



Cynulliad National
Cenedlaethol Assembly for
Cymru Wales

Enterprise and Learning Committee **Economy; Enterprise; Transport; Lifelong Learning**

Welcome to our Committee Update

The Enterprise and Learning Committee is one of the Scrutiny Committees of the **National Assembly for Wales**. Its main function is to hold the **Welsh Assembly Government** to account by examining the expenditure, administration and policy of the government and associated public bodies in the following areas:

- **Economic Development and Regeneration**
- **Social Enterprise**
- **Transport**
- **Lifelong Learning**

This update/newsletter is aimed at individuals and organisations who may wish to learn about the outputs, outcomes, and ways of working of the Committee. It is hoped that it will promote access and widen engagement in the Committee's activities by helping you to provide information and expertise to officials and Members. It has been produced by the Clerking team which supports the Committee's work.

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Website: <http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-committees/bus-committees-third1/bus-committees-third-els-home.htm>

Latest news

The Committee Proposed [Legislative Competence Order on Highways and Transport](#), which was titled the Traffic Free Routes LCO in its drafting stage, was debated in Plenary on 15 July. The Assembly agreed a motion that there should not be detailed consideration of the LCO in an Assembly Legislation Committee because it has already been scrutinised and consulted on by the Enterprise and Learning Committee. Therefore the Committee can proceed with laying a draft LCO to be fully debated in Plenary late in the year. The transcript of that debate can be accessed on the following link;

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-chamber/bus-chamber-third-assembly-rop.htm?act=dis&id=137764&ds=7/2009>

The Committee published the following reports during the summer term;

- [Role of School Governors](#) - 9 July 2009.
- [Education Maintenance Allowance](#) – 8 June 2009.
- [Welsh Assembly Government's response to the current international economic downturn](#) – 14 May 2009.
- [Consideration of the petition on Post 19 Students with Additional Learning Needs](#) – 1 May 2009.

All Enterprise and Learning Committee reports can be accessed via the following link;

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-committees/bus-committees-third1/bus-committees-third-els-home/bus-committees-third-els-report.htm>

The Committee will publish its report on Casualty Reduction and Trunk Road Management at the beginning of the autumn term. Following the publication, the report may also be accessed on the Committee's report page.

If you require hard copies of Committee reports, please e-mail daniel.collier@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Committee Activity for the autumn term:

Please note that information regarding dates and topics of inquiry is subject to change, depending on emerging priorities.

Future Railway Infrastructure – four meetings from 21 October, including scrutiny of the Deputy First Minister and Minister for Economy and Transport and key stakeholders. Report expected towards the end of autumn term.

Generating Jobs in the Green Economy – Two meetings in November. Scrutiny of the relevant Ministers and evidence from key stakeholders. Report expected to be published in January.

Manufacturing Strategy – One meeting in December. Possible scrutiny of the Deputy First Minister and Minister for Economy and Transport and key stakeholders.

Economic Contribution of Higher Education – following scrutiny of the Minister on Professor Merfyn Jones's review of higher education on 2 July and one further evidence session in October, the Committee will produce its final report on the Economic Contribution of Higher Education in the autumn term. Link to interim report;

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-guide-docs-pub/bus-business-documents/bus-business-documents-doc-laid.htm?act=dis&id=113522&ds=1/2009>

In addition, the Committee will scrutinise the Deputy Minister for Skills on the **Transformation Agenda for Post-16 Education**; and the Minister for Children Education Lifelong Learning and Skills on implementing recommendations contained in the Committee's report on [Supporting People with Dyslexia](#).

Rapporteur Group on Bilingualism – will work informally and undertake visits, meeting with individuals and organisations, which can help the group with its remit:

- The teaching and acquisition of Welsh as a Second Language in Secondary Schools and how Welsh is then transferred into social and adult life
- Bilingual training and skills in the workplace
- Business interface with the public

The Rapporteur Group took video evidence from teachers, pupils and their parents on the teaching of Welsh as a second language at the Urdd Eisteddfod in May 2009. The video evidence and on-line questionnaires can be found on the following link;

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-committees/bus-committees-third1/bus-committees-third-els-home/bus-committees-third-els-welsh-learners.htm>

Plenary debates

There will be plenary debates on Committee reports on The Role of School Governors, and Casualty Reduction and Trunk Road Management early in the autumn term.

A recap of recent reports and Plenary debates

Details of these can be found on the reports' page of the Committee's website: <http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-committees/bus-committees-third1/bus-committees-third-els-home/bus-committees-third-els-report.htm>

Looking further ahead

We already know some of the issues the Committee wishes to scrutinise in Spring 2010, though as always, priorities may change:

- School Effectiveness Framework – to include early years issues

Even further ahead...

In **2010**, the Committee has agreed to review implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Welsh Assembly Government's *Walking and Cycling Strategy*. The Committee will also undertake more follow-up inquiries.

How we plan inquiries

Ultimately all inquiries begin with the ideas, aspirations, expertise, and knowledge of Assembly Members.

On average, Members and officials will discuss the planning of inquiries about once a term, so that the Committee has a rolling, flexible, programme of work.

Inquiries can arise in a number of ways:

- Frequently, the Committee will decide that it wishes to revisit certain inquiries, after a suitable time has elapsed, to determine whether the Welsh Assembly Government is implementing those Committee recommendations that it was disposed to accept. In these cases, it will carry out a relatively short follow-up inquiry.
- The Petitions Committee may propose that scrutiny committees undertake inquiries and/or investigate in other ways issues raised in petitions. The Enterprise and Learning Committee has reported on a number of petitions – for example, Carno railway station; fuel and road haulage; additional learning needs.
- Since Committees can propose legislation, they may undertake pre-legislative scrutiny inquiries to ensure that the legislation as drafted is robust and meets the needs of all stakeholders.
- Where UK legislation has significant implications for Wales, the Committee may undertake scrutiny of UK draft Bills or UK Bills.
- Following an inquiry in a particular area, the Committee may consider that one or two issues arose that they would wish to scrutinise in further detail. For example, the Committee reported in February on the

Teacher Workload Agreement and as a result, Members undertook a further inquiry on the role of school governors.

- The Committee may decide that a particular issue requires a more informal and flexible approach than scrutinising evidence in formal hearings. In which case it may establish a rapporteur group of, say, four members, to undertake work behind the scenes, as it were, and then report back to the full Committee. This is what happened in the case of the Committee's report on dyslexia. The Committee currently has a rapporteur group considering aspects of bilingualism.
- Sometimes witnesses suggest to the Committee directly that it should be considering other issues.

And finally...

Feedback please!

We would wish to receive **as much feedback as possible** regarding whether this document is useful to you, whether its contents are relevant and appropriate, and whether you would wish us to include anything that we have not covered this time around. Please e-mail: daniel.collier@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Also please feel free to forward this document or our contact details to anyone you think would wish to know about the work and operations of the Enterprise and Learning Committee.

The next update

We will aim to produce some kind of newsletter/bulletin/update at least once a term, and to e-mail you more frequently, should the Committee decide to undertake some urgent scrutiny or change its priorities dramatically.