

Business Committee

Minutes BC(3)16-08

Date: Tuesday 3 June 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

Siwan Davies, Head of Legislation and Chamber Services

Marion Stapleton, Office of the Leader of the House

Aled Eirug, Constitutional Consultant

Marc Wyn Jones, Clerk of the Business Committee

1. Apologies & announcements

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

(i) BC(3)15-08 (Draft minutes) - Tuesday 20 May 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)16-08(p1)

3.1 The Leader of the House said that the Minister for Health and Social Services would be making a statement on Alan Axford's Review of Services in Ceredigion on Tuesday.

3.2 The Leader of the House said that the following statements, which had been scheduled for Tuesday, had been postponed to 10 June:

A statement by the Minister for Health and Social Services on Health Commission Wales; and

A statement by the Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing on Sustainable Development.

3.3 The Committee agreed that Voting Time would take place no earlier than 4.30pm for Assembly and non-government business on Wednesday. The Committee noted that there would be no Voting Time on Tuesday.

3.4 The Committee noted the organisation of business for 3 and 4 June 2008.

3 Week Timetable of Government Business - BC(3)16-08(p2)

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

3 Week Timetable of Assembly and Non-Government Business - BC(3)16-08(p3)

3.6 The Committee agreed to schedule a motion to elect Angela Burns in place of Alun Cairns as a Member of the Proposed Healthy Eating in Schools Measure Committee on 11 June 2008.

3.7 The Committee determined the organisation of Assembly Business.

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

4. Legislation

Update paper on progress of legislation - BC(3) 16-08(p4)

4.1 The Committee considered the update paper on the progress of legislation. Business Managers noted that the Affordable Housing Legislative Competence Order (LCO) Committee was considering whether or not to meet again to look at the revised draft LCO. Business Managers were assured that this should not affect the previously agreed legislative timetable. It was noted that, in future, LCO Committees would cease to exist once they had reported, rather than when the draft Order was laid.

4.2 The Leader of the House said that the Government would be announcing its Legislative Programme for next year on Tuesday 15 July.

5. Assembly Committees

Request from the Rural Development Sub-Committee to visit Pembrokeshire and Ceredigion - BC(3)16-08(p5)

5.1 The Committee discussed the request by the Rural Development Sub-Committee to visit Pembrokeshire and Ceredigion on Thursday 19 June as part of its inquiry into the reorganisation of schools in rural Wales. Business Managers were made aware of the fact that a related petition had been referred to the Sustainability and; Enterprise and Learning Committees. Business Managers agreed that the Presiding Officer should write to the Chairs of the relevant committees to ensure linkage or joint working on this inquiry.

Letter from the Chair of Audit Committee - BC(3)16-08(p6)

5.2 The Business Committee discussed the letter from the Chair of the Audit Committee regarding Members' attendance at its meeting on 15 May. Business Managers noted that the Audit Committee meeting had been affected by Members' attendance at two other events previously approved by the Business Committee - a formal offsite meeting for the Sustainability Committee (which used its timetabled slot but clashed with Audit due to the travel time required) and the visit of the Subordinate Legislation Committee to Edinburgh, in addition to absence of some Members due to illness and other engagements.

5.3 Business Managers agreed that the statutory nature of the Audit Committee meant that its business should take precedence. The Business Committee agreed that in future, requests for informal or off-site committee activity that clashed with Audit Committee meetings were unlikely to be agreed unless prior agreement for substitutions to Audit was demonstrated. The Presiding Officer said he would write to this effect to the Chair of the Audit Committee and copies of the letter would be circulated to other committee chairs.

Paper on Assembly Business arrangements for 26 June - BC(3)16-08(p7)

5.4 The Business Committee noted the arrangements for Assembly Business, in relation to a VIP visit taking place in the Senedd and other Assembly buildings on Thursday 26 June.

6. Any Other Business

6.1 Business Managers noted that there would be a joint meeting with the Assembly Commission on Tuesday 10 June, to consider issues relating to the organisation of business.

BUSINESS COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT