CSO(2)-07-06 (p3) Annex 1

Standing Order 5 - Assembly Business

Revisions to this Standing Order will need to take account of the outcome of discussions on the paper being considered on 12 June. It could be combined with Standing Order 13 if a Bureau model is to be followed.

Periodic Timetable Statements

5.1 From time to time, the Business Minister shall table motions proposing outline timetables of plenary meetings (which shall normally be held on Tuesdays and Wednesdays), times available for committee meetings, meetings of political groups, and recesses. Such motions shall propose timetables for periods of not less than three months, and shall include dates for questions for oral answer by specific Ministers and a member of the House Committee answering on behalf of that Committee.

Could largely be retained but with amendments to take account of when plenary meetings will be held (if it is necessary to include them).

Amend to make reference to Assembly Commission rather than House Committee?

5.2 Motions under Standing Order 5.1 shall be tabled having regard to any advice offered by the Business Committee under Standing Order 13.1(i). Wherever possible, motions shall be framed having regard to the family and constituency or electoral region responsibilities of Members, and their likely travel arrangements; and in any event shall seek to avoid timetabling business before 9.00am or after 5.30pm on any working day.

Will need revisions to take account of any decisions in respect of the sitting week / day and the related issues concerning family friendly working and travel arrangements.

Weekly Business Statements

- 5.3 In each week that the Assembly meets in plenary, the Business Minister shall make a statement about the proposed organisation of its business for the first week after the week when the statement is made, together with the provisional organisation of business for the two subsequent weeks. The statement shall inform the Assembly of business to be considered in each plenary meeting and the timetable for such business (including the indicative period allocated to any individual item of business). The Business Minister shall seek to avoid changes to the provisional organisation of business unless there is compelling reason for such change.
- Q: Is it necessary to specify a provisional organisation of business for the two subsequent weeks after the first week?

5.4 The Business Minister's statement shall constitute the agreed timetable for Assembly business for the first week (and the Presiding Officer's notices of business circulated under Standing Order 6.8 shall be drafted accordingly) unless at least ten Members object. Where there is any such objection, the Presiding Officer shall allow the Business Minister to propose that the statement be adopted, and one Member from each political group to speak briefly in response; the Business Minister shall be entitled to reply and the Presiding Officer shall then put the proposition to the vote. If the proposition is rejected, the Business Minister shall as soon as possible bring forward a revised statement (which shall be similarly subject to adoption by the Assembly).

Detail will need to be considered in light of discussions on the control of business paper.

5.5 Where no objection by at least ten Members has been made, the Presiding Officer may allow one Member from each political group to comment briefly on the Business Minister's statement and shall then allow the Business Minister to reply.

Retention / amendment will be dependent on outcome of discussions on the control of business paper.

Revised Statements

5.6 If it becomes necessary to amend the organisation of business for a subsequent plenary meeting, the Business Minister may bring forward a revised statement (which shall be subject to adoption in accordance with Standing Order 5.4).	Retention / amendment will be dependent on outcome of discussions on the control of business paper.
Notification of Determinations on Consideration of Draft Orders	This relates to the scrutiny of subordinate legislation, which will be subject to different procedures post 2007 as a consequence of the Government of Wales Bill. Members may wish to consider whether there would be any circumstances in which it would be sensible to retain equivalent procedures in respect of the future legislative functions of the Assembly.
5.7 As soon as may be after they have been made and notified to him or her, the Business Minister shall inform the Assembly of the Deputy's determinations made under Standing Order 24.6 about consideration of draft Orders by Subject Committees.	
5.8. If the Deputy, after considering the advice of the Business Committee, has determined that a particular draft Order need not be considered by a Subject Committee but at least ten Members object to that determination, the Business Minister may propose (without prior notice) that the determination be endorsed. The Presiding Officer may permit one Member from each political group to speak briefly in response and the Business Minister to reply, and shall then put the proposition to the vote. Alternatively, when at least ten Members have objected to the determination, the Business Minister may propose (without prior notice) that the draft Order be referred to a Subject Committee; and the Presiding Officer may, at his or her discretion, seek the agreement of the Assembly to that proposition without a debate. If the Assembly resolves that the draft Order shall be subject to consideration by a Subject Committee, such consideration shall be in accordance with arrangements determined by the Deputy.	

5.9. If the Deputy, after considering the advice of the Business Committee, has determined that a particular draft Order should be considered by a Subject Committee but at least ten Members object to that determination, the Business Minister may propose (without prior notice) that the determination be reversed. The Presiding Officer may permit one Member from each political group to speak briefly in response and the Business Minister to reply, and shall then put the proposition to the vote. Alternatively, when at least ten Members have objected to the determination, the Business Minister may propose (without prior notice) that the determination be endorsed; and the Presiding Officer may, at his or her discretion, seek the agreement of the Assembly to that proposition without a debate. If the Assembly resolves that the draft Order should be subject to consideration by a Subject Committee, such consideration shall be in accordance with arrangements determined by the Deputy.