

Business Committee

Minutes BC(3)04-08

Date: Tuesday 5 February 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

Kirsty Williams, Welsh Liberal Democrats Business Manager

Officials in Attendance

Adrian Crompton, Director of Assembly Business

Mandy Lewis, Office of the Leader of the House

Marc Wyn Jones, Clerk of the Business Committee

Aled Eirug, Constitutional Consultant

1. Apologies & announcements

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from the Leader of the House and

Marion Stapleton. The Chair welcomed Carl Sargeant and Mandy Lewis who would be representing them.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

(i) BC(3)03-08 (Draft minutes) - Tuesday 29 January 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)04-08(p1)

3.1 Carl Sargeant said that the Deputy Minister and Minister for the Economy and Transport would be making a statement on the National Botanical Gardens, in Plenary on Wednesday. He said that this would replace the statement by the Minister for Health and Social Services on Agenda for Change, which would be issued as a written statement on 6 February 2008.

3.2 The Committee agreed that a motion to suspend Standing Orders would be tabled on Wednesday, to bring forward a motion to change the membership of the Subordinate Legislation Committee.

3.3 The Committee agreed that Voting Time would take place no earlier than 5pm on Wednesday for Assembly and non-government business.

3.4 The Committee noted the organisation of business for 5 and 6 February 2008.

3 Week Timetable of Government Business - BC(3)03-08(p2)

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

3 Week Timetable of Assembly and Non-Government Business - BC(3)03-08(p3)

3.6 The Business Committee agreed that a debate on the Finance Committee and Rural Development Sub-Committees' Reports on Foot and Mouth would be scheduled for Wednesday 20th February. The Business Committee agreed that there should be one 90 minute debate covering both reports. It was agreed that two take-note motions would be tabled, (one from each committee), they would be debated together but separate votes would be held on each report. It was also agreed that the Chair of the Finance Committee should

open and close the debate, and that the Chair of the Rural Development Sub-Committee should be the second speaker.

3.7 The Business Committee agreed to schedule a debate on the Rural Development Sub-Committee's Report on Bovine Tuberculosis, on 27th February.

3.8 The Committee determined the organisation of Assembly Business.

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

4 Assembly Committees

Review of the effectiveness and operation of Assembly Committees - BC(3)04-08(p4)

4.1 The Business Committee considered the proposed terms of reference for the review of the effectiveness and operation of Assembly Committees. The Committee noted that the review would be lead by the Head of Committee Service and that the results would be reported back to the Business Committee in due course.

5. Any other business

5.1 Business Managers discussed the scheduling of opposition debates in non-government time. It was agreed that at least one hour should be allocated to opposition debates in each week the Assembly met in Plenary.

The Business Committee also agreed to look at categories of non-government business, to explore options for allocating time to Assembly Members who were not members of the Government.

BUSINESS COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT