

BUSINESS PAPERS

PART 2 – SECTION H

VOTES & PROCEEDINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, 26TH JANUARY 2000

The session commenced at 2pm

Questions to Jane Hutt, Secretary for Health & Social Services

The first 4 questions were reached.

2.27pm

Questions to Tom Middlehurst, Secretary for Post 16 Education & Training

The first 6 questions were reached.

2.50pm

Point of Order: Nick Bourne raised a Point of Order regarding appointments to the Objective One Monitoring Committee arising from this morning's meeting of the Economic Development Committee. The Secretary for Economic Development advised that the appointments are not political and were made on the advice on the Committee. The Presiding Officer advised that when members represent the Assembly on external bodies, they were representing the NAW not particular parties.

2.54pm

Statement: The Secretary for Health & Social Services made a statement on Meningitis "C" Vaccine

3.17pm

Debate on the New Assembly Building

To propose that the Assembly;

- welcomes the revised proposals for the new Assembly Building described in the 'New

Assembly Building Project - Assembly Progress Report No 1/2000' laid in the table office on 19 January 2000

- notes the revised estimated costs of the scheme
- agrees that the development should now proceed on this revised basis with the objective of having a fully functional building in place by August 2002
- insists that further work on the design must continue to pay full attention to accessibility requirements, the need for good public facilities and that representatives of appropriate interests should be fully consulted during the detailed design process
- calls for the maximum use of Welsh materials in the construction of the building, consistent with EU legislation and procurement and value for money considerations."

The following amendments were selected:

Amendment 1 - Glyn Davies (Mid and West Wales);

In the first bullet point, insert "notes" in place of "welcomes"

Delete bullet points 3,4 and 5 and insert in their place "agrees that the development should now be abandoned"

Amendment 2 - Michael German (South Wales East);

Add at the end of the motion an additional bullet point:

"reaffirms the need for openness and transparency on the matter of the cost of the new building"

Amendment 3 - Helen Mary Jones (Llanelli);

Add at end of motion :

Puts measures in place to ensure that the work be carried out to the highest environmental standards, taking into account local conditions.

4.08pm

Point of Order

Glyn Davies asked the Presiding Officer if it was in order for a Member to speak at length on a matter outside the ambit of the debate (Cynog Dafys). The Presiding Officer said that he took the view that Cynog Dafys was developing an argument for comparative purposes. However, the Presiding Officer said that he was anxious that the Assembly did not stray onto extraneous

matters and would reflect on the matter.

4.21pm

Point of Order

Carwyn James complained that Members were turning their back on the Presiding Officer. Jenny Randerson added that the level of noise from Members was making it hard to hear speeches.

The Presiding Officer noted that a new Chamber would help with such issues.

A vote was taken:

Amendment 1

For 8

Abstain 0

Against 42

Total 50

The Amendment fell.

Amendment 2

For 51

Abstain 0

Against 0

Total 51

The Amendment was carried

Amendment 3

For 43

Abstain 0

Against 8

Total 51

The Amendment was carried.

The Motion, as amended

For 43

Abstain 0

Against 8

Total 51

The motion, as amended, was carried.

5.04pm

Approval of the Water Undertakers (Rateable Value)(Wales) Order 2000

To propose that the Assembly:

(a) considers the report of the Legislation Committee relating to the draft

Order "The Water Undertakers (Rateable Values) (Wales) Order 2000" laid in the Table Office on 18 January 2000;

(b) considers the principle of the Order; and

(c) approves that the Order is made in accordance with the draft laid in

Table Office on 19 January 2000.

A vote was taken:

For 36

Abstain 0

Against 0

Total 36

The motion was carried.

Approval of the British Gas plc (Rateable Value)(Wales) Order 2000

To propose that the Assembly:

(a) considers the report of the Legislation Committee relating to the draft

Order "The BG plc (Rateable Value) (Wales) Order 2000" laid in the
Table Office on 14 December 1999;

(b) considers the principle of the Order; and

(c) approves that the Order is made in accordance with the draft laid in

Table Office on 6 December 1999

A vote was taken:

For 36

Abstain 0

Against 0

Total 36

The motion was carried.

5.11pm

Presiding Officer statement on Assembly Questions

5.14pm

Approval of Assembly Guidance

1. To propose that the Assembly, in accordance with standing order 6.28, resolves to adopt as its Guidance on Oral and Written Assembly Questions the document of that name laid in the Table Office on 19th January 2000.

A vote was taken:

For 33

Abstain 0

Against 0

Total 33

The motion was carried.

2. To propose that the Assembly agrees the following amendments to its guidance on the Grouping, Selection & Refusal of Amendments which was formally adopted on 25th May 1999:

(1) After paragraph 3

New paragraph 4

The Presiding Officer may also decline to select an amendment where he or she considers that the proper conduct of the business of the Assembly makes it appropriate to do so.

(2) In paragraph 4 after first sentence ending "in debate"

insert "The Presiding Officer may also choose to group amendments by political party (and thus call one speaker from each party group to speak to all their amendments)."

(3) In paragraph 5, after "call Members to propose"

insert "(subject to para 5 above)"

(4) Paragraph 8, after "votes will be taken"

delete from "by a show of hands" to "Such votes are conducted"

(5) Paragraph 13, at end

insert "The Presiding Officer may also, if he or she considers it appropriate, group amendments by political party."

(6) Paragraph 14 at end

insert "(see paragraph 14 above)"

(7) Re-number the existing paragraphs

The latest version of the guidance was laid in the Table Office on 19 January 2000 and can be accessed through the Intranet via Assembly Guidance / " Grouping of Amendments".

A vote was taken:

For 34

Abstain 0

Against 0

Total 34

The motion was carried.

The session concluded at 5.20pm

The Assembly will sit again in Plenary at

2.00 pm on Tuesday, 1st February 2000

Documents laid before the Assembly

DOCUMENTS LAID ON 25 JANUARY 2000

- Local Government Wales - The Local Authorities (Capital Finance) (Rate of Discount for 2000/2001) (Wales) Regulations 2000
- Local Government Wales - The Local Government (Best Value) (Exemption) (Wales) Order 2000
- Local Government Wales - The Local Government (Best Value) (Reviews and Performance Plans) (Wales) Order 2000