

Business Committee

Minutes BC(3)30-08

Date: Tuesday 18 November 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

Peter Black, Welsh Liberal Democrats

Officials in Attendance

Adrian Crompton, Director of Assembly Business

Marion Stapleton, Office of the Leader of the House

Sulafa Halstead, Head of Committee Service

Marc Wyn Jones, Clerk of the Business Committee

1. Apologies & announcements

1.1 The Chair said that he had received apologies for absence from Kirsty Williams. He welcomed Peter Black who was representing her, in accordance with Standing Order 10.42.

1.2 Peter Black said that he would be substituting for Kirsty Williams at the next few meetings.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

(i) BC(3)29-08 (Draft minutes) - Tuesday 11 November 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)29-08(p1)

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

3.2 The Committee noted the organisation of business for 18 and 19 November 2008.

3 Week Timetable of Government Business - BC(3)29-08(p2)

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

3 Week Timetable of Assembly and Non-Government Business - BC(3)29-08(p3)

3.4 The Business Committee agreed to schedule the following items of Assembly business on 10 December:

Statement by the Rt Hon. Paul Murphy MP, Secretary of State for Wales (45 mins)

Debate on the Queen's Speech (105 mins)

3.5 The Committee determined the organisation of Assembly Business.

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

4. Legislation

Letter from the former Chair of the Proposed Learner Travel Measure: Regarding Stage 2 Scrutiny - BC(3)30-08(p4)

4.1 The Business Committee considered a letter from the former Chair of the Proposed Learner Travel Measure Committee, regarding Stage 2 scrutiny of the Measure. The former Chair said that the Measure would have benefited from Stage 1 scrutiny of the general principles. He also explained the difficulties that arose from his dual role as Chair of the Committee and as a mover of amendments tabled in his name.

4.2 The Business Committee considered a paper on the Learner Travel Measure at its meeting on 8 April, and agreed that the Measure would proceed directly to a Stage 1 Plenary debate on the general principles. The decision not to refer the Measure to a Stage 1 committee was based on a desire not to duplicate the pre-legislative scrutiny undertaken by the Enterprise and Learning Committee. In light of experience, the Business Committee agreed on 24 June, that as a general principle, legislative scrutiny should be undertaken by a Legislative Committee.

4.3 At its meeting on 4 November, the Business Committee agreed to establish 5 Legislative Committees, each with 5 Members, plus a non-voting Chair. The Presiding Officer said he would write to the former Chair of the Learner Travel Measure to thank him for his letter and to convey the decisions made by the Business Committee to improve the scrutiny process of Measures at Committee Stage.

BUSINESS COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT