

BUSINESS PAPERS

TUESDAY, 28th NOVEMBER 2000

PART 1 - SECTION A

AGENDA

The session will commence at 2pm

Questions to the First Minister (30 minutes)

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

Business Statement: the Assembly Business Minister

Composite motion to approve the Smoke Control Areas (Authorised Fuels) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2000

To propose that the National Assembly:

- i. approves under Standing Order 22.23A the following draft order:

The Smoke Control Areas (Authorised Fuels) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2000 laid in the Table Office 14 November 2000

And

(b) considers the report of the Legislation Committee relating to this draft order laid in the Table Office on 21 November 2000.

Motion to approve the Changes to Standing Order 6.3

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 21st November 2000;
- i. approves the following revisions to the Standing Orders;
- ii. resolves that the revisions shall take effect immediately:

Standing Order 6.3

1. Delete the existing paragraph 6.3 (ii)

2. Insert a new paragraphs 6.3 (ii) and (iii) as follows:

(ii) the Assembly Secretary with particular responsibility for

finance to answer questions related to this responsibility for oral answer at least once, and for at least 15 minutes, every four weeks that the Assembly meets in plenary;

(iii) any Assembly Secretary (including if appropriate the

First Secretary and the Assembly Secretary with particular responsibility for finance) to whom a field of accountability has been allocated under S.56(3) of the Government of Wales Act 1998 to answer questions in relation to that field for oral answer at least once, and for at least 15 minutes, in every four weeks that the Assembly meets in plenary;

3. Renumber the remaining paragraphs in 6.3.

Debate on the National Housing Strategy

To propose that the National Assembly:

- Endorses 'Better Homes for People in Wales' the consultation on the National Housing Strategy for Wales.
- Welcomes the positive contribution this consultation document will make to developing housing policies which will improve the quality of life of the people of Wales and to deliver the objectives of Better Wales.com.
- Acknowledges the role played by tenant representatives, housing agencies and professionals in the process of developing the emerging strategy.
- Supports the policies currently being developed including the Housing Strategy for Black, Minority Ethnic Groups, the establishment of the Homeless Commission, the extension of the categories of homeless people classified as having priority need and the coverage of Care and Repair services to all parts of Wales.
- Welcomes the increases in funding for housing contained in the draft budget, reversing the downward trend of the past decade.

- Requires the Minister for Finance, Local Government and Communities to draw up a National Housing Strategy, taking account of the responses to the consultation and to report to the National Assembly.

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+4+6)

(2+3+5+7+8+9+10+11)

Amendment 1 - William Graham (South Wales East);

After "To propose that the National Assembly" insert as new bullet point:

"Recognises both significance of private investment for future housing in Wales, and the need for companies to be freed from excessive regulation with regard to construction development"

Amendment 2 - Jocelyn Davies (South Wales East);

In line 1 of bullet point 1 delete 'endorses' and replace with 'notes'.

Amendment 3 - Jocelyn Davies (South Wales East);

Add at the end of bullet point 2

' and achieve the Assembly's obligations to Equal Opportunities and Sustainable Development'

Amendment 4 - William Graham (South Wales East);

After "process of developing the emerging strategy" insert as new bullet point:

"Recommends that as part of the National Housing Strategy, that sufficient funds are available for the repair of all PRC designated homes in Wales"

Amendment 5 - Jocelyn Davies (South Wales East);

Add a new bullet point 5 and renumber accordingly

' Ensures that mandatory licencing of rented properties is not only restricted to higher risk houses of multiple occupation.

Recognises the crucial role of the National Assembly in setting the level of both Local Authority and Housing Association rents and that 'affordable rent' will be related to average and minimum wages. '

Amendment 6 - William Graham (South Wales East);

After "Care and Report services to all parts of Wales" insert as new bullet point:

"Ensures that there is adequate and public control of the costs of transferring housing stock from Local Authorities to Registered Social Landlords"

Amendment 7 - Jocelyn Davies (South Wales East);

In bullet point 5 delete everything after 'draft budget' and add ' while recognising that there has been a chronic lack of public money investment in housing repair allowances . '

Amendment 8 - Jocelyn Davies (South Wales East);

Add as new bullet point 6 and renumber remaining bullet points accordingly

' ensures that future housing provision is related to actual need by instigating, together with local authorities, a National Audit of Housing Need.'

Amendment 9 - Jocelyn Davies (South Wales East);

At end of original bullet point 6 delete ' to the National Assembly' and add ' and report within 6 moths to the Local Government and Communities Committee.

Amendment 10 - Jocelyn Davies (South Wales East);

Add as new bullet point

'Calls on the First Minister to make representations to the UK Government through the Secretary of State for Wales for the need to simplify housing benefit including equal treatment for under 25's; removing Access Grants from the Housing Benefit calculation; and urgently reviewing the ceiling for Housing Benefits.'

Amendment 11 - Jocelyn Davies (South Wales East);

Add as new bullet point

'Amalgamates the Community First, People in Communities and the Sustainable Communities Programmes into one overarching and comprehensive exercise which will include representation from tenant support groups.

The session will conclude at 5.30pm

The Assembly will sit again in Plenary at

9.05 am on Thursday, 30th November 2000

J W Lloyd

Clerk to the Assembly