

## **CULTURE COMMITTEE**

### **REPORT TO THE ASSEMBLY**

#### **Introduction**

This report is made under Standing Order 9.9 which requires each subject committee to report to the Assembly from time to time on progress in fulfilling its work programme.

As a result of a Cabinet reshuffle in October 2000, the Post-16 Education and Training Committee was abolished and its functions allocated to two new Committees, the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee and the Culture Committee. The Culture Committee is chaired by Rhodri Glyn Thomas. The other members are Jenny Randerson, Jonathan Morgan, Alison Halford, Rosemary Butler, Delyth Evans, Lorraine Barrett, Owen John Thomas and Gareth Jones. From November 2000 to the end of March 2001, the Committee met 8 times in the Assembly building and once at the National Museum and Galleries of Wales in Cathays Park.

#### **Method of Working**

The Committee has developed an open and participative style of working. All of its meetings have been held in public and a large number of organisations have appeared before it.

#### **The Committee's Remit**

The Committee's remit mirrors that of the Assembly Minister for Culture, Sport and the Welsh Language, Jenny Randerson. The Committee's interests cover arts and culture, sport and recreation, the Welsh language and museums and libraries. The Committee also has oversight of 8 Assembly sponsored or grant aided public bodies.

#### **Priorities**

Within its range of responsibilities, the Committee established a firm set of priorities which are stated in its strategic forward work programme. The work programme draws out the links between the committee's priorities and the targets set in the Assembly's "Better Wales" strategy, in particular, promoting active citizenship, creativity and entrepreneurship; raising the international profile and influence of Wales and establishing it as a first class place to live, study, visit and

do business; extending access to the awareness of the Welsh language, culture, heritage and sporting opportunities.

The Committee has sought to develop a strategic approach to its work and is focusing in depth on a small number of priority issues:-

- examining the implications for Wales of the UK Government's communications White Paper
- undertaking a major policy review of the Welsh language
- undertaking a policy review of sport

### **POLICY DEVELOPMENT**

At an early stage in its existence, the Committee decided to spend a large proportion of its time developing policy on specific identifiable issues. It has to date examined the recommendations in the report "A Culture in Common", looked at the implications for Wales of the UK Government's Communications White Paper and is about to embark on a detailed review of the Welsh language.

### **Arts and Culture**

One of the last acts of the Post-16 Education and Training Committee was to finalise and publish its extensive report into arts and culture in Wales. The report, the result of a six month consultation exercise, contained 104 recommendations on a variety of issues.

The report was discussed by the Committee at its initial meeting and with representatives of the Arts Council of Wales in December. The Committee inherited the report, but did not formally adopt its recommendations. Although many of the report's recommendations were warmly welcomed by committee members, reservations were also expressed about aspects of the report and these were brought out in Committee discussion and in the subsequent plenary debate (16 January).

In March, the Committee discussed the Minister's formal response to the report and in May it will examine a project plan setting out how and when the recommendations will be taken forward.

### **Broadcasting**

Much of the Committee's early work focussed on the publication of the Department of Culture, Media and Sport's; Communications White Paper and its implications for Wales. To this end, it took oral and written evidence from BBC Wales, S4C, HTV Wales and the Independent Television Commission. These

sessions helped shape the Committee's thinking in this area and contributed to the Assembly Minister's subsequent response to the White Paper.

The Committee will continue to monitor developments in broadcasting during the coming months.

### **The Welsh Language**

A review of the Welsh language will provide the major focus of the Committee's activities for the remainder of the year.

The review has only just begun in earnest, but the Committee has drawn up the terms of reference (shown below) and appointed Euryng Ogwen Williams as its expert adviser. In the coming months the Committee will take oral and written evidence from a large number of organisations and individuals and will hold roadshows throughout Wales. It is also hoped that regional committees will become involved in the review process. In parallel with this, the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee will review Welsh language provision in schools and colleges.

The terms of reference are:-

"To seek to define more closely the National Assembly's established objective of 'creating a bilingual Wales'. The Committee will aim to suggest a concrete strategy of actions for achieving that objective.

The review will pay particular attention to the following themes:

- enabling people to use either language or both in all aspects of national life and in their communities;
- supporting Welsh as a family and community language;
- providing opportunities for people to learn Welsh, and to use it;
- promoting equal respect for both Welsh and English, and maintaining national consensus and goodwill about bilingualism.

The Committee will examine the work of the Welsh Language Board, and it will also examine the role and contribution of a range of other organisations. These will include agencies involved in economic development, tackling social exclusion, improving learning, and improving the quality of life."

The Committee will also have considerable input into the Assembly's Welsh language scheme. Three Committee members have been nominated to join a

working group of officials to help draw up the Scheme. Work is proceeding on this and the Committee is scheduled to consider a draft scheme in June.

### **Sport**

The Committee has agreed to hold a major review of sports provision in Wales in 2002. The review's terms of reference will be drawn up in the autumn.

## **OTHER STANDING ORDER REQUIREMENTS**

### **Scrutiny of Public Bodies - (SO 9.7 (iii))**

The Committee has spend a good deal of time in its early months taking presentations from and examining the corporate plans and annual reports of the Assembly Sponsored Public Bodies (ASPBs) that fall under its remit. To date, the Committee had held sessions with the Arts Council of Wales, the National Library of Wales, the National Museums and Galleries of Wales, the Sports Council for Wales, the Council of Museums in Wales and the Welsh Books Council. It also held a scrutiny session with the Wales Millennium Centre (WMC). A further meeting with representatives of the WMC is planned for mid-May.

### **Budget - (SO 9.8 (ii))**

The Committee considered the Assembly's draft budget in November.

It was generally content with the proposals but felt that, despite the modest increases, they still represented a low base for arts and culture expenditure. It calculated that the increases, after inflation, and including the Wales Millennium Centre in the calculations only amounted to 1.7% over the 3 year period.

### **Public Appointments - (SO 9.8 (iv))**

The Committee nominated Rhodri Glyn Thomas and Rosemary Butler as its representatives on the Public Appointments Panel.

### **Scrutiny of Assembly Minister**

The Committee has scrutinised the Assembly Minister, Jenny Randerson, on a monthly basis.

**NB:** The Committee has not yet advised on proposed legislation affecting Wales, nor has it been required to perform its functions under Standing Order 21 (Complaints).

**Committee Secretariat**

**April 2001**

**CULTURE COMMITTEE'S STRATEGIC FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME –  
JANUARY 2001-JULY 2002**

**Duties of the Committee**

1. Standing orders 9.7 and 9.8 set out the responsibilities of subject committees.

"9.7 Each subject committee shall

- (i) contribute to the development of the Assembly's policies within the fields for which the relevant Assembly Secretary is accountable to the Assembly;
- (ii) keep under review the expenditure and administration connected with their implementation; and
- (iii) keep under review the discharge of public functions in those fields by public, voluntary and private bodies.

"9.8 Each subject committee shall also, within the relevant fields,

- (i) advise on proposed legislation affecting Wales, including performing its functions under standing order 22;
- (ii) provide advice to the Assembly Cabinet on matters relating to allocation of the Assembly's budget in accordance with standing order 19;
- (iii) perform its function under standing order 21 (complaints);
- (iv) perform any functions assigned to it under the Code of Practice on Public Appointments Procedure made by the Assembly under standing order 20; and
- (v) consider matters referred to it by the Assembly within its fields."

### **Aims and objectives**

2. The committee has resolved to focus on those areas of policy development where they can make the greatest impact. The committee will also seek to contribute to the achievement of the aims and objectives set out in *Better Wales*, in particular, promoting active citizenship, creativity and entrepreneurship; raising the international profile and influence of Wales and establishing it as a first class place to live, study, visit and do business; extending access to and awareness of the Welsh language, culture, heritage and sporting opportunities.

### **Priorities**

3. The Committee will be seeking to develop a strategic approach to its work, focusing in greater depth on a small number of priority issues:

- examining the implications of the British Government's communications White Paper for Wales
- undertaking a policy review of the Welsh language

- undertaking a policy review of sport

### **Other issues**

4. Other items of committee business will include:
  - regular performance reviews of the Assembly Sponsored Public Bodies (ASPBs) that fall under its remit (Standing Order 9.7(iii));
  - consideration of proposals for the Assembly's budget (SO 9.8(ii));
  - consideration of Secondary legislation as appropriate (SO 9.8(I) and 22);
  - scrutiny of the Assembly Secretary (SO 9.11).
5. A detailed work programme for the period January 2001 – July 2002 is attached at annex B.

**Committee Secretariat**

**February 2001**

## ANNEX A

Policy Development (SO 9.7(i))	Timescale	Better Wales' and Partnership Targets
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Welsh Language</li>   <li>• Sport</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May – December 2001</li>   <li>• January – July 2002</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extend access to and awareness of the Welsh language, our culture, heritage and sporting opportunities</li>   <li>• As above</li> </ul>
<p><b>Monitoring of ASPBs</b> (SO 9.7(iii))</p> <p>No full reviews are planned but meetings to look at corporate plans and annual reports.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arts Council of Wales</li> <li>• Sports Council of Wales</li> <li>• Welsh Language Board</li> <li>• National Museums and Galleries of Wales</li> <li>• National Library of Wales</li> <li>• Welsh Books Council</li> <li>• Council of Museums Wales</li> <li>• Library and Information Services Council</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• January – May 2001</li> </ul>	



<b>Legislation</b> (SO 9.8(i) and SO 22)	As necessary	
<b>Budget</b> (SO 9.8 (ii))	<p>Annually</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• – initial views on priorities</li> <li>• – views on preliminary draft budget</li> <li>• – views on allocated resources.</li> </ul>	
<b>Public Appointments</b> (SO 9.8(iv))	As necessary	
<b>Scrutiny of Assembly Secretary</b>	Monthly	

## ANNEX B

### CULTURE COMMITTEE: FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME – DETAILED AGENDAS

Wednesday 2 May	1	Policy review on Welsh Language – project plan
	2	Policy Review – Welsh Language – evidence from the Welsh Language Board
	3	Presentation from the Welsh Books Council
	4	Presentation by City and County of Cardiff
	5	Committee report under SO 9.9
Wednesday 16 May	1	Policy Review of Welsh Language -evidence from academics
	2	Assembly Minister’s report
	3	Presentation from Wales Millennium Centre
Thursday 24 May (pm)	1	Discussion with ACW on their plans for restructuring
	2	<i>A Culture in Common</i> – Project plan
6 June	1	Policy Review of Welsh Language – Roadshow No.1 – Aberystwyth Arts Centre
	2	National Assembly’s Welsh Language Scheme
	3	Report on the “RESOURCE” consultation
20 June	1	Discussion of budget priorities
	2	Policy Review of Welsh Language
	3	Assembly Minister’s report
	4	Presentation from Wales Millennium Centre
4 July	1	Policy Review of Welsh Language – Roadshow No.2 – Town Hall, Denbigh
18 July	1	Policy Review of Welsh Language
	2	Assembly Minister’s report
	3	Discussion of budget priorities
	4	Quinquennial review reports – NMGW & WLB
<b>SUMMER CONSTITUENCY WEEKS</b>		
Oct-Dec 2001 (24 Oct, 7 Nov, 21 Nov, 5 Dec)	1	Welsh Language Policy Review
<b>CONSTITUENCY WEEKS</b>		
Jan-July 2002	1	Conclude Policy Review on Welsh Language

At the first Committee meeting, members also suggested that it receive presentations from:

- representatives of local government (to explain that sector's contribution to culture in Wales)
- the Welsh College of Music and Drama
- The Craft Council
- The Musicians Union
- Representatives of the creative industries – including the rock, fashion and design industries in Wales

These will be incorporated into the work programme over the next eighteen months, when time allows.

**Committee Secretariat**

**February 2001**