

Environment, Planning and Countryside Committee

Minutes EPC(2) 13-06

Meeting date: 11 October 2006

Meeting time: 9.30am – 12.30pm

Meeting venue: Committee Room 2, Senedd

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
Tamsin Dunwoody	Preseli Pembrokeshire
Carwyn Jones, Minister	Bridgend
Elin Jones	Ceredigion
Brynle Williams	North Wales

Officials in Attendance

Name	Job title
Gareth Jones	Department for Environment, Planning and Countryside
Dr Mike Dunn	Conservation and Management Division, Welsh Assembly Government
Rory O'Sullivan	Head of Countryside Policy Division
Christianne Glossop	Chief Veterinary Officer

Sion Aron Jones	Food and Market Development Division, Welsh Assembly Government
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Committee Service

Name	Job title
Kathryn Jenkins	Committee Clerk
Dan Collier	Deputy Committee Clerk
Gwyn Griffiths	Legal Adviser

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.

Item 2: Minutes of the last meeting

Paper: EPC(2) 12-06(mins)

2.1 The Committee ratified the minutes of the 28 September meeting.

Item 3: Minister's Oral Report

3.1 Members questioned the Minister on the Tir Mynydd budget for 2006/07.

3.2 The Minister updated the Committee on the following;

- The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act received Royal Assent in April. Guidance on a Commencement Order would be issued together with draft regulations implementing provisions relating to fixed penalties and dog control orders.
- An additional £100,000 would be added to the EPC MEG budget to fund eco-schools.
- There would be a strategic approach towards local environment quality issues. The first meeting of the Local Environment Quality forum would be on 24 October 2006.

Action point:

The Minister agreed to provide the Committee with the following:

- A breakdown of the Tir Cymru budget explaining how it had been changed as a result of negotiations about the overall National Assembly budget in December 2005.

Item 4: Consultation on the Dairy Strategy

Paper: EPC(2) 13-06(p1)

4.1 The Minister introduced his paper on the consultation on the Dairy Strategy.

4.2 The Committee questioned the Minister on his report.

Item 5: Targeting and Monitoring of Tir Gofal

Paper: EPC(2) 13-06(p2)

5.1 The Minister introduced his paper on the targeting and monitoring of Tir Gofal

5.2 The Committee questioned the Minister on his report.

Item 6: Subordinate Legislation

The Sheep and Goat (Records, identification and Movement) (Amendment) (Wales) Order 2006

Paper: EPC (2) 13-06(p3)

6.1 The Committee recommended approval of the Sheep and Goat (Records, identification and Movement) (Amendment) (Wales) Order 2006 without amendment. Its report would be laid before the Assembly shortly.

Item 7: Welsh Assembly Government Annual report on Equality of Opportunity

Paper: EPC(2) 13-06(p4)

7.1 The Minister introduced the paper on the EPC Department's contribution to the promotion of Equality of Opportunity in the Welsh Assembly Government's Seventh Annual report on Equality of Opportunity.

7.2 The Committee questioned the Minister on his report.

Action point:

- The Minister agreed to provide guidance and asset statements in applications for Tir Cymru grants relating to equality.
- The Chair would write to the Chair of the Equality of Opportunity Committee setting out the Committee's comments and suggestions on how the EPC Department might continue to mainstream equality.

Video conferencing session:

Item 8: EU Biodiversity document

Paper: EPC (2) 13-06(p5)

8.1 The Committee received a presentation from Martijn Quinn DG Environment, European

Commission, Brussels, on the EC Communication on Halting the Loss of Biodiversity by 2010 – and beyond: Sustaining ecosystem services for human well-being.

8.2 The Committee questioned the Mr Quinn.

8.3 A further session on the Communication would follow later in the term when Committee would scrutinise the Minister.

Evidence Session:

Item 9: ASPB Scrutiny – Environment Agency Wales

Paper: EPC (2) 13-06(p6)

9.1 The Committee welcomed Chris Mills, Dave Clarke and David Webster of Environment Agency Wales. The Director outlined the key points in the organisation's paper.

9.2 The Committee scrutinised the witnesses on the performance of Environment Agency Wales

Paper to note:

- The Committee noted a letter from the First Minister to the Chair dated 18 September 2006 on Notification to Subject Committees of Transfer of Functions Order.

Members' Research and Committee Services

October 2006