

Thursday, 7th February 2002

AGENDA

The Session will commence at 9.05am

Item 1

Questions to the First Minister on Economic Development

Click [here](#) for the questions

Item 2

Finance Questions to Edwina Hart, Minister for Finance, Local Government and Communities

Click [here](#) for the questions

Item 3

Approval of Special Grant Report (No 25) on Special Local Roads Maintenance Grant

NDM951 - To propose that the National Assembly:

Under S88B of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, and in accordance with Standing Order 19.8, approves the Local Government Finance (Wales) Special Grant Report (No 25) (Wales) 2001 which was laid in the Table Office on 30 January 2002.

Click [here](#) for the Local Government Finance (Wales) Special Grant Report (No 25) (Wales) 2001.

Item 4

Approval of Special Grant Report (Wales) 2002 on Road Safety Grant

NDM950 - To propose that the National Assembly:

Under S88B of the Local Government Finance Act 1988, and in accordance with Standing Order 19.8, approves the Local Government Finance (Wales) Special Grant Report (Wales) 2002 which was laid in the Table Office on 30 January 2002.

Click [here](#) for the Local Government Finance (Wales) Special Grant Report (Wales) 2002.

Item 5

Delegation of powers contained in the European Communities (Designation) (No 3) Order 2001

NDM949 - To propose that the National Assembly,

acting under section 62(1)(b) of the Government of Wales Act 1998, resolve to delegate to the First Minister all the functions of the National Assembly (save those which by law cannot be so delegated) contained in or under regulations made by:

(a) the National Assembly (whether made by the National Assembly alone or together with a UK Minister, UK Government Department or the Scottish or Northern Irish Executives) under section 2(2) of the European Communities Act 1972 pursuant to the functions conferred on the Assembly by the European Communities (Designation) (No 3) Order 2001 (SI 2001/3495), ("the Designation Order"); or

(b) a UK Minister under his or her concurrent powers, under the said section 2(2), in relation to any of the measures in respect of which functions were conferred on the National Assembly in the Designation Order.

Nothing in this motion will have the effect of reducing the pre-eminence of the authority of the full Assembly or of reducing the role of the Assembly Committees in the exercise of the above functions.

Copies of the Government of Wales Act 1998 and the European Communities Act 1972 are available in the Assembly Library.

The European Communities (Designation) (No 3) Order 2001 (SI 2001/3495) can be accessed using the hyperlink shown below:

<http://www.legislation.hmso.gov.uk/si/si2001/20013495.htm>

Item 6

Minority Party Debate: Plaid Cymru

NDM948 - The National Assembly:

1. Notes with disappointment the plans for Wales in the Strategic Rail Authority's Strategic Plan.

2. Notes with concern the impact of this plan on the capacity of the Government of Wales to develop an integrated transport policy for Wales.

3. Believes that this situation must be urgently rectified and to this end instructs the Government of Wales to:

- a. Negotiate with the UK Government ,as a priority, the power to appoint representatives from Wales to the Strategic Rail Authority with powers to direct the Strategic Rail Authority;
- b. Negotiate with the UK Government, as a matter of urgency, primary legislation enabling the Government to develop appropriate mechanisms for the co-ordination of public transport in Wales nationally, and the effective development of cross border links;
- c. Undertake research into the proportion of current spending on rail in Wales with a view to ascertaining the exact benefit of levels of funding to services in Wales and relative levels of investment across other UK regions;
- d. Negotiate with the Strategic Rail Authority in the short term a proportion of funding which more accurately reflects the need for investment in the rail infrastructure in Wales;
- e. Negotiate with UK Government as soon as possible the devolution of a rail budget for Wales reflecting the outcomes of the research and re-negotiation referred to in points (d) and (e) to the National Assembly.
- f. Advocate to the UK Government the need to conclude the ongoing uncertainty about the future of Railtrack and the bringing of Railtrack back into full public control.

The following amendment has been tabled:

Amendment 1 - Jonathan Morgan (South Wales Central)

Delete the whole of point 3 and replace with:

3. Regrets the Government's decision to undermine Railtrack and re-nationalise it.

Item 7

Short Debate:

NDM947 Brian Hancock (Islwyn): Our Canals - Unlocking the Future.

The session should conclude by 12.35pm

The Assembly will sit again in Plenary at

2.00pm on Tuesday, 12th February 2002

E P Silk

