

Panel of Chairs

Minutes (POC(2)-04-06)

Meeting date: 9 May 2006

Meeting time: 17:30 - 18:30

Meeting venue: Senedd Committee Room 2

Assembly Members in Attendance

Assembly Member	Committee
Lord Elis-Thomas AM, Presiding Officer (Chair)	
Peter Black AM	Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills (ELLS)
Glyn Davies AM	Environment, Planning and Countryside (EPC)
Ann Jones AM	Local Government and Public Services (LGPS)
Janet Davies AM	Audit (AC)

Officials in Attendance

Name	Job title
Paul Silk	Clerk to the Assembly
Karin Phillips	Head of Members' Research and Committee Services
Peter Jones	Counsel to Assembly Committees
Adrian Green	Senior Parliamentary Executive, Presiding Office
Lara Date	Deputy Clerk

Regular Business Items

Item 1: Note of the last meeting on 4 April 2006

1.1. Apologies had been received from Rosemary Butler AM, Janice Gregory AM, Chris

Gwyther AM, Gwenda Thomas AM, Rhodri Glyn Thomas AM, Sandy Mewies AM, and Director of Assembly Communications, Gwen Parry.

1.2 The Panel agreed the minutes of the previous meeting for publication.

Action: The Secretariat to post the minutes on the Internet.

Item 2: Matters arising

2.1 The Panel noted the matters arising from the previous meeting.

Item 3: Chairs' Items

3.1 There were no items reported by Chairs.

Items to Report

Item 4: Media Coverage of Committees

4.1 The Panel noted the media coverage of Committees during April.

Item 5: The progress and scrutiny of Bills of particular relevance to Wales

5.1 The Panel noted the update report on the progress of Bills through Parliament and their consideration by Assembly Committees.

Item 6: E-democracy

6.1 The Panel noted the paper on progress with the e-democracy project. The LGPS Chair thanked the Committee Clerk for work to set up an e-democracy forum on electoral arrangements. It was one of a number of tools for consultation and LGPS would evaluate the type of responses received. It was confirmed that the e-democracy fora would be compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act.

Items for Discussion

Item 7: Budget scrutiny

7.1 The Panel noted the update on budget scrutiny training and briefing provided for Committees. The paper also set out the proposed programme for this year when the budget process was likely to change to reflect proposals in the Government of Wales Bill.

7.2 The Panel agreed that the briefing sessions were useful. Chairs would consult with the MRS officials responsible to ensure sessions were adapted to the needs of individual Committees.

Action:

MRS officials to liaise with individual Committee Chairs and Clerks to plan budget scrutiny sessions as appropriate.

Item 8: Update on Joint Working with Welsh Affairs Committee (WAC)

8.1 It was likely that a joint session would be held with WAC in the coming month. Details were still to be agreed with the relevant Committee Chair and would be reported to the next Panel meeting.

Item 9: Any other business

9.1 The Panel agreed that it should have a short pre-meeting before the video conference with Sir Jeremy Beecham on his review at the next Panel meeting on 13 June. Briefing would be prepared to inform that discussion.

Action:

Secretariat to schedule a pre-meeting on the agenda and arrange for briefing to be circulated to Panel Members in advance of the meeting on 13 June.

9.2 The planned presentation from the Editor of the Western Mail would be deferred from the next Panel meeting due to concern that other business would not allow sufficient time for the item.

Action:

Secretariat to liaise with Alan Edmunds' office to re-arrange the presentation by the Editor of the Western Mail to a later meeting.

9.3 The Panel noted the paper on APS performance indicators for February.

There was no other business.

Members' Research and Committee Services

May 2006