

## **Mid Wales Regional Committee**

### **Annual Report to Plenary: July 2003 to March 2004**

#### **Introduction**

1. The Mid 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 Ceredigion, Powys and Gwynedd comprising of the former district of Merionydd.
2. The Chair of the Committee was allocated to the Conservative Party, in line with the agreement between party groups. Lisa Francis was elected as Chair.
3. The other Members of the Committee are Nicholas Bourne, Glyn Davies, Elin Jones, Helen Mary Jones, Lord Dafydd Elis Thomas, Kirsty Williams, and Mick Bates.

#### **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 operation in the first Assembly. 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 microphone' 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 Aberystwyth, Llandrindod Wells and Aberdyfi.
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 between July 2003 to March 2004

Date	Venue	Topic
11 July 2003	Waunfawr Community Hall, Aberystwyth	<p>The Committee considered regional transport issues.</p> <p>It received presentations from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Keith Evans, Cabinet Member for Highways, Property and Works, Ceredigion County Council;</li> <li>• Garfield Williams, Assistant Director of Engineering, Ceredigion County Council;and</li> <li>• Lyndon Davies, Chair, Aberystwyth and District Chamber of Commerce.</li> </ul>
10 October 2003	The Metropole Hotel, Llandrindod Wells	<p>The Committee considered evidence of the problems of providing affordable housing in rural areas, in relation to the policy review for Environment, Planning and Countryside Committee.</p> <p>Presentations were received from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• David Tomlinson, Rural Housing Strategy Development Officer, Powys County Council;</li> <li>• Eric Bowles, Head of Local Planning, Brecon Beacons National Park;</li> <li>• Huw Lewis and Aled Davies, Chair and Vice Chair of Cymdeithas yr Iaith;</li> <li>• Shane Perkins, Director of Technical Services, Mid Wales Housing Association; and</li> <li>• Charles Raw-Rees, Jim Raw-Rees and Co, Estate Agents.</li> </ul>
6 February 2004	Neuadd Dyfi, Aberdyfi	<p>The theme of this meeting was the Future Provision of 'Out of Hours' Medical Services in Rural Areas.</p> <p>Presentations were received from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grace Lewis-Parry, Chief Executive of Gwynedd Local Health Board;</li> <li>• Monica Lewis, Chief Officer of Ceredigion Community Health Council; and</li> </ul>

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### **Forward work programme**

9. Helen Mary Jones will take the Chair at the start of the autumn term and, in consultation with Members, will develop the work programme in to ensure that the Committee continues to provide a link between the National Assembly and local communities in the region.