



**Comisiwn y Cynulliad  
Assembly Commission**

**MINUTES OF 19 SEPTEMBER 2007 MEETING, 16.30-  
19.30, 4<sup>TH</sup> 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)  
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 will help formulate Operational Plans, which, once finalised will be part of larger Corporate Plans.

Thanks were expressed for the facilities which have been provided on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor for the Assembly Commission, the Chief Executive, Directors and staff, and the importance of reflecting the transparency and openness of the Senedd was noted.

It was confirmed that the 4<sup>th</sup> floor meeting room is available for the Commissioner's to use, such as Assembly Commission meetings 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 is uncertain at the moment and that as funds will be transferring from WAG to APS it remains linked to the WAG supplementary budget. It was noted that the WAG supplementary budget will be proposed 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 should this estimate prove to be inexact a further supplementary budget motion may be required, and agreed that this should be avoided.

### **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 needs to be laid by 24 September 2007, and that any changes suggested will be incorporated. The option of suspending Standing Orders 27.9-12 was raised and it was explained that this would delay laying the final budget and enable changes to be incorporated following the WAG Annual Budget Motion plans.

**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 8.30-9.30, and that consideration will be given to an 8.00 start if required. It was noted that the regularity of the meetings may vary and that additional meetings could be arranged should an urgent matter arise. It was also noted that issues can be agreed via email exchanges outside of the meetings, and that the Presiding Officer has exemptions under S.36 of the Freedom of Information Act to cover any exchanges made.

### **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 of the payment of party whips. As not all party leaders are involved in this issue it was noted that further discussions should be held to establish all party agreement. The Assembly Commission agreed that the issue should be considered alongside the review of the Member's pay and allowances and that a letter should be drafted to inform all parties of this and also that the issue will be considered at the next Assembly Commission meeting. The letter should also state that Commissioners felt that all party agreement to the proposal should be sought.

**Action:** Further discussions to be held with all parties on the issue of the payment of party whips.

A letter to be drafted and issued to inform all parties that all party agreement should be sought, that the issue will be discussed at the next Assembly Commission meeting and that it will be considered alongside the AM pay and allowances review.

#### **Item 7. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on 14 November 2007.

**Corporate Unit**

**Date**