

MINUTES OF MEETING

Date: Tuesday 31 January 2006

Time: 9.30 a.m.

Venue: Conference Room C

Present: Jenny Randerson (Chair)
Jane Hutt, Business Minister
Jocelyn Davies, Plaid Cymru Business Manager
Lisa Francis, Welsh Conservatives Business Manager
Peter Black, Welsh Liberal Democrats
John Marek, Deputy Presiding Officer

Paul Silk, Clerk to the Assembly
Andrew George, Clerk to the Business Committee
Marion Stapleton, Assembly Business Unit
Karin Phillips, Members' Research and Committee Service
Peter Jones, Counsel to the Assembly Parliamentary Service
Alun Jenkins, DLS (Agenda Item 4)
Marc Wyn Jones, Business Committee Secretariat
Catherine Morris, PS to the Deputy Presiding Officer

1. Apologies & announcements

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Kirsty Williams. The Chair welcomed Peter Black who was representing her in accordance with Standing Order 13.3.

2. Minutes of the previous meetings

(i) BC(2)02-06 (Final minutes) - Tuesday 17th January 2006

2.1 The minutes were presented to the Committee in their final format. As there were no comments, they would be translated in readiness for publication.

Action: Chamber Secretariat

(ii) BC(2)03-06 (draft minutes) - Tuesday 24th January 2006

2.2 The minutes were presented to the Committee in draft. An amendment was agreed which would be incorporated into the final draft before it was submitted to the Committee.

Action: Chamber Secretariat

3. Matters Arising

Draft Minutes of meeting of 24th January 2006

3.1 **Paragraph 3.1** The Chair said that a letter to the RICS encouraging them to issue the *Rent Only Residential Management Code* in Welsh had been prepared .

3.2 **Paragraph 4.1** Marion Stapleton said that the General Practitioners Committee (Wales) had not responded to the consultation on the *General Medical Services Transitional and Consequential Provisions (Wales) (Amendment) Order 2006* and that the Regulatory Appraisal had been amended accordingly.

3.3 **Paragraph 4.2** Marion Stapleton confirmed that the amendments proposed as a result of consultation had been incorporated in the draft *Local Government (Improvement Plans) (Wales) Order 2006* with the exception of amendment 6 which was unnecessary. She said that the Minister would be writing to the Local Government and Public Services Committee with details of how each proposed amendment had been incorporated into the draft Order and that the supporting papers would be revised before the Plenary debate.

3.4 **Paragraph 4.3** Marion Stapleton said that the supporting papers for the *Housing Revenue Account Subsidy (Wales) Determination 2006-2007*; and the *(Wales) General Determination of the Item 8 Credit and Item 8 Debit 2006-2007*, had been revised to make it clear which the procedures under Standing Order 29.3 were being applied and the reasons for the Minister's decision.

5.1 **Paragraph 5.2** Peter Black said that it was likely that the joint Committee meeting on the Annual Report of the Children's Commissioner would take place on 13th March and asked the Business Minister to encourage all of the relevant Ministers to attend

4. Subordinate Legislation

(a) Orders for consideration

The Transition from Primary to Secondary School (Wales) Regulations 2006 - **BC(2)04-06(p1)**

The Contaminants in Food (Wales) Regulations 2006 - **BC(2)04-06(p2)**

The Local Government (Improvement Plans) (Wales) Order 2006 **BC(2)04-06(p3)**

& Report of the Local Government and Public Services Committee - **BC(2)04-06(p9)**

Health and Social Care (Community Health and Standards) Act 2003 Commencement (Wales) (No.4) Order 2006 - **BC(2)04-06(p4)**

Functions of Local Health Boards (Dental Public Health) (Wales) Regulations 2006 - **BC(2)04-06(p5)**

The National Health Service (General Dental Services Contracts) (Wales) Regulations 2006 - **BC(2)04-06(p6)**

The General Dental Services and Personal Dental Services Transitional Provisions (Wales) Order 2006 - **BC(2)04-06(p7)**

*& Report of the Health and Social Services Committee - **BC(2)04-06(p14)***

The Business Committee recommended the Standard procedure for BC(2)02-06(p1); BC(2)02-06(p3); BC(2)03-06(p4); BC(2)03-06(p5) and BC(2)04-06(p7); and the Accelerated procedure for BC(2)02-06(p2). The Deputy Presiding Officer subsequently determined that none of these draft Orders need be referred to a Subject Committee.

BC(2)03-06(p4) - BC(2)04-06(p7)

4.1 Marion Stapleton said that these draft orders were the first of a number of pieces of legislation on dentistry.

4.2 In response to a query, Marion Stapleton confirmed that the Minister had decided that it was not reasonably practicable for the draft Order to be prepared in Welsh in accordance with Standing Order 24.2. It was noted that the reason provided was that there had not been sufficient time. Alun Jenkins said that the Minister's decision had been informed by the nature of the consultation process on the draft Orders and not the availability of resources.

BC(2)03-06(p6)

4.3 The Chair referred to the Committee report on this draft Order which said that an amendment had been agreed. However, paragraph 18 of the Explanatory Memorandum said that the Minister had decided not to include the amendment in the regulations and had written a letter of explanation to the Chair of the Health and Social Services Committee. Marion Stapleton said that the letter should also have been sent to the Chair of the Business Committee. It was agreed to postpone consideration of the draft Order until the next meeting when the letter could be included amongst the supporting papers.

(b) Standing Order 29 Subordinate Legislation

Requirement for the production of Transition Plans and Guidance - **BC(2)04-06(p8)**

4.4 The Chair said that the supporting papers for this draft legislation did not make it clear which of the procedures under Standing Order 29.3 were being applied and the reasons for the Minister's decision. The Deputy Presiding Officer asked if this could be included in the template for Cover Sheets accompanying such legislation.

(c) Orders made under the Executive Procedure; Papers to note.

(d) Papers for Information

5. Committees

BC(2)04-06(p15)

5.1 The Committee considered a paper on the progress of Bills of particular importance to Wales.

6. Forthcoming Business

BC(2)04-06(p10)

6.1 The Business Minister responded to requests from Business Managers and said that:-

- The Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning would be issuing a written statement on vocational training for ex-offenders at the earliest opportunity
- Although the Post Office is a non-devolved matter, the Minister for Social Justice & Regeneration would look into the implications for Wales of the UKr Government's proposal to abolish the Post Office Credit Account. The Minister would report back to the Subject Committee in due course.
- The Minister for Social Justice & Regeneration was aware of concerns surrounding the *Supporting People* Grant and would be reporting back to the Subject Committee upon this in due course.
- NICE intended conducting a consultation exercise on its proposals on specialist drugs in relation to Alzheimer's and the Welsh Assembly Government did not intend commenting on them until the consultation had concluded and the outcome was published.
- The Welsh Assembly Government would make a statement in due course on progress towards free home care for the disabled. The Business Minister would notify the Business Committee about timing.
- The Minister for Health and Social Services did not intend making specific time available for a statement on the food at Cefn Coed Hospital, Swansea. There had been an opportunity to raise the matter during Questions to the Health Minister on 25 January.
- The Minister for Economic Development and Transport would issue a written statement on the role of the Welsh Assembly Government in the UK Government's review of energy by 3rd February.

- The Minister for Economic Development and Transport would issue a written statement on the safety of the NLG terminal at Milford Haven by 3rd February.

This Week's Business

BC(2)04-06(p11)

6.2 The Committee considered this paper, which detailed the Assembly's agreed business for the week.

Business Manager's Requests

6.3 Jocelyn Davies asked if a debate could be held on NHS Trust finances. Business Managers supported this request.

6.4 Peter Black asked if a statement could be made on the Business Incentive Grant.

Draft Business Statement - BC(2)04-06(p12)

6.5 The Committee noted the Business Minister's proposed statement about the organisation of the Assembly's business for the weeks commencing 7th February; 14th February and 28th February.

6.6 In response to a query the Business Minister said that the Welsh Liberal Democrat debate had been scheduled as the last item on 7th February because the only other item of main plenary business was legislation. The Business Minister gave a commitment that sufficient time would be available for the debate.

7. Advice to Assembly on procedures

8. Matters referred from plenary

9. Revisions to Standing Orders

BC(2)04-06(p13)

9.1 The Committee considered a draft Business Committee Report on a proposed Standing Order amendment to allow substitutions to the Committee on Rail Infrastructure and Improved Passenger Services and agreed that the amendment should be considered in Plenary that week.

BC(2)03-06(p18)

9.2 The Committee considered a paper on temporary revisions to Standing Orders relating to the Committee on the Government of Wales Bill. Although there was no agreement on some of the proposed revisions, it was agreed

that the proposed amendment to enable the Committee to meet in Recess weeks should be considered in Plenary that week.

10. Presiding Officer rulings

11. Any other business.

CHAMBER SECRETARIAT