

BUSINESS PAPERS

VOTES & PROCEEDINGS FOR TUESDAY, 31st OCTOBER 2000

PART 2 - SECTION H

The session commenced at 2pm

2.00pm

Questions to First Minister

The first 10 questions were reached. Question 6 was withdrawn.

2.32 pm

The Assembly Minister for Rural Affairs made a statement on the Phillips Report on BSE.

3.05 pm

The Assembly Minister for the Environment made a statement on the recent severe weather.

3.38 pm

Points of Order

1. David Melding raised under the issue of religious observance within the Assembly's proceedings.

The **Presiding Officer** confirmed that there is no specific religious observance within the Assembly proceedings.

2. Ieuan Wyn Jones raised under Standing Order 9.2 matters relating to the election of Chairs to Subject Committees.

3. Lorraine Barrett raised under Standing Order 6.30 the appropriateness of some of the supplementary questions to the First Minister earlier.

The **Presiding Officer** confirmed he would check the Record of Proceedings and take action if necessary.

4. Dai Lloyd raised the issue of having had to delay the start of the morning's Legislation Committee due to the lateness of some Members.

The **Presiding Officer** emphasised the importance of Committee meetings and asked Members to ensure that they were able to attend on time.

3.48pm

Business Statement: the Business Secretary

The business statement was agreed

3.53pm

Revocation of the Local Government Act 2000 (Commencement) (Wales) Order 2000

To propose that the National Assembly

revoke its decision of 19 October 2000 to approve the Local Government Act 2000 (Commencement) (Wales) Order 2000 laid in the Table Office on 4th October 2000.

A vote was taken on the revocation of the Order:

For 54; Abstain 0; Against 0; Total 54

The motion was agreed and the order was therefore revoked

Approval of the Local Government Act 2000 (Commencement) (Wales) Order 2000

To propose that the National Assembly:

a. approves under Standing Order 22.23A the following draft order:

- Local Government Act 2000 (Commencement) (Wales) Order 2000 laid in the Table Office on 4th October 2000.

And

(b) considers the report of the Legislation Committee relating to this draft order laid in the Table Office on 11 October 2000 and the memorandum of corrections pursuant to standing order 22.12A laid in the Table Office on 24 October 2000

A vote was taken on the motion:

For 54; Abstain 0; Against 0; Total 54

The motion was agreed

3.56pm

Debate on the Local Government Standard Spending Assessment Formula

To propose that the National Assembly, approves the new Standard Spending Assessment Formula as the method of distribution of the 2001-02 Local Government revenue settlement

The following amendments had been tabled:

Amendment 1 - David Davies (Monmouth);

After the words National Assembly on line 1 delete "approves" and replace with "notes the proposals for". Second line delete "as the method of distribution of the 2001-02 Local Government revenue settlement" and replace with "but recognises that there is still much to be done. The Assembly recognises that it would be wrong to rush through such important changes to Local Government finance because of political priorities and will delay the introduction of the new formula until the 2002-03 Local Government revenue settlement, to allow further consultation and change".

4.08pm

Point of Order

Janet Davies raised the issue of improper party names.

The **Presiding Officer** stated that all parties should be referred to by their registered names.

Amendment 2 - Janet Ryder (North Wales);

Add at the end of the motion

This Assembly:

Acknowledges the importance of this revised formula as a small measure towards the redistribution of wealth and the achievement of social justice in Wales and its potential as a tool to rectify the appalling lack of investment in our communities over recent decades.

Acknowledges that deprivation is not confined to urban areas alone but that many rural communities also suffer from poverty. Similarly, many urban communities suffer from difficulties in service delivery and access to services.

Notes that insufficient data is available to produce many statistically based indicators, the paucity of ward-level data which could reveal rural and urban pockets of deprivation within more affluent areas and data for personal social services

Acknowledges that a year on year change to the Standard Spending Assessment formula would result in instability for local government

Notes that the Distribution Sub-Group (DSG) of the Consultative Forum on Finance (a Partnership Council working group) recommended that they take work forward with a view to including it into the formula at a later date

Resolves to set a review date of May 2003. This review to consider how best to incorporate new data available and refinements to the formula that this may suggest as possible and desirable

Amendment 3 - Janet Ryder (North Wales);

Add at the end of the Motion

Acknowledges that without transitional arrangements there will be a need for some councils to make significant reductions in their spending or significantly increase council taxes this year

This Assembly accepts that transitional arrangements will be required in order to implement the new formula successfully

These transitional arrangements should be funded in addition to the rates support grant and sets aside £11million in 2001-02 for this purpose

A vote was taken:

Amendment 1

For 8; Abstain 0; Against 46; Total 54

Amendment 1 fell

Amendment 2

For 16; Abstain 0; Against 38; Total 54

Amendment 2 fell

Amendment 3

For 24; Abstain 0; Against 30; Total 54

Amendment 3 fell

A vote was taken on the motion:

For 30; Abstain 16; Against 8; Total 54

The motion was carried

5.08pm

Debate on Audit Committee Report

To propose that the National Assembly *in accordance with Standing Order 6.5, notes the Annual Report of the Audit Committee on reports laid before the Assembly in the previous 12 months, laid in the Table Office on 24 October 2000*

A vote was taken on the motion:

For 36; Abstain 0; Against 0; Total 36

The motion was agreed

The session concluded at 5.34pm

The Assembly will sit again in Plenary at

9.05 am on Thursday, 2nd November 2000

J W Lloyd

Clerk to the Assembly

PETITION TO THE ASSEMBLY

Petition from the Independent Wales Party to instruct the Office of National Statistics, to amend the 2001 Census to include a tick box where we the Welsh can register as Welsh people. Total signatories 10,200.

Whereas all the countries who are signatories to the European Commission for the Protection of National Minorities are duty bound to abstain from the implementation of policies or practices aimed at assimilating people who belong to national minorities against their will.

Whereas the 2001 Census Form, in its present format, is erroneous in this respect, as it encourages those who consider themselves to be Welsh to tick the 'British' box.

As a result of the above, we the undersigned Welsh people instruct the National Assembly for Wales to ask the British Government to instruct its agency, the Office of National Statistics, to amend the 2001 Census Form to correspond to the Ethnic Group question which is available to Scots in Scotland and Irish people in Wales: that the form be amended to include a tick box where we the Welsh can register as Welsh people.

DOCUMENTS LAID SINCE THE ASSEMBLY LAST MET IN PLENARY

DOCUMENTS LAID ON 26 OCTOBER 2000

Annual Report of the Audit Committee - Annexes

Local Government Boundary Commission for Wales - Annual Report and Accounts
1999/2000

DOCUMENTS LAID ON 25 OCTOBER 2000

LC129 - Legislation Committee Report - The Home Energy Efficiency Schemes (Wales)
Regulations 2000

Memorandum of Corrections pursuant to Standing Order 22.12A - The Home Energy
Efficiency Schemes (Wales) Regulations 2000