

Business Committee BC(2)32-06 (Final minutes)

MINUTES OF MEETING

Date: Tuesday 28th November 2006

Time: 9.00 a.m.

Venue: Conference Room C

Present: Jenny Randerson (Chair)
Jane Hutt, Business Minister
Lisa Francis, Welsh Conservatives
Business Manager

Jocelyn Davies, Plaid Cymru Business
Manager

Kirsty Williams, Welsh Liberal
Democrats Manager

John Marek, Deputy Presiding Officer
(attending in accordance with Standing
Order 13.2)

Paul Silk, Clerk to the Assembly

Andrew George, Clerk to the Business
Committee

Marion Stapleton, Assembly Business
Unit

Adrian Crompton, 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

Leanne Hatcher, Business Committee
Secretariat

Eve Pennant-Jones, PS to the Deputy
Presiding Officer

1. Apologies & announcements

2. Minutes of the previous meetings

(i) BC(2)30-06 (Final minutes) - Tuesday 14th November 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)31-06 (draft minutes) - Tuesday 21st November 2006

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

Action: Chamber Secretariat

3. Matters Arising

BC(2)31-06 (draft minutes)

3.1 Paragraph 6.10 The Chair asked if there had been any progress with Lisa Francis' proposal for subordinate legislation under Standing Order 31, which had been agreed in Plenary on 4th October. Lisa Francis said she would be meeting the Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside shortly to discuss progress. The Business Minister said she would report back on the issue in the Committee's next meeting.

3.2 Paragraph 6.12 The Chair referred to the requirement for the current Assembly to make a statutory instrument to set the date of the first plenary meeting following the 2007 elections. The Business Minister said that party leaders had yet to consider the issue. However, she would be in a position to report back in the Committee's next meeting.

4. Subordinate Legislation

Orders for consideration

The Local Government Act 2003 (Commencement No.1 and Savings) (Wales) Order 2006 - **BC(2)32-06(p1)**

& Report of the Local Government and Public Services Committee

– **BC(2)32-06(p15)**

The Non-Domestic Rating (Demand Notices and Discretionary Relief) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2006 - **BC(2)32-06(p2)**

The Non-Domestic Rating (Small Business Relief) (Wales) Order 2006 - **BC(2)32-06(p3)**

The Non-Domestic Rating Contributions (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2006 - **BC(2)32-06(p4)**

The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2006 - **BC(2)32-06(p5)**

& Report of the Environment, Planning and Countryside Committee – BC(2)32-06(p8)

The Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) (Amendment) (Wales) Order 2006 - **BC(2)32-06(p6)**

& Report of the Environment, Planning and Countryside Committee – BC(2)32-06(p9)

The National Health Service (Dental Charges) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2006 - **BC(2)32-06(p7)**

The Business Committee recommended the Standard procedure for BC(2)32-06(p1), BC(2)32-06(p2), BC(2)32-06(p3), BC(2)32-06(p4), BC(2)32-06(p5), BC(2)32-06(p6) and BC(2)32-06(p7).

BC(2)32-06(p1), (p2), (p3) & (p4)

4.1 Lisa Francis referred to the Explanatory Memorandum accompanying these draft Orders, which said that following "suggestions" from local authority officials, "*commercially let self catering accommodation has been excepted from the scheme.*" Lisa Francis asked if details about the suggestions could be provided. The Business Minister said she would report back on this issue.

(b) Standing Order 26 Subordinate Legislation

(c) Standing Order 29 Subordinate Legislation

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

BC(2)32-06(p10) & (p11)

4.2 The Committee noted the letters about the use of the Executive procedure for:

The Avian Influenza (H5N1 in Wild Birds) (Wales) Order 2006.

The Avian Influenza (H5N1 in Poultry) (Wales) Order 2006.

(e) Papers for Information

5. Committees

6. Forthcoming Business

Responses to Requests

BC(2)32-06(p12)

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

There was still no intention to make a statement on arrangements with Westminster for Orders in Council post May 2007, as the procedures were laid out in the Government of Wales Act 2006, and were currently being considered the Standing Orders Committee.

There was currently no intention to schedule a debate on the Convergence Programme, as Members had been consulted on the draft programme.

A written statement had been issued on the bird flu vaccine.

There was currently no intention to make a statement on any discussions between Ministers and Westminster regarding intentions to reduce consumer debt in Wales. The Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration had reported to the SJR Committee on 19th October on the review of Over-Indebtedness.

There was currently no intention to make a statement on the security of Welsh Ferry Ports against terrorist attacks, as this was a non-devolved matter.

There was currently no intention to make a statement on Road Congestion charging.

There was currently no intention to make a statement on the safety of the first Severn Bridge, as a written statement had been issued on 6th October and further evaluation was underway.

There was currently no intention to make a statement on the relocation of the Wales Screen Commission. Members had an opportunity to raise the issue during questions to the Minister for Enterprise, Innovation and Networks' on 15th November and there had been an opportunity for Committee Members to raise the issue during the EIN Committee meeting on 22nd November.

This Week's Business

BC(2)32-06(p13)

6.2 The Business Minister said that there were no changes to the week's business.

Business Managers' Requests

6.3 Lisa Francis asked if the following items of business could be scheduled:

A statement on the mini-tornado in Ceredigion.

A debate on Post Office Networks.

A statement on the installation of passing loops along the Cambrian Coast line and the piloting of concessionary fares on rural lines.

A written statement on the report about the Cryptosporidiosis outbreak.

A statement on the LNG gas pipe.

6.4 Kirsty Williams supported the above requests and asked if the following items of business could be scheduled:

A statement on Nuclear Waste.

A statement on Marine Protection Areas.

A statement on the timing for the Lyons Review.

6.5 Jocelyn Davies asked if an oral statement could be made on Cryptosporidiosis. Lisa Francis supported this request.

6.6 Kirsty Williams asked if the Business Minister would reconsider the request for a debate on the Convergence Programme. She said that the statement which had been scheduled for 12th December would be insufficient and it would be preferable to hold a debate to allow Members the opportunity to discuss the issue. Business Managers supported the request. The Business Minister said she would consider the request.

BC(2)32-06(p16)

6.7 The Committee considered a paper on the delegation of functions under the Railways Act 2005. The Business Minister thanked the Chair for allowing the late circulation of this paper. However she said it was necessary for the Committee to decide whether the delegation of functions should be transferred to the First Minister or to the Enterprise, Innovation and Networks Committee. The Deputy Presiding Officer suggested that the guidance arising from the Order could be considered by the Assembly in Plenary without the need to delegate the necessary functions. Business Managers agreed with this proposal.

Draft Business Statement - BC(2)32-06(p14)

6.8 The Business Committee noted the Business Minister's proposed statement about the organisation of the Assembly business for the weeks commencing 5 December, 12 December and 16 January.

7. Advice to Assembly on procedures

8. Matters referred from plenary

9. Revisions to Standing Orders

10. Presiding Officer rulings

11. Any other business.

