

# Business Committee

## Minutes BC(3)28-08

**Date:** Tuesday 4 November 2008

**Time:** 8.30 a.m.

**Venue:** Meeting Room 4<sup>th</sup> 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)27-08 (Draft minutes) - Tuesday 21 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)28-08(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 to update Members on the Welsh Economy and action taken by the Welsh Assembly Government, in Plenary on Tuesday.

3.2 The Committee noted that a motion to suspend Standing Orders would be tabled on Tuesday to bring forward motions to elect Alun Cairns as a member of the Health, Wellbeing and Local Government Committee and the Local Government Measure Committee in place of Nick Ramsay.

3.3 The Committee noted that there would be no Voting Time on Tuesday and that Voting Time on Wednesday would take place no earlier than 5pm.

3.4 The Committee noted the organisation of business for 4 and 5 November 2008.

#### 3 Week Timetable of Government Business - BC(3)28-08(p2)

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

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

3.6 The Business Committee agreed to schedule a debate on the Health, Wellbeing and Local Government Committee's Report on Presumed Consent for Organ Donation on 26 November.

3.7 The Committee determined the organisation of Assembly Business.

3.8 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 21 October, the Business Committee discussed a paper on managing the flow of Legislation. It was agreed that the Committee would return to the issues following further consultation with groups. The Business Committee agreed the following:

to establish 5 permanent legislation committees, each with 5 members plus a non-voting chair;

one of the committees should, primarily, deal with individual AM and committee legislative proposals with the other four dealing, primarily, with government legislation;

membership of the committees would be permanent but substitutions would be permitted, with Groups being responsible for resolving any resultant clashes.

4.2 It was proposed that the Deputy Presiding Officer should act as the non-voting chair of the committee dealing with AM and committee legislation.

##### **Paper on the Committee Timetable for January - July 2009 - BC(3)28-08(p5)**

4.3 The Business Committee considered a paper on the Committee Timetable for the period January - July 2009. The Business Committee agreed the proposal for a revised committee timetable.

4.4 The Committee also agreed to keep under review the operation of the timetable to ensure that optimal use was made of Members' time.

#### **5. Legislation**

##### **Letter from the Chair of the Proposed Welsh Red Meat Industry LCO Committee - BC(3)28-08(p6)**

5.1 The Business Committee agreed the request by the Chair of the Proposed Welsh Red Meat Industry LCO Committee to extend the deadline for the Committee to report by one week to 12 December.

#### **6. Any Other Business**

##### **A draft letter to Members of the former Broadcasting Committee**

6.1 The Presiding Officer said that the Business Committee had received a request to establish a Communications Committee from the members of the former Broadcasting Committee. It was noted that the Communities and Culture Committee had agreed to establish a sub-committee to consider issues in relation to the Ofcom review of Public Service Broadcasting.

6.2 In light of this, it was agreed that a reply would be sent to the Broadcasting Committee explaining that the Business Committee could not support the establishment of an additional committee.

6.3 Business Managers asked for a paper in due course on options for the review of scrutiny committee portfolios to ensure that communications issues could be addressed in the round.

#### **BUSINESS COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT**