

Plenary

Meeting date:
Wednesday, 13 November 2013

Meeting time:
13:30

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales



Agenda

(162)v2

1 Questions to the Minister for Natural Resources and Food (45 mins)

[View Questions](#)

2 Questions to the Minister for Housing and Regeneration (45 mins)

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3 Debate on the Children and Young People Committee's Report on the Inquiry into Attendance and Behaviour (60 mins)

NDM5351 Ann Jones (Vale of Clwyd)

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

Notes the report of the Children and Young People Committee on the inquiry into Attendance and Behaviour, which was laid in the Table Office on 8 August 2013.

Note: The response by the Welsh Government was laid on 6 November 2013.

Supporting documents:

[Children and Young People Committee's Report](#)

[Welsh Government's response](#)

4 Welsh Conservatives Debate (60 mins)

NDM5353 William Graham (South Wales East)

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

1. Welcomes the UK Government's recent announcement on the recommendations contained within Silk Part 1 'Empowerment and Responsibility: Financial Powers to Strengthen Wales';
2. Notes that the introduction of Borrowing Powers for the Welsh Government should assist in the delivery of key infrastructure projects across Wales;
3. Further welcomes the statement that the NATO summit will be held at the Celtic Manor in 2014 and recognises the high economic benefit that hosting such an event should have on the Welsh economy;
4. Looks forward to hearing how the Welsh Government will use these opportunities to best effect for Wales.

'Empowerment and Responsibility: Financial Powers to Strengthen Wales' is available at:

[http://commissionondevolutioninwales.independent.gov.uk/files/2013/01/English-
WEB-main-report1.pdf](http://commissionondevolutioninwales.independent.gov.uk/files/2013/01/English-
WEB-main-report1.pdf)

5 Welsh Liberal Democrats Debate (60 mins) NDM5354 Aled Roberts (North Wales)

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

1. Recognises that the SME sector accounts for 73% of all employment in rural areas and that small and medium sized enterprises play a vital role in the sustainable economic growth of rural areas, in stimulating innovation and advancement and helping to address the key challenges of unemployment, rural to urban migration and poverty.
2. Notes that lack of access to finance impedes the potential role of SMEs in rural economic development.
3. Notes the particular challenges in the uptake of apprenticeships in SMEs.

4. Notes that the digital divide in broadband and mobile coverage hinders the competitiveness and accessibility of businesses in rural areas.

5. Calls on the Welsh Government to:

a) examine a community bank structure to sustain the presence of local banks in rural communities, and to work with credit unions to increase lending to businesses;

b) work with businesses in the agricultural, renewable energy and tourism sectors to identify ways to overcome barriers to increasing the supply of rural apprenticeships;

c) make universal access to broadband an obligation for providers and to work with Ofcom and network operators to investigate the shared provision of infrastructure in rural areas to maximise coverage.

The following amendments have been tabled:

Amendment 1 – Elin Jones (Ceredigion)

Insert at end of point 2:

'and notes the inability of Finance Wales to offer finance to SMEs at competitive rates'

Amendment 2 – Elin Jones (Ceredigion)

Insert at end of point 3:

'and recognises the positive steps taken through the 2013/14 budget agreement on apprenticeships between Plaid Cymru and the Welsh Government.'

Amendment 3 – Elin Jones (Ceredigion)

Add as new point 4 and renumber accordingly:

Regrets the negative impact on the rural economy of the mis-selling of interest rate hedging products by high street banks.

Amendment 4 – William Graham (South Wales East)

Insert as new point 4 and renumber accordingly:

Further notes the points detailed in the Enterprise and Business Committee report on apprenticeships in rural areas.

The Enterprise and Business Committee report ‘Apprenticeships in Wales’ is available at:

<http://www.senedd.assemblywales.org/documents/s11015/Apprenticeships%20in%20Wales%20Report%20-%20October%202012.pdf>

Amendment 5 – Elin Jones (Ceredigion)

Add as new point 5 and renumber accordingly:

Believes that the cost of fuel in rural areas has a negative impact on the rural economy, and regrets that the UK Government’s application for an extension to the Rural Fuel Rebate did not include any Welsh areas.

Amendment 6 – William Graham (South Wales East)

Insert as new point 5 and renumber accordingly:

Notes that effective rural transport infrastructure is a lifeline for rural communities and essential for stimulating economic development and tackling rural isolation.

Amendment 7 – William Graham (South Wales East)

Insert as new point 5 and renumber accordingly:

Recognises the burden of business rates on rural SMEs and calls on the Welsh Government to introduce further business rate relief for small businesses across Wales.

Amendment 8 – Elin Jones (Ceredigion)

Insert as new sub-point 5b) and renumber accordingly:

‘examine the benefits to rural SMEs of establishing a publicly owned, arm's length, not-for dividend business bank, to offer finance at competitive rates to Welsh SMEs.’

Amendment 9 – Lesley Griffiths (Wrexham)

Delete sub-point 5c.

[If amendment 9 is agreed, amendment 10 will be de-selected]

Amendment 10 – William Graham (South Wales East)

In sub-point 5c) delete all after ‘providers’ and replace with ‘and ensure mandatory roaming in all rural areas for all operators to enhance price competition and increase coverage’.

Voting Time

6 Short Debate (30 mins)

NDM5352 Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire): A Public Inconvenience – Why Public Toilets are important

The Assembly will sit again in Plenary at 13:30, Tuesday, 19 November 2013