

Enterprise, Innovation and Networks Committee

Minutes EIN(2) 08-06

Meeting date: 18 October 2006

Meeting time: 9.00 – 12.45

Meeting venue: Committee Room 3, Senedd, Cardiff Bay

Assembly Members in Attendance

| Assembly Member | Constituency |
|---------------------------|---|
| Christine Gwyther (Chair) | Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire |
| Leighton Andrews | Rhondda |
| Alun Cairns | South Wales West |
| Andrew Davies (Minister) | Swansea West |
| Janet Davies | South Wales West |
| Alun Ffred Jones | Caernarfon |
| Carl Sargeant | Alyn & Deeside |
| Kirsty Williams | Brecon and Radnorshire |

Officials in Attendance

| Name | Job Title |
|----------------|--|
| Michael Eaton | Head of e-Wales Division |
| David Fletcher | Local Government Finance |
| Gareth Hall | Director, Enterprise Innovation & Networks |
| Paul Harrison | Local Government Finance |
| Tim James | Head of Rail Unit |
| Robin Shaw | Director Transport Wales |

Others in Attendance

| Name | Organisation |
|--------------|---|
| Robbie Burns | Director, Western Route, Network Rail |
| Mike Gallop | Route Enhancement Manager, Network Rail |
| Bob Holland | Managing Director, Arriva Trains Wales |
| Mike Hurley | Head of Franchise and Stakeholder Management, Arriva Trains Wales |
| Paul Plummer | Director, Planning and Regulation, Network Rail |

Assembly Parliamentary Service

| Name | Job Title |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Claire Morris | Clerk |
| Abigail Phillips | Deputy Clerk |
| Gwyn Griffiths | APS Legal Advisor |

Item 1: Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

1.1 No apologies were received.

1.2 A verbatim record of the meeting is available.

Item 2: Minister's Report

Paper: EIN(2) 08-06 (p1)- Minister's Report

2.1 The Committee received an update from the Minister.

Action Points:

- The Chair would send letter of thanks to Keith Brooks, former Chair of the Tourism Advisory Panel, on behalf of Committee.
- The Minister would provide a note to Committee on the technology used at Inetec Limited, Bridgend.
- The Minister would provide a note detailing the specific plans and funding in relation to the Tidal Energy Study in the Severn Estuary, and the environmental criteria used.

- The Minister would write to the Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside requesting information on the environmentally friendly issues relating to shark fishing in Wales.
- The Minister would provide information on changes to senior management at the Royal Mint.

Item 3: Network Rail and Arriva Trains

Paper: EIN(2) 08-06 (p2)

EIN(2) 08-06 (p3a)

EIN(2) 08-06 (p3b)

3.1 The Committee discussed performance against the franchise; the draft timetable for December 2006 and the Network Rail Business Plan with representatives of Arriva Trains Wales and Network Rail.

Action Points:

- Network Rail would share the results of their study of the Atkin report and details of the costs they recognised from that report in relation to the cost of developing rail freight facilities to transport slate waste by rail from Blaenau Ffestiniog via the Conwy Valley Line by the end of the year.
- Network Rail would provide a note on the way in which they consulted the public regarding the siting of signalling masts.

Item 4: Minutes of Previous Meetings and matters arising

Paper: EIN(2) 06-06 – Minutes of the meeting held on 20 September

EIN(2) 08-06 – Actions Outstanding

4.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 20 September were agreed as a true record.

Item 5: Secondary Legislation Schedule

Paper: EIN(2) 08-06 (p4)

5.1 The Committee agreed it would scrutinise the draft consequential amendments order to be made by the Secretary of State under section 160 of the Government of Wales Act which would amend the Legislative and Regulatory Reform Bill to take account of the effect of the Government of Wales Act 2006.

Action Points:

- The Chair would write to the Business Committee advising them of the Committee's intention to scrutinise the draft order.

Item 6: Towards e-Wales – A consultation on Exploiting the Power of ICT in Wales

Paper: EIN(2) 08-06 (p5)

6.1 The Committee considered the draft strategy.

6.2 Members agreed to return to the subject, in the light of consultation responses, in time to influence the final draft Strategy and Action Plan.

Action Points:

- The Clerk would draft a letter summarising the Committee's comments.

Item 7: Consultation on Proposals for an All Wales Small Business Rate Relief Scheme

Paper: EIN(2) 08-06 (p6)

7.1 The Committee considered the proposal to change the rural rate relief scheme with a small business rate relief scheme for the whole of Wales.

Action Points:

- The Clerk would draft a letter summarising the Committee's Comments.

Item 8: Fibre Speed Demand Analysis

Paper: EIN(2) 08-06 (p7)

8.1 This item was deferred to a future meeting.