

Economic Development and Transport Committee

EDT2 04-05 Action outstanding

Action outstanding from previous meetings

Para in Minutes	Action	Action by	Progress
EDT 1 Apr (Item 3.5)	Minister agreed that it would be useful to have a detailed discussion on congestion charging at a future Committee meeting.	EDT Minister and Clerk/Chair.	EDT Minister to provide paper in early 2005. Latest information is that this has slipped and a report more likely in the summer term.
EDT 10 Nov (Item 2.6)	Minister to provide precise plans on where savings could be made in the running costs of the WDA and WTB following the merger. This would be available once the 9 'work streams' had been examined and analysis of cost savings had been made.	EDT Minister	Discussed at 9 Feb meeting. See also 9 Feb 4.8
EDT 10 Nov (item 2.8)	The Minister to bring forward concrete proposals on the Knowledge Bank which the Committee could scrutinise at the appropriate time	EDT Minister	Expected 9 March 2005 – subsequently advised this will be in the summer term.

EDT 10 Nov (Item 5.10)	There was concern that the Forestry Enterprise had recently cut back on mountain bike trails and this conflicted with the policies of the WTB and the Government's own Health Strategy. The Minister agreed to take the matter up with the Minister for Environment Planning and Countryside.	EDT Minister	Meeting arranged for 18/04. Await outcome.
EDT 10 Nov (Item 5.16)	The Chair agreed to write to Peter Hain asking him for a report on his visit to Australia and New Zealand.	Chair/Clerk	Chair has written to Peter Hain. Awaiting report. Report e-mailed to Members' on 14 Feb
EDT 1 Dec (item 4.5)	Minister agreed to provide further information on the Mountain Bike Trails.	EDT Minister	Meeting arranged for 18/04. Await outcome.
EDT 1 Dec (Item 7.3)	The Minister agreed to seek a meeting with the Minister for Environment Planning and Countryside on the disposal of hazardous waste and report back to Committee. (see also 13 Oct 2.3 and 10 Nov 5.9)	EDT Minister	Meeting arranged for 18/04. Await outcome.
EDT 19 Jan (Item 2.6)	The Minister agreed to speak to Carwyn Jones about the impact of Cadmium pollution caused by agricultural fertilizers	EDT Minister	Meeting arranged for 18/04 Await outcome.
EDT 19 Jan (Item 3.4)	The Minister agreed to update the Committee on the work he had started on the Heads of the Valleys initiative, which included key stakeholders such as the WDA and Local Authorities Heads of the Valleys strategy.	EDT Minister	Covered in Minister's Report 9 Feb. Fuller report expected in April

EDT 19 Jan (Item 3.5)	The Minister agreed to take up the issues concerning the lack of engagement of the WDA in Communities First areas and to discuss issues concerning the social enterprise network with the relevant Minister	EDT Minister	Covered in Minister's Report 9 Feb. Fuller report expected in Minister's Report on 9 March
EDT 19 Jan (Item 3.8)	On Structural Funds, the Minister agreed to provide a comparison of retrospective projects for 2003 against those for 2004, detailing the nature of the project and the amount for the latest projects.	EDT Minister	This was e-mailed to Members on 17 Feb
EDT 19 Jan (Item 5.3)	The Minister to report on the outcomes of discussions with ONS about anomalies that seem to exist in the GVA figures	EDT Minister	Await outcome of discussion with ONS.
EDT 19 Jan (Item 5.8)	The Minister agreed to provide a note clarifying the position on spending levels within the Corus Response Plan	EDT Minister	Expected in Minister's Report on 9 March.
EDT 9 Feb (Item 2.3)	The Chair agreed to discuss the option of a joint meeting with the Chair of the Culture Committee to discuss the OFCOM Report	Chair/Clerk	Culture Committee discussing the report jointly with the WAC on 17 March. EDT Members have been invited to join the discussion.
EDT 9 Feb (Item 2.5)	Minister agreed to provide further information on the accounting details on P2P funding being re-apportioned to other budgets within the WDA, £6m in 2003-04.	EDT Minister	Expected in Minister's Report on 9 March.

