

Plenary

Meeting date:
Wednesday, 4 February 2015

Meeting time:
13.30

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales



Agenda

(245)v3

1 Questions to the Minister for Finance and Government Business (45 mins)

The Presiding Officer will call Party Spokespeople to ask questions without notice to the Minister after Question 2.

[View Questions](#)

2 Questions to the Minister for Public Services (45 mins)

The Presiding Officer will call Party Spokespeople to ask questions without notice to the Minister after Question 2.

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3 Welsh Conservatives Debate (60 mins)

NDM5684 Paul Davies (Preseli Pembrokeshire)

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

1. Notes that there has been no significant improvement in the number of passengers travelling through Cardiff Airport since the Welsh Government took ownership of the airport.

2. Calls on the Welsh Government to:

a) provide an update on progress made to develop new routes from the airport and increase freight operations;

b) publish a current market valuation of Cardiff Airport; and

c) publish a clear and comprehensive strategy for the benefit of passengers, businesses and taxpayers which includes proposals for long-haul routes and explores all options for the future of Cardiff Airport, including returning the airport to private ownership.

The following amendments have been tabled:

Amendment 1 – Elin Jones (Ceredigion)

Delete point 1 and replace with:

Notes that future improvement in the number of passengers travelling through Cardiff Airport will depend upon government support and sound commercial management

Amendment 2 – Aled Roberts (North Wales)

Insert as new point 2 and renumber accordingly:

Regrets that the Welsh Government took ownership of Cardiff Airport without first having produced a full business case for doing so.

Amendment 3 – Aled Roberts (North Wales)

Insert as new point 2 and renumber accordingly:

Calls on the Welsh Government and UK Government to work together to devolve long-haul air passenger duty to the National Assembly for Wales.

Amendment 4 – Elin Jones (Ceredigion)

Delete point 2 and replace with:

Calls on the Welsh government to:

- a) publish a clear and comprehensive growth strategy including proposals for long-haul routes;
- b) explore all options for the future of Cardiff Airport, including both public and private investment models; and
- c) secure the devolution of air passenger duty in order to generate additional routes, increase passenger numbers and boost to the Welsh economy.

4 Welsh Conservatives Debate (60 mins)

NDM5681 Paul Davies (Preseli Pembrokeshire)

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

1. Notes that the Welsh Government has not used previous Barnett consequentials from the UK Government to provide local authorities with the ability to freeze council tax for residents in Wales;
2. Further notes that band D council tax households in Wales would be £149.31 a year better off if the Welsh Government had acted to freeze council tax in each year since 2010;
3. Regrets that council tax bills have increased by over 150% in Wales since 1997/98, and believes that such crippling rises have placed undue pressure on hard-pressed households; and
4. Believes that local authorities have a duty to spend public money with care and prudence, in order to ensure that council tax rates are set as low as possible for residents and that council tax rates provide value for money for the taxpayer.

The following amendments have been tabled:

Amendment 1 – Elin Jones (Ceredigion)

Delete points 2 and 3 and replace with:

Notes the difficult financial situation facing local government and the impact of UK Government austerity measures on Welsh public expenditure.

Amendment 2 – Elin Jones (Ceredigion)

Delete point 4 and replace with:

Believes that in light of the average 3.4% cut in the local government revenue settlement, the first duty of local authorities is to protect vital public services.

5 Plaid Cymru Debate (60 mins)

NDM5686 Elin Jones (Ceredigion)

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

1. Notes that Wales has historically made a substantial contribution to the UK's energy portfolio.
2. Regrets the provisions within the UK Government's Infrastructure Bill that will allow fracking companies to drill beneath Welsh homes without permission from property owners.
3. Believes that energy should be fully devolved to the National Assembly for Wales and that the Welsh Government should have the power to block fracking.
4. Calls on the Welsh Government to do everything within its power to prevent fracking from taking place in Wales until it is proven to be safe in both an environmental and public health context.

The UK Government's Infrastructure Bill is available at:

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2014-15/infrastructure.html>

The following amendments have been tabled:

Amendment 1 – Aled Roberts (North Wales)

Delete points 2, 3 and 4 and replace with:

2. Regrets that a cross-party amendment to the UK Government's Infrastructure Bill to implement a moratorium on fracking for two and a half years while risks are assessed was rejected.

3. Calls for the UK Government to implement the Silk Commission's recommendations for energy devolution and for licensing of onshore oil and gas extraction to be devolved to the National Assembly for Wales, as recommended for Scotland by the Smith Commission.

4. Calls on the Welsh Government to prevent fracking from taking place in Wales by issuing a new Technical Advice Note setting out the environmental and health standards expected of fracking operations and to direct planning authorities to reject applications for fracking operations unless it is proven to be safe for the environment and public health.

[If amendment 1 is agreed, amendments 2 and 3 will be de-selected]

Amendment 2 – Paul Davies (Preseli Pembrokeshire)

Delete point 2 and replace with:

Welcomes the UK Government's commitment to ensure that communities will benefit from a substantial community fund, if shale gas extraction does take place.

Amendment 3 – Paul Davies (Preseli Pembrokeshire)

Delete point 3 and replace with:

Calls for devolution of competency for energy projects up to 100mw, and for Welsh Government to build additional capacity for future projects.

Amendment 4 – Paul Davies (Preseli Pembrokeshire)

Add as new point at the end of motion:

Calls on the Welsh Government to ensure that local communities have a say in deciding whether or not they want to support shale gas exploration in their area.

Amendment 5 – Paul Davies (Preseli Pembrokeshire)

Add as new point at the end of the motion:

Calls on the Welsh Government to ensure that there is up to date planning guidance relating to the extraction of shale gas

Amendment 6 – Paul Davies (Preseli Pembrokeshire)

Add as new point at the end of the motion:

Calls on Welsh Government to ensure that Natural Resources Wales has sufficient funding and expertise to be able to respond to drilling licenses for shale gas and to ensure appropriate monitoring of groundwater supply and waste water, so that it is safe and causes no significant risk to human health or to the environment.

Amendment 7 – Paul Davies (Preseli Pembrokeshire)

Add as new point at the end of the motion:

Calls on the Welsh Government to undertake research relating to the safe distance criteria required before fracking can be undertaken near or underneath residential housing.

6 Voting Time

7 Short Debate (30 mins)

NDM5685 Peter Black (South Wales West)

Firefighters' Pension Schemes: Credit where credit's due

Ensuring that ex-service personnel aren't short-changed by the new firefighters' pension scheme.

The Assembly will sit again in Plenary at 13.30, Tuesday, 10 February 2015

Agenda Item 1

Oral Assembly Questions tabled on 28 January 2015 for answer on 4 February 2015

R – Signifies the Member has declared an interest.

W – Signifies that the question was tabled in Welsh.

(Self identifying Question no. shown in brackets)

To ask the Minister for Finance and Government Business

The Presiding Officer will call Party Spokespeople to ask questions without notice to the Minister after Question 2.

- 1. Christine Chapman (Cynon Valley):** Will the Minister make a statement on the overall funding allocation to the health and social services portfolio? OAQ(4)0511(FIN)
- 2. John Griffiths (Newport East):** What assessment has the Minister made of any financial powers that may be devolved to Wales as part of the St David's day process? OAQ(4)0519(FIN)
- 3. Gwyn Price (Islwyn):** What factors were considered when allocating funding to the economy, science and transport budget?
OAQ(4)0508(FIN)
- 4. Russell George (Montgomeryshire):** What factors were considered by the Minister when allocating funding to the health and social services budget? OAQ(4)0506(FIN)
- 5. Christine Chapman (Cynon Valley):** Will the Minister make a statement on the Welsh Government's priorities for the use of European Structural Funds in the Cynon Valley? OAQ(4)0512(FIN)
- 6. Alun Ffred Jones (Arfon):** What percentage of Welsh public sector procurement expenditure is awarded to companies within Wales?
OAQ(4)0501(FIN)W
- 7. Mark Isherwood (North Wales):** What factors were considered when allocating funding to the communities and tackling poverty budget?
OAQ(4)0509(FIN)
- 8. Dafydd Elis-Thomas (Dwyfor Meirionydd):** What progress has been made in relation to the development of a Welsh treasury following the

publication on the Welsh Government's Treasury Paper?

OAQ(4)0504(FIN)W

9. Dafydd Elis-Thomas (Dwyfor Meirionydd): When will the Finance Minister next meet with the finance Ministers of other governments in the UK? OAQ(4)0505(FIN)W

10. Angela Burns (Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire): Will the Minister make a statement on the budget allocation to the education and skills portfolio? OAQ(4)0503(FIN)

11. Eluned Parrott (South Wales Central): Will the Minister make a statement on the budget allocation to the economy, science and transport portfolio for the 2015-16 financial year? OAQ(4)0516(FIN)

12. Mike Hedges (Swansea East): What is the current cost to the Welsh Government of funding PFI schemes? OAQ(4)0500(FIN)

13. John Griffiths (Newport East): Will the Minister provide an update on the Welsh Government's plans for the future of stamp duty tax in Wales? OAQ(4)0515(FIN)

14. David Rees (Aberavon): Will the Minister provide an update on the approval of projects under the new EU funding programmes? OAQ(4)0514(FIN)

15. Mike Hedges (Swansea East): What assessment has the Minister made of the real terms reduction in the budget for the Welsh Government? OAQ(4)0510(FIN)

To ask the Minister for Public Services

The Presiding Officer will call Party Spokespeople to ask questions without notice to the Minister after Question 2.

1. Eluned Parrott (South Wales Central): Will the Minister make a statement on the level of pay of senior council officers in Wales? OAQ(4)0528(PS)

2. Bethan Jenkins (South Wales West): Will the Minister make a statement on the accountability of arm's length companies and

organisations set up to deliver local authority services?

OAQ(4)0524(PS)

3. Russell George (Montgomeryshire): Will the Minister make a statement on Welsh Government support for town criers in Wales?

OAQ(4)0520(PS)

4. John Griffiths (Newport East): Will the Minister make a statement on the progress of Welsh Government policy on youth justice in Wales?

OAQ(4)0526(PS)

5. Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central): Will the Minister outline his preferred options for local authority mergers in South Wales Central, following his decision to reject proposals for the Vale of Glamorgan Council to merge with Bridgend County Borough Council?

OAQ(4)0529(PS)

6. Gwyn Price (Islwyn): Will the Minister make a statement on funding to support domestic abuse services? OAQ(4)0519(PS)

7. Dafydd Elis-Thomas (Dwyfor Meirionydd): How does the Minister fulfil his responsibility for liaising with police authorities?

OAQ(4)0518(PS)W

8. Antoinette Sandbach (North Wales): Will the Minister make a statement on the costs that local authorities have incurred in preparing for voluntary mergers? OAQ(4)0523(PS)

9. Elin Jones (Ceredigion): Will the Minister provide an update on his intentions in relation to the reorganisation of local government in west Wales? OAQ(4)0522 (PS)W

10. Rhun ap Iorwerth (Ynys Môn): Will the Minister make a statement on the pay and conditions of fire services staff? OAQ(4)0525(PS)W

11. Eluned Parrott (South Wales Central): Will the Minister make a statement on local government reorganisation across south Wales?

OAQ(4)0527(PS)

12. Keith Davies (Llanelli): Will the Minister make a statement on the role of monitoring officers across Wales? OAQ(4)0530(PS)W

13. Bethan Jenkins (South Wales West): Will the Minister make a statement on how local authorities should consult when changing services? OAQ(4)0516(PS)

14. Mike Hedges (Swansea East): Will the Minister provide an update on the progress of job evaluations under the single status agreement by Welsh local authorities? OAQ(4)0514(PS)

15. Mark Isherwood (North Wales): Will the Minister make a statement on business planning in public services? OAQ(4)0521(PS)