

Business Committee

Minutes BC(3)10-09

Date: Tuesday 24 March 2009

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

Alun Cairns, Welsh Conservatives Business Manager

Peter Black, Welsh Liberal Democrats Business Manager

Officials in Attendance

Adrian Crompton, Director of Assembly Business

Marion Stapleton, Office of the Leader of the House

Aled Eirug, Constitutional Consultant

Sulafa Halstead, Head of Committee Service

Sian Wilkins, Head of Legislation and Chamber Services

Marc Wyn Jones, Clerk of the Business Committee

1. Apologies & announcements

1.1 The Chair welcomed Val Lloyd to the meeting (see paragraph 3.1).

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

(i) BC(3)09-08 (Draft minutes) - Tuesday 17 March 2009

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. Issues Arising

3.1 At its meeting on 17 March, the Business Committee considered a request from the Chair of Legislation Committee 2 to extend the deadline for reporting on the proposed Children and Families Measure and agreed that the Chair of the Committee should be invited to the next meeting to discuss these options. Val Lloyd attended the meeting and reiterated her request for an extension to the timetable. The Leader of the House gave an undertaking to explore the possibility of an extension of one week. The Presiding Officer asked if the Committee could explore the option of holding at least one meeting concurrently with a Wednesday Plenary meeting, during non-government time.

4. Forthcoming Business

This Week's Business - BC(3)10-09(p1)

4.1 The Leader of the House said that the Minister for Rural Affairs would be making an update statement on the TB Eradication Programme.

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

4.3 The Committee noted the organisation of business for 24 and 25 March 2009.

3 Week Timetable of Government Business - BC(3)10-09(p2)

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

3 Week Timetable of Assembly and Non-Government Business - BC(3)10-09(p3)

4.5 The Business Committee agreed to schedule the following item of non-government business:

Debate on the Finance Committee's Report on its inquiry into Public Private Partnerships (60 mins) on 6 May.

4.6 The Committee determined the organisation of Assembly Business.

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

5. Organisation of Business

Paper on Reshaping the Committee System - BC(3)10-09(p4)

5.1 The Business Committee considered a paper on reshaping the committee system, which was an introductory paper to initiate discussions on how the committee system might be made more effective. Business Managers agreed to return to the issue at its next meeting following consultation with their groups.

Covering note & paper on Amendments to Opposition Motions - BC(3)10-09(p5a & 5b)

5.2 The Business Committee reconsidered a paper which provided options for disposing of amendments to opposition party motions. The Committee initially considered the paper in April 2008 and decided not to introduce the recommended change. At today's meeting the Committee agreed to introduce a new procedure on a trial basis, which would ensure that opposition parties had a vote on their original motion before any amendments were taken.

6. Tabling Arrangements

Paper on the Easter Recess: Tabling Arrangements for Legislation and Chamber Services - BC(3)10-09(p6)

6.1 The Business Committee agreed the specified Tabling Days during the Easter recess:

The Table Office would open on 21 - 24 April for tabling business for the first two weeks following the Easter Recess.

The Legislation Office would open on 20 - 24 April for tabling amendments to Stage 3 of Proposed Measures.

BUSINESS COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT