

Council for Economic Renewal

Business Scheme Review – Update on progress

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 updates are provided to Working Group meetings with a formal update on progress at the next Council meeting on the 3 February 2014.

UPDATE ON RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BUSINESS SCHEME REVIEW 2013		
	Progress	End Date
Recommendation 1:		
<p>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.</p>	<p>Welsh Government and WSPU have worked together on drafting a revised document. Comments from Welsh Government officials have been incorporated. The latest draft document will be sent to Social Partners for further comments.</p> <p>Once the final draft has been agreed formal consultation will commence.</p> <p>The updated Business Scheme will be formally laid before the National Assembly in accordance with the Statutory requirement.</p>	<p>March 2014</p>
Recommendation 2:		
<p>Welsh Government and social partners should commit to publicising the Business Scheme and its underpinning principles.</p>	<p>WSPU and Welsh Government officials working together to progress this.</p> <p>Meetings have been held with Officials across the Welsh Government during the Summer months.</p>	<p>On-going</p>
Recommendation 3:		
<p>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.</p>	<p>The list has been circulated to Council Members.</p> <p>In addition, meetings have been held with the named lead officials setting out their role in relation to the Business Scheme.</p> <p>Further meetings will be held as required.</p>	<p>Complete</p>

UPDATE ON RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BUSINESS SCHEME REVIEW 2013		
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.	In support of this, officials from Economy, Science and Transport have convened meetings with nominated officials and WSPU to facilitate greater awareness of WSPU and the services provided to support engagement with Social Partners.	On-going and will form part of the respective annual update reports.
Recommendation 6:		

UPDATE ON RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE BUSINESS SCHEME REVIEW 2013

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.

Working Group have discussed and agreed that the update reports will be presented to the Working Group followed by 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 February and June 2014.

February
and June
2014

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>Items for the Council for Economic Renewal meetings will continue to be identified and put forward by the Working Group.</p> <p>The Working Group discussed representation and agreed that the existing form should continue. It was also agreed that themed meetings, outside the formal cycle of the Council for Economic Renewal meetings, should continue as it was a useful way of improving engagement and development policy. This will be reflected in the refresh of the Business Scheme. Such meetings are currently being planned.</p>	<p>On-going/ complete</p>
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. However, this is an issue which is currently being discussed to see how practice can be developed further. This will be discussed by the Working Group.</p>	<p>On-going</p>