EDT 9 Feb (Item 2.6)	Minister would make available to the Committee relevant notes from meetings with the WDA on the issue of development of the Techniums and priorities, more generally.	EDT Minister	Notes of meetings and remit letters circulated to Members in hard copy 4 March 05.
EDT 9 Feb (Item 2.7)	Minister agreed to provide more detail on the cost benefit analysis of the Business Eye marketing campaign along with the results of customer satisfaction surveys.	EDT Minister	Expected in Minister's Report on 9 March.
EDT 9 Feb (Item 2.9)	Minister agreed to provide a further report to the Committee on the A470 landslide once the outcome of the detailed engineering assessment was available.	EDT Minister	Expected in Minister's Report on 9 March.
EDT 9 Feb (Item 2.10)	Minister agreed to provide information on who will be accompanying him (Local Authority members and Officials) on his visit to Navarre.	EDT Minister	Expected in Minister's Report on 9 March.
EDT 9 Feb (Item 2.13)	The Minister agreed to provide an update on the dredging issue in the Dee and the future impact it would have on Broughton and Mostyn Dock	EDT Minister	Expected in Minister's Report on 9 March.
EDT 9 Feb (Item 2.14)	The Minister agreed to provide further details of how many of the 375 Farming Connect projects were up and running and details of how indirect jobs created by Objective 1 funding are measured and the number created.	EDT Minister	Expected in Minister's Report on 9 March.

EDT 9 Feb (Item 3.8)	The Minister agreed to raise the issue of the knock-on effect of the new Great Western timetable arrangements with the franchisees.	EDT Minister	Awaiting information
EDT 9 Feb (Item 3.10)	The Minister agreed to provide further information on how much of the £8 billion earmarked in the 15 year transport plan was to be spent on rail specifically rail networks in Mid and North Wales.	EDT Minister	Expected in Minister's Report on 9 March.
EDT 9 Feb (Item 4.8)	Members noted that the merger consultation document quoted a saving of £10m - £12m from 2009; The Minister noted these formed part of the initial financial analysis and agreed to provide an analysis of savings when further work had been undertaken.	EDT Minister	Expected in Minister's Report on 9 March.
EDT 9 Feb (Item 4.8)	The Minister agreed to provide further information on the issues of pensions and grading in the ASPB merger in due course.	EDT Minister	Awaiting information
EDT 9 Feb (Item 4.10)	The Chair to write to the unions involved in the ASPB merger to identify the employees' point of view.	Chair/Clerk	Currently arranging a suitable date.
EDT 9 Feb (Item 4.14)	The Minister agreed it would be necessary to ensure proper processes were in place to protect rights of those whose land/homes were compulsorily purchased post merger and he would clarify the position for the Committee.	EDT Minister	Expected in Minister's Report on 9 March.

B. Draft Secondary Legislation selected for scrutiny

Ref. No.	Date selected by committee	Name/ Working Title	Purpose	Estimated timing for final draft to reach Committee
Transport				
28-1-2004		The Quiet Lanes and Home Zone Regulations, Wales	To enable local authorities to designate roads as quiet lanes or home zones; to enable local authorities to make use and/or speed orders for such designated roads	To be confirmed
28-1-2004		The Congestion Charge Regulations	To enable local authorities to introduce two forms of charging; congestion charging and working place parking levies	Expected end of summer term 2005

EC's Environment proposals – Action following joint EDT/EPC discussion on 16 June 2004

