

Second Assembly Plenary Meeting (107)

Votes and Proceedings for Tuesday, 11th January 2005

The meeting commenced at 2.00pm

2.00pm

First Minister's Question Time

15 questions were answered. Questions 2, 5, 9, 11, 12 and 13 were withdrawn. Questions 4 and 8 were grouped for answer.

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2.43pm

Urgent Question

Peter Law (Blaenau Gwent): Will the Minister make a statement on the action he is taking to deal with 220 redundancies announced at Yuasa Batteries in Ebbw Vale and a further approximate 100 redundancies at Merton Packaging, Llanhilleth, Blaenau Gwent.

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2.54pm

Statement by the First Minister : Tsunami

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3.40pm

Statement by the Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside on Flooding in North Wales

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3.59pm

Statement by the First Minister notifying the Assembly of changes to the Cabinet

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4.29pm

Business Statement

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4.40pm

Motion to approve under Standing Order 24.25

The Education (Information About Individual Pupils) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2005

NDM2228 Karen Sinclair (Clwyd South)

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales, acting under Standing Order 24.25:

1. a) Considers the report of the Legislation Committee laid in the Table Office, on 7 December 2004 on the draft Regulations The Education (Information About Individual Pupils) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2005; and
- b) Approves The Education (Information About Individual Pupils) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2005 is made in accordance with:
 - i) the draft Regulations laid in the Table Office on 23 November 2004; and
 - ii) Regulatory Appraisal laid in the Table Office on 23 November 2004.

A vote was taken on the motion:

For 54; Abstain 0; Against 0; Total 54

The motion was carried

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4.40pm

Motion to delegate functions in or under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 to the First Minister

NDM2227 Karen Sinclair (Clwyd South)

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales, acting under section 62(1) (b) of the Government of

Wales Act, resolves to delegate all the functions of the National Assembly contained in and under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 (c.36) 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.

Nothing in this motion affects the operation of Standing Order 26.

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

A vote was taken on the motion:

For 52; Abstain 0; Against 0; Total 52

The motion was carried

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4.52pm

Motion to approve under Standing Order 24.27 (iv) The General Teaching Council for Wales (Additional Functions) Order 2005

NDM2229 Karen Sinclair (Clwyd South)

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

Considers the principle of The General Teaching Council for Wales (Additional Functions) Order 2005 a copy of which was laid in Table Office on 22 December 2004.

A vote was taken on the principle of the Order

For 52; Abstain 0; Against 52; Total 52

The principle of the Order was approved

NDM2230 Karen Sinclair (Clwyd South)

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

Approves that The General Teaching Council for Wales (Additional Functions) Order 2005 is made in accordance with the draft laid in the Table Office on 22 December 2004.

To note: No Legislation Committee Report is laid in respect of these Regulations, procedural requirements having been disapplied by the Assembly Cabinet under Standing Order 24.27 (i), (ii) and (iii).

A vote was taken on the Order

For 50; Abstain 0; Against 0; Total 50

The Order was approved

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4.54pm

Plaid Cymru Party nominated debate

NDM2226 Jocelyn Davies (South Wales East)

To propose that the National Assembly of Wales:

Deplores the failure of the Government to intervene in the housing crisis.

The following amendments were tabled:

Amendment 1 - Jocelyn Davies (South Wales East)

Delete all and replace with:

1. Acknowledges that an adequate supply of affordable housing is essential in a civilised society and calls on the Labour Assembly Government to:
 - a. grant local authorities the power not to implement the Right to Buy scheme;
 - b. establish a Community Land Trust Unit with its own budget;
 - c. grant local authorities the power to demand that there are affordable homes in all new developments of more than 10 houses.

Amendment 2 - Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire)

Add new point at end of motion:

Calls for the development of a Welsh Home Improvement Lending Agency to help elderly homeowners and others release equity in their homes in order to improve them.

Amendment 3 - Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire)

Add new point at end of motion:

Calls on the Assembly Government to invest more in new social housing in areas of high demand.

Amendment 4 - Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire)

Add new point at end of motion:

Recognises that although the Homebuy scheme has made a significant contribution to providing affordable housing, it has done so by eating into the money available to build new homes for rent. Accordingly, this Assembly calls on the Government to establish a separate Homebuy budget line in addition to the existing resources available for Social Housing Grant.

Amendment 5 - Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire)

Add new point at end of motion:

Recognises that homelessness is best tackled at a local level and calls for more effective local homelessness strategies supported by Welsh Assembly Government investment.

Amendment 6 - 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.

Amendment 7 - Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire)

Add new point at end of motion:

Requires the Welsh Assembly Government to ensure that all local authorities carry out local housing needs surveys and recognises the need for Planning Authorities to undertake surveys on a community level in order to establish local housing needs.

Amendment 8 - 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

Amendment 9 - 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. In particular calls for the use of exceptions policies to provide affordable housing in rural areas.

Amendment 10 - Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire)

Add new point at end of motion:

Condemns the cut in the Welsh Assembly Government's budget for Disabled Improvement Grants.

