

Paper to note

Terms of Reference for the Review of the Implementation and Impact of the Business Scheme

INTRODUCTION

1. This paper to note provides Council members with the Terms of Reference for the review of the implementation of the Business Scheme in accordance with Section 75 of the Government of Wales Act 2006. The review is to be completed by March 2013.
2. The Terms of Reference for the Review are attached at Document 1.

BACKGROUND

3. Section 75 of the Government of Wales Act 2006 requires the Welsh Ministers to make a scheme setting out how they propose, in the exercise of their functions, to take account of the interest of business. The Business Scheme (the Scheme) was drafted after extensive consultation with Business Wales and the Wales TUC. With Cabinet agreement the Scheme was published in 2008.
4. A requirement of the Scheme is that regular formal reviews, at intervals of no more than two years, should be undertaken on its implementation and a report submitted to the National Assembly. The first review was agreed at the Council for Economic Renewal meeting held in March 2011.

Approach

5. The Council for Economic Renewal will commission the review and receive the report.
6. The Council for Economic Renewal will appoint the Working Group as the Steering Group for the review.
7. The review will be conducted jointly by Welsh Government Officials and the Wales Social Partners Unit (WSPU).
8. The review will consider the report of March 2011 as a basis to informing the report on the implementation and impact of the Business Scheme.

Timing

9. The draft review will be presented to the 28 January 2013 meeting of the Council for Economic Renewal.
10. A timetable setting out the stages of the review is appended at Document 2.

Terms of Reference
for the
Review of the Implementation and Impact of the Business Scheme

Background

The Business Scheme was drafted after extensive consultation with Business Wales and the Wales TUC. With Cabinet agreement it was published in 2008. The main thrust of the Scheme is that business should be involved in policy formulation at the earliest possible opportunity. A requirement of the Scheme is that regular formal reviews, at intervals of no more than two years, should be undertaken on its implementation and a report submitted to the National Assembly (paragraph 43, Section 75 of the Government of Wales Act 2006). The first review was agreed at the Council for Economic Renewal meeting held in March 2011.

There continues to be widespread consensus on the validity of the underlying principles of the Business Scheme.

The Council for Economic Renewal is now well established and is supported by the Working Group – which is charged to take forward the work of the Council to ensure that it remains action focussed.

Purpose and Objectives

To undertake a review of the 'Implementation and Impact of the Business Scheme' that:

- a) Examines the application of the Business Scheme to date.
- b) Examines how effective the implementation of the Business Scheme is across Government.
- c) Considers any lessons learned.
- d) Makes recommendations on the future operation of the Business Scheme.

Timing

The draft review will be presented to the 28 January 2013 meeting of the Council for Economic Renewal. It is proposed that the Council will delegate any additional work to the Working Group of the Council to enable the final report to be laid before the National Assembly for April 2013.

Paper to note

Approach

- The Council for Economic Renewal will commission the review and receive the report.
- The Council for Economic Renewal Working Group will form the Steering Group for the review.
- The review itself will be conducted jointly by Welsh Government Officials and the Wales Social Partners Unit (WSPU) (on behalf of the Social Partners).
- The review will consider the report of March 2011 as a basis to informing the report on the implementation and impact of the Business Scheme.
- Input will be sought from stakeholders, internally and externally to inform the review and identify recommendations.
- The main issues and draft recommendations will be summarised into an interim review. This will be shared with stakeholders through the Officials Working Group seeking their views.
- The review will be finalised and the report laid in the National Assembly in accordance with S75 of the Government of Wales Act 2006.

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Doc 2

Timetable for review of the Implementation of the Business Scheme for completion by April 2013	
Activity	Dates
Terms of Reference to Council for Economic Renewal meeting.	24 September 2012
Review of the implementation of Business Scheme undertaken.	September 2012 to January 2013
Draft report to full Council for Economic Renewal meeting	28 January 2013
CfER Working Group to review final draft	8 March 2013
Report submitted to be laid before National Assembly for Wales.	29 March 2013