

# Environment, Planning and Countryside Committee

## Minutes EPC(2) 04-06

**Meeting date: 8 March 2006**

**Meeting time: 9:30am – 12:00pm**

**Meeting venue: Committee Room 2, Assembly Office**

### Assembly Members in Attendance

<b>Assembly Member</b>	<b>Constituency</b>
Glyn Davies, Chair	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
Rory O'Sullivan	Head of Countryside Policy Division

Dr Christianne Glossop	Chief Veterinary Officer
Huw Jones	Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer
Sion Aron Jones	Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer
David Robinson	Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer
Andrew Hobden	Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer
Rosemary Thomas	Head of Planning Division
Neil Hemmington	Planning Division
Jeff Spear	Planning Division
Robert Williams	Environment – Protection & Quality

## Witnesses

Name	Job title
Clr Delme Bowen	Welsh Local Government Association
Dr Kevin Bishop	Welsh Local Government Association

## 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 Brynle Williams declared an interest as a farmer.

## Item 2: Minutes of the last meetings

## **Papers: EPC (2) 03-06(mins)**

2.1 The Committee ratified the minutes of the 16 February meeting.

### **Item 3: Minister's oral update**

3.1 The Minister informed the Committee that:

- The Standing Committee on the Food Chain and Animal Health today adopted unanimously a favourable opinion on a European Commission proposal to lift the ban on UK exports of live cattle, beef and beef products. It was anticipated that the proposal would be adopted by the Commission in approximately 6 weeks.
- Following a recommendation from the Veterinary Medicines Directorate, which was an Executive Agency of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the UK government had suspended marketing authorisation for cypermethrin. The next edition of Gwlad would include advice to the farming industry in light of the suspension. The Chief Veterinary Officer for Wales intended to set up a working group to consider what action could be taken on the issue of sheep scab.
- The start date for pre-movement testing of cattle for Bovine TB in England was to be delayed until 27 March. A survey of veterinary capacity and preparedness to deliver the new requirements for pre-movement testing was being carried out by the UK government and a similar review would be undertaken in Wales.

### **Action point**

The Minister agreed to provide a note to the Committee on:

- role and responsibilities of the Veterinary Medicines Directorate; and
- implications for agriculture merchants and farmers following the suspension of marketing authorisation for cypermethrins.

### **Item 4: Committee report Inquiry into meeting landfill and recycling targets - progress report from the Minister on the implementation of recommendations**

#### **Paper: EPC (2) 04-06(p1) and EPC (2) 04-06(p2)**

4.1 The Chair welcomed Cllr Delme Bowen and Dr Kevin Bishop of the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) to the meeting.

4.2 Cllr Delme Bowen provided a short oral update on progress made by local government in meeting recycling targets.

4.3 The Committee questioned the Minister and representatives of the WLGA on progress made by the Welsh Assembly Government and local authorities in implementing recommendations contained in its report Inquiry into meeting landfill and recycling targets.

## **Item 5: Subordinate Legislation**

### **The Sheep and Goat (Records, Identification and Movement)(Wales)(Order) 2006**

#### **Paper: EPC (2) 04-06(p4)**

5.1 The Committee scrutinised the Order.

5.2 Clarification was sought on:

- level of controls on movement and identification of sheep in other Member States; and
- the effect on the temporary derogation if the remaining requirements of the Council regulations were not put in place.

5.3 The Committee recommended approval of the Order without amendment. Its report would be laid before the Assembly shortly.

### **The Cattle Compensation (Wales) Order 2006**

#### **Paper: EPC(2)-04-06(p5)**

5.4 The Committee considered the following motion in respect of The Cattle Compensation (Wales) Order 2006:

To propose that the Environment, Planning and Countryside Committee recommends to the Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside that he revises the valuation table in Part 2 of Schedule 1 of the Order used for compensation to adequately reflect the variation and condition and therefore the value of bovine animals of the genus Bos, and to introduce an appeals mechanism that will resolve disputed valuations.

5.5 The recommended amendment was agreed to by 4 votes to 3 with Members voting as follows:

For: Mick Bates, Jocelyn Davies, Elin Jones, Brynle Williams

Against: Lorraine Barrett, Tamsin Dunwoody, Carwyn Jones

Abstain: Glyn Davies

5.6 The Committee report would be laid before the Assembly shortly.

### **The Town and Country Planning (Fees for Applications and Deemed Applications) (Amendment) Regulations 2006**

**Paper: EPC(2)-04-06(p6)**

5.7 The Committee scrutinised the Regulations, which had been referred formally by the Deputy Presiding Officer in accordance with Standing Order 24.6.

5.8 The Committee recommended approval of the Regulations without amendment. Its report would be laid before the Assembly shortly.

### **The Town and Country Planning (Fees for Applications and Deemed Applications) (Amendments) (No. 2) (Wales) Regulations 2006**

**Paper: EPC(2)-04-06(p7)**

5.9 The Committee scrutinised the Regulations. The Committee recommended approval of the Regulations without amendment. Its report would be laid before the Assembly shortly.

### **Item 6: Committee report Planning aspects associated with the provision of affordable housing and sustainable communities in the countryside - progress report from the Minister on the implementation of recommendations**

**Paper: EPC(2)-04-06(p8)**

6.1 The Committee considered the progress report from the Minister on the implementation of recommendations contained in its report Planning aspects associated with the provision of affordable housing and sustainable communities in the countryside.

### **Action point**

The Chair agreed to consider inviting the Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration to a future meeting to discuss the Local Housing Assessment Guide and Affordable Housing Toolkit.

### **Item 7: EU Urban Environment Strategy (12.00pm-12.30pm)**

**Paper: EPC(2)-04-06(p9)**

7.1 The Committee noted the Minister's paper.

**Members' Research and Committee Services March 2006**