

Plenary

Meeting date:
Tuesday, 26 February 2013

Meeting time:
13:30

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales



Votes and Proceedings

(115)

1. Questions to the First Minister

The item started at 13.30

The first 13 questions were asked. The Presiding Officer invited party leaders to ask questions to the First Minister after Question 3.

Motion for an Urgent Debate

The item started at 14.15

Simon Thomas: That the Assembly should consider the Welsh Ministers' response to the Welsh Language Commissioner's proposals for Welsh language standards.

A vote was taken on the motion:

| For | Abstain | Against | Total |
|-----|---------|---------|-------|
| 26 | 1 | 27 | 54 |

The motion was not agreed.

2. Business Statement and Announcement

The item started at 14.21

3. Statement by the Minister for Education and Skills: The Estyn Reports on Merthyr Tydfil and Monmouthshire

The item started at 14.43

4. Statement by the Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development: Developing community energy schemes in Wales

The item started at 15.19

5. Statement by the Minister for Housing, Regeneration and Heritage: Sporting Opportunities for Disabled People in Wales

The item started at 16.00

6. Debate: Government support for new business in Wales

The item started at 16.36

NDM5169 Jane Hutt (Vale of Glamorgan)

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

Notes the Welsh Government's commitment to ensure that there is a wide range of advice and initiatives to encourage and support entrepreneurship and start-up businesses in Wales.

The following amendments were tabled:

Amendment 1 – Aled Roberts (North Wales)

Insert as new point 1 and renumber:

'Expresses concern that many new businesses in Wales rely on bank overdrafts and credit cards as primary sources of funding to cover cash flow problems for day to day activities.'

Amendment 1 was agreed in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

Amendment 2 – Aled Roberts (North Wales)

Delete 'Notes the Welsh Government's commitment to ensure that there is' and replace with 'Notes the importance of the Welsh Government providing'.

Amendment 2 was agreed in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

Amendment 3 – Jocelyn Davies (South Wales east)

Add as new point at end of motion:

Notes that the business birth rate for the priority sectors is lower than that of the non-priority sectors and calls on the government to ensure entrepreneurship is promoted in schools and colleges.

Amendment 3 was agreed in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

Amendment 4 – Jocelyn Davies (South Wales east)

Add as new point at end of motion:

Calls on the Welsh Government to consider the merits of bringing different government support schemes and initiatives together in order to develop a more consistent and coordinated approach to business start-up support.

Amendment 4 was agreed in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

Amendment 5 – William Graham (South Wales East)

Add as new point at end of motion:

Regrets that the enterprise birth rate in Wales remains below the UK average.

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 new point at end of motion:

Recognises the need to harness entrepreneurial spirit from a young age and believes the establishment of social enterprises in all secondary schools would ensure our young people are equipped with important business skills.

A vote was taken on Amendment 6:

| For | Abstain | Against | Total |
|-----|---------|---------|-------|
| 19 | 0 | 30 | 49 |

Amendment 6 was not agreed.

Amendment 7 – William Graham (South Wales East)

Add as new point at end of motion:

Calls on the Welsh Government to prioritise a localised approach to supporting new businesses.

A vote was taken on Amendment 7:

| For | Abstain | Against | Total |
|-----|---------|---------|-------|
| 24 | 0 | 25 | 49 |

Amendment 7 was not agreed.

Amendment 8 – William Graham (South Wales East)

Add as new point at end of motion:

Notes the positive impact business rate relief has in encouraging the development of business start-ups in Wales, and urges the Welsh Government to provide further rate relief for small businesses.

A vote was taken on Amendment 8:

| For | Abstain | Against | Total |
|-----|---------|---------|-------|
| 24 | 0 | 25 | 49 |

Amendment 8 was not agreed.

Amendment 9 – William Graham (South Wales East)

Add as new point at end of motion:

Believes the proposals for new business outlined in ‘A Vision for Welsh Investment: Invest Wales’ should be strongly considered by the review into Welsh business access to finance commissioned by the Welsh Government in January 2013.

A vote was taken on Amendment 9:

| For | Abstain | Against | Total |
|-----|---------|---------|-------|
| 37 | 5 | 7 | 49 |

Amendment 9 was agreed.

Amendment 10 – Aled Roberts (North Wales)

Insert as new point at the end of the motion:

Calls on the Welsh Government to promote a range of sources of funding for start-up businesses, for example through Credit Unions and other Community Development Finance Initiatives.

A vote was taken on Amendment 10:

| For | Abstain | Against | Total |
|-----|---------|---------|-------|
| 42 | 7 | 0 | 49 |

Amendment 10 was agreed.

Amendment 11 – Aled Roberts (North Wales)

Insert as new point at the end of the motion:

Calls on the Welsh Government to further promote entrepreneurship opportunities in Wales to students studying at both Higher and Further Education levels.

A vote was taken on Amendment 11:

| For | Abstain | Against | Total |
|-----|---------|---------|-------|
| 49 | 0 | 0 | 49 |

Amendment 11 was agreed.

A vote was taken on the motion as amended:

NDM5169 Jane Hutt (Vale of Glamorgan)

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

1. Expresses concern that many new businesses in Wales rely on bank overdrafts and credit cards as primary sources of funding to cover cash flow problems for day to day activities.
2. Notes the importance of the Welsh Government providing a wide range of advice and initiatives to encourage and support entrepreneurship and start-up businesses in Wales.
3. Notes that the business birth rate for the priority sectors is lower than that of the non-priority sectors and calls on the government to ensure entrepreneurship is promoted in schools and colleges.
4. Calls on the Welsh Government to consider the merits of bringing different government support schemes and initiatives together in order to develop a more consistent and coordinated approach to business start-up support.
5. Regrets that the enterprise birth rate in Wales remains below the UK average.
6. Believes the proposals for new business outlined in 'A Vision for Welsh Investment: Invest Wales' should be strongly considered by the review into Welsh business access to finance commissioned by the Welsh Government in January 2013.
7. Calls on the Welsh Government to promote a range of sources of funding for start-up businesses, for example through Credit Unions and other Community Development Finance Initiatives.

8. Calls on the Welsh Government to further promote entrepreneurship opportunities in Wales to students studying at both Higher and Further Education levels.

| For | Abstain | Against | Total |
|-----|---------|---------|-------|
| 37 | 0 | 12 | 49 |

The motion as amended was agreed.

Voting Time

The item started at 17.32

The meeting concluded at 17:35

The Assembly will sit again in Plenary at 13:30, Wednesday, 27 February 2013