

Business Committee

Minutes BC(3)32-10

Date: Wednesday 1 December 2010

Time: 08.30

Venue: Committee Room 4, Ty Hywel

Assembly Members in Attendance

Rosemary Butler, Deputy Presiding Officer (Chair)
Jane Hutt, Minister for Business and Budget
Nick Ramsay, Welsh Conservatives Business Manager
Peter Black, Welsh Liberal Democrats Business Manager
Jocelyn Davies, Plaid Cymru Business Manager

Officials in Attendance

Adrian Crompton, Director of Assembly Business
Marion Stapleton, Assembly Business and Legislation Management Division
Aled Eirug, Constitutional Consultant
Anna Daniel, Clerk of the Business Committee

1. Apologies & announcements

1.1 The Presiding Officer sent his apologies.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

BC(3)31-10 (Draft minutes) – Tuesday 23 November 2010

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

"All items under Forthcoming Business were agreed out of committee on 30 November 2010, with the exception of 3.7."

This Week's Business - BC(3)31-10(p1)

3.1 The Business Committee noted that a temporary Deputy Presiding Officer would be elected at the start of each meeting, in the absence of the Presiding Officer.

3.2 The Business Committee agreed to suspend Standing Orders on 30 November in order to bring forward motions to elect members to committees (Conservatives).

3.3 The Business Committee noted that Darren Miller would postpone his short debate on Wednesday - NDM4603 The Clwydian Range - A National Treasure.

3.4 The Committee agreed that Voting Time would take place no earlier than 5.00pm on Tuesday and Wednesday.

3.5 The Committee noted the organisation of business for 30 November and 1 December 2010.

3 Week Timetable of Government Business - BC(3)31-10(p2)

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

3 Week Timetable of Assembly and Non-Government Business - BC(3)31-10(p3)

3.7 As the 3 week timetable for the following week had already been agreed on 30 November, the Business Committee agreed to suspend Standing Orders on Tuesday 7 December in order to bring forward motions to elect members to committees (Conservatives).

3.8 The Committee determined the organisation of Assembly Business.

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

4. Legislation

(i) Proposed Education (Wales) Measure

Paper from the Minister on the Proposed Education (Wales) Measure – BC(3)32-10(p4);

Illustrative timetable No.1 – BC(3)32-10(p4a);

Illustrative timetable No.2 – BC(3)32-10(p4b)

Paper from Legislation Office regarding the referral and timetable for the proposed Education (Wales) Measure – BC(3)32-10(p5)

4.1 The Business Committee considered the timetable for Proposed Education (Wales) Measure.

4.2 Further to concerns raised by Peter Black and Nick Ramsay regarding the shortness of the timetable, the Deputy Presiding Officer noted that the Government should aim to refer legislation to committee as soon as possible following the Government's annual legislative statement to allow sufficient time for committee scrutiny within the timetable.

4.3 The Minister for Business and Budget agreed that the outcome of the Government's consultation on the principles of the policy behind the proposed Measure should be shared with Members, and that Members of Legislation Committee No.5 should be invited to attend a technical briefing by the Government on the proposed Measure.

4.4 The Minister for Business and Budget, Jane Hutt, moved that the Business Committee agrees:

- (i) to refer the proposed Education (Wales) Measure to a committee for Stage 1 consideration of the general principles;
- (ii) that the committee should report to the Assembly by 21 January 2011;
- (iii) that Stage 2 Committee proceedings should be completed by 4 March 2011.

4.5 As Peter Black and Nick Ramsay objected, a vote was taken on the motion. In accordance with Standing Order 11.5(ii), each Member of the Committee, other than the chair, carries one vote for each member of the political group which he or she represents. The following Members voted for the motion: Jane Hutt (26), Jocelyn Davies (14). The following Members voted against the motion: Nick Ramsay (13), Peter Black (5). The motion was agreed.

4.6 The Committee agreed that the proposed Measure should be referred to Legislation Committee No. 5 for Stage 1 consideration of the general principles.

(ii) Proposed Housing (Wales) Measure

Letter from the Chair of Legislation Committee No.2 regarding the timetable for Stage 1 scrutiny – BC(3)32-10(p6);

Annex to the letter: revised illustrative timetable – BC(3)32-10(p6a)

4.7 The Business Committee considered a letter from the Chair of Legislation Committee No. 2 proposing an alternative timetable for the proposed Housing (Wales) Measure.

4.8 The Committee agreed that the deadline for Legislation Committee No.2 to report on the general principles of the proposed Measure should be 18 January 2011.

4.9 The Committee agreed to suspend Standing Order 23.30 which requires that 15 working days must elapse between the start of Stage 2 to enable Legislation Committee No.2 to meet 10 working days after the start of Stage 2. The Committee agreed that Stage 2 proceedings should be completed by 23 February 2011.

5. Review of Standing Orders

(i) Review of Standing Orders: SO 30 Reports of proceedings – BC(3)32-10(p7)

Annex A – Table of Changes – BC(3)32-10(p7a)

Annex B – Revised Standing Order – BC(3)32-10(p7b)

5.1 The Business Committee considered revised papers relating to Reports of Proceedings (SO 30). Business Managers agreed to consult their groups on the proposed changes, with a view to considering them further at the fifth public meeting of Business Committee on 7 December.

BUSINESS COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT