

# Business Committee: public meeting

## Concise Minutes : BC(3)30-10 : 16 November 2010

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**Time: 9.00 – 10.00**

**Venue: Committee Room 4 – Ty Hywel**

### Assembly Members in attendance

Dafydd Elis-Thomas, Meirionnydd Dwyfor  
Jane Hutt, Vale of Glamorgan  
Jocelyn Davies, South Wales East  
Nick Ramsay, Monmouth  
Peter Black, South Wales West

### Officials in attendance

Adrian Crompton, Director of Assembly Business  
Marion Stapleton, Assembly Business and Legislation Management Division  
Aled Eirug, Constitutional Consultant  
Sian Wilkins, Head of Legislation and Chamber Services  
Sulafa Halstead, Head of Committee Services  
Anna Daniel, Clerk of the Business Committee  
Llinos Madeley, Business Committee Secretariat

### Item 1: Introduction, Apologies and Substitutions

1.1 The Chair welcomed Committee Members and members of the public.

### Item 2: Minutes of previous meeting

2.1 The Business Committee agreed the minutes of the previous public meeting on 9 November 2010.

### Item 3: Standing Orders relating to committee business: consideration of remaining proposals

**Paper: BC(3)30-10 Paper 1**

**Paper: BC(3)30-10 Paper 1 – Annex A**

**Paper: BC(3)30-10 Paper 1 – Annex B**

#### 3.1 Remits of committees: Standing Order 12.4

3.1.1 Business Managers agreed in principle to the re-wording of SO 12.4(i) but indicated their desire to revisit the wording of SO 12.4(ii) when the Business Committee considers Standing Orders relating to legislation.

"Action: Revisit the wording of SO 12.4(ii) alongside consideration of Standing Orders relating to legislation."

#### 3.2 Proposals for committee remits made by the Business Committee – voting arrangements: Standing Order 11.7

3.2.1 Business Managers agreed in principle that any decision taken by the Business Committee on the titles and remits of committees would be subject to qualified weighted voting: new SO 11.7(ii)A.

#### 3.3 Chairs of committees: Standing Order 10.18 - 10.19

3.3.1 Business Managers agreed in principle to remove the mechanism that permits committees to elect a chair and replace it with a mechanism by which party groups provide the Business Committee with the name of the member they wish to appoint to any committee upon which they hold the chair.

"Action: Business Committee Secretariat to draft amendments to Standing Orders to effect this decision."

#### 3.4 Quorum: Standing Order 10.31

3.4.1 Business Managers agreed in principle that, on declaring a meeting inquorate and suspending the meeting, a maximum cut-off time of 20 minutes should be specified in SO 10.31.

3.4.2 The Committee agreed that, where it is reasonable and appropriate, the chair should be given discretion to adjourn before that

maximum time if he or she is aware that the committee will not be quorate before the maximum time is reached.

"Action: Business Committee Secretariat to draft amendments to Standing Orders to effect this decision."

### **3.5 Openness of committees – publication of documents: Standing Order 10.36A**

3.5.1 Business Managers agreed in principle to insert a new Standing Order to ensure that a specific reference is made to the publication of documents submitted by the public for consideration by a Committee to bolster the legal protection afforded to the contents: new SO 10.36A.

3.5.2 It was noted, for the record, that this is a significant privilege which the Assembly enjoys and therefore documents should only be published by committees under the authority of the Assembly (to provide protection under the Act against actions for defamation or against prosecution for contempt of court) when it is reasonable and appropriate to do so.

### **Next Meeting:**

The Business Committee will consider the following at the next public meeting on 23 November 2010:

Assembly Offices and Appointments