

BUSINESS PAPERS

TUESDAY, 10th OCTOBER 2000

PART 1 - SECTION A

AGENDA

The session will commence at 2pm

Appointment to the Local Government Partnership Council

To propose that the National Assembly, in accordance with paragraphs 1(1) and 4 of Schedule 11 to the Government of Wales Act 1998, appoints Cllr E Caerwyn Roberts MBE JP (National Park Authorities) to be a member of the Local Government Partnership Council in place of Cllr Gordon Cawood.

Election to the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee

To propose that the National Assembly, acting under section 57(8) of the Government of Wales Act 1998, elects Janet Ryder (Plaid Cymru) to its Agriculture and Rural Development Subject Committee in place of Janet Davies (Plaid Cymru).

Election to the Economic Development Committee

To propose that the National Assembly, acting under section 57(8) of the Government of Wales Act 1998, elects Dafydd Wigley (Plaid Cymru) to its Economic Development Subject Committee in place of Helen Mary Jones (Plaid Cymru).

Election to the Local Government and Housing Committee

To propose that the National Assembly, acting under section 57(8) of the Government of Wales Act 1998, elects Dai Lloyd (Plaid Cymru) to its Local Government and Housing Subject Committee in place of Owen John Thomas (Plaid Cymru).

Election to the Pre 16 Education, Schools and Early Learning Committee

To propose that the National Assembly, acting under section 57(8) of the Government of Wales Act 1998, elects Cynog Dafis (Plaid Cymru) to its Pre 16 Education, Schools and Early Learning Subject Committee in place of Pauline Jarman (Plaid Cymru).

Election to the Post 16 Education and Training Committee

To propose that the National Assembly, acting under section 57(8) of the Government of Wales Act 1998, elects Owen John Thomas (Plaid Cymru) to its Post 16 Education and Training Subject Committee in place of Jocelyn Davies (Plaid Cymru).

Election to the Legislation Committee

To propose that the National Assembly, acting under section 59(2) of the Government of Wales Act 1998, elects Pauline Jarman (Plaid Cymru) to its Legislation Committee in place of Jocelyn Davies (Plaid Cymru).

Election to the Committee on Standards of Conduct

To propose that the National Assembly, in accordance with standing order 16.2 elects Cynog Dafis (Plaid Cymru) to its Committee on Standards of Conduct in place of Janet Davies (Plaid Cymru).

Election to the Committee on European Affairs

To propose that the National Assembly, in accordance with standing order 15.4 elects Ieuan Wyn Jones (Plaid Cymru) to its Committee on European Affairs in place of Jocelyn Davies (Plaid Cymru).

Election to the Environment, Planning and Transport Committee

To propose that the National Assembly, acting under section 57(8) of the Government of Wales Act 1998, elects the following members to its Environment, Planning and Transport Subject Committee:

Rhodri Glyn Thomas (Plaid Cymru) in place of Gareth Jones (Plaid Cymru); and Helen Mary Jones (Plaid Cymru) in place of Jocelyn Davies (Plaid Cymru).

Election to the Health and Social Services Committee

To propose that the National Assembly, acting under section 57(8) of the Government of Wales Act 1998, elects the following members to its Health and Social Services Subject Committee:

Pauline Jarman (Plaid Cymru) in place of Geraint Davies (Plaid Cymru); and

Jocelyn Davies (Plaid Cymru) in place of Helen Mary Jones (Plaid Cymru).

Questions to First Secretary (30 minutes)

A list of the Oral questions are on the Internet (and Chamberweb)

Business Statement: the Business Secretary

Approval of the Seeds (National List of Varieties) Regulations 2000

To propose that the National Assembly, acting in accordance with Standing Order No 22.33 approves the draft of the Seeds (National List of Varieties) Regulations 2000, a copy of which was laid in the Table Office on 7 September 2000.

CHANGES TO STANDING ORDERS

1. STANDING ORDER 6.5

To propose that the National Assembly, acting under section 46(6) of the Government of Wales Act 1998, and Standing Order 26:

- i. considers the report of the Business Committee laid in the Table Office on 3rd October 2000;
- ii. approves the following revision to the Standing Orders;
- iii. resolves that the revision shall take effect immediately:

Standing Order 6.5

At the end (following "reports submitted by committees") add

"Motions proposing debates on reports submitted by subject committees may not be amended".

2. STANDING ORDERS 6.37 AND 22.58

To propose that the National Assembly, acting under section 46(6) of the Government of Wales Act 1998, and Standing Order 26:

- i. considers the report of the Business Committee laid in the Table Office on 3rd October 2000;
- ii. approves the following revisions to the Standing Orders;
- iii. resolves that the revisions shall take effect immediately:

Standing Order 6.37

Delete ii and insert:

"(ii) An Assembly Secretary, or a Member nominated by the Assembly Secretary with the prior consent of the Presiding Officer, will respond; and"

Standing Order 22.58

Delete final sentence (commencing "Such an application....")

3. NEW STANDING ORDER 28 AND CHANGES TO 6, 8 AND 19

To propose that the National Assembly, acting under section 46(6) of the Government of Wales Act 1998, and Standing Order 26:

- i. considers the report of the Business Committee laid in the Table Office on 3rd October 2000;
- ii. approves the following revisions to the Standing Orders;
- iii. resolves that the revisions shall take effect immediately:

New Standing Order 28

THE HOUSE COMMITTEE

Title and Terms of Reference

28.1 There shall be a House Committee which shall provide advice to the Presiding Officer, the Assembly and the Clerk on:-

1. the administration of the Office of the Presiding Officer excluding the following matters relating to staff:-
 - i. their terms and conditions of service;
 - ii. their structure and management;
 - iii. arrangements made under section 63 of the Government of Wales Act for carrying out of the functions which have been delegated to staff.

b. The exercise of the functions of the Office of the Presiding Officer including the services, facilities and accommodation provided for Members, their support staff and the general public

But excluding matters:-

- i. relating to the role of the Presiding Officer in deciding whether to refer a matter to the Committee on Standards;
- i. relating to the conduct of plenary and committee sessions of the Assembly;
- ii. within the responsibility of the Business Committee;

c. Members' salaries, allowances and pensions;

d. the contents of guidance to be published in relation to the matters set out at (a)-(c) above;

e. the budget of the Office of the Presiding Officer.

Membership

28.2. The Assembly shall elect to the Committee one member from each political group in the Assembly, together with another member to chair it. If a member other than the Presiding Officer is elected to chair the Committee, the Presiding Officer shall be entitled to attend meetings of

the Committee. If a member other than the Deputy Presiding Officer is elected to chair the Committee, the Deputy shall be entitled to attend meetings of the Committee.

28.3. A member of the Committee, having given advance notice to the Chair, may be represented at a meeting of the Committee by another Member nominated from the same political group to which that Member belongs. The nominated representative may participate in the meeting of the Committee as if the representative were a member of the Committee.

28.4. A member of the Committee may chair a meeting of the Committee in the absence of the Chair of the Committee. Such member shall be appointed by the Committee either at the meeting concerned or at a previous meeting.

Meetings

28.5. The Committee shall meet at least once in every four weeks that the Assembly meets in plenary, unless the Committee decides otherwise. The Committee may agree to hold additional meetings.

28.6. The Committee shall meet in private but the minutes of the meetings shall be published 6 weeks after each meeting.

28.7. A member of the Committee shall be nominated to answer questions for oral answers at a plenary meeting of the Assembly in accordance with paragraph 6.3(iv).

STANDING ORDER 6 - Assembly Business in Plenary Meetings

Para 6.3 Insert new sub paragraph

"(iv) one Member of the House Committee to answer questions for oral answers at least once, and for at least 15 minutes, in every four weeks that the Assembly meets in plenary."

Add new paragraph 6.26A

"6.26A Members may table questions for oral answer by a member of the House Committee about any matter coming within the remit of the Committee under Standing Order 28."

Para 6.28

Insert after "to the First Secretary under paragraph 6.3(I)," "or to a member of the House Committee under paragraph 6.3(iv),

Para 6.30

In the second sentence, after "Assembly Secretaries" insert "and the member of the House

Committee"

Para 6.31

At end, insert " This paragraph shall not apply to questions for oral answer by a member of the House Committee".

Para 6.33

At end, insert "or to the House Committee about matters relating to its responsibilities".

