

# Environment, Planning and Countryside Committee

## Minutes EPC(2) 01-06

**Meeting date: 19 January 2006**

**Meeting time: 9:15am – 12:20pm**

**Meeting venue: Committee Room 1, National Assembly Building**

### Assembly Members in Attendance

<b>Assembly Member</b>	<b>Constituency</b>
Glyn Davies	Mid and West Wales
Lorraine Barrett	Cardiff South and Penarth
Mick Bates	Montgomeryshire
Jocelyn Davies	South Wales East
Tamsin Dunwoody	Preseli Pembrokeshire
Carwyn Jones, Minister	Bridgend
Elin Jones	Ceredigion
Brynle Williams	North Wales

### Officials in Attendance

<b>Name</b>	<b>Job title</b>
Gareth Jones	Director of Environment, Planning and Countryside Department
Rosemary Thomas	Head of Planning Division

Rory O'Sullivan	Head of Countryside Policy Division, Welsh Assembly Government
Christianne Glossop	Chief Veterinary Officer, Welsh Assembly Government
Sion Aron Jones	Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer
Jackie Price	Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer
Mark Alexander	Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer
Rhodri Griffiths	Environment – Protection and Quality Division
Andrew Hobden	Economic Advice Division
Patrick Kitson	Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer
Les Eckford	Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer
Alun Streeter	Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer
Terri Thomas	Countryside Policy Division
Michelle Tsang	Countryside Policy Division
Sharon Roberts	Countryside Policy Division

## **Committee Service**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Job title</b>
Kathryn Jenkins	Committee Clerk
Liz Wilkinson	Deputy Committee Clerk
Angharad Penny-Evans	Senior Researcher
Joanest Jackson	Legal Advisor

## **Item 1: Introduction, Apologies, Substitutions, Quorum and Declarations of Interest**

1.1 The Chair welcomed the Committee, officials and members of the public to the first meeting of the New Year.

1.2 There were no apologies, substitutions or declarations of interest.

## **Item 2: Minutes of the last meetings**

### **Papers: EPC (2) 14-05(mins)**

2.1 The Committee ratified the minutes of the 23 November 2005 meeting.

## **Item 3: Minister's Report**

### **Paper: EPC (2) 01-06(p1)**

3.1 In addition to his written report, the Minister updated the Committee on the December Council Agreement on the future financing of the EU for 2007-2013 as it impacted on the Environment, Planning and Countryside portfolio.

3.2 Members questioned the Minister on his report.

3.3 The Committee noted the planned review of the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order in Wales, which it would have an opportunity to discuss at an appropriate time.

3.4 Members noted that legislation implementing the proposals for the new cattle compensation system, which used table valuation, would be brought forward shortly. The Committee would be given the opportunity to scrutinise the legislation in line with its agreed protocol.

3.5 The Chair confirmed that consideration of the consultations on the draft Rural Development Plan 2007-2013 and the options for Tir Mynydd in 2007 and 2008 only would be scheduled into the 1 February meeting.

## **Action points**

The Minister agreed to provide a paper to the Committee with further details on the EU budget settlement in due course.

The Minister agreed to provide a paper to the Committee on Minerals Technical Advice Note 2 (Coal), which was scheduled for consultation shortly.

The Minister agreed to provide a paper to the Committee on draft revised Technical Advice Notes 1 and 2 (Joint Housing Land Availability Studies and Planning and Affordable Housing), to include the summary of consultation responses, at its 1 February meeting.

The Minister agreed to give consideration to the Committee's views when finalising proposals on the new cattle compensation system, in particular the need to take account of the condition of livestock when formulating the valuation table.

The Minister agreed to provide the following in his next written report to the Committee:

- a progress report of applications for on-farm incinerators;
- an update on progress of the proposed amendment to the Common Land Bill;
- details of Sustainable Development Indicators; and
- a progress report on the development of the National Equine Database, which was being established by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

#### **Item 4: Appointment of Committee's Public Appointment Nominees**

**Paper: EPC (2) 01-06(p2)**

4.1 The Committee endorsed Glyn Davies and Lorraine Barrett as its nominees to oversee public appointments within the Minister's portfolio.

#### **Item 5: Subordinate legislation**

**The Tuberculosis (Wales) Order 2006**

**Paper: EPC(2)-01-06(p3)**

5.1 The Committee scrutinised The Tuberculosis (Wales) Order 2006 and recommended approval of the Order without amendment. Its report on the legislation would be laid before the Assembly shortly.

#### **Item 6: EU Work Programme**

**Paper: EPC(2) 01-06(p4)**

6.1 The Committee agreed the following priorities within the EU Work Programme 2006:

Green Paper on adaptation to climate change;

Green Paper on a Future EU Maritime Policy; and

Review of the health rules on animal by-products.

6.2 In addition, it would receive regular updates on issues it had previously identified within the 2005 Programme, as well as GMO co-existence, bio-fuels and energy crops.

#### **Item 7: Forward Work Programme**

**Paper: EPC(2) 01-06(p5)**

7.1 Subject to agreed additions, the Committee approved its Forward Work Programme.

### **Action points**

The Minister agreed to provide the Committee with an update on the implementation of recommendations within its report Planning Aspects Associated with Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities in the Countryside.

The Minister agreed to bring a paper to the Committee on progress made in the promotion of the Welsh language within the Environment, Planning and Countryside portfolio.

The Minister agreed to provide in his next written report to the Committee the scope of the Assembly's powers to address climate change.

### **Item 8: Primary legislation**

#### **The Animal Welfare Bill**

**Paper: EPC(2) 01-06(p6)**

8.1 The Committee considered the implications of The Animal Welfare Bill for Wales. The Committee report on the Bill would be laid before the Assembly shortly.

### **Item 9: The Rural Development Plan – axes 3 and 4**

**Paper: EPC(2) 01-06(p7)**

9.1 The Chair welcomed Ann Watkin, Wynford James and Gerallt Lleywelyn Jones to the meeting before inviting them to address the Committee.

9.2 The Committee questioned witnesses on their presentations.

9.3 The Committee's draft report on the Rural Development Plan 2007-2013 would be considered at its 16 February meeting.

### **Item 10: Paper to Note**

#### **Members' Research Service paper on work being carried out by Scottish Parliament on the Scottish Dairy Industry**

**Paper: EPC (2) 01-06(p8)**

10.1 The Committee noted the paper.

### **Members' Research and Committee Services January 2006**