

Business Committee

Meeting Venue: **Presiding Officer's office, 4th floor – Tŷ Hywel**

Meeting date: **Tuesday, 13 May 2014**

Meeting time: **08.30 – 08.53**

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales



Minutes:

Committee Members:

Dame Rosemary Butler (Chair)
Paul Davies
Lesley Griffiths
Elin Jones
Aled Roberts

Committee Staff:

Aled Elwyn Jones (Clerk)

Others in attendance:

David Melding AM, Deputy Presiding Officer
Christopher Warner, Head of Policy and Legislation
Committee Service
Siân Wilkins, Head of Chamber and Committee Service
Craig Stephenson, Chief Adviser to the Presiding Officer
Peter Greening, Welsh Government

1 Apologies & announcements

2 Minutes of the previous meeting

The Minister for Local Government and Government Business provided an update on the Access Bill as agreed and noted in the minutes of last week's meeting.

The minutes were noted by the Committee for publication.

3 Organisation of Business

3.1 This Week's Business

The Minister for Local Government and Government Business updated the Committee on changes to Government Business.

On Tuesday, Voting Time would be after the final item of business. On Wednesday, the Business Committee agreed that Voting Time would take place before the Short Debate.

3.2 Three week timetable of Government Business

Business Committee noted the 3 Week Timetable of Government Business.

3.3 Three week timetable of Assembly Business

Business Committee determined the organisation of business and agreed to schedule the following items of business:

Wednesday 11 June 2014

- Debate on the Queen's Speech (120 mins)

- Debate on the Finance Committee's Report on Higher Education Funding (60 mins)

- Short Debate – Julie Morgan (Cardiff North) (30 mins)

4 Legislation

4.1 Higher Education (Wales) Bill

Business Managers confirmed their in principle decision of 29 April to refer the Higher Education (Wales) Bill to the Children, Young People and Education Committee for Stage 1 consideration and agreed the deadline for the Stage 1 Committee to report by as 3 October 2014 and the deadline for the completion of Stage 2 Committee proceedings as 28 November 2014.

5 Budget

5.1 Review of Budget Process

Events following the autumn budget consideration prompted the Business Committee's request for this paper. This paper was intended to support Business Managers' consideration of whether the current budget process should be reviewed.

Business Managers indicated their broad support for the proposals in the paper, and agreed to return to the issue at a future meeting when they would consider in greater detail the proposal to extend the period available for scrutiny of the budget by committees.

6 Plenary

6.1 Review of Oral Assembly Questions

In January 2013, the Business Committee considered a number of options for reforming Oral Assembly Questions, with a view to introducing more topicality and variety to backbenchers' scrutiny of Ministers. This paper was intended to give Business Managers the opportunity to consider the success or otherwise of these reforms, and whether any further reforms might be desirable.

Business Managers requested a further paper setting out detailed proposals to take back to their groups for consultation.