

MINUTES

Date: 6 November 2002
Time: 9.00 - 12.30pm
Venue: Committee Room 1, National Assembly for Wales

Attendance:**Members**

Rhodri Glyn Thomas (Plaid Cymru, Carmarthen East and Dinefwr, Chair)
 Jenny Randerson (Liberal Democrat, Cardiff Central, Assembly Minister)
 Owen John Thomas (Plaid Cymru, South Wales Central)
 Lorraine Barrett (Labour, Cardiff South and Penarth)
 Delyth Evans (Labour, Mid & West Wales)
 Alison Halford (Labour, Delyn)
 Rosemary Butler (Labour, Newport West)
 Dafydd Wigley (Plaid Cymru, Caernarfon)
 Glyn Davies (Conservative, Mid and West Wales)

Officials

Margaret Evans (Arts, Lottery and Sport Division)
 Arthur Emyr (Arts, Lottery and Sport Division)
 Gwylim Evans (Arts, Lottery and Sport Division)

Secretariat

Julia Annand, Committee Clerk

9.00am to 9.10am

Item 1: Introduction, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

1.1 The Chair welcomed the Committee and members of the public.

1.2 The Chair asked Members for declarations of interest, in accordance with Standing Order 4.5.

The following declarations were made:

- Rhodri Glyn Thomas is on the Committee for the Cardiff European Capital of Culture 2008 bid.
- Dafydd Wigley receives funding from the Welsh Books Council and his wife is a prominent member of the arts community.
- Lorraine Barrett declared her interests as listed.
- Rosemary Butler declared her interests as listed.

9.10am to 10.30am

Item 2: Policy Review on Sport

CC 17-02(p.1a)

Topic 1 Reports from Regional meetings

2.1 Regional Committee meetings had discussed the Sports Policy Review and in particular how participation in sports could be increased. The Chair reported that he had attended the North Wales Regional Committee in Amlwch and the following points were raised:

- Local Authorities had been encouraged to offer concessions to young people in order to increase access to leisure facilities, however, all Local Authorities had to ensure cost effectiveness in maintaining their facilities.
- Funding bodies are unwilling to take risks in allocating funds for new projects.
- Sport and leisure are an important means of combating anti-social behaviour.

2.2 Delyth Evans had attended the Mid Wales Regional Committee meeting and reported the following:

- The Powys County Council's Head of Leisure & Recreation Department made a presentation in which he argued that the Audit Commission Report, 'Sport and Recreation: Learning from Audit, Inspection & Research' did not represent the situation in Powys. The report addressed the challenges for Local Authorities in competing with the private sector, however the Local Authority is the only provider of leisure facilities in Powys.

- The main obstacle to increasing participation in sport in rural areas is adequate transport provision.
- Where financial savings are made as a result of the promotion of sport and leisure, for instance a reduction in health spending, then this money must be ploughed back into the system to enable the benefits to continue.
- Powys County Council was not attempting to invest in new services, but maintain those currently available.

Topic 2 PE and School Sports Taskforce: Progress Report

2.3 The Chair introduced Julia Longville, former Chair of the PE and School Sports Taskforce. Ms Longville gave a presentation on the work of the taskforce during which the following comments were made:

- The Taskforce was established to advise the Welsh Assembly Government on how best to promote school sports given that children lead increasingly inactive lifestyles and school is often the only opportunity they have to form healthy habits for later life.
- Good practice varied amongst schools in Wales and was often due to motivated head teachers and managers that recognised the importance of physical education in school. Examples of good practice need to be shared.
- In terms of training and development, a minimum level of competence is required for all teachers and inspectors.
- Accommodation and resources were found to be lacking, particularly changing areas. The same level of resources is needed throughout schools in Wales regardless of where they are located.
- The expertise exists in Wales to raise the standard of school sports and the importance of sport needs to be communicated to school children whilst they are a 'captive audience'.
- It is essential to provide top quality physical education in schools, not only to ensure healthy children, but also to ensure that elite athletes have the correct start.
- The Chair reported that the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning had announced that £5 million would be made available over the next 3 years for implementation of the key recommendations in the PE and School Sports Action Plan for Wales. This would complement the £48 million funding for PE and school sports available from the New Opportunity Fund.

Topic 3 Sports Provision in schools

2.4 Councillor Phil Bevan from Caerphilly County Borough Council gave a presentation on sports provision in schools:

- There are many examples of good practice in funding sports facilities in schools, such as the Community Chest fund from the Sports Council and the New Opportunities fund. The drawback to accessing these funds was that the applications most often came from educational establishments and the application deadlines did not coincide with the academic year.
- As children move from primary to secondary school a bridge is needed to ensure that sports participation continues. Much of the good work done by the Dragon Sport initiative from the Sports Council needs to be continued into secondary schools.

- The role of the Sports Council has become that of funding provider rather than sports expertise provider, development initiatives now have to come from the community rather than the Council.
- The funding for is reliant on those facilities being made available to the wider community outside schools hours.
- Concern was expressed that compensation for teachers holding sports activities outside of school hours was not consistent or widespread.
- The Sports Council for Wales are overseeing the implementation of the recommendations of the taskforce.

In the subsequent discussion on the two presentations the following points were made:

- Caerphilly are looking to attract older people to use their leisure facilities in schools although there is a danger of setting up competition with the leisure centres.
- Not enough use is made of volunteers for PE and sports in schools.
- It was felt that there is a role for elite athletes in school sports.
- It was confirmed that extra curricular sports activities are overseen by the Sports Council.

Action points:

- A progress report on the implementation of the Taskforce report was requested by Members, along with an explanation of how the £48 million from the New Opportunities Fund would be spent.
- It was suggested that the Committee should receive information compiled by the WLGA on sports provision in schools and that it might look at facilities in schools in Newport.

Topic 4 Infrastructure Developments

2.5 Terry Harvey, manager of Llandarcy Park Ltd and Adrian Davies, gave a presentation on the Llandarcy Park sports village during which the following comments were made:

There is a high demand for an indoor sports facility like the one in Llandarcy, particularly from football and rugby clubs. The development has attracted private investment and is looking for public funding. The National Football team do not have a permanent indoor facility such as this, investment in all weather training facilities is needed if Wales is to succeed on an international level.

The following comments were made in the question and answer session:

- Revenue funding was not required, the facility will be self sustaining.
- Schools are able to access the facility free of charge to encourage grass roots participation in sport.
- It was felt that similar facilities could also operate successfully in less densely populated areas.

10.30am to 11.15am

Item 3: European Capital of Culture Bid

3.1 The Committee received a presentation from the Lord Mayor of Cardiff, Russell Goodway, Lynne Williams and Yvette Vaughn Jones on the European Capital of Culture 2008 bid, during which the following comments were made:

- The Chair offered congratulations on behalf of the Committee and the Assembly on reaching the shortlist in the competition.
- The successful bid relied on emphasising the European dimension to Cardiff's bid and showed Wales as an outward-looking nation. The bid presented the distinctive culture of Wales and highlighted how Cardiff is a representative of UK culture.
- An economic impact study shows the importance of the cultural sector in terms of creating and maintaining jobs in the city.
- A lot of work had been done on the bid with groups throughout the whole of Wales.
- There is a proposal to develop a listed building in Penderys Street, 'The Depot', as a space for Welsh and international artists to produce and exhibit their work.
- Cardiff has a track record of being able to deliver major events on a national stage; culture in its widest sense is now a core business in Cardiff.
- In winning the bid, Cardiff should be seen as the capital city for Wales, not of Wales. In order to take advantage of all that the city has to offer the transport links to the north have to be improved to ensure that the work done can be taken around Wales.
- Using the tag line of 'Take me somewhere good' the project team were able to convince the judges of Cardiff's cultural excellence and ability to deliver.
- By 2005 all of the arrangements will be in place with 500 projects planned for Cardiff's anniversary year as a capital city. The number of projects will have doubled by 2008. The events in 2005 would give the WTB and WDA an opportunity to sell Wales as an international capital.
- To underline that the bid was seen as an all Wales project it was reported that following the shortlist announcement, congratulations had been received from other Local Authorities across Wales.

