

Business Committee

BC(2)26-06 (Final minutes)

MINUTES OF MEETING

Date: Tuesday 10th October 2006

Time: 9.00 a.m.

Venue: Conference Room C

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

Kirsty Williams, Welsh Liberal Democrats Business Manager
Lisa Francis, Welsh Conservatives Business Manager

Rhodri Glyn Thomas, Plaid Cymru

John Marek, Deputy Presiding Officer

Paul Silk, Clerk to the Assembly

Andrew George, Clerk to the Business Committee

Marion Stapleton, Assembly Business Unit
Adrian Crompton, Members' Research and Committee Service

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
Leanne Hatcher, Chamber Services

1. Apologies & announcements

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Jocelyn Davies. The Chair welcomed Rhodri Glyn Thomas who would be representing her in accordance with Standing Order 13.3.

2. Minutes of the previous meetings

(i) BC(2)24-06 (Final minutes) - Tuesday 26th September 2006

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)25-06 (draft minutes) - Tuesday 3rd October 2006

2.2 The minutes were presented to the Committee in their draft format. An amendment was suggested which would be incorporated into the final draft.

Action: Chamber Secretariat

3. Matters Arising

BC(2)24-06 (Final minutes)

3.1 **Paragraph 11.1** The Business Minister referred to the requirement in the Government of Wales Act 2006 for a statutory instrument to set the date of the first meeting following the 2007 elections. She said she would be in a position to report back on progress in the Committee's next meeting.

BC(2)25-06 (draft minutes)

3.2 **Paragraph 4.4** Marion Stapleton confirmed that the Environment, Planning and Countryside Committee had not been notified about The Food (Emergency Control) (Revocation) (Wales) Regulations 2006 (BC(2)25-06(p6)). She said that Government officials had felt that the Regulations did not deal with a cross-cutting issue.

3.3 **Paragraph 6.9** In response to a query from Rhodri Glyn Thomas about the recess dates for Easter 2007, it was confirmed that the default position referred only to the date of the start of the recess. It had previously been agreed that Members would not return between the end of the recess and the elections.

4. Subordinate Legislation

(a) Orders for consideration

The Housing (Empty Dwelling Management Orders) (Prescribed Exceptions and Requirements) (Wales) Order 2006 – **BC(2)26-06(p1)**

Housing (Management Orders and Empty Dwelling Management Orders) (Supplemental Provisions) (Wales) Regulations 2006 – **BC(2)26-06(p2)**

The Selective Licensing of Houses (Additional Conditions) (Wales) Order 2006– **BC(2)26-06(p3)**

The Selective Licensing of Houses (Specified Exemptions) (Wales) Order 2006 – **BC(2)26-06(p4)**

The Introductory Tenancies (Review of Decisions to Extend a Trial Period) (Wales) Regulations 2006 – **BC(2)26-06(p5)**

The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (Commencement) (Wales) Order 2006 – **BC(2)26-06(p6)**

The Seed Potatoes (Fees) (Wales) (No 2) Regulations 2006– **BC(2)26-06(p7)**

The Seed Potatoes (Wales) Regulations 2006 – **BC(2)26-06(p8)**

The Business Committee recommended the Standard procedure for BC(2)26-06(p1), BC(2)26-06(p2), BC(2)26-06(p3), BC(2)26-06(p4), BC(2)26-06(p6), BC(2)26-06(p8) and recommended the Accelerated procedure for BC(2)26-06(p5) and BC(2)26-06(p7).

BC(2)26-06(p4)

4.1 The Chair referred to the Explanatory Memorandum accompanying this draft Order, which said “*Any financial implications associated with the implementation of this Order will be expenditure incurred by local housing authorities. These costs will be met out of existing provision as resources for housing purposes are unhypothecated and are contained within General Capital Funding (GCF).*” She said that the financial implications for local authorities could be substantial.

