



**Comisiwn y Cynulliad
Assembly Commission**

**MINUTES OF 19 SEPTEMBER 2007 MEETING, 16.30-
19.30, 4TH FLOOR MEETING ROOM**

Present:

Dafydd Elis-Thomas AM (Presiding Officer)
William Graham AM (Conservative)
Peter Black AM (Liberal Democrat)
Lorraine Barrett AM (Labour)
Chris Franks AM (Plaid Cymru)

Officials present:

Claire Clancy (Chief Executive and Clerk)
Dianne Bevan (Chief Operating Officer)
Adrian Crompton (Director of Assembly Business)
Aled Eirug (Constitutional Consultant)
Steve O'Donoghue (Head of Financial Services) – item 3
Craig Stephenson (Head of Corporate Unit)
Cerys Gage (Secretariat)

Independent advisors:

None present

Observers:

None present

Apologies:

None



Item 1a. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of 4 July 2007 were agreed as an accurate record.

Item 1b. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

Item 1c. Issues considered by correspondence since the meeting of 20 June and the decision taken

There were no issues considered by correspondence since the 4 July meeting.

Item 2. Third Assembly

Assembly Commission Strategy

The Assembly Commission considered the draft strategy and agreed the goals and objectives in paper 1.

It was noted that the strategy has been well received and that it would help formulate Operational Plans, which, once finalised would be part of the larger Corporate Plan.

The Presiding Officer expressed his thanks for the facilities which have been provided on the 4th floor for the Assembly Commission, the Chief Executive, Directors and staff, which reflected the transparency and openness of the Senedd.

It was confirmed that Conference Room 4B was available for the Commissioner's to use and for other meetings such as Assembly Commission and Business Committee.

Item 3. Resources

Supplementary Budget 2007/08

The Assembly Commission considered and agreed the recommendations in paper 2A on the supplementary budget 2007/08.



The Assembly Commission noted that the timing of the supplementary budget was uncertain at the moment and that as funds would be transferring from WAG to APS it remained linked to the WAG supplementary budget. It was noted that the WAG supplementary budget would be proposed possibly by the end of October 2007.

It was noted that AM pay and allowances had not been costed and that the budget would include an estimate of these costs. The Assembly Commission noted that a further supplementary budget motion may be required if the review outcome differed from the estimate, but agreed that this should be avoided if possible.

Budget Proposals 2008/09

The Assembly Commission considered and agreed the recommendations in paper 2B on 2008/09 budget.

The Assembly Commission noted that the draft budget needed to be laid by 24 September 2007. The probability of WAG seeking a suspension of Standing Orders 27.9-12 because of the Comprehensive Spending Review was discussed. It was agreed to seek a delay in laying the final budget of the Commission in order to tie in with the Assembly Government's revised timetable.

Action: The draft budget to be laid by 24 September 2007.
Standing Orders 27.9-12 to be suspended pending confirmation of the WAG Annual Budget motion.

Item 4. Future Working

Future meetings of the Assembly Commission

The Assembly Commission considered and agreed the recommendations in paper 3 on the future meetings of the Assembly Commission.

The Assembly Commission discussed the timings of the meetings and agreed that future meetings will be held at 8.30-9.30am, and that consideration would be given to an 8.00am start if required. It was noted that the regularity of the meetings may vary and that additional meetings could be arranged should urgent matters arise. It was also noted that issues could be agreed via email exchanges outside meetings.

Item 5. Papers to note



The Assembly Commission noted paper 5A, Records Management Policy, and paper 5B, Webcasting Policy that had been endorsed by individual Commissioners in relation to their portfolio responsibilities.

Item 6. Payment of Party Whips

The Assembly Commission discussed an additional item relating to the payment of party whips following a letter to the Presiding Officer from the First Minister. The Assembly Commission agreed that the issue should be considered with the review of the Member's pay and allowances but that a paper looking at arrangements in other similar institutions would be considered at the next Assembly Commission meeting. A response to the First Minister would state this and that Commissioners felt that all party agreement to the proposal should be sought.

Action: A draft reply to the First Minister stating that all party agreement to the proposal should be sought and that a paper would be considered at the next Assembly Commission meeting.

Item 7. Date of next meeting

The next meeting would be held on 14 November 2007.

Corporate Unit
Date