

Business Committee

Minutes BC(3)03-08

Date: Tuesday 29 January 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

Marion Stapleton, Office of the Leader of the House

Marc Wyn Jones, Clerk of the Business Committee

Aled Eirug, Constitutional Consultant

1. Apologies & announcements

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

(i) BC(3)02-08 (Draft minutes) - Tuesday 22 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)03-08(p1)

3.1 The Leader of the House said that the First Minister would be making a statement on The Closure of Tower Colliery, in Plenary on Tuesday.

3.2 The Committee agreed that a motion to suspend Standing Orders would be tabled on Wednesday to bring forward a motion to establish a Committee of the Whole Assembly. The Committee would comprise all the Assembly Members and would be chaired by the Presiding Officer. The Business Committee noted that it would meet on Thursday 31st January 2008, in the Siambr to hold discussions with the Vice President of the European Commission, Margot Wallström and to consider issues relating to Europe.

3.3 The Committee noted the organisation of business for 29 and 30 January 2008.

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

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 Committee noted that a debate on Helen Mary Jones' Proposed LCO on Careers had been scheduled for Wednesday 20th February 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 in the National Assembly - BC(3)03-08(p4)

4.1 The Committee noted the update paper on progress of Legislation in the National Assembly.

5. Any other business

5.1 The Business Committee returned to the issue of Committee memberships and discussed possible amendments to the size of some committees. The Business Committee agreed a change in the number of Members on the Equality of Opportunity and Subordinate Legislation Committees. It was agreed that each Committee would have 5 Members. The Chair said that a motion to give effect to this would be tabled next week once revised membership details had been provided by the parties.

5.2 The Chair referred to the request received from the Audit and Finance Committees to meet more frequently. The Business Committee agreed for an additional slot to be built into the timetable for the Audit Committee once in each 4 week period. The Business Committee agreed to consider the request from the Finance Committee separately once the Finance Committee had reported on the operation of the budget process.

5.3 The Business Committee re-affirmed its desire for any committees wishing to arrange formal activity outside the agreed timetable, or activity having a potential impact on other formal proceedings, to request approval from the Business Committee.

BUSINESS COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT