

Votes and Proceedings for Wednesday, 17th November 2004

The meeting commenced at 2.00pm

**2.00pm
Local Government Questions to Sue Essex, Minister for Finance, Local Government and Public Services**

The first 8 questions were answered.

**2.32pm
Questions to Jane Davidson, Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning**

The first 8 questions were answered.

**2.59pm
Urgent Question
Nicholas Bourne (Mid and West Wales):** Will the Minister make a statement on the use of BCG vaccines at Ysgol Gyfun Penweddig in Aberystwyth.

**3.08pm
Deputy Presiding Officer took the Chair**

**3.08pm - WITHDRAWN
Motion to delegate functions of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 to the First Minister
NDM2172 Karen Sinclair (Clwyd South)**

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales, acting under section 62(1)(b) of the Government of Wales Act 1998, resolves to delegate all functions conferred on the National Assembly in and under the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 to the Assembly First Minister, save those which by law cannot be so delegated.

Nothing in this motion will have the effect of reducing the pre-eminence of the authority of the full Assembly or of reducing the role of the Assembly Committees in the exercise of the above functions.

This delegation will be made in the knowledge that functions delegated to the First Minister will, as appropriate, be further delegated to the appropriate Assembly Minister and to staff.

This motion does not operate so as to delegate to the Assembly First Minister functions which are

conferred by or under the Public Audit (Wales) Act directly on the Audit Committee of the Assembly.

3.08pm

Debate on the Wales Spatial Plan

NDM2173 Karen Sinclair (Clwyd South)

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales

Welcomes the document "People, Places, Futures" laid in the Table Office and e-mailed to Assembly Members on 10 November 2004, and adopts it as the spatial plan for Wales.

The following amendments were tabled:

Amendment 1 - Jocelyn Davies (South Wales East)

Delete 'Welcomes the document' and replace with 'Cautiously welcomes the revised document'.

Amendment 2 - Jocelyn Davies (South Wales East)

Add as new point at end of motion:

Notes the new areas with 'socio economic hubs' and calls on the Labour Assembly Government to develop sustainable regional job targets within these areas and create a new socio economic area covering the Heads of the Valley.

Amendment 3 - Jocelyn Davies (South Wales East)

Add as new point at end of motion:

Regrets that North/South transport links have not been prioritised within the revised plan.

Amendment 4 - David Melding (South Wales Central)

Add new point at end of motion:

Calls for Technical Advice Note 8 to reflect the aims of the Spatial Plan which values the landscapes of Wales and notes the damage to landscapes that will be caused through the concentration of wind farms in Strategic Search Areas.

Amendment 5 - David Melding (South Wales Central)

Add new point at end of motion:

Notes the importance of agri-environment schemes in achieving the objectives of the Spatial Plan and notes the cost efficient way in which the Countryside Council for Wales has managed the Tir Gofal Scheme.

Amendment 6 - David Melding (South Wales Central)

Add new point at end of motion:

Notes the contribution to the aims of the Spatial Plan of good transport links between North and South Wales and particularly the importance of investment in improved North/South road links.

Amendment 7 - Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire)

Add new point at end of motion:

Calls on the Welsh Assembly Government to invest the responsibility for the Wales Spatial Plan in the Minister for Environment, Planning and the Countryside, who has responsibility for sustainable development.

Amendment 8 - Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire)

Add new point at end of motion:

Recognises the importance of empowering communities to play a substantial part in the management of their local environment and resources.

A vote was taken:

Amendment 1

For 20; Abstain 0; Against 35; Total 55

Amendment 1 was defeated

Amendment 2

For 16; Abstain 0; Against 39; Total 55

Amendment 2 was defeated

Amendment 3

For 26; Abstain 0; Against 29; Total 55

Amendment 3 was defeated

Amendment 4

For 11; Abstain 0; Against 43; Total 54

Amendment 4 was defeated

Amendment 5

For 17; Abstain 0; Against 38; Total 55

Amendment 5 was defeated

Amendment 6

For 11; Abstain 0; Against 44; Total 55

Amendment 6 was defeated

Amendment 7

For 17; Abstain 8; Against 29; Total 54

Amendment 7 was defeated

Amendment 8

For 17; Abstain 9; Against 29; Total 55

Amendment 8 was defeated

A vote was taken on the motion

For 46; Abstain 8; Against 1; Total 55

The motion was carried

4.10pm

Debate on the Annual Report of the Children's Commissioner for Wales

NDM2174 Karen Sinclair (Clwyd South)

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales

1. Welcomes the third Annual Report of the Children's Commissioner for Wales; and
2. Notes that the Minister for Health and Social Services will draw up a response and report to the National Assembly on this by 31 January 2005.

The following amendments were tabled:

Amendment 1 - David Melding (South Wales Central)

In point 1:

Delete '; and' and add ', and congratulates the Commissioner and his office for their dedication to protecting the interests of children; and'

Amendment 2 - Jocelyn Davies (South Wales East)

Add as new point 2 and renumber accordingly:

Regrets that the Labour Assembly Government failed in their negotiations with their UK Government colleagues regarding the National Assembly's unanimous resolution (NDM1939, 04 May 2004) that the powers of the Children's Commissioner for Wales be extended over non-devolved areas of policy.

If Amendment 2 was carried, Amendment 6 would fall

Amendment 3 - Jocelyn Davies (South Wales East)

Add as new point at end of motion:

Calls on the Labour Assembly Government to commit the necessary resources to ensure an effective Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service or admit that it has abandoned its strategy in this area.

Amendment 4 - Jocelyn Davies (South Wales East)

Add as new point at end of motion:

Notes with concern the shortage of social workers now constitutes an emergency.

Amendment 5 - Jocelyn Davies (South Wales East)

Add as new point at end of motion:

Believes that a mechanism should be found to enable the Children's Commissioner to present their own annual report to a Plenary session of the National Assembly.

Amendment 6 - Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire)

Add a new point at end of motion:

Deplores the failure of the UK government to listen to the wish of the National Assembly that the responsibilities of the Commissioner should be extended to non-devolved issues in Wales.

Amendment 7 - Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire)

Add a new point at end of motion:

Regrets the continued need to highlight the lack of progress on Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services and calls on the Minister to highlight how she is tackling this key issue in her response to the report.

Amendment 8 - David Melding (South Wales Central)

Add new point at end of motion:

Notes with concern the confusion caused by the proposed introduction of a UK Commissioner with responsibility over reserved matters.

David Melding proposed a procedural motion under Standing Order 6.18 to extend the debate by 20 minutes.

For 50; Abstain 0; Against 4; Total 54

The motion was carried

A vote was taken:

Amendment 1

For 52; Abstain 0; Against 0; Total 52

Amendment 1 was carried

Amendment 2

For 24; Abstain 0; Against 28; Total 52

Amendment 2 was defeated

Amendment 3

For 24; Abstain 0; Against 28; Total 52

Amendment 3 was defeated

Amendment 4

For 24; Abstain 0; Against 28; Total 52

Amendment 4 was defeated

Amendment 5 - WITHDRAWN

Amendment 6

For 24; Abstain 0; Against 28; Total 52

Amendment 6 was defeated

Amendment 7

For 24; Abstain 0; Against 28; Total 52

Amendment 7 was defeated

Amendment 8

For 24; Abstain 0; Against 28; Total 52

Amendment 8 was defeated

A vote was taken on the motion as amended

For 52; Abstain 0; Against 0; Total 52

The motion was carried

5.24pm

Short Debate - NDM2171 Jenny Randerson (Cardiff Central): Council Tax Levels in Cardiff

The meeting concluded at 5.47pm

E P Silk

Clerk to the Assembly

DOCUMENTS LAID SINCE THE ASSEMBLY LAST MET

Documents Laid on 15 November 2004

- The Local Authorities (Changing Executive Arrangements and Alternative Arrangements) (Wales) Regulations 2004 Regulatory Appraisal - LD3290
- The Town and Country Planning (Electronic Communications) (Wales) (No. 1) Order 2004 Regulatory Appraisal - LD3291
- The Town and Country Planning (Electronic Communications) (Wales) (No. 2) Order 2004 Regulatory Appraisal - LD3292
- The Local Authorities (Calculation Of Council Tax Base) And Council Tax (Prescribed Classes Of Dwellings) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2004 Regulatory Appraisal - LD3293