

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet on 9 January 2018

Present:

- Rt. Hon. Carwyn Jones AM, First Minister (Chair)
- Alun Davies AM
- Mark Drakeford AM
- Vaughan Gething AM
- Lesley Griffiths AM
- Julie James AM
- Ken Skates AM
- Kirsty Williams AM
- Jeremy Miles AM
- Hannah Blythyn AM (item 5)
- Shan Morgan, Permanent Secretary
- Des Clifford, Director, Office of the First Minister
- Peter Greening, Head of Cabinet Division
- Jo Salway, Deputy Director Cabinet Office
- Toby Mason, Head of Strategic Communications
- Matt Greenough, Special Adviser
- Madeleine Brindley, Special Adviser
- David Costa, Special Adviser (from item 3)
- Kate Edmunds, Special Adviser (from item 3)
- Andrew Johnson, Special Adviser
- Huw Price, Special Adviser (from item 3)
- Alex Rawlin, Special Adviser
- Tom Woodward, Special Adviser
- Christopher W Morgan Cabinet Secretariat (minutes)
- Damian Roche, Cabinet Secretariat
- Andrew Slade, Director General Economy, Skills and Natural Resources (items 4 & 5)
- Gwenllian Roberts, Deputy Director - Energy and Steel (item 4)
- Roger Herbert, Senior Manager, Air Quality (item 5)

Item 1: Minutes of the previous meeting

1.1 Cabinet approved the minutes of the previous meeting.

Item 2: First Minister's items

The Alyn and Deeside By-Election

2.1 The First Minister referred to the Alyn and Deeside by-election which was scheduled for 6th February. Cabinet was reminded of the requirements of the Ministerial Code to keep separate Ministerial and political roles and not to use official resources, including Government cars, for any campaigning purposes.

2.2 For the majority of work, it would be business as usual for the Government but there would be constraints on decisions or announcements relating directly to the Alyn and Deeside constituency. However, pan-Wales and most regional North East Wales activities would continue as normal but certain sensitivities would need to be applied. It was noted that guidance on conduct had been prepared for the Civil Service and this had been shared with Ministers' private offices.

Visit to Brittany

2.3 The First Minister advised Cabinet that he would be visiting Brittany later that week to participate in a Brexit conference and to strengthen the bilateral relationship. Cabinet recognised, in the context of Brexit, the need to use such opportunities to maintain and develop Wales' European credentials, as the UK may be leaving the EU but not Europe.

Item 3: Government Plenary Business

3.1 Cabinet noted the contents of the Plenary Grid.

3.2 The Leader of the House reported that there had been some discussion at the Assembly's Business Committee that morning on the status of the new Assembly Member for North Wales. It was reported that UKIP would be clarifying matters later that morning.

3.3 The Committee had noted that Steffan Lewis AM would be attending Plenary that afternoon and he intended to present his legislative proposal for an EU Withdrawal Bill to Plenary on 17th January.

Item 4: Wylfa Newydd CAB(17-18)19

4.1 The Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Transport introduced the paper, which provided a progress report in relation to Wylfa Newydd.

Item 5: Air Quality in Wales CAB(17-18)22

5.1 The Minister for the Environment introduced the paper, which sought cross-Government support for the joint development and implementation of a Clean Air Plan for Wales.

5.2 It was recognised that there were a wide range of adverse impacts from air pollution, while there were multiple social, economic, environmental and cultural benefits, which could be achieved through cleaner air across Wales.

5.3 ClientEarth had, in October 2017, issued a claim against the Welsh Ministers and the UK Secretaries of State for Environment and Transport stating that there was no legally compliant Air Quality Plan for Wales, which would impact upon the Welsh Government's ability to comply with the Air Quality Directive relating to nitrogen dioxide. The case would be heard later that month.

5.4 Nevertheless, the Welsh Government committed to achieving compliance on all aspects of the Air Quality Directive and also tackling poor air quality in the broadest sense, while delivering improvements above legal compliance.

5.5 It was clear that a cross-Government, and indeed cross public sector approach was needed to tackle air quality. Many of the key levers for tackling air quality were within Local Government and Transport, and the impacts of poor air quality were primarily experienced in Health and the Economy.

5.6 The paper proposed active cross-Government support for the Prosperity for All commitment to develop and implement a Clean Air Plan for Wales. This would include a Clean Air Zone Framework, National Air Quality Monitoring and an Assessment Centre. There would also be transport and industrial measures and a range of communications to raise public awareness and encourage a change in behaviour.

5.7 The next step would be to develop actions across Ministerial portfolios, relevant sponsored bodies and the public sector to deliver the urgent improvements needed for compliance, and the longer term outcome of cleaner air in Wales. Cross-Government governance mechanisms would also be put in place to drive this work and complement the cross-sector Air and Climate Group which was already in place.

5.8 Cabinet welcomed the paper and focused on what more transport could do to reduce emissions. It was noted that with the transfer of responsibility for buses and the rail franchise, the Welsh Government would have more levers to encourage greener public transport.

5.9 In terms of the private sector, it was noted that one of the elements of the Economic Contract within the Economic Action Plan focused on decarbonisation.

5.10 Cabinet approved the paper. It was noted that the Clean Air Plan for Wales, once developed, would be presented to Cabinet.

**Cabinet, Plenary and Committee Secretariat
January 2018**