

BUSINESS PAPERS

TUESDAY, 31st OCTOBER 2000

PART 1 - SECTION A

AGENDA

The Division Bell will ring at 1.55pm

The session will commence at 2pm

Questions to First Minister (30 minutes)

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

Business Statement: the Business Secretary

Revocation of the Local Government Act 2000 (Commencement) (Wales) Order 2000

To propose that the National Assembly

revoke its decision of 19 October 2000 to approve the Local Government Act 2000 (Commencement) (Wales) Order 2000 laid in the Table Office on 4th October 2000.

Approval of the Local Government Act 2000 (Commencement) (Wales) Order 2000

To propose that the National Assembly:

- a. approves under Standing Order 22.23A the following draft order:
 - Local Government Act 2000 (Commencement) (Wales) Order 2000 laid in the Table Office on 4th October 2000.

And

(b) considers the report of the Legislation Committee relating to this draft order laid in the Table Office on 11 October 2000 and the memorandum of corrections pursuant to standing order 22.12A laid in the Table Office on 24 October 2000

Debate on the Local Government Standard Spending Assessment Formula

To propose that the National Assembly, approves the new Standard Spending Assessment Formula as the method of distribution of the 2001-02 Local Government revenue settlement

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)

Amendment 1 - David Davies (Monmouth);

After the words National Assembly on line 1 delete "approves" and replace with "notes the proposals for". Second line delete "as the method of distribution of the 2001-02 Local Government revenue settlement" and replace with "but recognises that there is still much to be done. The Assembly recognises that it would be wrong to rush through such important changes to Local Government finance because of political priorities and will delay the introduction of the new formula until the 2002-03 Local Government revenue settlement, to allow further consultation and change".

Amendment 2 - Janet Ryder (North Wales);

Add at the end of the motion

This Assembly:

Acknowledges the importance of this revised formula as a small measure towards the redistribution of wealth and the achievement of social justice in Wales and its potential as a tool to rectify the appalling lack of investment in our communities over recent decades.

Acknowledges that deprivation is not confined to urban areas alone but that many rural communities also suffer from poverty. Similarly, many urban communities suffer from difficulties in service delivery and access to services.

Notes that insufficient data is available to produce many statistically based indicators, the paucity of ward-level data which could reveal rural and urban pockets of deprivation within more affluent areas and data for personal social services

Acknowledges that a year on year change to the Standard Spending Assessment formula would result in instability for local government

Notes that the Distribution Sub-Group (DSG) of the Consultative Forum on Finance (a Partnership Council working group) recommended that they take work forward with a view to including it into the formula at a later date

Resolves to set a review date of May 2003. This review to consider how best to incorporate new data available and refinements to the formula that this may suggest as possible and desirable

Amendment 3 - Janet Ryder (North Wales);

Add at the end of the Motion

Acknowledges that without transitional arrangements there will be a need for some councils to make significant reductions in their spending or significantly increase council taxes this year

This Assembly accepts that transitional arrangements will be required in order to implement the new formula successfully

These transitional arrangements should be funded in addition to the rates support grant and sets aside £11million in 2001-02 for this purpose

Debate on Audit Committee Report

To propose that the National Assembly *in accordance with Standing Order 6.5, notes the Annual Report of the Audit Committee on reports laid before the Assembly in the previous 12 months, laid in the Table Office on 24 October 2000*

The session will conclude at 5.30pm

The Assembly will sit again in Plenary at

9.05 am on Thursday, 2nd November 2000

J W Lloyd

Clerk to the Assembly