Given pressures of time there was no opportunity for members to put questions to the presenters. The Chair asked for any questions to be routed through himself after the meeting.

Action points:

The 2008 team would be invited to return to Committee sometime in the future.

11.00am to 11.15am

The Committee agreed to break for 15 minutes.

11.15am to 11.45pm

Item 4: The Millennium Stadium

4.1 The Committee received a presentation from Glanmor Griffiths, Chairman and Treasurer of the Millennium Stadium, Bob Evans, Stadium Manager and Simon Lee, Sales and Marketing manager, during which the following comments were made:

The stadium is a landmark building for Wales and was paid for entirely by the Welsh Rugby Union. In terms of funding the Stadium has not received adequate support from the Assembly, and previously the Welsh Office, despite Mr Griffiths having had numerous meetings with the Secretary of State for Wales. The £46 million funding for the stadium had come from the Millennium Commission, and the Millennium walkway, for which the Assembly contributed £3 million belongs to the City Council, not the WRU. Rugby as a sport deserves more funding, all communities in Wales have a rugby club and it is considered the national sport. A partnership approach towards hosting cultural events is needed.

4.2 The following comments were made in the question and answer session:

- The Stadium is financially viable, it is able to meet the annual cost of servicing its debt. Meeting the cost of the capital repayment of £60 million is harder and was made more difficult by the fact that the rates for the Stadium have risen to £1.2 million per annum.
- When the negotiations with the Football Association were being held Cardiff was not in a strong bargaining position. The FA could have chosen a venue in England in which to hold their matches, such as Old Trafford, and there was a reluctance on their part to hold major events across the Bristol Channel.
- The WRU has attempted to work with traders in Cardiff city centre to ensure that they do not suffer lost revenue on match days. One out of every three matches is held on a Sunday. Trade in the city centre is often deferred rather than lost.
- The WRU owns the freehold of the land that the stadium is built.
- The Minister stated that although concern was expressed at the sum of money that was given in support of the Ryder Cup, the money was not paid to the venue in which it will be held - the Celtic Manor, but for the development of golf in Wales.
- The Minister stated that the £120k funding the WRU receives compared very well with the financial support from Sport England for the RFU and for other sports' governing bodies in Wales. In addition rugby clubs in Wales had received £4 million from the lottery over the past 5-6 years.
- Concern was expressed that there was unused potential for holding cultural events in the stadium. A feasibility study is being carried out into the costs of partitioning the stadium in order to hold cultural events that do not generate demand for 70 000 tickets.

11.45pm to 12.30pm

Item 5: DCMS Consultation on the National Lottery

CC 17-02(p2)

5.1 The Minister introduced the item and stated that the responses to the consultation launched in the summer were now being considered. The responses showed that there was support for an increased role for the National Assembly to play in determining how lottery money is spent in Wales but were not in

favour of one overarching lottery body in Wales. The Minister intends to make a statement in Plenary concerning the Lottery consultation.

5.2 The following comments were made during the question and answer session:

- Lottery funding in Wales should reflect the needs of Wales and should therefore not be calculated on a per capita basis. The Minister has ensured that the DCMS is aware of the issue of Wales' percentage share.
- The varied sources of lottery funding in Wales ensure that applications are made from a wide variety of groups and that those applications are received by bodies with the expertise to assess them.

Other Issues:

The Chair informed the Committee that there would be a debate in Plenary on the issue of sport in Wales before Christmas.

12.25 to 12.30pm

Item 6: Minutes of the last meeting

CC 16-02 (min)

5.1 The Committee approved the minutes of the previous meeting with the following amendments:

Para 4.2 The Minister added that the Assembly could contribute up to a further £1.1m if necessary to support the process subject to making the shortlist.

Should read ' the Assembly could contribute up to a total of £1.2 million over 2 years'.