

# **CULTURE, WELSH LANGUAGE AND SPORT COMMITTEE REPORT TO PLENARY UNDER STANDING ORDER 9.9 APRIL 2006 – MARCH 2007**

## **1. Introduction**

1.1 Standing Order 9.9 requires subject committees to report to the Assembly on their progress in fulfilling their forward work programme. This Report covers the work of the Culture, Welsh Language and Sport Committee from 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007.

## **2. Membership**

2.1 The Membership of the Committee between April 2006 and March 2007 was as follows:

Rosemary Butler (Chair), Alun Pugh (Minister), Eleanor Burnham, Lisa Francis, Denise Idris-Jones, Laura Anne Jones, Val Lloyd, Owen John Thomas.

## **3. Remit and Responsibilities**

3.1 The Committee's remit mirrors the portfolio of the Minister for Culture, Welsh Language and Sport, which covers arts, museums, ancient monuments, libraries, the languages of Wales, media and broadcasting, sport and recreation, and lottery issues. The portfolio also includes oversight of five Assembly Sponsored Public Bodies (ASPBs) – Arts Council of Wales, Sports Council for Wales, Welsh Language Board, National Museum Wales, and the National Library of Wales.

3.2 The responsibilities of subject committees are set out in Standing Orders 9.7 and 9.8. The remainder of this report details significant aspects of Committee work under each of these headings.

## **4. Work and Achievements to Date**

4.1 During the period the Committee held 16 formal meetings. Two of these were held at external venues: The Royal International Pavilion, Llangollen and the National Botanic Garden of Wales, Llanarthne. All other Committee meetings were held in the Senedd.

## ***Policy development (SO 9.7 (i))***

### **English Language Newspaper Industry in Wales**

The Committee began a short review of the English Language Newspaper Industry in Wales following a request from individual Members and a debate in Plenary in December 2005 on the Trinity Mirror Group in Wales. During the period of this report, the Committee took formal evidence from a range of newspaper groups and the Cardiff School of Journalism on the issues facing English language newspapers in Wales.

The Committee's report on its review of Newspapers in Wales was debated in plenary on 28 June 2006.

### **Review of Football in Wales**

The Committee began a review of football in Wales in February 2006 with an overview of the issues from the Sports Council of Wales. This was followed by evidence from a range of interests in football.

The Committee's report on its review of Football in Wales was debated in plenary on 6 February 2007.

The Minister is due to make a statement in response to the Report on the 13 March but we are advised that the Government have accepted the main recommendations included in the Football Report.

## ***Review of Expenditure and Administration (SO 9.7 (ii))***

The Committee received regular reports from the Minister allowing scrutiny of policies and decisions for which he is accountable. In May 2006 the Minister included, at the Committee's request, an update on the consultation by the Welsh Assembly Government on the merger with the Welsh Language Board. This action is still ongoing.

## ***Review of Assembly Sponsored Public Bodies (ASPBs) (SO 9.7 (iii))***

The Committee continued its practice of annual scrutiny of each of the five main cultural ASPBs within its portfolio:

- Arts Council of Wales
- National Library of Wales
- National Museums and Galleries of Wales
- Sports Council of Wales
- Welsh Language Board.

In May 2006 the committee considered the transfer of responsibilities from the Welsh Language Board to the Welsh Assembly Government and received an update of the position in respect of the merger in December 2006. This action is still ongoing.

The Committee considered the Annual Reports from the National Museum Wales and the National Library of Wales in November 2006 and discussed the future relationship between the Welsh Assembly Government and the Sports Council for Wales in December 2006. In January 2007 the committee also considered the response from the Arts Council of Wales in the light of the Stephens Review of the Arts Council of Wales.

At the request of the Committee the five main cultural ASPBs within its portfolio presented final reports on the work of their respective organisations to the Committee on 1 March 2007.

### ***Legislation (SO 9.8(i))***

The only item of primary legislation remitted by plenary to Committee was the Digital Switchover (Disclosure of Information) Bill. The proposals for the Bill were considered by the Committee on 13 December 2006. It was noted that Bill would apply fully to Wales, as to the remainder of the United Kingdom. It conferred no functions on the National Assembly or any Welsh public bodies. It permitted the supply of information held by the Secretary of State. There was no corresponding information held by the National Assembly, and therefore no corresponding function that could be given to the Assembly and no specifically Welsh issues were identified. The Committee noted the Bill and reported to the Assembly on the 9 January 2007 that no further consideration by the Assembly or its committees was necessary.

