

Local Government and Public Services Committee

Minutes (LGPS 06-06(mins))

Meeting date: Wednesday 30 March 2006

Meeting time: 9.30am to 12.05pm

Meeting venue: Committee Room 3, Senedd, 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
Gwenda Thomas	Neath

Others in Attendance

Name	Representing (if applicable)	Agenda item (s)
Hugh Rawlings	Director, Local Government, Public Services and Culture Group	all
Rob Hay	Local Government Finance Division	2
Frank Cuthbert	Local Government Policy Division	6
David Fletcher	Local Government Finance Division	5
Cath Mullin	Transport Strategy Unit	4
Ian Skinner	Local Government Finance Division	2

Rebecca Perrin	Local Government Finance Division	5
Paul Harrison	Local Government Finance Division	5
Terry Avery	City and County of Swansea	3
Graham Taylor	Denbighshire County Council	3

Committee Service

Name	Job title
Virginia Hawkins	Committee Clerk
Catherine Lewis	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 An apology was received from Catherine Thomas. There were no substitutions.
- 1.3 There were no declarations of interest.
- 1.4 A verbatim record of the meeting will be available.

Item 2: Three Year Revenue and Capital Settlements – Emerging Themes

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

- 2.1 The Minister outlined the key themes emerging from the consultation responses.

Action:

Minister to provide a paper to Committee explaining how three year revenue settlements would affect HRA benefit reclamation and rent reviews.

Item 8: Approval of the Committee’s forward work programme

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

- 3.1 The committee agreed to bring forward item 8, approval of the forward work programme for the

summer term.

Action:

Minister to confirm whether the paper on 3 year settlements should be discussed at Committee before or after being discussed at a meeting of the Consultative Forum on Finance.

Item 3: EU Legislation – Green Vehicles Directive

Paper: LGPS(2)-06-06(p.2a) & LGPS(2)-06-06(p.2b)

4.1 The committee heard presentations from Terry Avery, City and County of Swansea and Graham Taylor, Denbighshire County Council, on their experiences of introducing green vehicles into their fleets.

Action:

The Committee to write to the relevant Ministers giving their views on the proposed directive, copying to the DTI, the Chair of the European and External Affairs Committee, and Jørgensen Dan, EU Rapporteur for Environment, Public Health and Food Safety.

The Committee to request a paper from the WLGA on local authorities' policies for reducing transport use.

Item 4: Mini Secondary Legislation Forward Look

Paper: LGPS(2)-06-06(p.3)

5.1 The committee agreed to scrutinise both The draft Regional Transport Planning (Wales) Order 2006 and The draft Public Transport Users' Committee for Wales (Establishment) Order.

Action:

Both Orders to be scheduled for discussion.

Item 5: Business Rate Relief Scheme – Outcome of consultation

Paper: LGPS(2)-06-06(p.4)

6.1 The Committee discussed the paper on the outcomes of the consultation undertaken into the Business Rate Relief Scheme.

Action:

The Minister to provide an analysis of which option was favoured among the responses from representative bodies.

Item 6: Changes to the Local Government MEG – Funding for Implementation of New Electoral Duties

Paper: LGPS(2)-06-06(p.5)

7.1 The Committee discussed the paper on the changes to the Local Government Main Expenditure Group.

Action:

The Committee to write to the Department of Constitutional Affairs to express concern over the provision of funding for bilingualism.

The Committee to write to the Department of Constitutional Affairs to express concern at the lack of reference to bilingualism in the Regulatory Appraisal accompanying the Electoral Administration Bill.

Item 7: Submission to the Lyons Inquiry – approval of final report

Paper: LGPS(2)-06-06(p.6)

8.1 The Committee approved the submission to the Lyons Inquiry.

Papers to note

LGPS(2)-05-06(min)

Minutes of the meeting held on 15 March 2006 were noted.

Committee Service
March 2006