

Minutes – Business Committee

Meeting Venue:

Remote – Digital

Meeting date: 18 October 2022

Meeting time: 09.01 – 09.19

Private

Attendance

Category	Names
Committee Members:	Elin Jones MS, Llywydd (Chair) Lesley Griffiths MS Siân Gwenllian MS Darren Millar MS
Committee Staff:	Graeme Francis (Clerk) Yan Thomas (Deputy Clerk)
Others in attendance	David Rees MS, Deputy Presiding Officer Manon Antoniazzi, Chief Executive and Clerk Siwan Davies, Director of Senedd Business Siân Wilkins, Head of Chamber and Committee Service Julian Luke, Head of Policy and Legislation Committee Helen Carey, Welsh Government

1 Introductions, apologies and substitutions

The Llywydd welcomed Members to the meeting. Apologies were received from Jane Dodds.



2 Minutes of the previous meeting

The Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed for publication.

3 Organisation of Business

3.1 This week's business

The Trefnydd drew Business Managers' attention to the following changes:

Tuesday

- Statement by the Minister for Finance and Local Government: Welsh Government's response to the Chancellor's statement on the Medium-Term Fiscal Plan (30 mins)
- ~~The Marine, Fisheries and Aquaculture (Financial Assistance) Scheme (Wales) Regulations 2022 (15 mins) *Withdrawn*~~
- Voting time will take place as the last item of business.
- Plenary is unlikely to run past 5.40pm.

Wednesday

The Trefnydd requested the Business Committee's agreement to schedule a debate on an LCM on the Energy Prices Bill on Wednesday 19 October, with a suspension of Standing Orders to enable the debate to take place. The request was agreed in light of the accelerated timetable for the passage of the Bill at Westminster, with the Bill have been introduced on 12 October and an intended date of Royal Assent on 25 October. As a result of the lack of time available, Business Committee agreed not to refer the LCM for committee scrutiny.

Consequently, the following items have been added to Wednesday's agenda:

- Motion to suspend Standing Orders (5 mins)

- LCM on the Energy Prices Bill (30 mins)
- Voting Time will take place before the Short Debate.
- Plenary is unlikely to run past 8.25pm.

3.2 Three week timetable of Government Business

Business Committee agreed to schedule the following items of business:

Wednesday 26 October –

- Motion to Elect an Acting Chair of Plenary Meetings (5 mins)

Wednesday 16 November 2022 –

- Debate on the Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee report: Digital connectivity – broadband (60 mins)
- Debate on the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee report: Cost of living pressures (60 minutes)
- Time allocated to the Welsh Conservatives (60 mins)

3.3 Three week timetable of Senedd Business

Business Committee agreed to schedule the following items of business:

Wednesday 16 November 2022 –

- Debate on the Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee report: Digital connectivity – broadband (60 mins)
- Debate on the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee report: Cost of living pressures (60 minutes)
- Time allocated to the Welsh Conservatives (60 mins)

3.4 Debates on Members' Legislative Proposals – selection of motion for debate

Business Committee agreed to schedule the following motion for debate on Wednesday 26 October 2022:

NNDM8108 Sioned Williams

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Notes a proposal for a take-up of benefits Bill
2. Notes that the purpose of the Bill would be to:
 - a) ensure that more money ends up in Welsh people's pockets by increasing take up of Welsh and local authority support payments;
 - b) place a duty on all public sector organisations to maximise take-up of Welsh and local authority benefits;
 - c) require public bodies to streamline and make consistent throughout Wales the method of application for such benefits.

4 Legislation

4.1 Letter from the Chair of the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee regarding the Northern Ireland Protocol Bill LCM

Business Committee considered the request for an extension to the reporting deadline for the LCM on the Northern Ireland Protocol Bill. On the basis that a debate on the LCM has been scheduled for 8 November as a result of the timetable for the Bill at Westminster, Business Committee concluded that it is currently not possible for the reporting deadline to be extended. The Trefnydd indicated that, should the parliamentary timetable change, the Government would be willing to revisit the timetable for scrutiny of the LCM.

5 Senedd Business

5.1 Note on Acting Chair and other roles available to chair plenary proceedings

Business Committee noted the paper on the various roles available to chair proceedings and agreed to table a motion to propose that Paul Davies MS is elected as Acting Chair of Plenary Meetings under Standing Order 6.23A, for consideration on 26 October.

6 Any other business

Business Managers noted arrangements for a technical briefing on Business Committee's current work on the recommendations of the Special Purpose Committee on Senedd Reform, which will take place on 19 October.