

# Business Committee

## BC(2)21-06 (Final minutes)

### MINUTES OF MEETING

**Date:** Tuesday 4<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

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 disapplied 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.

### **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)20-06(p3)**

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

- There was currently no intention of scheduling a debate on the Government's forward work programme.
- There was no intention of scheduling a statement on the funding of Community Radio as broadcasting was a non-devolved matter.
- There was no intention of scheduling statements on overcrowding in prisons and the implications for Welsh families or on the recent disturbances in Criccieth as these were both non-devolved matters.
- There was no intention of scheduling a statement on playing fields as there had been no need for the Welsh Assembly Government to compile or maintain information on the numbers of playing fields.
- There was no intention of scheduling a statement on the recommendations of the Clywch Inquiry as the Minister for Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills would be updating the Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills Committee on this issue in its next meeting.
- There was no intention of scheduling a statement on ambulance cover as this was a matter for the Welsh ambulance trust.

- There was no intention of scheduling a statement on the proposed ambulance inquiry as party spokespeople had discussed the way forward in the Health and Social Services Committee in its meeting on 29 June.

6.2 Lisa Francis said that she had previously asked if a statement could be scheduled on the Welsh Language Boards Merger before the forthcoming debate on the Annual Report of Iaith Pawb, which was scheduled for 11 July. She asked when the statement would be made. The Business Minister said she would notify Business Managers later that day.

6.3 Jocelyn Davies that the Business Minister's response to her request for a debate on the Government's forward work programme was not acceptable, and that she would be reiterating her request for a debate.

#### This Week's Business

#### **BC(2)18-06(p11)**

6.4 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.

6.5 Jocelyn Davies referred to 9 items of legislation relating to Houses of Multiple Occupancy, which had been scheduled to be debated together on 27<sup>th</sup> June, but which had been disaggregated by the Presiding Officer. She asked if Members could be given notice of any such disaggregation in future. Business Managers agreed. The Business Minister apologised that Members had not been notified and agreed that a mechanism for notifying Members was required. Paul Silk said that Presiding Officer's view was that no more than two items of legislation should be debated together, in the interests of clarity in the debate.

#### Business Managers' Requests

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

- A Debate on the Government's forward work programme
- A statement on the Welsh Language Board merger

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

- A Debate on the NHS in Wales.
- A statement on the European Working Time directive.
- A statement on Airbus.
- A statement on Finance Wales.
- A statement on Network Rail.
- A statement on a retainment duty system in the Fire Service

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

- A debate on the No Named Day Motion on the Music Development Fund.

#### Draft Business Statement - BC(2)20-06(p5)

6.8 The Committee noted the Business Minister's proposed statement about the organisation of the Assembly's business for the weeks commencing 11 July, 19 September and 26 September.

### 7. Advice to Assembly on procedures

#### BC(2)21-06(p12)

7.1 The Business Committee noted the Report on Proposals for Legislation under Standing Order 31. The Committee agreed that

- The remaining provisions of Standing Order 31 need not apply to Christine Chapman's proposals under Standing Order 31, as the Assembly had resolved that the proposals would be effected by a scheme.
- At the time of laying the feasibility report in support of the second motion, the Table Office should seek confirmation from the clerk of the appropriate Committee that they had been consulted in accordance with Standing Order 31.5. If that consultation had not occurred, then

the feasibility report would not be accepted for laying.

- The Business Minister would draw to the attention of the Cabinet the Business Committee's agreement that, in debates on the second motion, the Minister would formally move the motion followed by the sponsor of the proposal, who would be the first substantive speaker in the debate. The Minister would also close the debate.

## **BC(2)21-06(p13)**

7.2 The Committee noted the paper from the Table Office on tabling arrangements for the Summer recess.

### **8. Matters referred from plenary**

#### **9. Revisions to Standing Orders**

9.1 Sian Wilkins introduced a paper on proposals to amend Standing Order 21. She said that the amendments were needed as the Government of Wales Bill made fundamental changes to the financial arrangements for the Assembly following the May 2007 election. As the budget process for 2007-08 would begin in the autumn, Standing Order 21 would need amendment once the Bill received Royal Assent. She said that it was hoped that the Committee could agree the principles outlined in the paper in the meantime.

9.2 The Chair referred to paragraph 3.6 of the paper, which suggested an amendment to clarify the information provided by the Government in support of a budget motion. The Committee agreed that the suggested amendment should be included in the proposed Standing Order changes. Jocelyn Davies said that the Standing Orders Committee had taken evidence on this issue and asked if that evidence could be circulated to members of the Committee.

9.3 The Committee agreed to return to the proposals in its next meeting, following consultation with groups.

### **10. Presiding Officer rulings**

### **11. Any other business.**

**CHAMBER SECRETARIAT**