A vote was taken:

Amendment 1

For 16; Abstain 0; Against 38; Total 54

Amendment 1 was defeated

Amendment 2

For 16; Abstain 8; Against 30; Total 54

Amendment 2 was defeated

Amendment 3

For 14; Abstain 10; Against 30; Total 54

Amendment 3 was defeated

Amendment 4

For 13; Abstain 10; Against 30; Total 53

Amendment 4 was defeated

Amendment 5

For 13; Abstain 0; Against 40; Total 53

Amendment 5 was defeated

Amendment 6

For 6; Abstain 0; Against 47; Total 53

Amendment 6 was defeated

Amendment 7

For 23; Abstain 0; Against 30; Total 53

Amendment 7 was defeated

Amendment 8

For 13; Abstain 10; Against 30; Total 53

Amendment 8 was defeated

Amendment 9

For 23; Abstain 0; Against 30; Total 53

Amendment 9 was defeated

Amendment 10

For 23; Abstain 0; Against 30; Total 53

Amendment 10 was defeated

The motion

For 21; Abstain 0; Against 30; Total 51

The motion was defeated

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WITHDRAWN

Debate on the Skills and Employment Action Plan 2

NDM2231 Karen Sinclair (Clwyd South)

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

Welcomes the actions to improve skills levels and help more people into sustainable employment contained in the revised Skills and Employment Action Plan for Wales 2005.

Copies of the Skills and Employment Action Plan for Wales 2005 were e-mailed to Assembly Members on 4 January 2005.

The following amendments were tabled:

Amendment 1 - Jocelyn Davies (South Wales East)

Insert as new first bullet point and renumber accordingly:

Needs to improve skill levels in Wales and address the extremely low level of GDP per head in Wales as compared to England.

Amendment 2 - Jocelyn Davies (South Wales East)

In line 1 delete 'Welcomes' and replace with 'Notes'.

Amendment 3 - Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire)

Add new point at end of motion:

Recognises the vital importance of creating a parity of esteem between vocational and academic qualifications in order to meet Wales' needs.

Amendment 4 - Jocelyn Davies (South Wales East)

Add as new point at end of motion:

Supports young people who are continuing in education and directs the Labour Assembly Government to create a Special Grant, to be administered in the same way as the Educational Maintenance Allowance, extending the right to apply for financial assistance to those who reach their 18th Birthday during the academic year 2004/05.

Amendment 5 - Jocelyn Davies (South Wales East)

Add as new bullet at end of motion:

Condemns the Labour Assembly Government for presenting an action plan that does not accord with its own language policy and fails to meet the obligation to ensure the equal status of Welsh and English across all sectors.

Amendment 6 - Jocelyn Davies (South Wales East)

Add as new bullet point at end of motion:

Recognises that the allocated budget to develop Basic Skills support is insufficient and instructs the Labour Assembly Government to review funding as a matter of urgency.

Amendment 7 - Jocelyn Davies (South Wales East)

Add as new bullet point at end of motion:

Calls on the Labour Assembly Government to commit to a system of funding post -16 education which

will not act as a financial deterrent to students and confirms that a system which includes Student Top up Fees is not acceptable in Wales.

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The meeting concluded at 5.40pm

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The Assembly will sit again in Plenary at

2.00pm on Wednesday, 12th January 2005

E P Silk

Clerk to the Assembly

DOCUMENTS LAID SINCE THE ASSEMBLY LAST MET

Documents Laid on 06 January 2005

- Arts Council of Wales (ACW): Annual Report 2003-04 - LD3383 *No electronic version available*

Documents Laid on 05 January 2005

- Second Race Equality Scheme of the National Assembly for Wales - LD3382

Documents Laid on 04 January 2005

- Annual Report and Accounts, the Community Fund and New Opportunities Fund, for the financial year ending 31 March 2004 - LD3381 *No electronic version available*

Documents Laid on 22 December 2004

- Wales Tourist Board Annual Report 2003-2004 - LD3379
- The General Teaching Council for Wales (Additional Functions) Order 2005 - LD3375

- The Welsh Local Flood Defence Scheme 1996 (Revocation) Order 2005 - LD3376

Documents Laid on 21 December 2004

- The National Assembly for Wales Resource Accounts 2003-2004 - LD3380

Documents Laid on 17 December 2004

- Local Government Finance Report (No 1) for the financial year 2005-06 - LD3378

Documents Laid on 16 December 2004

- Welsh Assembly Government's response to the report of the National Assembly Audit Committee's report on the General Report of the Auditor General for Wales 2004: Committee Report (2) 08-04 - LD3377

Documents Laid on 15 December 2004

- Welsh Local Government Financial Statistics 2004 - LD3374

Documents Laid on 13 December 2004

- CADU - Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2004 - LD3373

Documents Laid on 10 December 2004

- Ancient Monuments Board for Wales Annual Report 2003-2004 The Care and Presentation of Properties in State Care: Health and Safety and Disability Issues - LD3372

Documents Laid on 09 December 2004

- The Plant Health (Amendment) (Wales) Order 2005 - LD3369
- The Plant Health (Amendment) (Wales) Order 2005 - Regulatory Appraisal - LD3370
- The Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 (Commencement No. 1) Order 2005 - LD3371

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