### ***EU Annual Work Programme 2006***

The Committee considered the European Commission's update on potential sources of funding for the cultural sector during the next European funding round which will run from 2007-2013 in Committee in November 2006 and examined the EU Annual Work Programme in February 2007.

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

The Committee set out its budget priorities at its meeting on 28 June 2006 (see the Chair's letter of 7 July at **Annex A**) and examined the draft budget 2007-08 on 15 November (see the Chair's letter of December 2006 at **Annex B**.)

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

The Committee's public appointment nominees were Rosemary Butler and Owen John Thomas.

## **5. CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES**

The Committee discussed proposals during the year on the most productive way of ensuring equal opportunity aspects of its work are fully considered. It also took account of sustainability in particular in its scrutiny of the work of the cultural ASPBs.

## **6. FORWARD PROGRAMME**

6.1 The Committee's strategic work programme for 2006-07 was agreed in May 2006 and is attached at **Annex C**.

**MRCS**  
**April 2007**

## Annex A

### CULTURE, WELSH LANGUAGE AND SPORT COMMITTEE

### PWYLLGOR DIWYLLIANT, Y GYMRAEG A CHWARAEON



Cynulliad National  
Cenedlaethol Assembly for  
Cymru Wales

Bae Caerdydd / Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd / Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Alun Pugh A.M  
Minister for Culture, Welsh Language  
and Sport

7 July 2006

**Dear Alan,**

#### BUDGET PRIORITIES 2006

I am writing to confirm the views of the Culture, Welsh Language and Sport Committee, on its priorities for the 2006 budget planning round as discussed at its meeting on 28 June. Your paper, (CWLS2 -10-06 (p.7)) was taken into consideration by the Committee.

You will know from our discussion that some Members of the Committee felt that the presentation of your priorities paper gave insufficient detail on current proposals to enable judgements to be made on possible gaps or re-adjustments for alternative priorities. In that respect I draw your attention to (vii) in my letter of 3 June last year when the Committee made the same point.

In terms of detail the Committee's views are:

- i. That priority should be given to the implementation of the recommendations in the Committee's reports on "Art, sport and Community Regeneration", "Welsh Writing in English", and "Dance in Wales". The Committee would also like to see plans for expenditure on these recommendations which fall to other budgets such as that for Education and Lifelong Learning.
- ii. We also wish to see an emphasis on spend for libraries and museums. It was not clear to the Committee what the overall figures in your paper for Cymal represented and you are going to let us have a breakdown of these.

- iii. The Committee is concerned about sports facilities, including playing fields, within local authority control and would like to see greater encouragement for these to be maintained and improved.
- iv. We would also like to see funds to support transport for sports and arts for areas where it is not otherwise available or would help to encourage attendance or participation.
- v. The Committee has previously welcomed your announcement for additional funds for English language theatre and will be looking at this in more detail in the autumn.
- vi. We also wish to see priority given to continued support for the arts outside Cardiff.
- vii. We asked that you clarify how you intend to mainstream issues such as equal opportunities.
- viii. You will know from our recent visit to the Llangollen Pavilion that the Committee will be writing to support its bid for Lottery funds. In that respect we would like to see festivals included as a priority within the culture budget.

Finally, Members remain concerned about the loss of the music Development Fund. Whilst that is not within your control, we would ask that you bring these concerns to the table on wider budget discussions.

I am copying this letter to the Finance Minister.

Yours sincerely



**Rosemary Butler A.M**

Chair, Culture, Welsh Language and Sport Committee

cc Sue Essex, Minister for Finance, Local Government and Public Services

**Annex B**

**CULTURE, WELSH LANGUAGE  
AND SPORT COMMITTEE**

**PWYLLGOR DIWYLLIANT,  
Y GYMRAEG A CHWARAEON**



Cynulliad National  
Cenedlaethol Assembly for  
Cymru Wales

Bae Caerdydd / Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd / Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Alun Pugh A.M  
Minister for Culture, Welsh Language  
and Sport

8 December 2006

**Dear Alan,**

**BUDGET PRIORITIES 2006**

I am writing to confirm the views of the Culture, Welsh Language and Sport Committee, on the draft 2007-08 budget as discussed at the meeting on 15 November. Your paper, (CWLS2 -15-06 (p.4)) was taken into consideration by the Committee.