EDT paper (EDT2 09-04 (p-1))	EDT Minutes	Progress

<p>1. Proposal for a directive on environmental liability with regard to the prevention and remedying of environmental damage (2002/0021/COD)</p> <p>The new EU law, aimed at preventing environmental damage by forcing industrial polluters to pay prevention and remediation costs, entered into force following its publication in the official journal at the end of April 2004. Member states have until 30 April 2007 to transpose its provisions into national law. In 2010 the Commission will report on the needs to introduce a compulsory insurance system. A review in 2014 will consider amending the law.</p>	<p>On the Environmental Liability on Industrial Polluters Directive, Officials said that the compulsory insurance requirement on businesses would be via private insurance policies, however insurance companies were not yet geared up for such policies and the industry needed to develop to be able to cope with demand. The Chair suggested that EDT Committee look at the issue in more detail when more information became available. [Action: Clerk/Chair]</p>	<p>An EDT discussion would seem appropriate at the right time. The proposal is now in the early stages of UK transposition. Preparation is being made for a consultation later in the year.</p> <p>Possible Action – The Committee might wish to respond to the consultation.</p>
<p>2. Proposal for a Directive concerning the quality of bathing water (2002/0254/COD)</p> <p>The revision of Directive 76/160/EEC on Bathing Water has been proposed by the European Commission. The revised Directive updates the existing Directive with the aim of reviewing and standardising the parameters for setting water quality standards and for providing better information to the public. The European Parliament has provided a 1st reading opinion on the proposals but as yet no 1st reading common position from the Environment Council is</p>	<p>On the Quality of Bathing Water Directive, Officials said that the Directive was still some way from adoption and that further work on the technical elements of the Directive was expected by DEFRA. Further, the cost of the Directive to the industrial sector was not yet determined and until the precise form of the Directive was known, an updated regulatory impact assessment (RIA) was not possible. Members were concerned at potential rises in water costs to consumers due to additional regulatory burdens. Officials said that they still expected final adoption of the Directive to occur in 2005. It</p>	<p>In fact EPC did not look at this.</p> <p>The Irish secured political agreement from Council in July 2004. The European Parliament environment committee are currently considering their second reading response. The Luxembourg Presidency have not designated the BWD as a priority issue. However the final adoption is still expected some time in 2005, under the UK Presidency.</p> <p>Possible Action - We could arrange progress reports from officials on this, however Members might wish to consider whether to put a view</p>

<p>available.</p> <p>Final adoption is expected in 2005.</p>	<p>was agreed that EDT should keep in touch with progress on this Directive and the Chair of EPC reported that his Committee would look at the Directive in detail in July. [Action: Clerk/Chair]</p>	<p>to the European Parliament for the second reading. Scope for influence will be limited to the areas of disagreement between the Parliament and the Council. The Committee could request a paper from the Minister on the impact of the Directive to industry and consumers.</p>
<p>3. Proposal for a Directive amending Directive 1999/32/EC as regards the sulphur content of marine fuels (2002/0259/COD)</p> <p>The revision of Directive 99/32/EC on the Sulphur content of certain liquid fuels will extend its scope to cover marine heavy fuel oils. The European Parliament provided a 1st reading opinion in 2003. The Environment Council is still considering the proposal with an agreement expected before the end of the Irish Presidency in June 2004.</p> <p>Final adoption is expected in 2005.</p>	<p>The Chair suggested that the Marine Fuels Directive be looked at in more detail when more information became available, given that the shipping industry had the potential to affect the Welsh tourism industry via pollution. Officials said that the Irish Presidency was determined to obtain agreement by the end of June 2004. [Action: Clerk/Chair]</p>	<p>Following Council agreement in July 2004, the European Parliament environment committee are currently considering their second reading response. The Luxembourg Presidency have stated that they aim to secure a second reading agreement at their Council meeting in June 2005.</p> <p>Possible Action – Scope of influence at EU level is limited to the areas of disagreement between the European Parliament and the Council. However, the Committee may wish to consider related issues through the forthcoming Commission proposal, Thematic Strategy for the conservation and protection of the marine environment which provides a global approach to the issue. Also the EU is currently developing a maritime policy.</p>

4. Proposal for a Directive on the management of waste from the extractive industries (2003/0107/COD)

The proposed Directive will aim to regulate waste from prospecting and extraction, treatment and storage of mineral resources plus the construction, operation, and post closure phase of waste facilities. The European Parliament has provided a 1st reading opinion. Environment Ministers are expected to discuss the dossier at the June Environment Council.

Final adoption is expected in 2005.

On the Management of Extractive Industry Waste Directive, Officials said that the costs to business of the RIA were estimated at £2 million. There would also be annual costs to operators on remediation. Officials agreed to check whether the Directive would be retrospective. Members asked whether the Directive would have any impact, given the high standards of waste removal in the UK. Officials said that the RIA would measure this impact. The Committee agreed to consider this further when the RIA was available. [Action: Clerk/Chair]

Consultation on a Partial RIA was completed in January 2004 across the UK. There was general agreement that the proposal would bring more consistency across the EU to safeguard against potential hazards arising from mining waste, but that the final proposals should be commensurate to risks and should not overburden business, Government or the competent authorities. It was too soon to say how the liabilities of organisations or landowners such as former British Coal, which no longer exist, would be addressed in the UK.

