

SOUTH WEST WALES REGIONAL COMMITTEE

REPORT TO THE ASSEMBLY 2002 - 2003

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
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
Val Lloyd	Swansea East	Labour
Gwenda Thomas	Neath	Labour
Rhodri Glyn Thomas	Carmarthen East and Dinefwr	Plaid Cymru

4. Regional committee Chairs are elected annually. Rhodri Glyn Thomas AM chaired the Committee until May 2002, when Val Lloyd AM was elected to succeed him.

Meetings

5. The Committee met three times since May 2002.

Method of working

6. Generally, the Committee focused on public discussion of policies being developed by the Welsh Assembly Government or reviews being carried out by subject committees. Members of the public have been encouraged to raise questions and to engage in discussions with the Committee members on the subject topics.

Meeting Venues

8. The Committee has continued to meet in community centres and venues that are accessible to the public. The Clerk seeks the advice of the constituency Assembly Member and any local disability access group in selecting venues. The Committee met in Haverfordwest (May), Penlan, Swansea (November) and Llangennith (January).

The Issues

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

Disability Issues

10. The Committee discussed disability issues at its meeting on 24 May 2002. The discussion had been at the request of Edwina Hart, the Minister with responsibilities for equal opportunities, who was also a member of the Committee. The meeting received a presentation from the Disability Rights Commission and specialist organisations were able to put their views to the Committee.

Renewable Energy

11. Also in May, the Committee discussed the National Assembly's Economic Development Committee's Review of Energy Policy in Wales and heard from a number of local organisations and interest groups. Their views, and those of the public who contributed, were fed back to Christine Gwyther, Chair of the Economic Development Committee, as part of that Committee's consultation exercise.

Crime and Disorder

12. At its meeting in November, the Committee discussed crime and disorder issues and received a wide range of views from voluntary organisations and local authority representatives and heard evidence on initiatives undertaken by local groups to tackle crime related problems. The evidence presented to the Committee was formally submitted to Edwina Hart, Minister for Finance, Local Government and Communities, following the meeting.

Community Regeneration

13. The Committee discussed the National Assembly's Local Government and Housing Committee's Review of Capacity Building for Community Regeneration at its meeting on 31 January 2003. The Committee received presentations on these issues from local organisations, including the local authority and voluntary groups. The evidence presented to the Committee was submitted to Gwenda Thomas, Chair of the Local Government and Housing Committee, as part of the consultation process being undertaken.

Conclusion

14. During the past year the Committee has concentrated on listening to the views of local people and local organisations on issues that Ministers or subject committees were examining at an all-Wales level. This has added value to the work of the Assembly, and I should like to thank everyone who has taken part in the proceedings.

15. During the year we have placed emphasis on engaging the public and making meetings more accessible. I hope that in the future links with local schools and colleges can be strengthened, as students have a valuable contribution to make in helping to develop Assembly policy.

Val Lloyd
Chair

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SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

May 2002 to January 2003

Meeting	Agenda Items	Organisations that took part
24 May 2002 County Hall, Haverfordwest	Disability Issues Open Microphone Economic Development Committee's Review of Energy Policy in Wales Election of Chair Committee's Annual Report	Disability Rights Commission Welsh Development Agency West Wales Eco Centre Pembrokeshire Coast National Park
15 November 2002 Penlan Social Club, Swansea	Crime and Disorder	Neath Port Talbot Crime and Disorder Partnership Communities that Care Pembrokeshire Crime and Disorder Partnership
31 January 2003 Llangennith Parish Hall, Gower	Local Government and Housing Committee's Review of Capacity Building for Community Regeneration	City and County of Swansea Neath Port Talbot Council for Voluntary Service Community Development Foundation South West Wales Open College Network