BC(2)26-06(p8)

4.2 The Chair referred to the Cover Sheet accompanying this draft Order, which said there were financial implications for others arising from the Regulations. However, details of the financial implications had not been included in the Explanatory Memorandum. Marion Stapleton said that the Explanatory Memorandum would be amended to include the information. Kirsty Williams said that her group wanted to debate this draft Order.

(b) Standing Order 26 Subordinate Legislation

4.3 The Chair noted that the Explanatory Memorandum said that *“The First Minister wrote to all Subject Committees Chairs and the Chair of the Equal Opportunities Committee on 22 August 2006, notifying them of the draft Transfer of Functions Order. Unfortunately, this letter was not copied to Committee Clerks and it would appear not circulated to all Committee Members.”* Marion Stapleton said that letters would be copied to Committee clerks in future.

(c) Standing Order 29 Subordinate Legislation

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

BC(2)26-06(p10)

4.4 The Committee noted the letter about the use of the Executive procedure for The Avian Influenza (Preventative Measures) (Wales) Regulations 2006.

(e) Papers for Information

BC(2)26-06(p11)

4.5 The Committee noted the e-mail of notification about the Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside’s intention to confirm the Llwyngwrl Waste Water Treatment Works and Pumping Station Compulsory Purchase Order 2006.

5. Committees

6. Forthcoming Business

Responses to Requests

BC(2)26-06(p12)

6.1 The Committee noted the Business Minister's responses to requests for items of business:

- A written statement had been issued on the second Severn crossing and on Valleywood.
- Written statements had been issued on the Tir Mynydd Scheme and on the Welsh Assembly Government's work to encourage supermarkets to sell locally sourced produce.
- A written statement on the availability of the flu vaccine had been issued.
- The Minister for Health and Social Services had issued a written statement on funding the next stage of the Children's Hospital.

This Week's Business

BC(2)26-06(p13)

6.2 The Deputy Presiding Officer referred to the debate on The Closures Guidance (Railway Services in England and Wales) Order 2006 under Standing Order 26, which had been scheduled for Tuesday. He said that the associated guidance was not easily available to Assembly Members and asked if the debate could be delayed to allow time for Members to consider it. The Business Minister said she would consider this request and notify Members as soon as possible.

6.3 The Business Minister referred to the debate on The Sex Discrimination Act 1975 (Public Authorities) (Statutory Duties) Order 2006 which had been scheduled for Wednesday. She said that she had sought agreement from the UK Government for the functions under the Act to be transferred to the Assembly and that consequently, legislation specific to Wales would be brought forward in due course. She said that she intended to withdraw the motion and that she would circulate further information to Members.

6.4 The Business Minister said that there were no other changes to the week's business.

Business Managers' Requests

6.5 Kirsty Williams asked if the following items of business could be scheduled:

- A statement on the cost of out-of hours services.
- A statement on the Home Secretary's announcement on measures to solve the overcrowding of prisons in England and Wales.
- A statement on GCSE coursework and SEN funding for gifted pupils.

6.6 Rhodri Glyn Thomas supported the above requests and asked if the following items of business could be scheduled:

- A statement on delayed transfer of care.

6.7 Lisa Francis supported the above requests and asked if the following items of business could be scheduled:

- A statement on the implications for Wales of the introduction of ID cards.
- A statement on waiting times for patients with Epilepsy.
- A statement on recent draft NICE recommendations on the prescription of osteoporosis drugs for women under the age of 75.

Draft Business Statement - BC(2)26-06(p14)

6.8 The Committee noted the Business Minister's proposed statement about the organisation of the Assembly's business for the weeks commencing 17 October, 24 October and 7 November.

6.9 The Business Minister said that the debate on Designed to Deliver, which had been scheduled for the 18th October, had been replaced with a debate on Sport. The Minister said she would notify the Committee of the rescheduled date for the debate on Designed to Deliver.

7. Advice to Assembly on procedures

8. Matters referred from plenary

9. Revisions to Standing Orders

10. Presiding Officer rulings

11. Any other business.

CHAMBER SECRETARIAT