

Mid Wales Regional Committee MID 03-01(p.1a)

Date: Friday 13 July 2001
Time: 10.30am to 1.00pm
Venue: Community Hall, Llanidloes

MID WALES REGIONAL COMMITTEE

REPORT TO THE ASSEMBLY

Introduction

1. The Mid Wales Regional Committee is one of the Assembly's four regional committees. Standing Order 10 sets out the geographical areas of the committees and also states their remit.
2. Elin Jones chaired the Committee for the session that began in July 2000, taking over from Glyn Davies. The chairmanship will pass to a new Chair from July 2001. Other members were Mick Bates, Nicholas Bourne, Cynog Dafis, Glyn Davies, Delyth Evans and Kirsty Williams. The Presiding Officer, Lord Dafydd Elis Thomas has chosen not to take up his membership of the Committee. From July 2000 to July 2001, the Committee had held 6 meetings. The meeting scheduled for Llanidloes on 30 March was cancelled due to the foot and mouth outbreak.

Remit and Method of working

3. The regional committees' remit is to advise the Assembly on matters affecting their regions, the effect of Assembly policies in those regions and the work of public bodies there.
4. The Committee has developed an open and participative style of working with all of its meetings held in public. A summary of the items considered by the Committee is shown below. It has invited a number of outside bodies to contribute to its discussions, for example, the Welsh Development Agency, Dyfed Powys Health Authority, Wales Youth Agency, Urdd Gobaith Cymru, the Countryside Council for Wales and the Environment Agency.

5. The Committee has included an item at each meeting where members of the public and local organisations can briefly draw Members' attention to an issue of local concern or an example of innovative work being undertaken in the region. The range of issues has been wide and included for example low flying aircraft; the problems facing young people in rural areas; the retention of small rural schools and wind farms in Ceredigion.

Priorities

6. The Committee's agendas reflect its objective of achieving a balance between the priorities set out in www.betterwales.com and responding to issues of concern to the communities the Members represent - therefore items considered have been a mixture of strategic issues and items that are responsive to local concerns.

Issues Considered (from July 2000 to July 2001)

Date	Venue	Topic
7 July 2000	Ystradgynlais	The Committee considered skills and training matters and received a presentation from Mid Wales TEC which focussed on changes in the post-16 education arena. The Committee also received a presentation from the Co-ordinator of Coed Cymru

20 October	Lampeter	The Committee considered economic and community regeneration in Mid Wales and <i>Communities First</i> , with presentations from community groups, local government and the Mid Wales Division of the WDA.
1 December	Bala	The Committee considered Health Improvement Programmes, with presentations by Dyfed-Powys Health Authority and the local Community Health Councils.
2 February 2001	Three Cocks	The Committee considered the policy towards children and young people focussing on the document "Extending Entitlement", with presentations from young people as well as the voluntary sector and local government.
30 March		Meeting cancelled due to the foot and mouth outbreak.
18 May	Aberystwyth	The Committee considered the Assembly Review of Procedures, with presentations by Dr Dafydd Trystan of University of Wales, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion County Council and the National Library of Wales.
13 July	Llanidloes	The Committee considered renewable energy with bodies including the Countryside Council for Wales and the Environment Agency.

Forward work programme

7. [The next Committee meeting on 2 November will consider the National Assembly's strategy for older people. The meeting on 7 December is likely to concentrate on the Culture Committee's review of the Welsh language]. The new Chair, in consultation with the other Members, will be developing the work programme to ensure that the Committee continues to provide a link between the National Assembly and local communities in the region.

Conclusion

8. The Mid Wales Regional Committee fulfils an important role in being a bridge

between the National Assembly for Wales and the people it represents in their

localities. It will need to continue to develop this bridge and encourage greater

participation at its meetings. The Committee's method of working has developed

throughout the year, moving away from a scrutiny role, into the realm of contributing

to the Assembly's policy development process. This would appear to be the most

effective role for regional committees and is one that will continue during the next session.

Mid Wales Regional Committee

July 2001

