

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet on 1 November 2016

Present:

- Rt. Hon. Carwyn Jones AM, First Minister (Chair)
 - Mark Drakeford AM
 - Vaughan Gething AM
 - Lesley Griffiths AM
 - Jane Hutt AM (from item 3)
 - Carl Sargeant AM
 - Ken Skates AM
 - Kirsty Williams AM
 - Mick Antoniw AM
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- Sir Derek Jones KCB, Permanent Secretary
 - Peter Greening, Head of Cabinet Division
 - Jo Salway, Head of Cabinet Office
 - Toby Mason, Head of Strategic Communications
 - Matt Greenough, Special Adviser
 - David Costa, Special Adviser
 - Kate Edmonds, Special Adviser
 - Andrew Johnson, Special Adviser
 - Alex Rawlin, Special Adviser
 - Tom Woodward, Special Adviser
 - Christopher W Morgan, Cabinet, Plenary and Committee Secretariat (minutes)
 - Damian Roche, Cabinet, Plenary and Committee Secretariat
 - Dr Frank Atherton, Chief Medical Officer (item 3)
 - Prof. Chris Jones, Deputy Chief Medical Officer (item 3)

Item 1: Minutes of the previous meeting

1.1. Cabinet approved the minutes of the previous meeting.

Item 2: First Minister's Items

Joint Ministerial Committee

2.1 The First Minister provided Cabinet with feedback from the recent meeting of the Joint Ministerial Committee (Plenary), which he had attended with the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government. The focus of the meeting had been the UK's withdrawal from the European Union.

2.2 The UK Government had, so far, been unable to offer a coherent outline of its broad approach to the EU negotiations. This prevarication was accompanied by confused and mixed messages.

2.3 It had been agreed that the JMC Plenary would meet more often, and there would be an additional forum for the detailed deliberation on the UK position, known as JMC (EN - European Negotiation).

2.4 There would be a need to consider the implications of the recent deal with Nissan, details of which had not been shared with the Welsh Government. This could lead to other investors and industries seeking assurances and financial support to offset any potential tariffs.

2.5 It was noted that the First Minister would be making a Statement to the Assembly on EU Transition that afternoon.

The publication of the Welsh Government's Well-being Objectives

2.6 The First Minister indicated that the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government would be writing shortly to Cabinet to outline the Welsh Government's Well-being objectives, which were a requirement of the Well-being of Future Generations Act, before publication later that week.

Events at Orgreave in the 1980s

2.7 The First Minister informed Cabinet that he had expressed his dismay at the Home Secretary's decision not to hold a public inquiry into the events at Orgreave during the miners' strike of the 1980s. It appeared that this decision had not taken into account the evidence that had emerged from the Hillsborough inquiry about the conduct of South Yorkshire Police during the 1980s or official papers that had been released under the thirty year rule.

Item 3: Chief Medical Officer's annual report

3.1 The Cabinet Secretary for Health, Well-being and Sport introduced the paper, which provided an overview of the Annual Report of the Chief Medical Officer for Wales. Dr Atherton was invited to advise Cabinet of the key findings from the 2015-16 Report.

3.2 Dr Atherton informed Cabinet that as he had taken up his post in August, the report had been jointly prepared with the Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Professor Chris Jones.

3.3 Previous reports focused on the health and well-being of the people of Wales, by identifying shifts in the extent and distribution of health and illness. The 2015-16 report continued with this approach but also sought to consider what this would mean for the healthcare system and how those working to improve health and provide services should best respond to the challenges.

3.4 One major theme, which had emerged in recent times, was the realisation that so many health problems demonstrated a strong social gradient, where a higher prevalence of lifestyle-related and social harms, illness and early death occurred in more economically dis-advantaged groups.

3.5 The Report considered in some detail what was understood by the social gradient and how it affected health inequalities in Wales, what this meant in terms of how resources were used and how the NHS would need to be organised to enable it to reduce and not make the gradient worse. It also highlighted how the NHS needed to work closely with its communities to reduce the social gradient and 'create health'.

3.6 There were also chapters on managing the demand for services and what the social gradient meant for health professionals and the NHS as the largest employer in Wales.

3.7 Cabinet welcomed the report and recognised that the NHS was the Welsh Government's single greatest lever to combat social inequality in Wales.

3.8 Cabinet thanked the CMO for his attendance and for presenting his first annual report.

Item 4: Government Plenary Business

4.1 Cabinet noted the contents of the Plenary Grid.

Item 5: Any other business

Allocations from reserves

5.1 The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government informed Ministers that he was now in a position to make the first tranche of allocations from the reserves for the current financial year, and he would confirm these in writing the following day.