

Council for Economic Renewal
Business Scheme Review – Update

Introduction

1. This paper provides Council members with an update on progress on the implementation of the recommendations of the Business Scheme Review.

Background

2. 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.
3. The Welsh Ministers' Business Scheme ("the Business Scheme") drafted after extensive consultation with Business Wales and the Wales TUC. With Cabinet agreement the Scheme was published in 2008.
4. The Business Scheme includes the requirement that the Welsh Ministers should publish a report, at intervals of not more than two years, detailing how the proposals set out in the Business Scheme have been implemented. Welsh Ministers must lay before the Assembly a copy of each report published (Business Scheme 2006, Paragraphs 3(6) and 3(7)).
5. The second Review of the Implementation and Impact of the Business Scheme was formally laid before the National Assembly on the 27 March 2013.

Position Update

6. The Review identified eight recommendations which are being progressed. The attached schedule provides position update for each of the recommendations.
7. It is proposed that an update on progress is provided at the next Council meeting.

UPDATE ON RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BUSINESS SCHEME REVIEW 2013		
	Progress	End Date
Recommendation 1:		
The Business Scheme should be updated. The update should include indicators for determining success. Consideration of the means by which all structures established by the Welsh Government are considered within the consultation architecture should be included in any update. The Council for Economic Renewal should agree the deadline for this update.	At the last Council for Economic Renewal it was agreed that members would provide their views on the format and membership of the Council. The draft version of Business Scheme will incorporate any agreed changes to the structure and frequency of the Council. This will be then be circulated to the Social Partners and subject to agreement formal consultation will commence. The updated Business Scheme will be formally laid before the National Assembly in accordance with the Statutory requirement.	Ongoing
Recommendation 2:		
Welsh Government and social partners should commit to publicising the Business Scheme and its underpinning principles.	WSPU and Welsh Government officials working together to progress this.	On-going
Recommendation 3:		
The Welsh Government should provide and circulate a regularly updated list of those lead senior officials within each department who have responsibility for the Business Scheme in their department. These officials will be responsible for their department engaging more directly with social partners to understand how they operate.	List circulated to Council members.	Complete

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Recommendation 4:		
A forward plan of issues for consultation should be prepared and provided to stakeholders.	Being progressed and will form part of the role of the nominated Departmental senior official with responsibility for the Business Scheme.	On-going
Recommendation 5:		
When departments propose stakeholder engagement, they should routinely include the Wales Social Partners Unit (WSPU), or successor organisation, as part of their engagement process, which will enable WSPU, or successor organisation, to support the social partners as appropriate.	Is now part of the role of nominated Departmental senior official	On-going and will form part of the respective annual update reports.
Recommendation 6:		
Welsh Government officials should provide annual update reports to the Council for Economic Renewal on the implementation of the Business Scheme within each department. The Council for Economic Renewal should agree an annual deadline date for reporting back.	The Working Group agreed at their December meeting that the update reports should be circulated to the Social Partners and that any specific matters arising from the reports brought to the Working Group for discussion. The reports will be issued as papers to note for the subsequent Council for Economic Renewal meeting. It is anticipated that the reports will be issued with papers for the Council meetings in June 2014.	June 2014

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Recommendation 7:		
<p>The Council for Economic Renewal meetings should be focused on issues requiring decision-making and action. Representation at the Council for Economic Renewal and Working Group should be reviewed as part of the Business Scheme update (Recommendation 1) and more provision made for sub-group meetings covering specific topics for discussion or information.</p>	<p>Following discussion at the October meeting of the Council for Economic Renewal regarding the future format and membership this recommendation will be updated to take into account the agreed way forward. This will be reflected in the refresh of the Business Scheme.</p>	On-going
Recommendation 8:		
<p>The Welsh Government should ensure that capacity exists and is tasked with assessing whether or not Regulatory Impact Assessments (RIAs) / Economic Impact Assessments (EIAs) have properly accounted for the effect on business of proposed legislation and of proposed policy changes that do not require legislation.</p>	<p>The Welsh Government's consultation process has clear guidance for officials on the requirement for RIAs.</p>	On-going