

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR WALES

CABINET

POLICY OUTCOMES OF CABINET SUB-COMMITTEES

Paper by Cabinet Secretariat

1. Introduction

1.1 This paper is to:

- set before the Cabinet the policy outcomes from the three Cabinet Sub-Committees and one Cabinet Working Group since their establishment in April 2001;
- identify significant items of work likely to arise in the future from the Sub-Committees' deliberations;
- identify how these might be taken forward; and
- express any lessons learnt.

1.2 Ministers may wish to comment on the progress sub-committees have made and the items for future discussion which this paper identifies.

1.3 The tangible outcomes from all of the sub-committees are highlighted below, together with the future direction for their work.

2. Policy outcomes of Sub-Committees

2.1 Cabinet Sub-Committee on Children and Young People

Policy outcomes

- **Agreed:** consultation proposals for young people's participation in decision-making
- **Agreed:** terms and methods of interface between Children's Commissioner and the National Assembly
- Sponsored the creation and agreed the format of the *Statistical Focus on Children in Wales* publication
- **Agreed:** focus on children in need and cross cutting responsibilities for child protection

Work highlighted as likely to follow-on from deliberations

- Examination of top ten priorities for improving children's services in Wales
- Biannual report on activities of the Assembly Government related to the children and young people agenda covering all Ministerial portfolios
- Further consideration of proofing policy from child's perspective

How this work is to be taken forward

- Internal arrangements made to take forward the cross-cutting work of the Sub-Committee, including creation of a Director-level Children's Policy Team and a desk-officer level Children's Policy Sub-Group

- Work commissioned from subgroup on investigation of priorities. Committee to receive update at next meeting and full report at forthcoming meeting
- Children & Families Division to seek contributions from all Ministerial portfolios for biannual report on activities of the Assembly Government relevant to children and young people
- Committee to receive paper on policy proofing at a forthcoming meeting

2.2 Cabinet Sub-Committee on Wales in the World

Policy outcomes

- **Agreed:** project to maximise value of Wales. World Nation initiative
- **Agreed:** comprehensive work programme to promote Wales in the World

Work highlighted as likely to follow-on from deliberations

- Consideration of proposals for strengthening overseas representation of Wales including co-location of WTI and WDA offices and establishment of Welsh centres; better use of Welsh societies and ex-pat communities
- Undertake audit of Regions to assist in review of existing relationships and identify opportunities for new ones
- Establish programme of overseas events to showcase Wales and agree programme of inward visits with FCO
- Secure better co-ordination of and co-operation in ASPB activities to promote Wales
- Complete “Branding Wales” project
- Focus on key European issues and secure greater involvement at European level

How this work is to be taken forward

- Sub-Committee to receive regular updates on branding initiative and implementation of the work programme above.

2.3 Cabinet Working Group on Corus

Policy outcomes

- **Agreed:** commissioning brief for Sub-Regional Regeneration Framework Strategy. Clear feedback offered to appointed consultants on the way in which the strategy needed to be developed
- **Agreed:** response action plan for the Steel Communities Study

2.4 Cabinet Sub-Committee on Sustainable Development

Policy outcomes

- **Agreed:** creation of a Sustainable Development Forum, delivering commitments in the Sustainable Development Scheme and Action Plan
- **Agreed:** creation of an Assembly co-ordinating Group on Sustainable Development (to co-ordinate work on sustainable development across

Assembly committees) thus delivering a commitment in the Sustainable Development Action Plan (and responding to 14th September and 16th November 2000 plenary motions)

- **Agreed:** engagement of Forum for the Future as partner in development of appraisal tools, to assist in discharging the duty to promote sustainable development placed upon the Assembly Government by section 121 of the Government of Wales Act 1999

Work highlighted as likely to follow-on from deliberations

- Consultation on Green Transport Plan
- Agreement of National Assembly for Wales Greening Operations Policy Statement and Action Plan

How this work is to be taken forward

- Sub-Committee to receive draft Green Transport Plan and Greening of Assembly Operations Policy Statement and Action Plan at next meeting

2.4 Lessons learnt

- Sub-Committees have added value to decision making by making policy in a new and connected way – for example in the sub-regional strategies and the children and young people's framework
- The risk of Sub-Committees generating routine work such as monitoring or detailed oversight of implementation which does not need Ministers' collective time must be constantly considered in setting forward work plans
- That Sub-Committees have as a priority item a policy development rôle, and to review their continuation or refocusing with this in mind
- Where issues impact on the portfolios of two Ministers, bilateral meetings are a valuable way of taking forward these inter-ministerial responsibilities
- The value of mechanisms for cross-divisional engagement in strategic policy development within the Assembly, such as the Children's Policy Team and Children's Policy Sub-Group.

Cabinet Secretariat