

Plenary

Meeting date:
Wednesday, 28 March 2012

Meeting time:
13:30

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales



Agenda (57)v4

1. Questions to the Minister for the Environment and Sustainable Development (45 mins)

[View Questions](#)

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

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3. Motions to elect Members to committees (5 mins)

NDM4956 Rosemary Butler (Newport West)

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales, in accordance with Standing Order 17.14, elects Dafydd Elis-Thomas (Plaid Cymru) as a member of the Enterprise and Business Committee in place of Leanne Wood (Plaid Cymru).

NDM4957 Rosemary Butler (Newport West)

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales, in accordance with Standing Order 17.14, elects Lindsay Whittle (Plaid Cymru) as a member of the Public Accounts Committee in place of Leanne Wood (Plaid Cymru).

4. Debate on the Enterprise and Business Committee's report on the Regeneration of Town Centres (60 mins)

NDM4952 Nick Ramsay (Monmouth)

The National Assembly for Wales:

Notes the Report of the Enterprise and Business Committee: The Regeneration of Town Centres which was laid in the Table Office on 25 January 2012.

Note: The response of the Minister for Housing, Regeneration and Heritage to the report was laid in the Table Office on 21 March 2012.

Supporting documents:

[Report of the Enterprise and Business Committee](#)

[Response of the Minister for Housing, Regeneration and Heritage](#)

5. Welsh Conservatives Debate (60 mins)

NDM4954 William Graham (South Wales East)

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

1. Calls on the Welsh Government to review its policies to ensure greater emphasis is placed on empowering local communities;
2. Acknowledges the role a Wales-wide Council Tax freeze would have played in financially empowering households;
3. Notes the role which enhancing small business rate relief would play in empowering businesses across Wales, allowing them to expand and hire new staff;
4. Encourages local government to act in a way which is transparent, open and accountable, which will motivate local communities to become more involved in local democracy;
5. Notes that funding schools directly will empower them to set their own priorities; and
6. Further notes the role decentralised planning policy can play in the empowerment of communities.

The following amendments have been tabled:

Amendment 1 – Peter Black (South Wales West)

Insert at end of point 1:

‘and calls for any review to include consideration of the introduction of a Community Bill of Rights to give local communities additional powers in the planning system, housing development and local environment’

[If amendment 2 is agreed, amendments 3, 4 and 5 will be deselected]

Amendment 2 – Jane Hutt (Vale of Glamorgan)

Delete points 2, 3 and 4, replace with the following, and renumber accordingly:

Notes that the Welsh Government has provided 1.3% more funding to local authorities than England, which will empower Welsh councils to freeze council tax, if they so choose.

Notes the provisions of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, which seeks to enhance local democratic accountability and engagement in Wales.

The Local Government (Wales) Measure can be accessed on the following link:
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/mwa/2011/4/contents/enacted>

[If amendment 3 is agreed, amendment 4 will be deselected]

Amendment 3 – Peter Black (South Wales West)

Delete point 2 and replace with:

‘Believes that a sustainable approach to keeping council tax low, which could be delivered by responsible governance from local councils not top-down funding streams, would help financially empower households across Wales.’

Amendment 4 – Jocelyn Davies (South Wales East)

Delete point 2

Amendment 5 – Peter Black (South Wales West)

Insert at end of point 3:

‘but believes this must be underpinned by wider reform of business rates, including ending overly large rises each year’

Amendment 6 – Peter Black (South Wales West)

Add as new point after point 4, and renumber accordingly:

Believes that local communities would become further involved in local democracy if local government was strengthened by:

- a) introducing the Single Transferable Vote for local elections;
- b) introducing a power of general competence to empower local councils;
- c) reducing the number of top-down controls on local authorities, such as statutory duties; and
- d) auditing the best and worst examples of open and transparent government across Wales in order to spread this best practice.

[If amendment 7 is agreed, amendment 8 will be deselected]

Amendment 7 – Jocelyn Davies (South Wales East)

Delete point 5

Amendment 8 – Peter Black (South Wales West)

Insert at end of point 5:

‘and calls for a full review of school accountability, particularly investigating local accountability and appropriate leadership for governing bodies’

Amendment 9 – Jocelyn Davies (South Wales East)

Delete point 6

6. Plaid Cymru Debate (60 mins)

NDM4953 Jocelyn Davies (South Wales East)

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

Believes that the UK Government’s proposal to introduce regional pay for the public sector is unjust for workers, damaging to the Welsh economy and detrimental to business.

The following amendments have been tabled:

Amendment 1 – Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central)

Delete all and replace with:

1. Notes that the previous UK Labour Government introduced regional pay into the court service in Wales; and
2. Believes that establishing an independent Wales could result in lower levels of pay to workers throughout Wales, including those in the public sector, and would therefore have a similar effect to the introduction of regional pay in Wales.

Amendment 2 – Peter Black (South Wales West)

Add as new point at end of motion:

Notes that the previous UK Government introduced regional pay within the court service.

Amendment 3 – Peter Black (South Wales West)

Add as new point at end of motion:

Calls on the Welsh Government to produce an impact assessment to boost the case for retaining current pay structures.

Amendment 4 – Peter Black (South Wales West)

Add as new point at end of motion:

Agrees with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills that regional pay would be completely wrong and inappropriate and could lead to pay becoming depressed in relatively low income parts of the country and therefore calls on the Welsh Government to work with the Secretary of State to ensure regional pay is not introduced.

Amendment 5 – Peter Black (South Wales West)

Add as new point at end of motion:

Believes that independence would not allow Wales to benefit from UK wide public sector pay scales and would lead to de-facto regional pay.

Voting Time

7. Short Debate (30 mins)

NDM4951 Sandy Mewies (Delyn):

Drink/Drive Rehabilitation Courses.

The continuing need to ensure that these courses are provided in Wales following the success of previous courses in reducing re-offending rates.

The Assembly will sit again in Plenary at 13:30, Tuesday, 24 April 2012