

Business Committee

Minutes BC(3)25-08

Date: Tuesday 7 October 2008

Time: 8.30 a.m.

Venue: Meeting Room 4th Floor, Corporate Unit

Assembly Members in Attendance

Dafydd Elis-Thomas, Presiding Officer (Chair)
Carwyn Jones, Leader of the House
Chris Franks, Plaid Cymru
William Graham, Welsh Conservatives Business Manager
Kirsty Williams, Welsh Liberal Democrats Business Manager

Officials in Attendance

Adrian Crompton, Director of Assembly Business
Marion Stapleton, Office of the Leader of the House
Aled Eirug, Constitutional Consultant
Sulafa Halstead, Head of Committee Service
Marc Wyn Jones, Clerk of the Business Committee

1. Apologies & announcements

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Jocelyn Davies. The Presiding Officer welcomed Chris Franks who was representing her in accordance with Standing Order 10.42.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

(i) BC(3)24-08 (Draft minutes) - Tuesday 30 September 2008

2.1 The minutes were presented to the Committee in their draft format. As there were no comments, they would be translated in readiness for publication.

Action: Business Committee Secretariat

3. Forthcoming Business

This Week's Business - BC(3)25-08(p1)

3.1 The Committee agreed that Voting Time would take place no earlier than 5pm on Tuesday and Wednesday.

3.2 The Committee noted the organisation of business for 7 and 8 October 2008.

3 Week Timetable of Government Business - BC(3)25-08(p2)

3.3 The Committee noted the 3 Week Timetable of Government Business.

3 Week Timetable of Assembly and Non-Government Business - BC(3)25-08(p3)

3.4 The Committee agreed to schedule the following items of Assembly and non-government business:

Motion to approve the Assembly Commission's Budget 2009/10 (30 mins) on 22 Oct; and

Debate on the Enterprise and Learning Committee's Report on the Response to Network Rail's Consultation of the Route Utilisation Strategy for Wales (60 mins) on 5 Nov.

3.5 The Committee determined the organisation of Assembly Business.

3.6 The Committee determined the organisation of non-government Business.

4. Organisation of Business

Paper on Permanent Legislation Committees - BC(3)23-08(p5)

4.1 At its meeting on 23 September the Business Committee considered a paper on Permanent Legislation Committees and discussed the idea of permanent, non-voting chairs for legislative committees and for Stage 2 Measure committees in particular. The Committee returned to the issues following further consultation with groups. Business Managers asked for a further paper exploring the following

issues: permanent committees; permanent chairs; substitutions for permanent committees; and the possibility of having a committee(s) to deal exclusively with Member-proposed legislation. The Committee agreed to return to these issues in its meeting on 21st October.

5. Legislation

Request to extend the deadline for the Proposed Learning and Skills (Wales) Measure Committee to report - BC(3)25-08(p4)

5.1 The Business Committee agreed to extend the deadline to 2 December for the Proposed Learning and Skills Measure Committee to report to the Assembly. The Business Committee noted that this date would still allow the Stage 1 debate to take place before Christmas and that it was not likely to impact on the completion of Stage 2. The Leader of the House said that his agreement was subject to the extension not impacting on the Stage 2 timetable. Adrian Crompton said that the committee might need to hold additional meetings during Stage 2 in order to meet the deadline.

Update on Progress of Legislation in the National Assembly - September 2008 - BC(3)25-08(p5)

5.2 The Business Committee noted the update paper on the progress of Legislation in the Assembly.

6. Assembly Committees

Letter from former Members of the Broadcasting Committee - BC(3)25-08(p6)

6.1 The Business Committee considered a further letter from former Members of the Broadcasting Committee regarding the recommendation to establish a Committee on Communications. The Committee agreed to invite the Chair of the Communities and Culture Committee and the former Chair of the Broadcasting Committee to its next meeting to discuss issues surrounding the request.

BUSINESS COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT