

Third Assembly Plenary Meeting

Votes and Proceedings (239)

Date: Wednesday, 19 January 2011

Time: 13.30

Peter Black was nominated as Temporary Deputy Presiding Officer for the duration of the meeting.

13.30

Item 1: Questions to the Minister for Health and Social Services

The Deputy Presiding Officer received notification, under Standing Order 7.50, that the Deputy Minister for Social Services would answer questions on behalf of the Minister for Health and Social Services.

The first 7 questions were answered.

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14.15

Item 2: Questions to the Deputy First Minister and Minister for the Economy and Transport

The first 8 questions were answered.

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14.55

Item 3: Debate on the Communities and Culture Committee's report 'Financial Inclusion and the Impact of Financial Education'

NDM4631 Sandy Mewies (Delyn)

The National Assembly for Wales:

Notes the Report of the Communities and Culture Committee: Financial Inclusion and the Impact of Financial Education which was laid in the Table Office on 3 November 2010.

Notes: The response of the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government to the report which was laid in the Table Office on 12 January 2011.

The motion was agreed, in accordance with Standing Order 7.35.

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15.46

Item 4: Welsh Conservatives Debate

NDM4632 Nick Ramsay (Monmouthshire)

The National Assembly for Wales:

1. Welcomes the contribution to Welsh life of Wales' National Parks.
2. Calls on the Welsh Assembly Government to introduce a proportion of direct election of members to National Park Authorities.
3. Calls on the Welsh Assembly Government to review the responsibilities of National Park Authorities with a view to including social and economic development.

Voting on the motion and amendment under this item was deferred until Voting Time.

A vote was taken on the motion without amendment:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
16	0	33	49

The motion without amendment was not agreed.

The following amendment was tabled:

Amendment 1 - Jane Hutt (Vale of Glamorgan)

Delete all and replace with:

The National Assembly for Wales:

Welcomes the contribution to Welsh life of Wales' National Parks and notes the good work carried out in line with the Welsh Assembly Government's Policy Statement for the National Parks and National Park Authorities in Wales.

The Welsh Assembly Government's Policy Statement for the National Parks and National Park Authorities in Wales can be accessed via the following hyperlink:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/consmanagement/countrysidecoastalaccess/npwales/policystatement/?lang=en>

A vote was taken on Amendment 1:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
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33	0	16	49
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Amendment 1 was agreed.

A vote was taken on the motion as amended:

NDM4632

The National Assembly for Wales:

Welcomes the contribution to Welsh life of Wales' National Parks and notes the good work carried out in line with the Welsh Assembly Government's Policy Statement for the National Parks and National Park Authorities in Wales.

The Welsh Assembly Government's Policy Statement for the National Parks and National Park Authorities in Wales can be accessed via the following hyperlink:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/consmanagement/countrysidecoalaccess/npwales/policystatement/?lang=en>

For	Abstain	Against	Total
33	0	16	49

The motion as amended was agreed.

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16.45

Item 5: Welsh Liberal Democrats Debate

NDM4633 Peter Black (South Wales West)

The National Assembly for Wales:

1. Believes that it is vital that High Street and town centre services are supported as they provide services for many people across Wales including recreation, leisure, social activities and retail services, and in particular provide local services for those who cannot access services online.

2. Believes that Post Offices play a crucial role in providing community based services and are a key part of a thriving High Street and supports the decision of the UK Government not to close any additional Post Offices.

3. Calls for the Welsh Assembly Government to:

a) Improve conditions for businesses in town centres by allowing local authorities to regenerate areas through Tax Increment Financing and requiring an impact assessment for out-of-town developments;

b) Support small businesses, that are often based in town centres, by reducing the regulatory burden and undertaking a root-and-branch review of the impact of business rates on small businesses;

c) Improve transport access to town centres and ensure train and bus stations contain information on the local community; and

d) Work with local authorities to ensure bus-stops are conveniently located and accessible to all.

Voting on the motion and amendment under this item was deferred until Voting Time.

A vote was taken on the motion without amendment:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
16	0	33	49

The motion without amendment was not agreed.

The following amendments were tabled:

Amendment 1 - Jane Hutt (Vale of Glamorgan)

Delete all after point 1 and replace with:

2. Believes that Post Offices play a crucial role in providing community based services and supports the Welsh Assembly Government's Post Office Diversification Fund which has supported 229 post offices since April 2009;

3. Welcomes the Welsh Assembly Government's work to:

a) Improve conditions for businesses in town centres including by exploring the potential to introduce Tax Increment Financing for local authorities and retaining the town centre first policy for new retail developments;

b) Support small businesses, that are often based in town centres, through the Small Business Rates Relief Scheme which has resulted in over half of small businesses in Wales paying no rates and by creating a positive business environment across Wales through the Economic Renewal Programme; and

c) improve access to and between key towns and settlements and provide sustainable transport solutions through the National and Regional Transport Plans.

Further information on the Economic Renewal Programme may be accessed at the following hyperlink:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandconomy/help/economicrenewal/programmepapers/?lang=en>

The Welsh Assembly Government's National Transport Plan can be accessed via the following hyperlink:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/transport/ntp/nationaltransportplan/?lang=en>

The Regional Transport Plans can be accessed via the following hyperlinks:

North Wales

<http://www.taith.gov.uk/>

Mid Wales

<http://www.tracc.gov.uk/index.php?id=63&L=0>

South West Wales

<http://www.swwitch.net/rtp.aspx>

South East Wales

<http://www.sewta.gov.uk/strategy.htm>

A vote was taken on Amendment 1:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
33	0	16	49

Amendment 1 was agreed.

As amendment 1 was agreed, amendment 2 was deselected.

Amendment 2 - Nick Ramsay (Monmouthshire)

Add as new sub-points at end of point 3:

Provide full rate relief to the smallest businesses up to a rateable value of £12,000.

Improve access to train and bus stations for disabled passengers and those people with mobility problems.

Improve signage from trunk roads into town centres.

A vote was taken on the motion as amended:

NDM4633

The National Assembly for Wales:

1. Believes that it is vital that High Street and town centre services are supported as they provide services for many people across Wales including recreation, leisure, social activities and retail services, and in particular provide local services for those who cannot access services online.

2. Believes that Post Offices play a crucial role in providing community based services and supports the Welsh Assembly Government's Post Office Diversification Fund which has supported 229 post offices since April 2009;

3. Welcomes the Welsh Assembly Government's work to:

a) Improve conditions for businesses in town centres including by exploring the potential to introduce Tax Increment Financing for local authorities and retaining the town centre first policy for new retail developments;

b) Support small businesses, that are often based in town centres, through the Small Business Rates Relief Scheme which has resulted in over half of small businesses in Wales paying no rates and by creating a positive business environment across Wales through the Economic Renewal Programme; and

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South West Wales

<http://www.swwitch.net/rtp.aspx>

South East Wales

<http://www.sewta.gov.uk/strategy.htm>

For	Abstain	Against	Total
33	6	10	49

The motion as amended was agreed.

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17.53

Voting Time

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17.55

Item 6: Short Debate postponed from 8 December 2010

NDM4616 Dai Lloyd (South Wales West):

'O bydded i'r hen iaith barhau – One Wales and the Welsh Language'

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18.15

Item 7: Short Debate

NDM4630 Paul Davies (Preseli Pembrokeshire):

Milford Haven and Fishguard - The new strategic regeneration areas?

The meeting concluded at 18.34.

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The Assembly will sit again in Plenary at 13.30 on Tuesday, 25 January 2011.

Chamber Secretariat