

Business Committee BC(2)27-05 (Final minutes)

MINUTES OF MEETING

Date: 18th October 2005

Time: 9.30 a.m.

Venue: Conference Room C

Present: Jenny Randerson (Chair)
Jane Hutt, Business Minister

Jocelyn Davies, Plaid Cymru Business
Manager

David Melding, Welsh Conservatives
Business Manager

Kirsty Williams, Welsh Liberal
Democrats Business Manager

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 Services 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

Apologies & announcements

1.1 The Chair welcomed John Roche, Margaret Powell, Sarah Austin and Karen Edwards, of Cabinet Secretariat's Business Unit who were observing the meeting for training

purposes.

2. Minutes of the previous meetings

(i) BC(2)25-05 (Final minutes) - Tuesday 4th October 2005

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)26-05 (draft minutes) - Tuesday 11th October 2005

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

Action: Chamber Secretariat

3. Matters Arising

4. Subordinate Legislation

Orders for consideration

The Fishery Products (Official Controls Charges) (Wales) Regulations 2005 - **BC(2)27-05 (p2)**

The Water Supply (Exceptions From Supply System Prohibitions) Regulations 2005 - **BC(2)27-05(p3)** *Standing Order 25, Section 3*

The Water Supply Licence (New Customer Exception) Regulations 2005 - **BC(2)27-05(p4)** *Standing Order 25, Section 3*

The Water Supply Licence (Prescribed Water Fittings Requirements) Regulations 2005 - **BC(2)27-05(p5)** *Standing Order 25, Section 3*

The Tryptophan In Food (Wales) Regulations 2005 - **BC(2)27-05(p6)**

The Food Hygiene (Wales) Regulations 2005 - **BC(2)27-05(p7)**

The Business Committee recommended the Accelerated procedure for BC(2)27-05 (p2) and BC(2)27-05(p6). The Committee recommended the Extended procedure for BC(2)27-05(p7). The Deputy Presiding Officer subsequently determined that BC(2)27-

05(p2) and BC(2)27-05(p6) need not be referred to Subject Committee. He determined that BC(2)27-05(p7) should be referred to the Environment, Planning and Countryside Committee and the Local Government and Public Services Committee, with the remit to report back to the Assembly within 6 weeks.

BC(2)27-05(p2)

4.1 The Deputy Presiding Officer noted that the Health and Social Services Committee had been notified of these Regulations. He said that these Regulations might have been relevant to the Environment, Planning and Countryside Committee and asked if the Committee could be notified if that was the case in future.

BC(2)27-05(p7)

4.2 Business Managers recommended the Extended procedure for these Regulations and advised the Deputy Presiding Officer that they should be referred to the Environment, Planning and Countryside Committee and Local Government and Public Services Committee for further consideration, with a remit to report back to the Assembly within 6 weeks.

(b) Standing Order 29 Subordinate Legislation

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

(d) Papers for Information

5. Committees

BC(2)27-05(p8)

5.1 The Committee noted the letter from the Chair of Environment, Planning and Countryside Committee about consideration of forthcoming legislation.

BC(2)27-05(p9)

5.2 The Committee noted the letter from the Chair of the Culture, Welsh Language and Sport Committee about its intention to hold additional meetings on 3 November and 1 December. The Chair asked if such letters, in future, could indicate whether or not the Committee was unanimous in its requests.

BC(2)27-05(p13)

5.3 The Committee noted the letter from the Minister for Health and Social Services about forthcoming subordinate legislation required to implement the new dental contract. The Chair noted that the letter said that "*the draft timetable for standard procedure we currently have for introducing the above Regulations have identified difficulties in meeting all of the required stages before consideration in Plenary*". It was noted that the Health and Social

Services Committee would be provided with draft versions of the subordinate legislation. The Business Minister said that similar arrangements had been put in place to deal with legislation arising from the General Medical contract. She said that a debate on dentistry would be scheduled before the Christmas recess. It was agreed that copies of the letter would be circulated to all Assembly Members.

6. Forthcoming Business

BC(2)26-05(p6)

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

There was no intention of scheduling a statement by the First Minister on the Memorandum of Understanding between himself and the Secretary of State for Wales. However, time would be made available as soon as the Bill was published to fully explain how Orders in Council would operate under the new arrangements. She would provide comprehensive guidance to Members at the earliest opportunity and would consider in due course how the Government could best communicate that information to the Assembly.

A statement on Pandemic Flu would be made in Plenary on 1 November. In the meantime, the Minister for Health and Social Services would issue a Written Statement.

There was currently no intention of making a statement on the Financial position of NHS Trusts. There would be opportunities for Members to raise the issue during First Minister's questions later that day. In addition, the Health and Social Services Committee would be considering the draft budget on 2nd November and the Minister for Health Minister would clarify the overall picture of NHS Trust Finances.

There was no intention of making a statement on the threat of the withdrawal of all-night ambulance cover by Ambulance crews in Powys. However, a written statement would be issued shortly.

An oral statement on nutrition and healthy eating in schools had been scheduled for 9 November.

There was no intention of scheduling a debate on the Electoral Commission's comments on the White Paper. However, a full debate on the Bill would be scheduled when it was published.

This Week's Business

BC(2)27-05(p11)

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

6.3 Kirsty Williams noted that a statement on nutrition in schools, for which she had made a request, had been scheduled for 9 November. She thanked the Business Minister for this.

Business Manager's Requests

6.4 David Melding asked if a statement or debate could be scheduled on the situation regarding Avian Flu. He also asked if a statement could be made on the financial position of NHS Trusts.

6.5 Jocelyn Davies asked if a statement could be made on the Memorandum of Understanding between the First Minister and the Secretary of State.

Draft Business Statement - BC(2)25-05(p8)

6.6 The Committee noted the Business Minister's proposed statement about the organisation of the Assembly's business for the weeks commencing 1 November, 8 November and 15 November.

7. Advice to Assembly on procedures

8. Matters referred from plenary

8.1 The Business Committee noted an excerpt from the Record of Proceedings from 11 October relating to amendments to the motion to approve the principle of the Avian Influenza and Newcastle Disease (Contingency and Planning) (Wales) Order 2005. The Chair said that the Presiding Officer had, in his statement, asked the Business Committee to look at the arrangements for selecting amendments. The Committee agreed that they were content with the current arrangements, but that the Committee might need to consider this issue in the light of the forthcoming Bill. It was agreed that the Chair should write to the Presiding Officer to relay the Committee's views.

9. Revisions to Standing Orders

10. Presiding Officer rulings

11. Any other business.