



ENTERPRISE AND CULTURE COMMITTEE

1st Meeting, 2003 (Session 2)

Wednesday, 11 June 2003

The Committee will meet at 11.45 am in Committee Room 1.

- 1. Declaration of Interest:** Members of the Committee will be invited to declare any relevant interests.
- 2. Choice of Convener:** The Committee will choose a Convener.
- 3. Choice of Deputy Convener:** The Committee will choose a Deputy Convener.
- 4. Legacy Paper:** The Committee will consider its predecessors' legacy papers.

Simon Watkins
Clerk to the Committee
Room 2.7, Committee Chambers
Ext. 0131 348 5207

The following papers are enclosed:

Agenda Item 1

Paper on Declaration of Interests

[EC/S2/03/01/01](#)

Agenda Items 2 and 3

Paper on Choosing a Convener and Deputy Convener

[EC/S2/03/01/02](#)

Agenda Item 4

Cover Note and copy of predecessor Committees' legacy papers

[EC/S2/03/01/03](#)

Enterprise and Culture Committee

Meeting 11 June 2003

Declaration of Interests

Background

1. Article 5 of the Members' Interests Order provides that, before participating in proceedings (otherwise than by attending or voting), a member must make an oral statement or declaration of any registered interests which would prejudice or give the appearance of prejudicing the Member's ability to participate in a disinterested manner.
2. It is the responsibility of the individual Member to judge whether a registered interest is sufficiently relevant to particular proceedings to require a declaration. The Code of Conduct advises at paragraph 5.2.12 that Members should 'err on the side of caution'. Members may also seek advice from the Standards Committee Clerks.
3. Members are not required to declare interests which they have registered on a voluntary basis (i.e. those appearing in the "Miscellaneous" category on the Register).

Declaration of Interests at the First Committee Meeting

3. In the previous Parliamentary session, it was established that Members should make an initial declaration of interests at the first meeting of each committee to the extent of that committee's remit. Paragraph 5.3.3 of the Code of Conduct states that:

'It has been established as good practice that Members should declare interests relevant to the remit of that committee at the first meeting of the committee or on the first occasion on which they address the committee, irrespective of the business before the committee at that meeting.'

4. At the first meeting of the Enterprise and Culture Committee, the oldest Member who will be in the chair will invite Members to declare any relevant registrable interests. The declaration should be brief but sufficiently informative to enable a listener to understand the nature of the Member's interest. It is not necessary to rehearse all the details of an interest as it appears in the Member's entry in the Register of Interests if this is more than required to explain the nature of the interest.
5. If Members have any questions about what might constitute an interest relevant to the remit of the Enterprise and Culture Committee, they should contact the

Clerk to the Enterprise and Culture Committee prior to the meeting. The Standards Committee Clerks are also happy to provide advice.

Declaration of Interests at Subsequent Committee Meetings

6. Members are also required to declare any registered interests which may be relevant to business discussed at subsequent committee meetings. Where a Member has an interest relevant to the proceedings, he or she must make a declaration of interest at each meeting in which he or she participates, other than by simply attending or voting. This is to allow the public attending any committee meeting to be aware of the Member's interest. The declaration should be made at the start of the relevant agenda item or as soon as the Member is able to make the declaration, but before otherwise participating in those proceedings. A declaration must be made whether a committee meets in public or in private. Where a relevant matter is discussed in both private and public at any single committee meeting, the declaration should, as good practice, be made during the public session even if it has already been made in private session.
7. Members should, as good practice, also declare any business or personal relationships they might have with any advisers or witnesses to the committee.

Further Guidance

8. Further guidance on declaring registrable interests may be found in section 5 of the Code of Conduct. The Standards Committee Clerks are also happy to provide advice to Members.

Clerking and Reporting Directorate
June 2003

Enterprise and Culture Committee

Meeting 11 June 2003

Choice of Convener And Deputy Convener

Introduction

This paper is designed to inform Members of the procedure for choosing a Convener and Deputy Convener at the first meeting of the Committee.

Oldest Member

Standing Orders oblige all committees to choose a Convener at their first meeting. Rule 12.1.6 states that the meeting is to be chaired by the Oldest Committee member until a Convener is chosen. The "Oldest Committee Member" is defined as the oldest member of the committee present at the meeting and who has indicated to the Clerk that he or she agrees to chair the meeting.

Choice of Convener

On Wednesday 4 June 2003, the Parliament agreed to motion SM2-107 which resolved that members of the Scottish National party are eligible to be chosen as Convener of the Enterprise and Culture Committee. The Oldest Committee Member will, following the declaration of interests, invite nominations from members of that party for the convenership. There is no requirement for nominations to be submitted in advance of the meeting or to be seconded.

If only one nomination is received, Members will be asked to agree to the appointment.

In the event that more than one nomination is received, the Oldest Committee Member will call a division, putting the question on each nomination in turn and declaring the nominee with a majority support to be the Convener.

On being chosen by the Committee, the Convener will immediately take the chair and will convene the remainder of the meeting.

Choice of Deputy Convener

The procedure for choosing a Deputy Convener is the same as that for the Convener and will be conducted by the newly-chosen Convener. On Wednesday 4 June 2003, the Parliament agreed to motion SM2-107 which resolved that members of the Scottish Labour party are eligible to be chosen as Deputy Convener of the Enterprise and Culture Committee.

Role of Convener and Deputy Convener

The duties and responsibilities of the Convener and Deputy Convener of a Parliamentary Committee are set out in Rule 12 of Standing Orders. Further detail is provided in paragraphs 4.7 to 4.13 of the Guidance for the Operation of Committees (Second Edition) which can be found at:

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/g-committee/cg-1.htm#8>

Clerking and Reporting Directorate
May 2003

Enterprise and Culture Committee

Meeting 11 June 2003

Legacy Papers

Introduction

The bulk of the Enterprise and Culture Committee's remit (enterprise, energy, lifelong learning and tourism) has been inherited from the former Enterprise and Lifelong Learning Committee. In addition the Committee's remit now extends to the culture and sport elements of the former Education, Culture and Sport Committee.

Attached below are the legacy paper from the Enterprise and Lifelong Learning Committee, and the elements of the Education, Culture and Sport Committee legacy paper which relate to culture and sport.

The Enterprise legacy paper covers activities of the Committee during the first session, potential areas of inquiry for a successor committee, as well as ways of working.

The paper suggests that its successor committee hold an early awayday to discuss its work programme for the next year or two. The Enterprise and Culture Committee may wish to consider whether it wishes to follow this advice and hold an early awayday.

The Education legacy paper lists the work that that Committee had been involved in during the first session, and suggests some possible areas for investigation.

The Enterprise and Culture Committee is not bound in any way by the work of its predecessors, and may choose its own course. The only aspect it must take into consideration is potential legislation which may fall to it to scrutinise. At present there appears to be only one bill which may be referred to the Committee during the coming year, and that is to modernise the laws of personal bankruptcy and diligence.

Recommendation

The Committee is invited to note the contents of its predecessors' legacy papers and consider how it would wish to take forward the construction of its work programme for the first year or so, whether by an awayday or other means.

Simon Watkins
Clerk to the Committee

Enterprise And Lifelong Learning Committee Legacy Paper

1. Background

The Enterprise and Lifelong Learning Committee has had an interesting and varied agenda through the first session of the Parliament. It has learnt much through its activity during this period that it would like to pass on to its successor committee(s), however constituted. Any successor committee will of course have complete autonomy to select and undertake its work in the way that it sees fit. However, we hope that the lessons of our experience may prove helpful.

2. Activity during the First Session

Unlike some of the other subject committees, the Enterprise and Lifelong Learning Committee has not had a high volume of subordinate legislation, petitions or European legislation referred to it. It has also had relatively little primary legislation to scrutinise. Its focus has therefore been on self-generated inquiry work, perhaps more so than any other committee.

The Committee undertook the following inquiries:

- local economic development services
- the governance of the SQA
- the impact of the new economy
- fuel prices in remoter rural areas
- SHEFC reviews of teaching and research funding
- lifelong learning
- tourism

It dealt with the following primary legislation:

- Education and Training (Scotland) bill
- Education (Graduate Endowment and Student Support) (Scotland) bill
- University of St. Andrews (Postgraduate Medical Degrees) bill

And was a secondary committee on the following legislation:

- Transport (Scotland) bill
- Tobacco Advertising and Promotion (Scotland) bill.

3. Possible Future Inquiry Topics

A successor committee will wish to make its own choices as to inquiry topics. However, a number of issues have emerged during the course of this committee's work that we regard as worthy options for future consideration. The topics have emerged in a number of ways.

There are a number of topics that the committee has examined, but to which it would be worth returning to assess the way in which its recommendations have been acted upon, or not, and general progress. These include:

- the implementation of the broadband strategy
- the implementation of the SHEFC review
- the performance of local economic forums
- the lifelong learning strategy

There are also a number of issues of which the committee became aware during its inquiry work, on which it would like to have undertaken further work, but was unable to pursue due to constraints of time. These include:

- the governance and funding of further education colleges

There have been a number of failures of governance in FE colleges that have resulted in Audit Scotland inquiries and a Scottish Executive consultation. The financial state of a substantial number of colleges is also a concern. The level of difficulties experienced suggests that changes need to be made to the current arrangements.

- Higher Still and transitions from school

Higher Still has been introduced progressively since 1999. It would be useful to assess its success or otherwise, particularly in the context of the link between school and work/further study. As matters are currently arranged this would most appropriately be a joint inquiry between the Enterprise and Lifelong Learning and Education, Culture and Sport Committees.

- transitions from school for young people

The committee considered this issue as part of its lifelong learning inquiry, noting that it currently fell between the remits of the Enterprise and Lifelong Learning Committee, and the Education, Culture and Sport Committee. There may be scope for a future joint inquiry to ensure that policies are joined-up across departments and the bodies and agencies that they fund. Such an inquiry could, for example, examine the Executive's policies on education and enterprise.

- compulsory registration of tourist accommodation

The committee did not have an opportunity within its tourism inquiry to examine the pros and cons of this proposal. This specific issue could be returned to by its successor.

In addition there are a number of issues that the Committee has not addressed in any depth through the first session of the parliament, which would nevertheless be suitable subjects for scrutiny, and have been raised by recent activity, or by correspondence to the committee. These include:

- Scottish Executive strategies

A key scrutiny role of subject committees is to examine Scottish Executive policy. With the exception of the 2000 Tourism Strategy, this committee has not had the opportunity to examine the implementation of Executive strategies as they have not been in place long enough. A successor committee would have more opportunity to do this if it chose, and we would strongly recommend that it focuses much of its attention on the implementation of policy and the lessons to be learned from it. Existing Executive strategies/reports include those on manufacturing, adult literacy and numeracy, FE provision for those with additional support needs, global communications, 'a framework for growth' and 'a smart, successful Scotland'.

- HE funding/top-up fees

The Government white paper on higher education funding in England suggests the introduction of increased fees with a repayment mechanism similar to the graduate endowment. Higher Education Institutions in Scotland appear less enthusiastic about the prospect. However, the introduction of such a system in England will nevertheless have significant consequences for higher education in Scotland. A successor committee may consider this issue a priority for inquiry.

- Scottish Development International

In late 2001 Scottish Enterprise/the Executive reorganised its external operations on inward investment and trade development into a single new body - SDI. Having given the new body time to settle in, its success in responding to the new global economic conditions could be assessed.

- the new Regional Selective Assistance scheme

Demand for traditional RSA to support inward investment has collapsed in the last few years. The Executive has transferred the funds freed up by this into new forms of assistance, such as Proof of Concept funding for university spin-out ideas and smaller capital grants for indigenous business via the Fund of Funds. The success of these individual components or of the whole new RSA scheme could be assessed after a period.

- the impact of reduced structural funds

During the course of its budget consideration it became apparent to the committee that the reduction on EU structural fund support for a range of economic, infrastructure and training activities will have a significant impact from 2006 onwards. This issue could be examined with a view to suggesting ways of overcoming the difficulties.

- the handling of student awards and loans

These are the responsibility of the Student Awards Agency for Scotland (a devolved Executive agency) and the Student Loans Company (reserved, but Scottish-based). The committee has scrutinised the SAAS less than the other quangos for which it is responsible and there have been a number of complaints received by MSPs concerning the administration of student finances.

- individual learning accounts

The committee dealt with the legislation that introduced ILAs. The scheme was withdrawn in November 2001 due to alleged fraud. A successor committee is likely to consider any subsequent legislation to introduce ILA2. As preparation it might wish to consider the lessons from ILA1 once audit and other reports have been received. Currently ongoing police investigations make this more difficult.

- modern language teaching in higher education

The current state of language provision has been raised as a concern by professionals in the field. It may be of particular concern to a successor committee given the importance of language skills to external trade development.

- Sectoral studies

With the exception of tourism this committee has not examined particular sectors of the Scottish economy, but there is scope to do this with those where particular issues emerge, e.g. electronics.

- The Social Economy

Scotland has been at the forefront of some aspects of the development of the social economy, for instance in intermediate labour markets and community-based businesses. It might be interesting to assess the impact that the social economy has made and whether there is scope for further dissemination of best practice. The Committee was impressed by the work of Columba 1400 in this regard, and recommends a visit by its successor.

- Promoting Entrepreneurialism

Significant work has been done recently, and with some success, to promote entrepreneurialism in schools. However, the business birth rate remains below the UK as a whole and new strategies to tackle this issue would be worth examining.

4. Criteria for the Selection of Inquiry Topics

Early in its life the committee agreed a set of criteria to apply in the selection of inquiry topics over the first parliamentary session. In general they have proved helpful in guiding the committee in its choices. The criteria are reproduced below as they may be of assistance to our successor.

Enterprise and Lifelong Learning Balance. Over the course of the parliamentary session a successor committee is likely to want to balance its work across its remit. In our case this has been between the areas of enterprise and lifelong learning, and indeed within lifelong learning between higher and further education, for instance. We have also focused on the crossover between enterprise and lifelong learning. It should be noted that this is not the same as covering every aspect of the remit. Indeed there are advantages in being very selective and focussing on elements of the remit where it is possible to have a beneficial impact.

Avoiding Duplication. Where other bodies, including the Executive, are investigating or have recently investigated an issue, the committee may wish to avoid duplicating this work. For instance in our case the House of Commons Scottish Affairs Select Committee had recently published reports into tourism and

inward/outward investment, which made these topics less attractive than they would otherwise be in the early period. The committee also avoided the issue of higher education financing whilst the Cubie committee was sitting.

There may of course be cases where the committee regards other investigations as inadequate, and would still wish to pursue its own, perhaps with a slightly different focus.

Executive v Own Initiative. The Minister has from time to time suggested areas on which a committee input would be appreciated. The committee has pursued some of these issues, e.g. lifelong learning, as they create an opportunity for a positive and effective influence on Executive policy. However, the committee has resisted having its entire agenda set for it by the Minister, which is a danger of too close co-operation. A successor committee will need to come to a view about the balance it wishes to strike between creative co-operation, and critical scrutiny of the Executive.

Making a Difference. This committee indicated that its main objective was, by the end of the first parliamentary session, to have had an impact on the governance of Scotland, and its successor may feel the same. This committee has therefore had a preference for inquiries that have the potential to lead to concrete recommendations, capable of being implemented. This touches on the sensitive area of reserved and devolved matters. On the one hand there is an advantage in focussing on devolved areas where responsibility for implementation rests with the Scottish Executive. On the other hand it may also be useful to examine the extent to which UK-wide policy on some reserved matters (e.g. the New Deal) is suited to Scottish conditions.

Potential for Legislation. Committee have the ability to initiate legislation on their own behalf. We have not felt the need to use this power to date, although might have done so had the Executive not acted promptly on the reorganisation of the SQA, for instance. A successor committee may wish to direct some of its time to examining issues where there may be a need for legislative change that it could initiate at a later date, should this prove necessary.

Timing. An issue may be one that it would be useful and appropriate for the committee to examine, but the timing is wrong. For instance it might be premature to examine a new initiative before enough evidence is available from its implementation, or too late if a review is already being undertaken.

Topicality. This issue is allied to timing, but slightly different. Issues may be politically topical at one moment, but be of less interest shortly thereafter. This committee has been wary of taking on issues which have the potential to lose public interest, or become irrelevant, by the time that the committee reports. This committee has not therefore responded to demands to examine for instance particular plant closures, or large-scale redundancies. Many of these issues have in any event been dealt with by the parliament in the chamber.

5. Informal Methods of Working

The Enterprise and Lifelong Learning Committee has experimented with many methods of evidence gathering and engaging with the public and stakeholders beyond formal committee meetings. It has indeed pioneered a number of these activities in the parliament.

Most of these methods have been, on balance, successful in achieving their ends, and the committee would recommend their consideration by a successor committee. They include:

Case Study Visits

For most of its large inquiries the committee has commenced its inquiry work by despatching small cross-party groups of members to examine aspects of the inquiry subject at the local level.

These visits have had the following benefits:

- giving members a clear understanding of issues early on in an inquiry
- allowing members to talk direct to businesses, students, employees etc. rather than hearing solely from representative organisations
- allowing members of the public to contribute their views in an unthreatening environment
- allowing members of the public to get their views across without having to travel to Edinburgh
- allowing members to investigate the different issues that may exist in different areas, (through ensuring a reasonable geographic coverage)
- allowing an examination of good practice which could be replicated elsewhere
- providing an opportunity to examine some issues in more detail than would be possible in committee
- increasing the amount of activity that can be undertaken by dividing up the committee.

These case study visits have proved very valuable to the committee in its inquiry work and it would recommend that its successor consider using the same technique. It is important that they are reported back in public to the committee.

Conventions of Stakeholders

In October 2000 the committee held a Business in the Chamber event to allow interested bodies and individuals to discuss the findings of its Interim Report on Local Economic Development Services. The committee invited 100+ businesses to sit in the chamber and debate and vote on its interim conclusions. The event led to some changes in the committee's recommendations, particularly on business advisers.

In April 2002 the committee hosted a Lifelong Learning Convention at the Edinburgh International Conference Centre with over 200 learning providers, students and businesses represented. The Convention, via a series of workshops, allowed different groups of stakeholders to give their views on the committee's interim Lifelong Learning Report, and this affected the way that some issues, such as informal and community-based learning, were dealt with in the final report.

Whilst these events have involved considerable preparation and organisation, the committee believes that they have been a valuable addition to the process of engaging with stakeholders and in the evidence gathering and consultation process, prior to agreeing a committee report.

The events have been well attended and have incorporated useful and intelligent contributions from relevant stakeholders. They have resulted in significant changes in committee thinking on some important issues, and have helped to generate a consensus within the relevant sector. This is more likely to create confidence in the committee's recommendations within the Scottish Executive and beyond and increase the likelihood of their implementation.

The events have also been very well received by participants, who appear to appreciate the opportunity to participate in the policy formulation process in an effective way. As mentioned, the events have been popular and well attended – the main difficulty has been accommodating all those who wish to attend. However, the committee would stress that it is important to control and balance attendance at these events to ensure that 'consumers' are given a voice and that the events are not captured by 'producers'.

Pre Report Debate Workshops

Prior to the Parliamentary debate on its New Economy Report the committee arranged a small workshop with participants from the new technology and financial services sectors. The workshop sought the views of the industries so that they could be taken into account and introduced into the debate.

The workshop worked well in giving members who were speaking in the debate a clear view of industry concerns and support, and significant material from the workshop did resurface in the debate. In this respect it was worthwhile.

The feedback from attendees for this workshop indicated that there were some concerns from the financial services businesses that the discussion was more focussed on new technology businesses. Nevertheless, the event worked reasonably well and would be worth considering by a successor committee prior to a debate on one of its reports.

In terms of Parliamentary debates on committee reports it is normal procedure is for 8 weeks to elapse after the publication of a report, and for the Executive to respond formally prior to the debate. However, it can sometimes be helpful to have a more rapid debate and/or allow the Executive to hear debate contributions before it responds formally to the committee. This committee, with the agreement of the

Minister, has on several occasions successfully held a debate less than 8 weeks after publication. It would recommend that this option is considered by its successor in appropriate circumstances.

Awaydays

Eighteen months into its existence the committee held an awayday to consider its work programme for the following two years and review its ways of working. The awayday also allowed the committee to receive a number of informal briefings on potential inquiry topics, and to discuss informally with the Minister possible areas of co-operation.

Whilst this was an internal event, it did prove very helpful to the committee in being able to review its activity and take a more thought-through long-term view of its priorities and work programme. It would recommend to its successor that it hold a similar awayday at the start of the Parliamentary session with the same intention.

Research

Whilst the commissioning of external research is a formal part of the inquiry process, it is worth mentioning that the committee has found it extremely useful to commission research in advance of the formal start of an inquiry. The advantage is that consideration of the research can be one of the earliest activities undertaken by the committee and gives a solid basis for commencing an inquiry. Research can also be commissioned independently of inquiries, although we have not used this method.

Research can also be used in informal ways. We felt that the comparative research commissioned for our tourism inquiry was particularly valuable for instance, and arranged for its findings to be presented to the senior management team of VisitScotland.

The committee also has at its disposal the internal research facilities of SPICe researchers to provide briefing papers etc. We have found that good forward planning and allowing a reasonable lead time for the production of briefing papers has elicited the best results.

6. Committee Meetings

The Committee has found itself a little frustrated by some of the constraints of evidence-taking in formal committee meetings. Whilst they have the advantage of being held in public, and the evidence therefore being widely available, we are not convinced that they are always the best way of obtaining evidence in an inquiry. Long committee meetings with large numbers of witnesses giving oral evidence are not, we believe, necessarily the best use of committee time. This is one of the reasons that we have undertaken significant informal activity.

Nevertheless, there are ways in which the usefulness of oral evidence sessions can be maximised. We have found the following to be effective:

- being selective in choosing from whom to receive oral evidence
- grouping similar witnesses (e.g. business representatives) in panels of witnesses and letting them answer the same question in turn, rather than having repetitive evidence sessions
- restricting the number of witnesses at the table at any one time to three
- strictly timetabling witness sessions
- restricting the numbers of groups of witnesses questioned in a single meeting.

Committees will make their own individual decisions about how best to organise the questioning of witnesses, and this may vary from session to session depending on the witnesses and the subject matter. However, we have generally found that, whilst it is important to be fully briefed, we have benefited from not using prepared questions for witnesses. This generally results in more dynamic questioning and better follow-up of initial answers, and allows members to pursue their particular concerns.

We believe that whilst witnesses should legitimately be subject to critical questioning, they should also be treated fairly. We have sought to be as open as possible with witnesses about the reasons they are being called, and the basis for questioning. We have sought to give them reasonable advanced notice both for written and oral evidence, and to give as much general guidance as possible in order to get the best out of them.

The committee has a duty to critically examine the work of the Executive and the bodies that fall within its remit. However, we also recognise that positive achievement should be recognised where it is evident. We have tried within our inquiries, both in oral evidence sessions and in reports, to give praise where it is due as well as critical comment.

7. External Committee Meetings

The committee has met a number of times away from Edinburgh during the first session of Parliament. It has met in Inverness (twice), Glasgow, Lerwick, and Greenock as well as undertaking over a dozen case study visits throughout the country. It believes that it is important to meet outwith Edinburgh where there is a good reason for doing so.

In October 2002 the committee agreed a policy on meetings outwith Edinburgh, and this is attached. The committee suggests that its successor also agree a policy on external meetings, rather than making ad hoc decisions as individual invitations arise.

For its meeting in Lerwick, the committee worked with local schoolchildren and held a briefing session for them on the committee's work prior to their attendance as members of the public at the meeting. The committee believes that it is important to

take advantage of these opportunities to work with local communities wherever possible.

8. Consideration of the Budget

The committee has generally found it difficult to undertake effective scrutiny of the Executive's budget proposals in the manner originally intended and which it would like. The main difficulty that it has faced is the very limited time that exists between the publication of the Executive's proposals and the need to report to the Finance Committee. There has also been some frustration at the level at which information is available. This is an issue which needs to be dealt with across the subject committees.

Nevertheless, the committee has adopted some strategies to try and overcome these problems and focus its work. Over 85% of the budget for which the committee is responsible is allocated to five quangos – Scottish Enterprise, Highlands and Islands Enterprise, VisitScotland, and the Scottish Higher and Further Education Funding Councils. In the past year the committee took the decision to focus on one of these bodies each budget year – in 2002 Scottish Enterprise.

A successor committee may wish to continue this practice and focus its analysis on one of these bodies each year. One advantage of this approach is that it is possible to start the analysis prior to the publication of this year's budget proposals by utilising the previous year's figures. The committee has also found background briefing sessions particularly useful in this context.

9. Legislation

The committee has dealt with relatively little legislation during the first session of the parliament, and other committees will therefore be much better placed to comment on lessons from the consideration of legislation.

Perhaps the only comment that can usefully be made to a successor committee is the importance of negotiating with the Parliamentary Bureau to ensure that adequate time is allowed for the proper scrutiny of legislation. In the early phase of the Parliament the committee suffered from being allocated very little time to consider the Education and Training (Scotland) Bill, which introduced Individual Learning Accounts. The ILA scheme was withdrawn in November 2001 due to alleged fraud by learning providers

10. Working Electronically

Following its inquiry into the new economy, and in order to carry out its activities in as business-like and efficient manner as possible, the committee has committed itself to working electronically wherever possible.

This has had a beneficial effect in terms of the speed and openness of communication as well as efficiency. More than 95% of its communication is now carried out electronically, and 95% of evidence for recent inquiries has been received electronically. The committee has also regularly published its forward work programme on its web page.

The committee has also experimented with some aspects of the use of the web. In its most recent inquiries it has for instance published the evidence on its web page as it has been received. This has helped give the inquiries a more dynamic nature and generated a dialogue between those giving evidence.

The committee has also been the first to experiment with the use of an online questionnaire for evidence gathering, as part of the tourism inquiry. Thirty-six responses were received, the great majority from the target audience - smaller tourism businesses – and it seems to have been successful in facilitating their contribution to the inquiry.

The committee has also, with others, made use of video-conferencing facilities to take evidence from bodies and avoid the need for them to take long journeys to present in Edinburgh.

The committee would recommend to its successor that it continue to utilise and experiment with electronic media to facilitate its work.

Conclusion

The Enterprise and Lifelong Learning Committee has had an eventful and interesting life during the first parliamentary session. It hopes that it can legitimately lay claim to having made a positive and concrete contribution to the development of policy in a number of areas, including local economic forums, the reform of the SQA, and a new framework for lifelong learning. It wishes its successor well in its activities and hopes that this paper will be a helpful aid in seeking its own route for pursuing its work over the next four years.

Enterprise and Lifelong Learning Committee
1999-2003

Education, Culture And Sport Committee Legacy Paper

Background

1. The Education, Culture and Sport Committee, at its meetings of 11 March and 25 March 2003 reviewed the work which it had undertaken since it was established by the Parliament on 8 June 1999. It agreed, in light of its review, to recommend that any successor committee(s) established by the next Parliament should consider whether to include in its programme of work issues set out below.

Work undertaken by the committee since 1999

2. Completed committee inquiries and reporters' inquiries:
 - The National Arts Companies (2/2/00)
 - Response of the Committee to Petition PE9 on Roman Remains at Cramond (11/5/00)
 - Sport in Schools (2/10/00)
 - The National Stadium (28/6/01)
 - Scottish Ballet (29/11/01)
 - Scotland's Museums (29/10/02)
 - Scottish Traditional Arts (25/3/03)

Suggested issues for consideration by successor committee(s) – Arts and Culture

3. Arts funding in Scotland and National Theatre for Scotland. SPICe is planning to produce a profile paper on arts funding post-devolution, in response to the debate between the Executive and the Scottish Arts Council over arts funding and the development of a National Theatre for Scotland. A successor committee may wish to monitor the development of a National Theatre for Scotland.
4. Review of Historic Scotland. The Executive has announced a formal review into the status and functions of Historic Scotland and an Audit Scotland Performance Management Review of Historic Scotland is also timetabled for 2003. A successor committee may wish to monitor these reviews.
5. Scottish traditional arts. Cathy Peattie, as a committee reporter, produced a paper on Scottish traditional arts which was considered by the Committee on 25/3/03. The Committee would suggest that a successor committee gives further consideration to this issue.
6. Cramond. The Committee, at its meeting of 14/1/03, agreed that this matter was now an issue for the City of Edinburgh Council and the Cramond Management Group. The Committee agreed to recommend that a future Committee might wish to review progress at a later date.

7. Scottish Screen. The Committee has noted the recent review of Scottish Screen and has expressed an interest in considering the associated action plan when available.
8. Scotland's museums. The Committee adopted a report by its reporters, Jackie Baillie and Michael Russell on 26/11/02. This report was fed into the consultation being carried out by the Executive on an Action Plan for Scotland's Museums, following the "National Audit of Museums and Galleries". The Committee agreed at its meeting on 11/3/03 to recommend that a successor committee(s) should review of the outcome of the Executive's consultation.

Suggested issues for consideration by successor committee(s) – Sport

9. European Year of Education Through Sport 2004. The European Parliament and the Council made a decision to establish the European Year of Education Through Sport in 2004 (EYES). Sport is seen as an integral part of the curriculum with essential educational values. The objectives of the EYES, include the promotion of young people's well being and social competencies such as team working, and to promote the social integration of disadvantaged groups. Action suggested through EYES include special events, promotional campaigns and examples of good practice. A successor committee may wish to consider how to get involved with the European Year of Education Through Sport 2004.
10. Sport 21. **sportscotland** published a review of its Sport 21 strategy on 25/3/03 and a successor committee may wish to consider the review.
11. The Physical Activity Task Force published the first Physical Activity Strategy in February 2003 (Let's make Scotland active: a strategy for physical activity), which called for national targets on physical activity - a National Physical Activity Co-ordinator is in post to take the strategy forward. A successor committee may wish to review progress in establishing and monitoring the proposed targets.
12. Football. Karen Gillon produced an interim report, for the Committee's meeting of 25/3/03, on youth development and supporters' participation within the decision-making process in Scottish Football. The Committee agreed to suggest that a successor committee should monitor developments on supporters' participation and to receive a presentation and take evidence on the PMP Consultancy's Independent Review into Youth Football.

Karen Gillon
Convener
Education, Culture and Sport Committee

31 March 2003