

## **North Wales Regional Committee**

### **Report to the Assembly**

#### **1. Introduction**

1.1 The North Wales Regional Committee is one of the Assembly's four regional committees. It covers Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire, Isle of Anglesey, Wrexham and the area of Gwynedd made up of the former districts of Afon and Dwyfor.

1.2 Between July 2001 and July 2002 the Committee was chaired by Eleanor Burnham. The other Members of the Committee are Alison Halford, Ann Jones, Gareth Jones, John Marek, Tom Middlehurst, Alun Pugh, Rod Richards, Peter Rogers, Janet Ryder, Karen Sinclair, Dafydd Wigley and Ieuan Wyn Jones. Lord Dafydd Elis Thomas is a Member but does not attend the meetings in view of his role as Presiding Officer.

1.3 The Committee met 5 times between July 2001 and July 2002. Details of the dates, venues, topics discussed and subsequent action taken are attached at **Annex 1**.

#### **2. Remit and Method of Working**

2.1 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.

2.2 The Committee has continued with the working practices established during the previous reporting year. This involves arranging meetings around a specific theme with a strong emphasis on public participation throughout discussion.

2.3 Given his responsibility for the co-ordination of policy of North Wales, the Committee issued a standing invitation to the First Minister to attend its meetings. The First Minister attended meetings in Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant, Llandudno Junction and [Gresford](#). A substantial part of each meeting was dedicated to an open question and answer session involving the First Minister and members of the public.

2.4 The Committee is keen to ensure that its work is fed back into the wider work of the Assembly. Generally, following each meeting the Chair summarises the issues raised in a letter to the appropriate Minister or subject committee chair. At the start of the following meeting the Committee receives a progress report any subsequent response or outcome.

2.5 During the reporting year, the Committee contributed to a public consultation exercise on proposals for a Strategy for Older People in Wales. The Chair wrote to the Minister for Health and Social Services outlining the

issues raised during discussion. These were subsequently fed into the consultation process to inform the final Strategy. In addition, the Committee twice contributed to formal reviews being undertaken by subject committees to assist in policy development. The first such meeting considered the Culture Committee's Welsh Language Review and the second the Economic Development Committee's review on renewable energy. [Summaries of the issues raised were forwarded to the respective subject committee Chairs as part of the information gathering process.](#)

2.6 The Committee has remained committed to an inclusive approach to its work and has tried to meet in smaller, rural venues to enable local populations to engage with the Assembly. Public attendance has remained consistently high throughout the year, averaging over 100 and with nearly 200 people attending the meeting in Llandudno Junction. The Committee continues to seek ways of improving publicity arrangements to increase awareness among local communities throughout the region and further encourage attendance.

2.7 In addition to the formal public meetings of the committee three informal briefing sessions were arranged. At the first, Committee Members met with North Wales Health Authority to discuss the future of health funding in the region. The second was with the North Wales Police Authority to discuss funding options for the coming year and the third with the North Wales Economic Forum to consider the electrification of the North Wales main line and the development of the aerospace sector and ICT infrastructure within the region.

### **3. Forward programme**

3.1 The new Chair, in consultation with Members, will take forward the recommendations of the Assembly Review of Procedure in relation to regional committees and develop a programme to ensure that the Committee provides a link between the National Assembly and local communities in the region.

**Eleanor Burnham**  
**May 2002**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Theme</b>	<b>Action taken</b>
26 October 2001	Public Hall, Llanraeadr-ym-Mochnant	Strategy for Older People in Wales	Letter to the Minister for Health and Social Services setting out the issues raised during discussion.
30 November 2001	Y Ganolfan, Llandrillo, Denbighshire	Welsh Language Review	Letter to the Chair of the Culture Committee setting out the issues raised during discussion.
25 January 2002	The Community Centre, Llanfairfechan	Economic development and employment, including presentations from the Welsh Development Agency; the North Wales Economic Forum Education, Training and Skills Group and Business Group; and ELWa	Letter to the First Minister and the Chair of the Economic Development Committee covering the minutes of the meeting.
15 March 2002	Conwy Business Centre, Llandudno Junction	Disability issues, including presentations from the Disability Rights Commission and Disability Wales	Letter to the Chair of the Committee of Equality of Opportunity covering the minutes of the meeting.  Letter to the Chair of the Local Government Partnership Council suggesting the provision of access and facilities for disabled people at local authority premises be discussed at a future meeting

			<p>of the Local Government Partnership Council.</p> <p>Letter to the Chair of Consignia Advisory Board for Wales seeking assurance that concessionary postal services for the blind would continue to operate and the delivery of literature would remain free of charge.</p> <p>Letter to the Minister for Health and Social Services raising concern about the lack of treatment facilities for osteoporosis sufferers in the region.</p> <p>The First Minister agreed to write to members of the public who raised specific issues during discussion.</p>
24 May 2002	The New Memorial Hall, Gresford	Renewable energy	Letter to the Chair of the Economic Development Committee covering the minutes of the meeting.