

**Second Assembly Plenary Meeting (164)
Votes and Proceedings for Wednesday, 2 November 2005**

The meeting commenced at 2.00pm

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2.00pm

Questions to Brian Gibbons, Minister for Health and Social Services

The first 8 questions were answered. Question 3 was withdrawn.

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2.38pm

Questions to Alun Pugh, Minister for Culture, Welsh Language & Sport

The first 8 questions were answered.

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Questions to the House Committee

No questions were tabled

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3.12pm

Debate on Affordable Housing

NDM2652 Jane Hutt (Vale of Glamorgan)

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

- 1. Recognises the difficulties facing younger working households in accessing the housing market in parts of Wales.**
- 2. Accepts that it is for local authorities to identify their own housing requirements and priorities in the light of local circumstances.**
- 3. Notes the practical measures taken by the Assembly Government in addressing these issues.**

The following amendments were tabled:

1. Jocelyn Davies (South Wales East)

Delete point 1 and insert as new point 1:

Expresses concern at the difficulties facing a growing number of people in accessing the housing market across Wales.

A vote was taken:

For 53; Abstain 0; Against 0; Total 53

Amendment 1 was carried

2. Jocelyn Davies (South Wales East)

In point 2 insert after "circumstances":

,and calls on the Welsh Assembly Government to enable local authorities to provide affordable housing in the countryside, in addition to affordable housing in towns and villages.

A vote was taken:

For 24; Abstain 0; Against 29; Total 53

Amendment 2 was not carried

3. Jocelyn Davies (South Wales East)

Delete point 3 and insert as new point 3:

Calls on the Welsh Assembly Government to develop an Affordable Housing Strategy for Wales, whilst acknowledging that the lack of powers hinders the ability of the National Assembly for Wales to fully address the housing crisis in Wales.

A vote was taken:

For 15; Abstain 9; Against 29; Total 53

Amendment 3 was not carried

4. Jocelyn Davies (South Wales East)

Add as new point at end of motion:

Acknowledges that New Labour's continuation of the Conservatives' right to buy policies has resulted in the depletion of some of Wales' best social housing stock and is one of the main factors in the current housing crisis and rising levels of homelessness.

A vote was taken:

For 15; Abstain 0; Against 38; Total 53

Amendment 4 was not carried

5. Jocelyn Davies (South Wales East)

Add as new point at end of motion:

Deplores New Labour's support for the new pension funds, Self-Invested Personal Pensions (SIPPs) which will enable the wealthy to own and profit from second homes ownership in Wales while many people in Wales are living in unfit accommodation or spending an increasing amount of their income on housing.

A vote was taken:

For 15; Abstain 38; Against 0; Total 53

Amendment 5 was carried

6. Jocelyn Davies (South Wales East)

Add as new point at end of motion:

Calls on the Welsh Assembly Government to make representations to the UK government for properties in Wales to be excluded from SIPPs.

A vote was taken:

For 10; Abstain 43; Against 0; Total 53

Amendment 6 was carried

7. Jocelyn Davies (South Wales East)

Add as new point at end of motion:

Instructs the Welsh Assembly Government to introduce a new planning class for second homes, allowing local authorities to manage the level of second homes where high numbers would lead to social problems.

A vote was taken:

For 15; Abstain 8; Against 29; Total 52

Amendment 7 was not carried

8. Jocelyn Davies (South Wales East)

Add as new point at end of motion:

Regrets that the Welsh Assembly government's housing policy forces many local authorities into making housing stock transfer decisions.

A vote was taken:

For 15; Abstain 0; Against 38; Total 53

Amendment 8 was not carried

9. Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire):

Add new point at end of motion:

Calls on the Welsh Assembly Government to encourage and promote the formation of Community Housing Trusts.

A vote was taken:

For 44; Abstain 9; Against 1; Total 54

Amendment 9 was carried

10. Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire):

Add new point at end of motion:

Calls for restrictions on the right to buy in areas of high demand.

A vote was taken:

For 45; Abstain 0; Against 9; Total 54

Amendment 10 was carried

11. Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire):

Add new point at end of motion:

Calls on the Assembly Government to support and encourage local planning authorities in engendering

greater flexibility for different affordable housing planning policies to be developed.

A vote was taken:

For 54; Abstain 0; Against 0; Total 54

Amendment 11 was carried

12. David Melding (South Wales Central):

Add new point at end of motion:

Believes that the current housing crisis has been aggravated by the Welsh Assembly Government's policy to reduce the level of resources available for affordable housing.

A vote was taken:

For 25; Abstain 0; Against 29; Total 54

Amendment 12 was not carried

13. David Melding (South Wales Central):

Add new point at end of motion:

Notes that the Welsh Assembly Government's Social Justice and Regeneration Policies have been compromised by the housing crisis.

A vote was taken:

For 25; Abstain 0; Against 29; Total 54

Amendment 13 was not carried

14. David Melding (South Wales Central):

Add new point at end of motion:

Regrets the failure of the Welsh Assembly Government to properly recognise the deleterious affect the housing crisis is having on many Welsh speaking communities.

**A vote was taken:
For 25; Abstain 0; Against 29; Total 54
Amendment 14 was not carried**

A vote was taken on the motion as amended:

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

- 1. Expresses concern at the difficulties facing a growing number of people in accessing the housing market across Wales.**

- 2. Accepts that it is for local authorities to identify their own housing requirements and priorities in the light of local circumstances.**

- 3. Notes the practical measures taken by the Assembly Government in addressing these issues.**

- 4. Deplores New Labour’s support for the new pension funds, Self-Invested Personal Pensions (SIPPs) which will enable the wealthy to own and profit from second homes ownership in Wales while many people in Wales are living in unfit accommodation or spending an increasing amount of their income on housing.**

- 5. Calls on the Welsh Assembly Government to make representations to the UK government for properties in Wales to be excluded from SIPPs.**

- 6. Calls on the Welsh Assembly Government to encourage and promote the formation of Community Housing Trusts.**

- 7. Calls for restrictions on the right to buy in areas of high demand.**

- 8. Calls on the Assembly Government to support and encourage local planning authorities in engendering greater flexibility for different affordable housing planning policies to be developed.**

**For 43; Abstain 0; Against 9; Total 52
The motion was carried**

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4.38pm

Short Debate - NDM2653 Alun Cairns (South Wales West): Will dredging destroy the UK's first Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty?

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The meeting concluded at 4.53pm

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The Assembly will sit again in Plenary at 2.00pm on Tuesday, 8 November 2005

E P Silk

Clerk to the Assembly

DOCUMENTS LAID SINCE THE ASSEMBLY LAST MET

November 02, 2005

[LD5051-a - Sports Council Wales Annual Report 2004/05](#)

[LD5051-b-Sports Council Wales Annual Report 2004/05](#)

[LD5053 - Audit Committee report 'The collapse of Antur Dwyryd Llyn Ltd](#)

[LD5054 - The Management of Sickness Absence by Further Education Institutions in Wales](#)

[LD5055 - Energy and Water Management in the Higher Education Sector in Wale](#)

[LD5067 -The Tryptophan In Food \(Wales\) Regulations 2005 Memorandum Of Corrections](#)

[LD5068 - Memorandum Of Corrections The Fishery Products \(Official Controls Charges\) \(Wales\) Regulations 2005](#)