

# Business Committee

## Minutes BC(3)19-08

**Date:** Tuesday 24 June 2008

**Time:** 8.30 a.m.

**Venue:** Meeting Room 4<sup>th</sup> 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)18-08 (Draft minutes) - Tuesday 17 June 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)18-08(p1)

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

3.2 The Committee noted the organisation of business for 24 and 25 June 2008.

#### 3 Week Timetable of Government Business - BC(3)18-08(p2)

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

#### 3 Week Timetable of Assembly and Non-Government Business - BC(3)18-08(p3)

3.4 The Committee determined the organisation of Assembly Business.

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

#### Paper on the Organisation of Assembly Business - BC(3)19-08(p4)

3.6 The Business Committee considered a paper on the organisation of Assembly Business. The Committee agreed that Business Managers would consult Members on the issues raised in the paper and return to the issue for a preliminary discussion of responses from Members at its next meeting and fuller consideration and decision in the Business Committee meeting on 8 July.

### 4. Assembly Committees

#### Request for an additional meeting from the Committee on Standards of Conduct - BC(3)19-08(p5)

4.1 The Business Committee agreed the request by the Committee on Standards to hold formal meetings after Plenary on Tuesday 15 July to consider the initial responses to its Measure Consultation to establish a statutory role of Commissioner for Standards; and on Tuesday 24 June to deal with other business.

**Revised request for the Rural Development Sub- Committee's proposed visit to Pembrokeshire and Ceredigion - BC(3)19-08(p6)**

4.2 The Business Committee considered and agreed the revised request for the Rural Development Sub-Committee to visit Pembrokeshire and Ceredigion on 3 July, as part of its inquiry into the reorganisation of schools in rural Wales.

**Request from the Petitions Committee to hold an additional formal committee meeting at the Royal Welsh Show - BC(3)19-08(p7)**

4.3 The Business Committee agreed the request by the Petitions Committee to hold a formal meeting on the afternoon of Wednesday 23 July 2008, as part of the Royal Welsh Show, at Builth Wells. The Business Committee noted that this meeting was to be held in recess and that the Presiding Officer had been consulted, in accordance with SO 10.41.

## **5. Legislation**

**Covering paper and Illustrative Timetable for the Learning and Skills (Wales) Measure - BC(3)19-08(p8) & Supporting Paper - BC(3)19-08(p9)**

5.1 The Business Committee agreed a proposed timetable for the proposed Learning and Skills (Wales) Measure. It was agreed that a Stage 1 Committee would be established to consider the general principles of the Measure, and that the Committee should report by 7 November 2008. To meet this deadline, it was agreed that the Committee would be established in time to have its first meeting before the summer recess.

5.2 To assist the work of the Stage 1 Committee and potential witnesses and consultees, the Government was asked to ensure that responses to its pre-legislative consultation exercise were made publicly available.

5.3 Kirsty Williams referred to the proceedings of the Learner Travel Measure Stage 2 Committee. She said that issues had arisen as a consequence of not having a Stage 1 Committee. The Business Committee noted that its decision not to refer the proposed Learner Travel Measure to a Stage 1 Committee was based on a desire not to duplicate the pre-legislative scrutiny undertaken by the Enterprise and Learning Committee. In light of experience, the Business Committee agreed that as a general principle, legislative scrutiny should be undertaken by Legislation Committees, rather than Scrutiny Committees. The Business Committee agreed that this should not prevent Scrutiny Committees from considering draft legislative proposals and that, where appropriate, this work should feed into the work of the Stage 1 Legislative Committee.

## **BUSINESS COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT**