

South Wales Central Regional Committee

Report to Plenary: 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007

Introduction

1. The National Assembly for Wales established five regional committees in 2005.
2. The South Wales Central Regional Committee covers Cardiff, Rhondda Cynon Taff and the Vale of Glamorgan and currently provides the opportunity for members of the public to ask questions of the members of the Committee on matters that are the National Assembly's responsibility. Members see this as a crucial link between the National Assembly and the people of Wales.
3. During its first year of operation, the Chair of the Committee was allocated to Plaid Cymru, in line with the agreement between party groups. Owen John Thomas was elected as Chair. In its second year of operation Leighton Andrews was elected as Chair.
4. The other Members of the Committee are Lorraine Barrett, Christine Chapman, Jane Davidson, Sue Essex Jane Hutt, David Melding, Jonathan Morgan, Rhodri Morgan, Owen John Thomas, Jenny Randerson, and Leanne Wood.

Remit and method of working

5. 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.
6. With some refinements, the Committee has continued to give prominence to public participation at meetings. Meetings always have an 'open mike' session on the agenda to enable members of the public to ask questions to both the panel and the Assembly Members on the topic that is being discussed. 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, Cwmaman near Aberdare and Penygraig.
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

8. A summary of Committee meetings in 2006-07 is set out below:

Date	Venue	Topic
26 May 2006	The Cwmamen Institute, Cwmamen , near Aberdare	<p>Commuter Train Services in the Region.</p> <p>Presenters:</p> <p>Malcolm Howitt, Stakeholders Liaison Manager, Arriva Trains Wales Ltd;</p> <p>Bob Brierley, Secretary South East Wales Transport Alliance;</p> <p>Professor Stuart Cole, Wales Transport Research Centre, University of Glamorgan;</p> <p>Simon Pickering, Secretary, Passenger Focus</p>
10 November 2006	The Soar Centre, Tynacelyn Road, Penygraig	<p>Youth Homelessness in the Region</p> <p>Presenters:</p> <p>Cheryl Emery, Manager, Housing Advice Centre, Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC;</p> <p>Deborah Jones, Chief Executive, Voices from Care;</p> <p>Pam Clutton, Child Services Manager, Barnardos Open Door;</p> <p>Gayna Davies, Chief Executive, Rhondda Housing Association;</p> <p>Sam Austin, Operational Director, Llamau</p>

**South Central Wales Regional Committee
March 2007**