

Environment, Planning and Countryside Committee

Minutes EPC(2) 02-06

Meeting date: 1 February 2006

Meeting time: 9:15am – 12:30pm

Meeting venue: Committee Room 1, National Assembly Building

Assembly Members in Attendance

Assembly Member	Constituency
Glyn Davies, Chair	Mid and West Wales
Lorraine Barrett	Cardiff South and Penarth
Mick Bates	Montgomeryshire
Jocelyn Davies	South Wales East
Carwyn Jones, Minister	Bridgend
Elin Jones	Ceredigion
Carl Sargeant	Alyn and Deeside
Brynle Williams	North Wales

Officials in Attendance

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

Neil Hemmington	Planning Division
Peter Jones	Environment – Protection & Quality Division
Rory O'Sullivan	Head of Countryside Policy Division, Welsh Assembly Government
Jill Thomas	Environment – Conservation & Management Division

Presenters

Name	Job title
Professor Gordon MacKerron	Chairman, Committee on Radioactive Waste Management
Dr Wynne Davies	Deputy Chairman, Committee on Radioactive Waste Management

Committee Service

Name	Job title
Kathryn Jenkins	Committee Clerk
Liz Wilkinson	Deputy Committee Clerk
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 meeting.

1.2 Apologies were received from Tamsin Dunwoody, for whom Carl Sargeant was substituting.

1.3 In respect of item 7, the Chair, Mike Bates and Brynle Williams declared an interest as recipients of Tir Mynydd payments.

Item 2: Minutes of the last meetings

Papers: EPC (2) 01-06(mins)

2.1 The Committee ratified the minutes of the 19 January meeting.

Item 3: Technical Advice Notes 1 and 2

Paper: EPC (2) 02-06(p1)

3.1 The Committee considered the consultation responses to the draft Technical Advice Notes (TANs) 1 and 2.

Following discussion, the Minister agreed to give consideration to the Committee's views when finalising TANs 1 and 2, in particular:

the need to include in TAN 2 more specific guidance to local authorities on the definition of affordability;

the need to strengthen the direction given to local authorities in TAN 2 in the identification of rural exception sites.

Action points

The Minister agreed to consider the Committee's views, along with the consultation responses, when finalising TANs 1 and 2.

Item 4: Subordinate legislation

The Welsh Regional Flood Defence Committee (Composition)

Order 2006

Paper: EPC (2) 02-06(p2)

4.1 The Minister outlined the purpose of the legislation, which was to set the composition of the Regional Flood Defence Committee in Wales at eighteen members.

4.2 The Committee scrutinised The Welsh Regional Flood Defence Committee (Composition) Order 2006 and recommended approval of the Order without amendment. Its report on the legislation would be laid before the Assembly shortly.

Item 5: Subordinate legislation forward look

Paper: EPC(2)-02-06(p3)

5.1 The Committee considered the subordinate legislation forward look and selected the following for detailed scrutiny:

No.21 Avian Influenza (Survey Powers)(Wales) Regulations 2006

No.71 The Tir Mynydd (Amendment)(Wales) Regulations 2006;

No.87 Code of Practice to Control and Prevent the Spread of Ragwort;

No.109 Rod and Line (Salmon & Migratory Trout) Byelaws 2003;

No.145 Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment)(Wales)(Amendment) Regulations; and

No.147 Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment)(Wales)(Amendment No.2) Regulations 2006.

5.2 The Chair confirmed that the Committee would scrutinise The Cattle Compensation (Order) 2006 at its 8 March meeting.

Item 6: Strategic Approach to the Rural Development Plan 2007-2013

Oral item

6.1 The Minister outlined the consultation paper "Rural Development Plan for Wales, 2007-2013 – The Strategic Approach". This was the draft of the Wales chapter that would form part of the UK's National Strategic Plan to underpin the respective successor Rural Development Plans.

6.2 During the discussion, the Head of Countryside Policy Division agreed to check whether there had been correspondence either with or from the European Commission relating to criticism about agri-environment schemes delivered under the current Rural Development Plan.

6.3 The Committee considered the draft Rural Development Plan for Wales, 2007-2013 – The Strategic Approach.

Action point

The Minister agreed to bring to the Committee the draft successor Rural Development Plan for Wales, 2007-2013 the contents of which would also cover evaluation of the current Plan.

Item 7: Options for Tir Mynydd

Oral item

7.1 The Minister outlined the background to and proposals relating to the consultation paper of future options for the Tir Mynydd scheme from 2007.

7.2 The Committee discussed a range of issues about the future of Tir Mynydd within the context of the successor Rural Development Plan (RDP) for Wales.

7.3 Due to the timetable for producing, for consultation by end March, the draft successor RDP, the Minister would include in his written report to the March meeting a brief summary of the responses to the Tir Mynydd consultative proposals. The Committee would consider the responses as part of its consideration of the draft Plan.

Action points

The Minister agreed to include in his written report to the March meeting a summary of responses to the Tir Mynydd consultative proposals.

Item 8: EU Marine Thematic Strategy

Paper: EPC(2) 02-06(p4)

8.1 The Committee noted the development of a EU Marine Thematic Strategy.

8.2 The Chair informed the Committee it would have an opportunity to discuss and scrutinise the draft Marine Bill in due course. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, together with the Welsh Assembly Government and other devolved administrations, would shortly be consulting on the draft Bill, which was due to be published in the summer.

Item 9: Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM)

Paper: EPC(2) 02-06(p5)

9.1 The Chair welcomed Professor Gordon MacKerron, Chairman, and Dr Wynne Davies, Deputy Chairman, of the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management to the meeting before inviting them to make their presentation to the Committee.

9.2 The Committee questioned witnesses on their presentations.

Item 10: Paper to Note

Food Standards Agency Current Issues

Paper: EPC (2) 02-06(p6)

10.1 The Committee noted the paper.

10.2 The Chair agreed to consider inviting the Food Standards Agency to a future meeting if appropriate.

Members' Research and Committee Services February 2006