

Plenary

Meeting date:
Tuesday, 27 November 2012

Meeting time:
13:30

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales



Votes and Proceedings

(98)

1. Questions to the First Minister

The item started at 13.30

All 15 questions were asked. The Presiding Officer invited party leaders to ask questions to the First Minister after Question 2.

Urgent Question 1

The item started at 14.20

Rhodri Glyn Thomas (Carmarthen East and Dinefwr): Will the Minister make a statement on the delay in bringing forward the Council Tax Reduction Schemes Regulations, and the implications this may have for those in receipt of Council Tax benefit.

Urgent Question 2

The item started at 14.31

Byron Davies (South Wales West): Will the First Minister make a statement on the 580 Tata Steel jobs cuts in South Wales.

Urgent Question 3

The item started at 14.36

Aled Roberts (North Wales): Will the Minister make a statement on recent road closures caused by flooding in North Wales?

2. Business Statement and Announcement

The item started at 14.51

3. Statement by the Minister for Local Government and Communities: Introduction of the Local Government (Democracy) (Wales) Bill

The item started at 15.01

4. Statement by the Minister for Business, Enterprise, Technology and Science: Update on Enterprise Zones – WITHDRAWN

5. Statement by the First Minister on the Welsh Government's Response to the Commission on Devolution in Wales – WITHDRAWN

6. Debate on the Sustainable Development Annual Report

The item started at 15:21

The following amendments were tabled:

Amendment 1 – Aled Roberts (North Wales)

Add as a new point at the end of motion:

Welcomes the publication of the Annual Report of the Sustainable Development Scheme, in particular the commentary by the Sustainable Futures Commissioner.

Amendment 1 was agreed in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

Amendment 2 – Aled Roberts (North Wales)

Add as a new point at the end of motion:

Calls on the Welsh Government to enact the recommendations of the Sustainable Futures Commissioner to ensure that sufficient attention is given to areas such as agriculture, food security and tourism in the future.

Amendment 2 was agreed in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

Amendment 3 – Aled Roberts (North Wales)

Add as a new point at the end of motion:

Notes the criticism of the Sustainable Futures Commissioner 'that the report, seems to be championing money allocated and spent on initiatives, rather than championing the sustainable outcomes and benefits derived from those initiatives' and calls on the Welsh Government to reconsider the way it assesses the success of Welsh Government programmes across all departments, based on outcomes rather than inputs.

Amendment 3 was agreed in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

Amendment 4 – Aled Roberts (North Wales)

Add as a new point at the end of motion:

Believes the Welsh Government will make further progress towards a sustainable Wales if it increases the availability of:

- a) home energy efficiency programmes such as Arbed;
- b) programmes to encourage communities to invest in small-scale renewable energy projects such as hydro-electricity; and
- c) integrated public transport.

Amendment 4 was agreed in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

Amendment 5 – Aled Roberts (North Wales)

Add as a new point at the end of motion:

Welcomes the UK Government's commitment to electrification and the positive effect this will have on reducing Wales' CO2 emissions.

Amendment 5 was agreed in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

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

Amendment 6 – William Graham (South Wales East)

Add as a new point at the end of motion:

Expresses concern that the Welsh Government has made little progress in improving its Sustainable Development Indicators in 2012.

A vote was taken on Amendment 6:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
18	0	33	51

Amendment 6 was not agreed.

Amendment 7 – William Graham (South Wales East)

Add as a new point at the end of motion:

Calls on the Government to bring forward urgent remedial actions to resolve the 22 Sustainable Development Indicators for 2012 that have deteriorated or shown no improvement.

A vote was taken on Amendment 7:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
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26	0	27	53
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As required by Standing Order 6.20 the Deputy Presiding Officer exercised his casting vote by voting against the motion without amendment. Therefore, the motion without amendment was not agreed.

Amendment 8 – William Graham (South Wales East)

Add as a new point at the end of motion:

Regrets that the headline indicator of Gross Value Added (GVA), as outlined in the report, was 74% of the UK average in 2010, the lowest amongst the devolved countries and English regions.

