

BUSINESS PAPERS

WEDNESDAY, 28th JUNE 2000

PART 1 – SECTION A

AGENDA

The session will commence at 2pm

Questions to Rosemary Butler, Secretary for Education and Children (15 minutes) A list of the Oral questions are on the Internet (and Chamberweb)

Questions to Christine Gwyther, Secretary for Agriculture & Rural Development (15 minutes) A list of the Oral questions are on the Internet (and Chamberweb)

Approval of The National Assembly for Wales (Transfer of Functions)(Variations) Order 2000 (Part 2 Order subject to Parliamentary Approval)

To propose that the National Assembly, acting in accordance with section 22(4)(b) of the Government of Wales Act 1998, approves the draft National Assembly for Wales (Transfer of Functions) (Variation) Order 2000, a copy of which was laid in the Table Office on 21 June 2000

Debate on Regional Committees

To propose that the National Assembly:

Notes the Reports from the North Wales, Mid Wales, South West Wales and South East Wales Regional Committees, laid in the Table Office on 20 June and considers the Regional Committees' approach over the next twelve months

The following amendment has been tabled:

Amendment 1 - Christine Humphreys (North Wales)

Add at end:

"Furthermore, this Assembly believes that the role of the Regional Committees should be strengthened by:

establishing an ability to take evidence

establishing a mechanism for greater interaction with the Assembly's subject committees including an ability to produce reports for consideration by these committees, and by the relevant Assembly Secretaries

more pro-actively publicising meetings to increase the participation of members of the public"

Debate on the Welsh Language

To propose that the National Assembly:

1. Welcomes the further progress made for the Welsh language in the first year of devolution, which has included:

- The full implementation of national curriculum requirements for Welsh at Key Stage 4 in non-Welsh speaking schools;
- The signature by the UK Government of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages;
- The increase in resources to the Welsh Language Board from the 1999/00 budgeting round.

2. Endorses the resolution passed by the Post 16 Education and Training Committee on 16 February, and;

3. Welcomes the opportunity which will be afforded by the forthcoming Quinquennial Review to consider in depth the activity and operation of the Welsh Language Board

The following amendments have been tabled:

In accordance with the revised guidance on the Grouping, Selection and Refusal of Amendments, the Presiding Officer has decided to group the amendments as follows for the purposes of debate - but votes will be taken separately:

(1)

(2+3+4)

(5)

(6+7+8+9)

Amendment 1 - Cynog Dafis (Mid and West Wales);

Add as new bullet point one and renumber accordingly:

'Notes the commitment made in the Better Wales document to fostering the benefits of bilingualism.'

Amendment 2 - Jonathan Morgan (South Wales Central);

At beginning of motion, insert new point 1. and reorder subsequent points:

1. Recognises the contribution that the foundation of S4C and the Welsh Language Board has made to Wales, and welcomes other positive steps that have flowed from the Welsh Language Act 1993.

Amendment 3 - Jonathan Morgan (South Wales Central);

In point 1. delete the first bullet point.

Amendment 4 - Jonathan Morgan (South Wales Central);

In point 2. delete "endorses" and replace with "notes".

Amendment 5 - Elin Jones (Ceredigion);

Delete ' and;' at the end of point 2

Add as new bullet point and re-number accordingly:

' Calls upon the Post 16 Educational and Training Committee to allocate time in its forward work programme as soon as possible to conduct a comprehensive policy review into the Welsh Language in order to form a strategy for the future; and '

Amendment 6 - Christine Humphreys (North Wales);

At the end of the motion add a new bullet point

"Resolves to adopt policies which support the communities of Wales and which will ensure that the Welsh language flourishes in those communities"

Amendment 7 - Christine Humphreys (North Wales);

At the end of the motion add a new bullet point

"Confirms its belief that the Welsh language belongs to all the people of Wales, be they Welsh speakers or non-Welsh speakers, and resolves to co-operate with public, private and voluntary organisations to maximise the opportunities for people in all parts of Wales to participate in the bilingual culture and public life of Wales"

Amendment 8 - Christine Humphreys (North Wales);

At the end of the motion add a new bullet point

"Agrees that the Post 16 Education and Training Committee should make time in its timetable to discuss the need for a new Welsh Language Act for Wales and to consider the content of such an

act, with a view to making recommendations to the UK government through the appropriate channels"

Amendment 9 - Christine Humphreys (North Wales);

At the end of the motion add a new bullet point

"Regrets that the Department for Education and Employment is not prepared to take the necessary steps to secure the future of the London Welsh School, and calls on the Department to reconsider its decision not to fund this important and valuable school"

Short Debate: (to commence by 5pm)

Jenny Randerson (Cardiff Central); Bro Taff Health Authority

The session will conclude at 5.30pm

The Assembly will sit again in Plenary at

2.00 pm on Tuesday, 4th July 2000

J W Lloyd

Clerk to the Assembly