

Business Committee

Minutes BC(3)20-09

Date: Tuesday 30 June 2009

Time: 08.30

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

Aled Eirug, Constitutional Consultant

Marion Stapleton, Office of the Leader of the House

Sulafa Halstead, Head of Assembly Committees

Sian Wilkins, Head of Legislation and Chamber Services

Marc Wyn Jones, Clerk of the Business Committee

1. Apologies & announcements

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

(i) BC(3)19-08 (Draft minutes) - Tuesday 23 June 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. Forthcoming Business

This Week's Business - BC(3)20-09(p1)

3.1 The Leader of the House said that the Deputy Minister for Social Services would be making a legislative statement on the proposed Social Care Charges (Wales) Measure in Plenary on Tuesday.

3.2 The Leader of the House said that the Minister for Health and Social Services would be making an update statement on Swine Influenza in Plenary on Wednesday.

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

3.4 The Committee noted the organisation of business for 30 June and 1 July 2009.

3 Week Timetable of Government Business - BC(3)20-09(p2)

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

3 Week Timetable of Assembly and Non-Government Business - BC(3)20-09(p3)

3.6 The Business Committee agreed to schedule the following motions:

Motion to revise Standing Orders (5 mins) on 8 July; and

Motion in relation to Committee scrutiny of the Highways and Transport LCO (15 mins) on 15 July.

3.7 The Committee determined the organisation of Assembly Business.

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

4. Organisation of Business

Paper on the procedure for conducting Ballots for Member proposed legislation - BC(3)20-09(p4)

4.1 On 28 April, the Business Committee considered a letter from Alun Cairns in relation to the procedures for ballots for Member proposed Measures. The Committee agreed that a motion to suspend Standing Order 23.101 would be considered on 6 May to allow Members who had previously been successful to apply again for the Measure ballot. The Committee asked for a fuller paper on the possible amendment of Standing Orders to address this issue in the longer term, to be provided before the next round of Legislative Competence Order and Measure ballots.

4.2 At today's meeting the Committee considered proposals for revising the procedure for conducting ballots. The Committee agreed that the relevant Standing Order provisions would be suspended for the next and subsequent ballots in order to allow Members who had previously been successful to apply again to enter a ballot. The Committee agreed to return to the issue in the light of further ballots.

Letter from the Chair of Finance Committee: Temporary Standing Order 27A - BC(3)20-09(p5)

4.3 The Business Committee considered a letter from the Chair of the Finance Committee regarding the time available to scrutinise the Government's draft Budget. The Business Committee noted that the Finance Committee had agreed in principle with the Minister for Finance and Public Service Delivery and the Leader of the House, to pilot an approach which would give the Finance Committee an additional week in which to scrutinise the budget. It would also allow other Committees an additional week to consider the draft budget and feed their views in to the Finance Committee.

4.4 The Business Committee considered a temporary Standing Order which would enable the Finance Committee to pilot the approach in the autumn. The Business Committee agreed to table a motion to propose the temporary revision to Standing Order 27, for consideration in Plenary on Wednesday 8 July. The Presiding Officer said that a report of the Business Committee would be laid before the Assembly.

5. Legislation

Paper from the Minister on the Proposed Social Care Charges (Wales) Measure - BC(3)20-09(p6a)

Illustrative Timetable - BC(3)20-09(p6b)

Paper from the Legislation Office - BC(3)20-09(p6c)

5.1 The Business Committee agreed to refer the proposed Social Care Charges (Wales) Measure to Legislation Committee No 5 for Stage 1 consideration with a deadline to report by 3 November 2009.

Letter from the Chair of Legislation Committee 4: National Assembly for Wales (Legislative Competence) (Environment) Order 2009 - BC(3)20-09(p7)

5.2 The Business Committee noted the report on the Environment Legislative Competence Order. The Committee noted that the report contained a number of recommendations which were relevant to the Business Committee's role, specifically in section 4 of the report. The Presiding Officer said that a paper was being prepared which would cover in more detail the issues raised by the Legislation Committee.

6. Committees

Request for approval for additional Finance Committee meetings during the 2009 Budget round - BC(3)20-09(p8)

6.1 The Business Committee considered a request from the Finance Committee to hold extra meetings during the autumn term to scrutinise the Government's draft Budget. The Business Committee noted that the option preferred by Members of the Committee would be Tuesday mornings from 9 - 11am and that the Committee expected to need 2 - 3 meetings in addition to its normal fortnightly meetings during the first half of the term. The Business Committee agreed the proposal.

6.2 The Presiding Officer said he had also been consulted in accordance with Standing Order 10.41 about the Finance Committee holding additional meetings during the summer recess.

Letter from the Chair of the Enterprise and Learning Committee - BC(3)20-09(p9a)

The Proposed National Assembly for Wales (Legislative Competence) (Highways and Transport) Order 2009 - BC(3)20-09(p9b)

Explanatory Memorandum - BC(3)20-09(p9c)

Paper from Business Committee Secretariat - BC(3)20-09(p9d)

6.3 The Business Committee considered a letter from the Chair of the Enterprise and Learning Committee regarding its Committee-proposed Legislative Competence Order on Highways and Transport and requested that the Business Committee propose a motion in

Plenary that there should be no detailed consideration by Committee of the proposed Order. The Business Committee agreed the request and agreed that a slot would be made available during non-government time on Wednesday 15 July for the motion to be considered.

BUSINESS COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT