

# Local Government and Public Services Committee

## Minutes (LGPS 05-05(mins))

Meeting date: Wednesday 11 May 2005

Meeting time: 9.15am to 12.30pm

Meeting venue: Committee Room 3

### Assembly Members in Attendance

Assembly Member	Constituency
Glyn Davies	Mid and West Wales
Jocelyn Davies	South Wales East
Sue Essex, Minister	Cardiff North
Mike German	South Wales East
Alun Ffred Jones	Caernarfon
Ann Jones, Chair	Vale of Clwyd
Dai Lloyd	South Wales West
Val Lloyd	Swansea East
Gwenda Thomas	Neath
Brynle Williams	North Wales

### Officials in Attendance

Name	Job title
Huw Rawlings	Director, Local Government and Culture Group
Kate Cassidy	Local Government Modernisation Division

Frank Cuthbert	Local Government Modernisation Division
Mike Chown	Local Government Finance Division
Rob Hay	Local Government Finance Division
Simon Moss	Assembly Counsel

## Others in Attendance

Name	Representing	Agenda item(s)
Bryn Parry-Jones	Regional Returning Officer for Wales	3
Sir Michael Lyons	Lyons Inquiry	5
Ben Day	HM Treasury	5

## Committee Service

Name	Job title
Virginia Hawkins	Committee Clerk
Liz Wilkinson	Deputy Committee Clerk
Peter Jones	Counsel to Assembly Committees

## Item 1: Introduction, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

1.1 The Chair welcomed Committee Members and members of the public to the meeting.

1.2 Apologies were received from Laura Anne Jones for whom Brynle Williams substituted.

## Item 2: Minister's Report

### Paper: LGPS 05-05(p1)

2.1 The Minister introduced her written report before taking questions from Members.

## **Action points**

- The Minister agreed to provide the Committee with regular updates on progress in taking forward the Public Services Management Wales (PSMW) – Minister, Public Services Management Wales
- The Chair agreed to write to the Chair of Health and Social Services Committee to reiterate the Local Government and Public Services Committee interest in performance of Blaenau Gwent local authority social services and to ask to be notified of any future consideration of Social Services Inspectorate Wales' reports - Chair, Committee Services
- The Minister agreed to report back to the Committee on progress on the Three Year Settlement Working Group – Minister, Local Government Finance

## **Item 3: Committee's Scrutiny Project into Electoral Arrangements in Wales**

3.1 The Chair welcomed Bryn Parry-Jones, Chief Executive of Pembrokeshire County Council and Regional Returning Officer for Wales, to the meeting. Mr Parry-Jones outlined his experience of elections and provided comment on key issues that the Committee was seeking to address before taking questions from Members.

## **Item 4: Subordinate legislation – The Local Authorities (Access to Information) (Variation) (Wales) Order 2005**

### **Paper: LGPS 05-05(p2)**

4.1 The Committee considered The Local Authorities (Access to Information)(Variation)(Wales) Order 2005 and, subject to the outcome of the ongoing consultation, recommended approval of the draft Order without amendment.

## **Action point**

- The Minister agreed to inform the Committee of subsequent amendments to the draft legislation following the consultation period – Minister, Local Government Modernisation.

## **Item 5: Lyons Inquiry**

5.1 The Chair welcomed Sir Michael Lyons and Ben Day to the meeting. Sir Michael outlined the aim and purpose of the inquiry. He highlighted progress made to date before taking questions from Members.

## **Action point**

- The Chair agreed to write to Sir Michael Lyons outlining the main points raised in discussion – Chair, Committee Services.

## **Item 6: Budget priorities**

### **Paper: LGPS 05-05(p4)**

6.1 The Minister introduced her paper on priorities for the Local Government Main Expenditure Group for 2006-07. The Committee discussed and agreed its priorities for the 2005 budget.

#### **Action point**

- The Chair would write to formally submit the Committee's priorities for the Local Government Main Expenditure Group for 2006-07 to the Minister – Chair, Committee Service.

## **Item 7: Minutes of the previous meeting**

### **Paper: LGPS 04-05(min)**

7.1 The Committee approved the minutes of the 20 April 2005 meeting.