Add new paragraph 6.34A

"6.34(A) Members may table questions for written answer by the chair of the House Committee about any matter coming within the remit of the Committee under Standing Order 28."

STANDING ORDER 8 - Committees

Para 8.25A

In final sentence, after "Subject Committees" replace "and" with ","; at end of paragraph insert, "and the House Committee".

STANDING ORDER 19 - Finance Procedures

Add new paragraph 19.00

"Determination of Budget for the Office of the Presiding Officer

19.00 In each financial year, no later than 20 September, the House Committee shall consider the budget for the Office of the Presiding Officer. Following discussion between the Presiding Officer, the Clerk and the Finance Secretary, a member of the House Committee shall table a draft budget for the Office of the Presiding Officer, no later than the 1 October. At the same time, the House Committee member shall table a motion that the draft budget be adopted. The draft budget should normally be for the following financial year and provisional allocations for the subsequent two years, or for a period which the Finance Secretary considers appropriate. The motion that the draft budget be adopted shall not be subject to amendment and shall be debated no later than 10 October. If the motion is adopted, that budget should then become the final budget for the Office of the Presiding Officer and shall be incorporated as such in the draft and final Assembly budgets."

Para 19.5 In-Year Adjustments of Assembly Budget

Add new sub title

"Changes to Main Expenditure Groups"

At start, insert "Subject to the provisions of paragraph 19.5A,"

Add new paragraphs 19.5A and 19.5B

"19.5A Except in cases of urgency, any change in the course of a financial year in the level of resources allocated to the main expenditure group established for the Office of the Presiding Officer in the final budget adopted under paragraph 19.00 shall only be made on a motion proposed by a member of the House Committee. Any such motion shall not be subject to amendment. In cases of urgency, the Clerk may, subject to paragraph 19.5B, change the level of resources allocated to this expenditure group but, in such case, a member of the House Committee shall inform the Assembly as soon as reasonably practicable of the action taken.

19.5B Any change proposed by the Clerk in a financial year to the level of resources allocated to the main expenditure group established for the Office of the Presiding Officer shall first be discussed with the Presiding Officer and the House Committee and subsequently with the Assembly Secretary for Finance. Such discussions shall also take place before the Clerk, in cases or urgency, changes the level of resources allocated to this main expenditure group."

Para 19.6

Add new sub title

"Changes Within Main Expenditure Groups"

At start, insert " Subject to the provisions in paragraph 19.7A,"

Add new paragraph 19.7A

"19.7A The provisions of paragraphs 19.6 and 19.7 shall not apply to the main expenditure group established for the Office of the Presiding Officer. In the course of a financial year, the Clerk to the Assembly, after consultation with the Presiding Officer and the House Committee and having notified the Assembly Secretary for Finance, may approve the transfer of resources within the main expenditure group established for the Office of the Presiding Officer, between and within financial allocations within the main expenditure group."

Add new paragraph 19.22

"19.22 The provisions of paragraphs 19.13 to 19.21 shall apply to the authorisation by the Presiding Officer of a Notifiable Transaction with the substitution for references to "an Assembly Secretary" of references to "a member of the House Committee"."

Debate on Budgetary Adjustments

That the National Assembly, in accordance with Standing Order 19.5, approves the transfers across Main Expenditure Groups for the financial year 2000-01 laid in the Table Office on Tuesday 3 October.

The proposed changes to the 2000-2001 Main Expenditure Groups are contained in Table laid in the Table Office on Tuesday 3 October 2000.

Debate on the Revised Budget

To propose that, in accordance with standing order 19, the National Assembly:

Approves the revised budget for the Assembly Costs and Central Administration Main Expenditure Groups for 2000-2001 as set out in Table 1 laid in the Table Office on Tuesday 3 October 2000

Approves the budget for the Assembly Costs Main Expenditure Group for 2001-2002, 2002-2003 and 2003-2004 as set out in Table 2 laid in the Table Office on Tuesday 3 October 2000

approves that the "Assembly Costs" Main Expenditure Group be re-named "Office of the Presiding Officer" Main Expenditure Group

The session will conclude at 5.30pm

The Assembly will sit again in Plenary at

2.00 pm on Thursday, 12th October 2000

J W Lloyd

Clerk to the Assembly