The European Parliament environment committee are currently considering the second reading report, with a view to a Plenary vote in Autumn 2005. Final adoption in Council is expected toward the end of 2005.

Possible Action – Scope for influence remains limited to the areas of disagreement between the European Parliament and the Council. The Committee might wish to consider requesting a paper from the Minister on the impact of the Directive on industry in Wales.

<p>5. Proposal for a Regulation on Shipments of Waste (2003/0139/COD)</p> <p>The proposal would amend Regulation 295/93 (EEC) on the supervision and control of shipments of waste within, into and out of the EC through notification of shipment agreements. The European Parliament gave a 1st reading opinion in 2003. The Irish Presidency would like to secure Political agreement at the June Environment Council.</p> <p>Final adoption is expected in 2005.</p>	<p>On the Shipments of Waste Directive, Officials said that it was unlikely to affect the levels of waste being shipped into the UK and that it would modify the regulatory framework. Members said it would be interesting to see the RIA on this Directive given that the majority of waste processing businesses were in England. Concern was raised that Wales would become a magnet to hazardous waste, however Officials said that there were no hazardous waste landfill sites in Wales at present and a licence would be required to operate one. Furthermore, apart from mainly Third World countries which lacked appropriate facilities, it was illegal to import hazardous waste for disposal into the UK. The Committee agreed to consider this further at the appropriate time. [Action: Clerk/Chair]</p>	<p>Following a political agreement under the Dutch Presidency in October 2004, the European Parliament environment committee will consider its second reading in Spring 2005. Final approval is likely to fall in early 2006.</p> <p>DEFRA has published an RIA.</p> <p>Possible Action – Scope for influence remains limited to the areas of disagreement between the European Parliament and the Council. The Committee might wish to consider requesting a paper from the Minister on the impact of the Regulation on industry in Wales.</p>
<p>6. Proposal for a Directive relating to arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air (2003/0164/COD)</p> <p>The Directive is required by the Framework Directive on air quality 96/62/EC and affects installations contributing to high concentrations of the listed pollutants (above). Installations will be required to use BATs (Best Available Techniques) and Member States will be</p>	<p>On the Directive relating to pollutants in ambient air, Officials said that there was some benefit of the Directive at UK level as it created a level playing field for all Member states. Officials suggested Members might like to consider whether to look more carefully at the Directive once more technical detail was available.</p>	<p>Progress on this seems to have been faster than officials indicated in June. The Directive was formally adopted under the Dutch Presidency on 15/11/04.</p>

<p>required to provide the Commission with annual assessment data. The European Parliament and Environment Council have agreed informally on the proposal, adoption is expected in the coming months.</p>		
<p>7. Proposal for a Directive on the protection of groundwater against pollution (2003/0210/COD)</p> <p>The proposed Directive would replace the current Groundwater Directive (80/68/EEC) and is required under the provisions of the Water Framework Directive. Member States would assess groundwater quality through levels of nitrates and pesticides per litre of water. The European Parliament has provided a 1st reading opinion (note – following the European elections and a new EP, MEPs may decide not to continue with the original EP 1st reading and, instead start the discussions again). No discussions have yet taken place in the Environment Council.</p> <p>Final adoption is expected in 2005/6.</p>	<p>On the Groundwater Directive, the EPC Minister said that farming in Wales was not as intensive as in England and therefore the levels of potential pollution were less. Members said that there were still specific problems in some areas and that other industries, such as tourism, contributed to pollution. The Committee agreed to consider this further at the appropriate time. [Action: Clerk/Chair]</p>	<p>Consideration of the Groundwater Directive began in early 2004 by both the Council and the European Parliament environment committee. The EP is aiming for a 1st reading agreement in March 2005. Groundwater is a Luxembourg Presidency priority and they will aim to secure a 1st reading common position in the June Environment Council. Thereafter there will be Council consideration and second reading processes before adoption, now more likely 2006 than 2005.</p> <p>Possible Action – There is scope here for the Committee to seek to influence before final decisions are made, although it could be argued that this falls mainly within the remit of the Environment Planning and Countryside Committee.</p>