

Business Committee

Minutes BC(3)27-08

Date: Tuesday 21 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
Jocelyn Davies, Plaid Cymru Business Manager
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

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

(i) BC(3)26-08 (Draft minutes) - Tuesday 14 October 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)27-08(p1)

3.1 The Leader of the House said that the Deputy First Minister and Minister for the Economy and Transport would be making a statement on the Economy, in Plenary on Tuesday.

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

3.3 The Committee noted the organisation of business for 21 and 22 October 2008.

3 Week Timetable of Government Business - BC(3)27-08(p2)

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

3 Week Timetable of Assembly and Non-Government Business - BC(3)26-08(p3)

3.5 The Committee agreed to schedule the following items of non-government business:

Short Debate postponed from 15 October 2008: Angela Burns (Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire): Who is Really Paying for the NHS? (30 mins) on 5 November; and

A debate seeking the Assembly's leave to introduce a Member proposed Measure for Special Educational Needs Information (Alun Carins) (60 mins) on 19 November.

3.6 The Committee determined the organisation of Assembly Business.

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

4. Organisation of Business

Paper on Managing the Flow of Legislation - BC(3)27-08(p4)

4.1 At its meeting on 7 October, the Business Committee requested a paper on managing the flow of Legislation. The Committee considered the paper which set out the position with regard to the anticipated volume of legislative business in the coming year. The

Committee were asked to make a number of decisions including:

to establish 5 permanent legislation committees, each with 5 members;

to establish a group of legislative committee chairs, who would take responsibility for committee scrutiny of one or more stages of legislation;

that the Business Committee will assign requests for legislative scrutiny to one of the permanent legislation committees and select a chair from the group of Legislative Chairs.

Business Managers said that they would be in a position to make decisions immediately after the half term recess, following further consultation with groups.

Paper on Debates on Statements of Opinion - BC(3)27-08(p5)

4.2 The Business Committee considered a paper on debates on Statements of Opinion, which arose from discussions on 23 September on allocating Plenary time to individual Members. The Business Committee agreed to introduce some of the proposals on a trial basis. It was agreed that:

after the recess, the Business Committee would be provided with a list of the Statements of Opinions with the most supporting signatures; and

the Business Committee would allocate time in Non-government business for debates to take place on the Statements of Opinions, but that there would be no motion or vote.

It was agreed that a paper outlining how this process might work in practice, should be circulated in due course.

5. Legislation

Paper from the Legislation Office on the Proposed Healthy Eating in Schools Measure Committee - BC(3)27-08(p6)

5.1 The Business Committee noted the progress made on the Proposed Healthy Eating in Schools Measure. It was noted that a Financial Resolution for the Measure would be considered in due course and at an appropriate time, the Business Committee would need to consider to which committee it should refer the proposed Measure for consideration at Stage 2, and to establish a timetable for the conclusion of Stage 2 proceedings.

BUSINESS COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT