

Business Committee

Minutes BC(3)32-08

Date: Tuesday 2 December 2008

Time: 8.30 a.m.

Venue: Meeting Room 4th Floor, Corporate Unit

Assembly Members in Attendance

Dafydd Elis-Thomas, Presiding Officer (Chair)

Carl Sargeant, Chief Whip

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 the Kirsty Williams. He welcomed Peter Black who was representing her, in accordance with Standing Order 10.42.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

(i) BC(3)31-08 (Draft minutes) - Tuesday 25 November 2008

2.1 The minutes were presented to the Committee in their draft format. An amendment was suggested, which would be incorporated before the minutes were translated in readiness for publication.

Action: Business Committee Secretariat

2.2 At its meeting on 25 November, the Business Committee agreed to return to the issue of a Committee to scrutinise the First Minister. It was suggested that the Committee would be made up of the 4 Chairs of the main scrutiny committees, and would be chaired by the Chair of Audit Committee. The Leader of the House asked for the Business Committee to return to this at its next meeting following consultation with groups.

3. Forthcoming Business

This Week's Business - BC(3)32-08(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 2 and 3 December 2008.

3 Week Timetable of Government Business - BC(3)32-08(p2)

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

3 Week Timetable of Assembly and Non-Government Business - BC(3)32-08(p3)

3.4 The Business Committee agreed to schedule a Motion to adopt the new Model Publications Scheme as issued by the Information Commissioner on 10 December.

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 debates on Statements of Opinion - BC(3)32-08(p4)

4.1 The Business Committee considered a further paper which outlined a procedure for the consideration of Statements of Opinion during Plenary meetings. Business Managers said that the procedure was similar to that for the Short Debate and asked if officials could explore options for any new system to replace the Short Debate from time to time. It was agreed that the Committee would return to the issue in the New Year.

5. Legislation

Paper on Permanent Legislation Committees- BC(3)32-08(p5)

5.1 The Business Committee considered a paper on Permanent Legislation Committees. The Chair asked Business Managers to:

- provide the names of nominees to the second Legislation Committee by close on Monday 8th December so that it can be established before the end of term;
- provide the names of nominees to the other Legislation Committees as soon as possible;
- take account of the timeslots and other committees meeting; and
- agree which Group will chair which Committee.

5.2 The Business Committee agreed that the Chair of Legislation Committee No.2 would come from the Labour group, and that the remaining chairs would be allocated according to the size of the group (i.e. Legislation Committee No.5 would be chaired by a Member of the Liberal Democrats).

Paper on the referral of Legislation to Permanent Legislation Committee No. 1- BC(3)32-08(p6)

5.3 The Business Committee agreed that the Presiding Officer would write to the Chair of Legislation Committee No.1, to refer Dai Lloyd's Playing Fields Measure and Nerys Evans' Recycling Measure for Stage 1 consideration.

Letter from the Chair of the Proposed Affordable Housing LCO Committee: Request for an additional meeting - BC(3)32-08(p7)

5.4 The Business Committee considered a request from the Proposed Affordable Housing LCO Committee to hold an additional formal meeting to consider the Welsh Affairs Committee report on the LCO. It was agreed that the Presiding Officer would write to the Committee to explain that it was a matter for the LCO committee to decide how it wished to consider the Order but that the timing of the introduction of the draft Order was not dependent on the Committee having completed any further consideration and that the Committee would cease to exist once the draft Order had been introduced.

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