

SOUTH WEST WALES REGIONAL COMMITTEE

REPORT TO THE ASSEMBLY 2000 - 2001

Introduction

1. The South West Wales Regional Committee is one of the Assembly's four regional committees constituted under Standing Order 10.

2. Standing Order 10.2 provides that

"Regional committees shall advise the Assembly on matters affecting their regions, the affect of Assembly policies in those regions and the work of public bodies there." The Committee is required to meet at least twice a year in the region.

3. There are 17 members:

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| Peter Black | South Wales West | Liberal Democrats |
| Nicholas Bourne | Mid and West Wales | Conservative |
| Alun Cairns | South Wales West | Conservative |
| Cynog Dafis | Mid and /West Wales | Plaid Cymru |
| Andrew Davies | Swansea West | Labour |
| Glyn Davies | Mid and West Wales | Conservative |
| Janet Davies | South Wales West | Plaid Cymru |
| Richard Edwards | Preseli Pembrokeshire | Labour |
| Delyth Evans | Mid and West Wales | Labour |
| Val Feld | Swansea East | Labour |
| Brian Gibbons | Aberavon | Labour |

| | | |
|--------------------|---|-------------|
| Christine Gwyther | Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire | Labour |
| Edwina Hart | Gower | Labour |
| Helen Mary Jones | Llanelli | Plaid Cymru |
| Dai Lloyd | South Wales West | Plaid Cymru |
| Gwenda Thomas | Neath | Labour |
| Rhodri Glyn Thomas | Carmarthen East and Dinefwr | Plaid Cymru |

4. Alun Cairns chaired the Committee for the 12 months from July 2000.

Meetings

5. The Committee has met six times between July 2000 and June 2001, and the agenda have been drawn up in response to suggestions from members, and requests from subject committees or Ministers to look at specific issues.

Method of working

6. Generally, the Committee decided to carry on with its way of working, as set out in its last report, but has become increasingly aware of the value of involving the public. During the last year the public have been invited to take part in discussion of agenda items as well as during the open microphone session.

7. The Committee continues to have regular dialogue with the South West Wales Economic Forum, particularly on the progress of Objective One. The Forum is invited to contribute to every meeting.

Meeting Venues

8. During the last year, the Committee has met in community centres and social clubs and these seem to have been more attractive to the public than the more formal settings used in earlier meetings. The Clerk continues to seek the advice of the constituency Assembly Member and any local disability access group in selecting venues.

The Issues

9. The committee has dealt with a range of substantive agenda items across the spectrum of the Assembly's responsibilities.

Community Regeneration

10. At its October meeting the Committee concentrated on community regeneration, with an update on the progress of the South Wales Valleys Action Strategy and Communities First. The Committee also received presentations from a number of groups that had been involved in successful community regeneration projects.

Health

11. In December, members of Dyfed Powys Health Authority and Iechyd Morgannwg Health Authority presented their Health Improvement Programmes to the Committee.

Young People

12. In January the Committee heard the views of young people on issues that most concerned them. These included student tuition fees, protecting the Welsh coastline and provision of suitable leisure facilities for young people. Presentations were received from students of Bishop Vaughan School and Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera, the Clydach Regeneration Trust, the Girl Guide Association and the Swansea Youth Forum.

13. The quality of the presentations and the maturity of the presenters' views impressed the Committee and Members agreed that the views expressed should be conveyed to the Assembly Cabinet. A report of the meeting was subsequently sent to the Assembly Ministers for Education and Lifelong Learning; Culture Sport and the Welsh Language; Economic Development; and Finance, Local Government and Communities, and copied to the Chairs of those subject committees.

Rural Economy

14. The March meeting coincided with the intensification of the outbreak of foot and mouth disease. In light of the subject matter and venue (St Clears) it was decided to cancel the meeting. However, the Committee plans to return to the subject of the rural economy in the autumn.

Assembly Review of Procedure

15. In May the Committee discussed the Assembly Review of Procedure and heard the views of a number of organisations with whom the Assembly works, including local authorities and the voluntary sector. As a result, the Committee, in conjunction with the Review Group, will

be thinking about its role, particularly in relation to other Assembly business. A report on the Committee's considerations has been submitted to the Assembly Review of Procedure Group.

16. At the same meeting the Committee also heard from the South West Wales Regional Office of ELWa, the new Post-16 training and education body in Wales, on their plans.

Conclusion

17. The Committee has addressed a wide range of issues throughout the year and received many interesting and informative presentations. I should like to thank everyone who has taken part in the Committee's proceedings over the last year.

18. We have succeeded in engaging the public who attend the meetings and I hope this can be built on in the future, with public attendance increasing. The Committee now needs to develop its role and ensure that its work feeds back into the wider work of the Assembly.

19. The Committee Secretariat is working with the Communications Directorate of the Presiding Office with a view to improving publicity for the meetings. The Education Branch of the Communications Directorate now contacts schools in the area where a meeting is to be held and I hope that schools will encourage groups of pupils to come to the meetings. It is important too that Assembly Members publicise the meetings through their own local networks, especially when the Committee is due to meet in their area.

Alun Cairns
Chair

ANNEX

SOUTH WEST WALES REGIONAL COMMITTEE

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

July 2000 to June 2001

| Date | Venue | Agenda |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|---|
| 5 July 2000 | Leisure Centre, Newcastle Emlyn | Election of Chair; Forward Work Programme; Open Microphone; Dwr Cymru/Welsh Water; Objective One - Regional Plans and Local Action Plans. |
| 27 Oct 2000 | Community Centre, Gwaun-Cae-Gurwen | Action Strategy for the South Wales Valleys; Open Microphone; Communities First. |
| 8 Dec 2000 | Queen's Hall, Narberth | A Ten Year Accessibility Development Plan for South West Wales; Dyfed Powys Health Authority - Health Improvement Programme; Open Microphone; Iechyd Morgannwg - Health Improvement Programme. |
| 26 Jan 2001 | Community Hall, Clydach | Issues of concern to students of Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera and Bishop Vaughan School; Clydach Regeneration Trust; Open microphone; "Extending Entitlement" - Supporting Young People in Wales. |
| 23 Mar 2001 | Leisure Centre, St Clears | Meeting Cancelled. |

11 May 2000

Workingmen's Club,
Neath

Assembly Review of Procedure;

Education and Learning Wales (ELWa);

Open Microphone.