The Committee did not raise any new issues for budget consideration beyond those in my letter to you of 7 July 2006.

Yours sincerely

**Rosemary Butler A.M**  
Chair, Culture, Welsh Language and Sport Committee

cc Sue Essex, Minister for Finance, Local Government and Public Services

## Annex C

### **CULTURE, WELSH LANGUAGE AND SPORT COMMITTEE STRATEGIC FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME APRIL 2006 to MARCH 2007**

## **Introduction**

1. The Culture, Welsh Language and Sport Committee is one of seven subject Committees in the National Assembly for Wales. This work programme sets out the strategic priorities of the Committee for April 2006 – March 2007, in accordance with Standing Order 9.9.

## **Remit and responsibilities**

2. The remit of the Committee is based on the portfolio of the Minister for Culture, Welsh Language and Sport, which covers: arts, museums, ancient monuments and libraries, the languages of Wales, media and broadcasting, sport and recreation, and lottery issues. The portfolio also includes oversight of nine Assembly sponsored (ASPBs) or grant aided public bodies.

3. The responsibilities of subject committees as set out in Standing Order 9 are principally: policy development; scrutiny of Ministers and relevant bodies; and scrutiny of legislation.

## **Aims**

4. The Committee will continue to take a strategic approach to its work balancing scrutiny of the Minister with policy development through committee reviews as well as consideration of subjects across the portfolio as the need arises.

### Priorities

5. Priorities for the coming period will be:

*Policy development (SO 9.7(i))* – priorities for the coming period include:



- concluding and reporting on the short review on English language newspapers in Wales; and
- continuing with the review on the development of football in Wales. The Committee intends to report on this review towards the end of 2006.

*Scrutiny of the Minister (SO 9.7(ii))* - the Committee will continue with its regular scrutiny of the Minister on current developments within the portfolio. In particular this year it will include within its programme:

- Scrutiny on arts policy and the role of the Arts Council of Wales in the light of the independent arts review commissioned by the Minister following a debate in plenary in early 2006. The report from the independent review is expected in December 2006.
- scrutiny of sports policy prior to the transfer of policy and other responsibilities from the Sports Council of Wales to the Welsh Assembly Government in April 2007
- scrutiny of policy on the Welsh language in anticipation of the transfer of the Welsh Language Board functions to the Welsh Assembly Government in April 2007.

*Scrutiny of relevant bodies (SO 9.7 (iii))* – the Committee will continue with its annual scrutiny of the cultural ASPBs whilst taking account of the changes outlined above.

*Scrutiny of proposed legislation affecting Wales (SO 9.8(i) and SO 24)* – the Committee will identify for scrutiny items of secondary legislation where there is scope to influence content. In addition, the Committee will consider relevant proposed primary legislation where it is referred to it by plenary or otherwise.

*Proposals for the Assembly's budget (SO 9.8(ii))* – the Committee will indicate its budget priorities in the summer term and comment on the draft budget in the autumn term.

*Complaints (SO 9.8(iii) and 23)* – the Committee will consider any complaints referred to it under Standing Order 23.

*Public appointments (SO 9.8(iv) and 22)* – the Committee's two public appointment nominees (currently Rosemary Butler and Owen John Thomas) will take part in the process of appointments to public bodies within the culture portfolio.

### **Joint Working with others**

6. Where appropriate the Committee will work with other subject committees on relevant topics. The Committee will also undertake off – site meetings and visits to obtain a greater insight into issues within the Committee's portfolio and to facilitate more direct contact with stakeholders and the public.

## **The Assembly's Statutory Duties**

7. The Committee will take account of the National Assembly's statutory schemes for relations with local authorities and the voluntary sector, and the sustainable development scheme. The Committee will have regard to the requirements of the Race Relations Act. The Committee will take account of the recommendations in the report of the Equality of Opportunity Committee on Mainstreaming Equality in the Work of the National Assembly.

**MRCS**  
**April 2006**