

# Business Committee

## BC(2)22-06 (Final minutes)

### MINUTES OF MEETING

**Date:** Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2006

**Time:** 9.00 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 would be representing her in accordance with Standing Order 13.3.

## **2. Minutes of the previous meetings**

### **(i) BC(2)19-06 (Final minutes) - Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> June 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)20-06 (draft minutes) - Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2006**

2.2 The minutes were presented to the Committee in draft. As there were no comments, they would be translated before being submitted to the Committee in final draft.

**Action: Chamber Secretariat**

## **3. Matters Arising**

### **4. Subordinate Legislation**

#### **(a) Orders for consideration**

The Horses (Zootechnical Standards) (Wales) Regulations 2006 – **BC(2)22-06(p1)** *Recommended Procedure: Accelerated*

#### **(b) Standing Order 29 Subordinate Legislation**

Directions to NHS Trusts and Powys Local Health Board 2006 – **BC(2)22-06(p2)**

& Report of the Health and Social Service Committee – **BC(2)22-06(p4)**

The Teacher Training Incentive Scheme 2006 – **BC(2)22-06(p3)**

E-mail of notification about the Minister for Health and Social Services' intention to approve the Food Law Code of Practice (Wales) 2006 – **BC(2)22-06(p5)**

E-mail of notification about the Minister for Health and Social Services' intention to make the Directions to NHS Bodies on Counter Fraud Measures (Wales) (Amendment) Directions 2006 - **BC**

## **(2)22-06(p6)**

E-mail of notification about the Minister for Finance, Local Government and Public Services' intention to approve the Guidance for County and County Borough Councils in Wales on Executive and Alternative Arrangements 2006 – **BC(2)22-06(p7)**

## **BC(2)22-06(p2)**

4.1 The Committee noted that these directions had arisen from a successful proposal under Standing Order 31 from Val Lloyd.

## **BC(2)22-06(p3)**

4.2 The Chair referred to Paragraph 17 of the Explanatory Memorandum, which said that the Minister for Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills had determined that consideration by the Legislation Committee of this Scheme had been disappplied because "*the Scheme is non-contentious and there is a need to ensure prompt payment to students*". Members of the Committee said that this was not an appropriate reason to disapply this provision and asked the Business Minister if she could remind Ministers of the Legislation Committee's role under Standing Order 11.

## **BC(2)22-06(p5), (p6) & (p7)**

4.3 The Committee noted the following items:

- An e-mail of notification about the Minister for Health and Social Services' intention to approve the Food Law Code of Practice (Wales) 2006 – **BC(2)22-06(p5)**
- An e-mail of notification about the Minister for Health and Social Services' intention to make the Directions to NHS Bodies on Counter Fraud Measures (Wales) (Amendment) Directions 2006 - **BC(2)22-06(p6)**
- An e-mail of notification about the Minister for Finance, Local Government and Public Services' intention to approve the Guidance for County and County Borough Councils in Wales on Executive and Alternative Arrangements 2006 – **BC(2)22-06(p7)**

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

### **(d) Papers for Information**

## **5. Committees**

### **BC(2)22-06(p8)**

5.1 The Committee noted the letter about consideration of forthcoming legislation from the Enterprise, Innovation and Networks Committee.

### **BC(2)22-06(p9)**

5.2 The Committee noted the letter about consideration of forthcoming legislation from the Health and Social Services Committee.

## **6. Forthcoming Business**

### **BC(2)22-06(p12)**

6.1 The Committee noted the Business Minister's responses to requests for items of business:

- A Debate on the Government's forward work programme had been scheduled for 4 October.
- There was no intention of scheduling a statement on the Welsh Language Board merger. However, a debate was scheduled for Tuesday 11 July on the Annual Report of Iaith Pawb and Members would have an opportunity to raise any related matters during the debate.
- A Debate on the NHS in Wales would be scheduled during the first half of the next term.
- The Minister for Enterprise, Innovation and Networks had issued a written statement on Airbus.
- The Minister for Enterprise, Innovation and Networks had issued a written statement on Network Rail
- The Minister for Enterprise, Innovation and Networks had issued a written statement on Finance Wales.
- There was no intention of scheduling a statement on a retainment duty system in the Fire Service, as the terms and conditions of Fire Service staff were a mixture of non devolved and operational matters.

6.2 Business Managers thanked the Business Minister for agreeing to schedule a debate on the Government's Forward Work programme.

### This Week's Business

#### **BC(2)22-06(p13)**

6.3 The Chair said that the indicative timings for Tuesday suggested that there would not be sufficient time to deal with the business as programmed. The Business Minister confirmed that she would move a motion to extend the meeting, if required.

6.4 The Business Minister said that the Minister for Finance, Local Government and Public Services would be making a statement on Tuesday on Capital Allocations. Jocelyn Davies asked if the statement, which would include detailed financial information, could be circulated to Business Managers earlier than usual. The Business Minister agreed this request.

### Business Managers' Requests

6.5 Jocelyn Davies asked if the following items of business could be scheduled:

- A statement on the status of the police mergers proposals.
- A statement/debate on the centralisation of Neurosurgery.

6.6 Lisa Francis supported the above requests and asked if the following items of business could be scheduled:

- A Debate on Communities First.
- A statement on the Welsh Assembly Government response to the Energy Review.
- A statement on the reported plans to cut 1,200 Assembly jobs.

6.7 Peter Black supported the above requests and asked if the following items of business could be scheduled:

- A statement on the Blaenau Gwent/Newport rail link.

6.8 The Committee noted the Business Minister's proposed statement about the organisation of the Assembly's business for the weeks commencing 19 September, 26 September and 3 October.

6.9 The Deputy Presiding Officer asked if a debate could be scheduled on the House Committee budget for 2007/08.

## 7. Advice to Assembly on procedures

### 8. Matters referred from plenary

### 9. Revisions to Standing Orders

### BC(2)21-06(p14)

9.1 The Chair introduced a paper on proposals to amend Standing Order 21. Business Managers referred to the written evidence by the Auditor General for Wales, which had been circulated out of Committee, and agreed that the additional provisions to clarify the information provided by the Government in support of a budget motion should be included. The Business Minister agreed. The Deputy Presiding Officer asked what provisions were in place if the motion to approve the Final budget was not agreed. Paul Silk said that the Standing Order was silent on this issue. The Deputy Presiding Officer said that the budget should be provided with sufficient notice for detailed scrutiny to take place.

## 10. Presiding Officer rulings

### 11. Any other business.

11.1 Jocelyn Davies referred to Mike German's proposal for legislation under Standing Order 31, which had been scheduled for debate on 4<sup>th</sup> July, but the Presiding Officer had ruled that the motion was defective. Peter Black said that Mike German and the Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside were discussing a way forward. He said that the Presiding Officer had, in his ruling, said that a procedure would be introduced whereby he would be consulted on any motions and

amendments which “*may affect the relationship between the Assembly and the Government.*” He asked if officials could report back on the procedure. Business Managers asked if Mike German had been given notice of the Presiding Officer’s intention. Peter Black said that Mike German had been notified. Jocelyn Davies said that it was not acceptable that Assembly Members had not been given any notice.

**Action: Secretariat**

**CHAMBER SECRETARIAT**