A vote was taken on Amendment 8:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
26	0	27	53

As required by Standing Order 6.20 the Deputy Presiding Officer exercised his casting vote by voting against the motion without amendment. Therefore, the motion without amendment was not agreed.

Amendment 9 – William Graham (South Wales East)

Add as a new point at the end of motion:

Regrets the limited use of economic indicators within the report to judge the success of the Welsh Government Sustainable Development policy.

A vote was taken on Amendment 9:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
19	0	33	52

Amendment 9 was not agreed.

Amendment 10 – William Graham (South Wales East)

Add as a new point at the end of motion:

Notes the continued concerns from the Sustainable Futures Commissioner regarding aspects of the structure and content of the report.

A vote was taken on Amendment 10:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
52	0	0	52

Amendment 10 was agreed.

Amendment 11 – William Graham (South Wales East)

Add as a new point at the end of motion:

Calls on the Welsh Government to implement fully the recommendations made in the report by the Sustainable Futures Commissioner.

A vote was taken on Amendment 11:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
52	0	0	52

Amendment 11 was agreed.

A vote was taken on the motion as amended:

NDM5102 Jane Hutt (Vale of Glamorgan)

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

Notes the progress made on sustainable development in 2011–12, as set out in the Welsh Government’s Annual Report of the Sustainable Development Scheme, which was laid before the National Assembly for Wales on 20 November 2012.

Welcomes the publication of the Annual Report of the Sustainable Development Scheme, in particular the commentary by the Sustainable Futures Commissioner.

Calls on the Welsh Government to enact the recommendations of the Sustainable Futures Commissioner to ensure that sufficient attention is given to areas such as agriculture, food security and tourism in the future.

Notes the criticism of the Sustainable Futures Commissioner ‘that the report, seems to be championing money allocated and spent on initiatives, rather than championing the sustainable outcomes and benefits derived from those initiatives’ and calls on the Welsh Government to reconsider the way it assesses the success of Welsh Government programmes across all departments, based on outcomes rather than inputs.

Believes the Welsh Government will make further progress towards a sustainable Wales if it increases the availability of:

- a) home energy efficiency programmes such as Arbed;
- b) programmes to encourage communities to invest in small–scale renewable energy projects such as hydro–electricity; and
- c) integrated public transport.

Welcomes the UK Government's commitment to electrification and the positive effect this will have on reducing Wales' CO2 emissions.

Notes the continued concerns from the Sustainable Futures Commissioner regarding aspects of the structure and content of the report.

Calls on the Welsh Government to implement fully the recommendations made in the report by the Sustainable Futures Commissioner.

For	Abstain	Against	Total
39	0	13	52

The motion as amended was agreed.

7. Motion to Suspend Standing Order 12.20(i) and 11.16 to hold a debate on the Silk Commission

The item started at 16:02

NDM5107 Jane Hutt (Vale of Glamorgan)

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales, in accordance with Standing Orders 33.6 and 33.8:

Suspends Standing Order 12.20(i) and that part of Standing Order 11.16 that requires the weekly statement and announcement to constitute the timetable for business in Plenary for the following week, to allow NNDM5108 to be considered in Plenary on Tuesday 27 November 2012.

The motion was agreed in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

8. Debate on the report by the UK Government's Silk Commission

The item started at 16:03

NDM5108 Jane Hutt (Vale of Glamorgan)

The National Assembly for Wales:

Welcomes the publication of the unanimously agreed report by the UK Government's Silk Commission and looks forward to its implementation.

The motion was agreed in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

Voting Time

The item started at 16:57

9. Short Debate

The item started at 17:01

NDM5083 Nick Ramsay (Monmouth):

Asbestos in Schools: Revealing not concealing Parents' right to know.

The meeting concluded at 17:26

The Assembly will sit again in Plenary at 13:30, Wednesday, 28 November 2012