

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet on 21 March 2017

Present:

- Rt. Hon. Carwyn Jones AM, First Minister (Chair)
- Mark Drakeford AM
- Vaughan Gething AM
- Jane Hutt AM
- Carl Sargeant AM
- Ken Skates AM
- Kirsty Williams AM
- Mick Antoniw AM

- Shan Morgan, Permanent Secretary
- Des Clifford, Director, Office of the First Minister and Cabinet Office
- Peter Greening, Head of Cabinet Division
- Jo Salway, Head of Cabinet Office
- Toby Mason, Head of Strategic Communications
- Matt Greenough, Special Adviser
- Madeleine Brindley, Special Adviser
- David Costa, Special Adviser
- Andrew Johnson, Special Adviser
- Huw Price, 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
- Margaret Davies, Deputy Director Strategic Budgeting (item 4)
- Emma Smith , Strategic Budgeting (item 4)
- Gwenllian Roberts, Deputy Director Energy Wales Unit (item 5)
- Manon Antoniazzi, Director Culture, Sport and Tourism (item 6)
- Jason Thomas, Deputy Director Cadw (item 6)

Apologies:

- Lesley Griffiths AM

Item 1: Minutes of the previous meeting

1.1 Cabinet approved the minutes of the previous meeting.

Item 2: First Minister's Items

Meeting with the Prime Minister on Brexit

2.1 The First Minister advised Cabinet that, following the signing of the Swansea Bay City Deal the previous day, he and the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government had a meeting with the Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Exiting the EU on Brexit matters. The letter to trigger Article 50 would be sent to the EU on 29th March and it was expected that the Great Repeal Bill White Paper would be published the following day.

Martin McGuinness

2.2 The First Minister referred to the recent death of Martin McGuinness, the former Deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland. The First Minister, who had worked closely with Mr McGuinness over many years at British Irish Councils and Joint Ministerial Committees, had commented publicly that morning that he had been vital to the peace process in Northern Ireland, where he had built bridges across the political divide.

Item 3: Government Plenary Business

3.1 Cabinet noted the contents of the Plenary Grid.

3.2 The Leader of the House advised Cabinet that the Assembly's Business Committee had agreed that morning to introduce Topical Questions after Easter recess. The process would be reviewed in the Autumn.

3.3 It was noted that the Counsel General would be issuing a Written Statement later that day on the Independence of the Welsh Tribunals.

Item 4: Revenue Budget Planning 2018-19 to 2020-21

4.1 The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government introduced the paper, which provided an update on Revenue Budget planning work for future years, while outlining the scale of the financial challenges faced by the Government.

Item 5: Wylfa Newydd CAB(16-17)72

5.1 The Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure introduced the paper, which provided an update on progress on the Wylfa Newydd project and included a timeframe for action and benefits.

5.2 Cabinet approved the paper.

Item 6: Historic Wales

6.1 The Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure introduced the paper, which asked Cabinet to note the progress with the commitment to create 'Historic Wales' and to agree the next steps in relation to the future of Cadw.

6.2 In September the previous year a steering group had been established to develop options to bring together many of the commercial functions of Cadw and the National Museum of Wales. The group also considered the functions of the National Library of Wales and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales.

6.3 The group reported in early February and recommended that Cadw should become a charitable body or an executive agency outside Government, and a business case should be developed to identify the best option. In addition, a Strategic Partnership between the National Museum of Wales, the National Library of Wales, the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales and Cadw was proposed. This would take forward collaboration on commercial and back office functions, as well as initiatives to build on cultural tourism.

6.4 Ministers welcomed the paper and noted that there would be no implications relating to the independence of the institutions.

6.5 Cabinet approved the paper.

**Cabinet, Plenary and Committee Secretariat
March 2017**