessness.
- Scrutiny of the Minister (SO 9.7(i)) - the Minister will report at alternate Committee meetings on current developments within the portfolio. In particular the Committee will be interested in monitoring the implementation of the Domestic Violence strategy, the continuing development of the various components of the Housing Strategy, Communities First, the devolution of the Fire Service to Wales, community safety, child anti-poverty strategy and how equality is being mainstreamed.
- Scrutiny of sponsored bodies (SO 9.7 (iii)) - there is only one ASPB within the Committee's remit – the Advisory Panel on Substance Misuse. This is an advisory panel only with no financial responsibility.

## **Other items (SO 9.8) - the Committee will consider the following items as they arise:**

- Scrutiny of proposed legislation affecting Wales (SO 9.8(i) and 24) the Minister will regularly outline forthcoming secondary legislation. The Committee will be informed of relevant proposed primary legislation and will scrutinise and report on any such legislation remitted to it by Plenary.

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. With regard to EU legislation, the Committee, in line with the method of working and protocol agreed by the Panel of Chairs, has identified the following thematic strategies it wishes to influence, Rights of the Child, Drugs Policy, Alcohol-related Crime and Postal Services, and will seek to do so in a timely and appropriate way.

- Proposals for the Assembly's budget (SO 9.8(ii) and 21) – the Committee will indicate its budget priorities in the summer term and comment on the draft budget in the autumn term. It will monitor the Welsh Assembly Government's progress in the areas that the Committee will identify as priorities in the 2006 –07 budget.
- Complaints (SO 9.8(iii) and 23) – the Committee will consider any complaints referred to it under Standing Order 23
- Public appointments (SO 9.8(iv) and 22) – the Committee's two public appointment nominees will take part in 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 Members to consult the Committee Chair before tabling motions inviting plenary to remit work to the Committee.

## **The Assembly's Statutory Duties**

6. 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 notably, race, gender, disability, sexual orientation, welsh language, religion and beliefs and age.
- 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

## **Committee Services June 2006**