

Business Committee BC(2)13-05 (Final minutes)

MINUTES OF MEETING

Date: 3rd May 2005

Time: 9 a.m.

Venue: Conference Room E

Present: Jenny Randerson (Chair)
Jane Hutt, Business Minister

Jocelyn Davies, Plaid Cymru Business
Manager

Mick Bates, Welsh Liberal Democrats

David Melding, Welsh Conservatives
Business Manager

John Marek, Deputy Presiding Officer

Paul Silk, Clerk to the Assembly

Andrew George, Clerk to the Business
Committee

Marion Stapleton, Assembly Business
Unit

Karin Phillips, Members' Research and
Committee Services Peter Jones,
Counsel to the Assembly Parliamentary
Service

Alun Jenkins, DLS (Agenda Item 4)

Marc Wyn Jones, Business Committee
Secretariat

Catherine Morris, PS to the Deputy
Presiding Officer

Apologies & announcements

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Kirsty Williams. The Chair welcomed Mick Bates who was representing her in accordance with Standing Order 13.3.

2. Minutes of the previous meetings

(i) BC(2)11-05 (Final minutes) - Tuesday 19th April 2005

2.1 The minutes were presented to the Committee in their final format. As there were no comments, they would be translated in readiness for publication.

Action: Chamber Secretariat

(ii) BC(2)12-05 (draft minutes) - Tuesday 26th April 2005

2.2 The minutes were presented to the Committee in draft. An amendment was suggested which would be incorporated before the minutes were translated in readiness for publication.

Action: Chamber Secretariat

3. Matters Arising

3.1 **26th April: Paragraph 4.2** Marion Stapleton reported back on issues relating to the Home-Grown Cereals Authority (Rate of Levy) Order 2005. She said that this Order was made annually and its purpose was to allow cereal growers in Wales to benefit from advice from the Home-Grown Cereal Authority.

4. Subordinate Legislation

Orders for consideration

The Education (Admission Appeals Arrangements) (Wales) Regulations 2005 - **BC(2)13-05 (p1)**

& Report by the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee **BC(2)13-05 (p12)**

The Education Act 2002 (Commencement No.6 and Transitional Provisions) (Wales) Order 2005 - **BC(2)13-05 (p2)**

The Education (Disapplication of the National Curriculum at Key Stage 1) (Wales) Regulations 2005 - **BC(2)13-05 (p3)**

The Housing (Right to Buy) (Priority of Charges) (Wales) Order 2005 - **BC(2)13-05 (p4)**

The National Curriculum (Key Stage 3 Assessment Arrangements) (Wales) Order 2005 - **BC(2)13-05 (p5)**

The National Curriculum Assessment Arrangements (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Wales) Regulations 2005 - **BC(2)13-05 (p6)**

The National Assembly for Wales (Social Services Explanations) Regulations 2005 - **BC(2)13-05 (p7)**

The Business Committee recommended the Standard procedure for BC(2)13-05(p1). The Committee recommended the Accelerated procedure for BC(2)13-05(p2) - BC(2)13-05(p7). The Deputy Presiding Officer subsequently determined that none of the Orders need be referred to Subject Committee.

4.1 Members of the Committee suggested a number of amendments to clarify the papers accompanying these items of legislation. It was agreed that the papers would be amended accordingly.

BC(2)13-05 (p1) & BC(2)13-05 (p12)

4.2 The Business Committee noted the Report by the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee on these Regulations. Jocelyn Davies and David Melding said that their groups wanted to debate the Regulations in Plenary. The Deputy Presiding Officer referred to the Cover Sheet accompanying this draft Order, which said that the Regulations came under the "*Generally Matching Whitehall but with some distinct Welsh provision*" category. He asked if the reason for the choice of category could be included in the Explanatory Memorandum. Marion Stapleton said that it was the intention, in future, to include an explanation in the Explanatory Memorandum.

BC(2)13-05 (p5) & BC(2)13-05 (p6)

4.3 The Deputy Presiding Officer referred to the Explanatory Memorandum accompanying these draft Orders, which said that "*no Parent Associations or Groups were consulted*" on the proposals. He asked if an explanation about why these groups were not consulted could be included in the Explanatory Memorandum. Marion Stapleton said she would report back on this issue shortly.

Action: Marion Stapleton

(b) Standing Order 29 Subordinate Legislation

(c) Orders made under the Executive Procedure; Papers to note.

(d) Papers for Information

BC(2)13-05(p8)

4.4 The Business Committee noted the e-mail about the Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside's intention to confirm the Rod & Line (Salmon & Migratory Trout) Byelaws 2003.

5. Committees

5.1 The Business Committee approved the request from the Health and Social Services Committee to hold an additional meeting of its scrutiny sub-committee on 16th June.

6. Forthcoming Business

BC(2)11-05(p12)

6.1 The Business Minister responded to various requests from Business Managers and said that:

There was no intention to schedule a debate on Small Schools' policy and funding school places, as this was a matter for Local Education Authorities.

There was currently no intention to schedule a debate on Council Tax re-banding or a statement on the Lyons' review into Local Government funding. She said that a debate would be scheduled on the Lyons' review once its report had been published.

This Week's Business

BC(2)11-05(p10)

6.2 The Committee considered this paper, which detailed the Assembly's agreed business for the week. The Business Minister said that she would be proposing to suspend Standing Orders on Wednesday to allow a motion to be brought forward to elect members to an ad hoc Committee to consider the Commencement of Sections 54 and 54A of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004.

Business Managers' Requests

6.3 Jocelyn Davies asked if a debate could be scheduled on Technical Advice Note 15 (which related to flood plains) and also asked if a debate could be scheduled on the future of European Structural Funds. David Melding said he supported these requests.

6.4 David Melding asked if a debate could be scheduled before the Summer recess on integrated services for "Looked After Children".

6.5 Mick Bates asked if statements could be made on adjustments to funding for Tir Gofal, and on contingency planning in the event of a fuel blockade.

Draft Business Statement

6.6 The Committee noted the Business Minister's proposed statement about the organisation of the Assembly's business for the weeks commencing 3rd May, 10th May and 17th May.

7. Advice to Assembly on procedures

8. Matters referred from plenary

9. Revisions to Standing Orders

10. Presiding Officer rulings

11. Any other business.

11.1 The Chair said that it was intended to arrange a visit for the Business Committee to meet colleagues in the Scottish Parliament's Bureau and invited members of the Committee to pencil 27th June into their diaries as a possible date. She said that the purpose of the visit would be to discuss various issues with the Bureau, including new ways of working and arranging business. Members of the Business Committee said that separation of the Assembly and the Government would have considerable implications for the Business Committee. The Chair asked Paul Silk to prepare a paper in due course, outlining issues which could be relevant to the Business Committee. It was agreed that it would be helpful if the paper could be considered in advance of the Committee's visit to the Scottish Parliament.

Action: Paul Silk

CHAMBER SECRETARIAT