

# Local Government and Public Services Committee

## Minutes (LGPS 01-06(mins))

**Meeting date: Thursday 12 January 2006**

**Meeting time: 9.30am to 12.00pm**

**Meeting venue: Committee Room 2, National Assembly for Wales**

### Assembly Members in Attendance

Assembly Member	Constituency
Ann Jones (Chair)	Vale of Clwyd
Sue Essex (Minister)	Cardiff North
Michael German OBE	South Wales East
Dai Lloyd	South Wales West
David Melding	South Wales Central
Catherine Thomas	Llanelli
Gwenda Thomas	Neath

### Others in Attendance

Name	Representing (if applicable)	Agenda item (s)
Hugh Rawlings	Director, Local Government, Public Services and Culture Group	2,3,4
John Palmer	Local Government Policy Division	2,3,4
Rob Hay	Local Government Finance	2
Sue Perkins	Welsh Local Government Association	7
Phil Rafferty	Conwy County Borough Council	7

## Committee Service

Name	Job title
Virginia Hawkins	Committee Clerk
Julie Owen	Deputy Committee Clerk

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

1.1 The Chair welcomed Committee Members and members of the public.

1.2 Apologies were received from Peter Law. There were no substitutions.

1.3 There were no declarations of interest.

### Item 2: Minister's Report

**Paper: LGPS(2)-01-06(p.1)**

2.1 The Minister introduced her written report before taking questions from Members.

#### Action:

- The Minister to confirm whether two sixth form colleges working together would be eligible for funding under the Making the Connections Improvement Fund
- Committee Service to obtain copies of Professor Loughlin's report re the Lyons Review and circulate to Members.
- The Minister would provide further guidance on the measurement of Non-cash savings achieved by Local Authorities.

### Item 3: The Local Government (Best Value Authorities) (Power to Trade) (Wales) Order 2006

**Paper: LGPS(2)-01-06(p.2)**

3.1 The Committee accepted the regulations without amendment.

#### Action

- The Chair would write to the Business Committee informing them of the Committee's decision.
- The Minister to let the Committee know whether article 2(3) allowed authorities to purchase buses and then recover the costs.

**Item 4: NDR (Alternation of Lists and Appeals) (Wales) Regulations 2006**  
**Papers: LGPS(2)-01-06(p.3)**

4.1 The Committee accepted the regulations without amendment.

**Action**

- The Chair would write to the Business Committee informing them of the Committee's decision.

**Item 5: Committee's Forward Work Programme**  
**Paper: LGPS(2)-01-06(p.4)**

5.1 Following discussions the committee agreed the forward work programme for the coming year

**Action:**

- One Voice Wales to be invited to a future meeting
- An item on the role and function of Town and Community Councils to be added to the forward work programme
- Committee to revisit minutes of the Panel of Chair meeting regarding the inclusion of equality matters as a cross cutting issue.

**Item 6: Lyons inquiry into Local Government funding in England - interim report**  
**Paper: LGPS(2)-01-06(p.5)**

6.1 The committee discussed how they would handle their response to the Lyons inquiry.

**Action:**

- Committee to produce a factual and focussed response on the effects of Council Tax rebanding in Wales for the end of January deadline
- Committee to produce a report in response to the consultation. The report will cover the role of Town and Community Councils in Wales and the potential effects of the Government of Wales Act on funding
- Professor Loughlin to be invited to give evidence to the Committee.

**Item 7: Issues arising from the Licensing Act 2004**  
**Paper: LGPS(2)-01-06(p.6)**

7.1 The committee heard evidence from the WLGA on the recent changes to the Licensing Act.

## **Action**

- WLGA to provide information on the priority levels under AMEC.
- The South Wales – Night-time Economy report to be discussed at a future meeting
- WLGA to be invited to a future meeting to discuss the costs of implementing the Licensing Act 2003.

## **Item 8: Committee Scrutiny Project - Electoral Arrangements - Update on Progress and Agreement of Work Schedule**

**Paper: LGPS(2)-01-06(p.7)**

8.1 The committee discussed how they would take the project forward.

### **Action:**

- Committee Service to invite Funky Dragon, ACAC and teaching unions to give evidence.
- The Equality of Opportunity Committee's focus group on Disabled Young People to be approached to see if they were willing to aid consultation.

## **Papers to note**

Minutes of the meetings held on 30 November and 7 December 2005 were agreed.

The Local Government (Improvement Plans) (Wales) Order 2006, which was circulated outside Committee was approved without amendment. A copy of the order and relevant Committee paper from the meeting on October 13 2005 are attached.

**Committee Service**  
**January 2006**