

South East Wales Regional Committee

Report to Plenary: July 2002 to March 2003

Introduction

1. The South East Wales Regional Committee is one of the National Assembly's four regional committees. The geographic area of the Committee, as specified by Standing Order 10.1, is Blaenau Gwent, Bridgend, Caerphilly, Cardiff, Merthyr Tydfil, Monmouthshire, Newport, Rhondda Cynon Taff, Torfaen and the Vale of Glamorgan.

2. During its third year of operation, the Chair of the Committee has been allocated to the Plaid Cymru – The Party of Wales, in line with the agreement between party groups. Owen John Thomas was elected as Chair.

3. The other Members of the Committee are Peter Black, Lorraine Barrett, Rosemary Butler, Alun Cairns, Christine Chapman, Jane Davidson, David Davies, Geraint Davies, Janet Davies, Jocelyn Davies, Ron Davies, Sue Essex, Michael German, William Graham, Janice Gregory, John Griffiths, Brian Hancock, Jane Hutt, Pauline Jarman, Carwyn Jones, Peter Law, Huw Lewis, Dai Lloyd, David Melding, Jonathon Morgan, Rhodri Morgan, Lynne Neagle, Jenny Randerson, and Phil Williams.

Remit and method of working

4. The role of the regional committees, as defined by Standing Order 10.2, is to advise the National Assembly on matters affecting their regions, the effect of Assembly policies in those regions and the work of public bodies there.

5. With some refinements, the Committee has continued with the working practices established during its first two years of operation. In particular, it has operated as a single committee covering the whole region, with a 'themed' approach to meetings. The Committee continues to give prominence to public participation at meetings. Meetings always have an 'open mike' session on the agenda to enable members of the public to ask questions to both the panel and the Assembly Members. Whenever appropriate, the Chair ensures that members of the public receive a written reply to their questions from the relevant Assembly Minister.

6. During the period, the Committee has met at Pontypridd, Abertillery and Cardiff.

7. The Committee has continued to develop its links with key partners throughout the statutory, voluntary and private sectors in the region. The main bodies invited to meet the Committee during the year are shown in the table below.

Summary of meetings held

8. A summary of Committee meetings in 2002-03 is set out below:

Date	Venue	Topic
22 November 2002	Pontypridd	<p>The Committee considered Developing Provision for Cultural Activity in the Region. It received a presentation on the bid by Cardiff for European Capital of Culture Status 2008 and heard presentations from the Wales Millennium Centre, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough, Arts Council of Wales and Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council.</p> <p>46 members of the public attended</p>
24 January 2003	Abertillery	<p>The Committee considered the Culture Committee's Review on the levels of participation in sport in Wales.</p> <p>It received presentations from Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, Federation of Sports Associations for the Disabled (Wales), Sports Council for Wales, Ebbw Vale Rugby Club and FAW Football in the Community Trust. Minutes of the meeting were forwarded to the Culture Committee as part of their consultation on the review.</p> <p>39 members of the public attended</p>
14 March 2003	Cardiff	<p>The theme of this meeting was the availability of affordable social housing.</p> <p>Presentations were received from Cardiff University, Cardiff County Council, Hafod Housing Association and the Welsh Tenant's Federation.</p>

Forward work programme

9. The Chair, in consultation with Members, will be developing the work programme in the new Assembly term, to ensure that the Committee continues to provide a link between the National Assembly and local communities in the region.

South East Wales Regional Committee

March 2003