

Plenary

Meeting date:
Wednesday, 21 March 2012

Meeting time:
13:30

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales



Agenda (55)v2

1. Questions to the Minister for Finance and Leader of the House (45 mins)

[View Questions](#)

2. Questions to the Minister for Business, Enterprise, Technology and Science (45 mins)

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3. Motion to endorse a protocol on changes to the budget motion (15 mins) NDM4948 Jocelyn Davies (South Wales East)

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

Endorses the Protocol on Changes to the Budget Motion, as agreed between the Welsh Government and the Committee with responsibility for the functions specified in Standing Order 19.

The Protocol on Changes to the Budget Motion was laid before the Assembly on 14 March 2012.

Supporting document:

[Protocol on changes to the Budget motion](#)

4. Motion to annul the Isle of Anglesey Local Authorities (Change to the Years of Ordinary Elections) Order 2012 (30 mins) NDM4940

**Peter Black (South Wales West)
Aled Roberts (North Wales)**

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales in accordance with Standing Order 27.2:

Agrees that the Isle of Anglesey Local Authorities (Change to the Years of Ordinary Elections) Order 2012, laid before the Assembly on 6 March 2012, be annulled.

Supporting Documents:

[The Isle of Anglesey Local Authorities \(Change to the Years of Ordinary Elections\) Order 2012](#)

[Explanatory Memorandum](#)

[Report of the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee](#)

**5. Welsh Conservatives Debate (60 mins)
NDM4946 William Graham (South Wales East)**

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

1. Notes the importance of local government acting in a manner which is both transparent and accountable to the people it represents;
2. Believes that the introduction of referenda on proposed annual council tax increases above 3.5% would enhance transparency, accountability and democracy in Wales; and
3. Welcomes steps taken by some local authorities in Wales to publish all expenditure over £500.00, and encourages all local authorities in Wales to make this information public.

The following amendments have been tabled:

[If amendment 1 is agreed, amendments 2 and 3 will be deselected]

Amendment 1 – Jane Hutt (Vale of Glamorgan)

Delete point 2 and replace with:

‘Recognises that the setting of council tax is a matter for individual local authorities and transparency and accountability for this is delivered via the ballot box every four years.’

[If amendment 2 is agreed, amendment 3 will be deselected]

Amendment 2 – Jocelyn Davies (South Wales East)

In point 2 delete all before ‘would enhance’ and replace with ‘Believes that the introduction of the Single Transferable Voting system at local government level’.

Amendment 3 – Peter Black (South Wales West)

Insert at end of point 2 'but believes that, while ordinary families are facing tough times, the increased cost of running local referendums is not a priority.

Amendment 4 – Jane Hutt (Vale of Glamorgan)

Delete point 3 and replace with:

‘Welcomes steps towards increased transparency taken by councils in Wales but recognises the need to ensure that administrative burdens placed on local authorities as a result of increased transparency are proportionate.’

6. Plaid Cymru Debate (60 mins) NDM4945 Jocelyn Davies (South Wales East)

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

Believes that further devolution of powers would help deliver a sustainable and prosperous economy.

The following amendments have been tabled:

Amendment 1– William Graham (South Wales East)

Add as new point at end of motion:

Welcomes the work of the Silk Commission and awaits its recommendations on further constitutional reform.

Amendment 2 – William Graham (South Wales East)

Add as new point at end of motion:

Acknowledges that a sustainable, prosperous economy requires:

- a) a strategy to promote indigenous businesses on the international market; and
- b) full engagement with the UK Government to promote those UK companies who have establishments within Wales.

Amendment 3 – Peter Black (South Wales West)

Add as new point at end of motion:

Welcomes the Commission on Devolution in Wales established by the UK government to look at further advancement in the devolution of powers, including fiscal responsibility.

7. Welsh Liberal Democrats Debate (60 mins) NDM4947 Peter Black (South Wales West)

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

1. Regrets new statistics that show the GDP per capita of West Wales and the Valleys has fallen from 79% to 68.4% of the EU average;
2. Notes that those statistics have been measured on a consistent basis from year to year and across the different regions and nations of the EU; and
3. Calls on the Welsh government to publish an economic development strategy for West Wales and the Valleys as a matter of urgency, in order to ensure that should Wales qualify for an additional round of funding, projects focused on driving economic growth can begin immediately.

The following amendments have been tabled:

Amendment 1– Jane Hutt (Vale of Glamorgan)

Delete point 3 and replace with:

‘Notes that the Welsh Government in association with its partners, is preparing strategies and possible projects to be delivered in the impending Structural Funds 2014–2019 Programme period, together with the series of actions currently being undertaken to assist the economic recovery of West Wales & the Valleys and East Wales.’

Amendment 2 – William Graham (South Wales East)

Add as new point at end of motion:

Acknowledges that a strong private sector is essential in order to encourage economic growth in the poorest parts of Wales.

Voting Time

The item started at

8. Short Debate (30 mins)

NDM4944 Joyce Watson (Mid and West Wales):

Pre-paying the price for electricity and gas.

Should energy companies ensure the poorest households are on the lowest tariffs available?

The Assembly will sit again in Plenary at 13:30, Tuesday, 27 March 2012