

## Business Committee BC(2)20-05 (Final minutes)

### MINUTES OF MEETING

**Date:** 28<sup>th</sup> June 2005

**Time:** 9.30 a.m.

**Venue:** Conference Room E

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

Jocelyn Davies, Plaid Cymru Business  
Manager

Kirsty Williams, Welsh Liberal  
Democrats Business Manager

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

### 2. Minutes of the previous meetings

## **(i) BC(2)18-05 (Final minutes) - Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June 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)19-05 (draft minutes) - Tuesday 21<sup>th</sup> June 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 **Paragraph 4.3** Marion Stapleton reported back on issues relating to NHS Blood and Transplant (Gwaed a Thrawsblaniadau'r GIG) (Establishment and Constitution) Order 2005. She said that a Regulatory Impact Assessment had not been laid in Parliament alongside the Regulations as there was no requirement to prepare one.

3.2 **Paragraph 4.5** Marion Stapleton referred to the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 (Contingency Planning) Regulations 2005 and said that a Regulatory Impact Assessment had not been prepared and laid in Parliament as there was no requirement to prepare one.

## **4. Subordinate Legislation**

### **Orders for consideration**

The Genetically Modified Organisms (Traceability and Labelling) (Wales) Regulations 2005 - **BC(2)20-05 (p1)**

& Report from the Environment, Planning and Countryside Committee - **BC(2)20-05 (p2)**

The Housing Renewal Grants (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2005 - **BC(2)20-05 (p3)**

The National Health Service (Charges for Drugs and Appliances) (Wales) (Amendment) (No.2) Regulations 2005 - **BC(2)20-05 (p4)**

& Report of the Health and Social Services Committee - **BC(2)20-05 (p5)**

Drought Plan Regulations 2005) - **BC(2)20-05 (p6)** (*Standing Order 25, Section 3*)

**The Business Committee recommended the Standard procedure for BC(2)20-05(p1), BC(2)20-05(p3) and BC(2)20-05(p4). The Deputy Presiding Officer subsequently determined that none of these 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)20-05(p1)**

4.2 The Chair referred to the Regulatory Appraisal accompanying this draft Order and said it was not specific to Wales. Marion Stapleton said that the Regulatory Appraisal also related to two other draft Orders and had already been laid, and consequently, could not be amended.

### **BC(2)20-05(p6)**

4.3 Business Managers said that they were content for this draft Order to be debated in Plenary. In response to a query, Alun Jenkins said that the Order would be translated into Welsh for information purposes following its approval in Plenary. The Deputy Presiding Officer suggested that, in future, Explanatory Memorandums accompanying draft Orders made jointly with the UK Government, could indicate whether the Assembly was required to make the Order jointly or had chosen to do so.

### **(b) Standing Order 29 Subordinate Legislation**

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

### **(d) Papers for Information**

## **5. Committees**

## **6. Forthcoming Business**

### **BC(2)20-05(p7)**

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

There was no intention of scheduling a debate on the Welsh Assembly Government's policy on small schools. However, Members would have the opportunity to debate rural school policy when legislation came forward to give effect to amendments to the School Standards and Framework Act as set out in the Education Act 2005.

The First Minister had made a statement on the future of European Structural funds in Wales in Plenary on 22 June. A debate would be scheduled shortly.

There was currently no intention of making a statement on the long-term

suspension of NHS clinical staff as Assembly officials were in discussion with the BMA about a way of reducing inappropriate exclusions and resolving future suspensions as part of a new disciplinary procedure for consultants in Wales. A statement would be scheduled as soon as a new procedure has been agreed.

A motion to establish the Additional Committee to review school funding was scheduled for Wednesday 6th July.

6.2 Business Managers thanked the Business Minister for scheduling a debate on the future of European Structural funds in Wales.

### This Week's Business

#### **BC(2)20-05(p8)**

6.3 The Committee considered this paper, which detailed the Assembly's agreed business for the week.

6.4 The Business Minister said that it was proposed to suspend Standing Orders to bring forward motions later that day to establish and elect a Committee on the Better Governance for Wales White Paper. She said that a motion to revise Standing Orders in connection with the Committee would also be considered.

6.5 The Business Minister said that Owen John Thomas' Short Debate, which had originally been scheduled for Wednesday 22 June but had been postponed, would now take place on Wednesday 29 June. She said that a statement by the Minister for Culture, Welsh Language and Sport on the Wales Millennium Centre, which had been scheduled for Wednesday, would be moved to Tuesday 28 June to make time for the additional Short Debate.

### Business Managers' Requests

6.6 David Melding asked if a debate could be scheduled on Affordable Housing. Kirsty Williams supported this request. He asked if statements could be made on fox control and on human rights implications of proposals to change the arrangements for elections in Wales.

6.7 Jocelyn Davies asked if statements could be made on the Make Poverty History campaign and the role the Government could play; and on the availability of Welsh language forms for licencees. Kirsty Williams supported these requests.

### Draft Business Statement

6.8 The Committee noted the Business Minister's proposed statement about the organisation of the Assembly's business for the weeks commencing 5 July, 12 July and 20 September.

6.9 Marion Stapleton said that a slot to approve a number of amendments to Standing Orders would be scheduled before the Summer recess.

## **7. Advice to Assembly on procedures**

### **BC(2)19-05(p19)**

7.1 The Committee considered a letter and Advisory Memorandum from the Presiding Officer relating to the Permanent Secretary's responsibilities as the Assembly's Principal Accounting Officer in respect of proceedings in Plenary. Members of the Committee said that it might be preferable for a mechanism to be put in place for the Permanent Secretary to advise the Assembly retrospectively. This would allow the Assembly to debate and vote on the issue in the first instance. It was agreed that the Chair would communicate the Committee's views to the Presiding Officer.

**Action: Secretariat**

## **8. Matters referred from plenary**

### **9. Revisions to Standing Orders**

#### **BC(2)20-05(p10)**

9.1 Kirsty Williams introduced the paper from the Standards Committee which set out proposals to amend Standing Orders and Guidance on the Registration of Members' Interests. She said that the proposals arose from recommendations in the Wodehouse review and had been agreed unanimously by the Standards Committee. The Deputy Presiding Officer said that it was his view that the proposals would fail to achieve their objectives. The Committee agreed the proposals.

#### **BC(2)20-05(p11)**

9.2 The Business Committee considered and agreed a draft Report of the Business Committee about proposals to amend Standing Orders in connection with the establishment of a Committee on the Better Governance for Wales White Paper. The Chair said that a draft Report had been circulated out of Committee because Members had expressed their wish to establish the Committee quickly.

## **10. Presiding Officer rulings**

### **11. Any other business.**

11. 1 The Business Committee considered and approved a proposed timetable of meetings

for the Committee on the Better Governance for Wales White Paper. The Committee agreed that Standing Orders should make provisions for substitutes to attend the Committee's meetings. It was agreed that a report of the Business Committee would be prepared to this effect and circulated.

## **CHAMBER SECRETARIAT**