

Plenary

Meeting date:
Wednesday, 30 April 2014

Meeting time:
13.30

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru
National
Assembly for
Wales



Votes and Proceedings

(194)

Presiding Officer Statement

In light of seven tabled questions being withdrawn from today's agenda, the Presiding Officer reminded Members that withdrawing tabled questions seriously reduces the Assembly's ability to scrutinise the Government, and Members who table a question for a session when they are not going to be present are depriving other Members of the opportunity to ask questions. The Presiding Officer reminded Members that to be called to speak in the Assembly is a privilege, not a right, and that she would take appropriate sanctions against Members who, through their own action, deprive others of the opportunity to ask questions.

1 Questions to the Minister for Natural Resources and Food

The item started at 13.31

Questions 1 – 6 , 8 and 10 – 14 were asked. Questions 7, 9 and 15 were withdrawn.

2 Questions to the Minister for Housing and Regeneration

The item started at 14.22

Questions 1 – 5, 7 – 8 and 11–15 were asked. Questions 6, 9 and 10 were withdrawn.

3 Questions to the Counsel General

The item started at 14.59

The question was withdrawn.

4 Welsh Conservatives Debate

The item started at 14.59

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

A vote was taken on the motion without amendment:

NDM5493 Paul Davies (Preseli Pembrokeshire)

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

1. Notes the recommendations of the recent Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee report into Wales' role in the EU decision-making process.
2. Further notes that European Structural Funding is awarded to regions with a GDP of less than 75% of the European Union average and regrets that West Wales and the Valleys has qualified for a third round of funding.
3. Calls on the Welsh Government to ensure that EU-funded schemes are more comprehensively, and more regularly, updated through WEFO.
4. Regrets the dramatic failure of high-profile projects including Genesis 2 Cymru.
5. Calls on the Welsh Government to ensure that the funding for the 2014–2020 period is utilised effectively to ensure that Wales does not qualify for a fourth round.

| For | Abstain | Against | Total |
|-----|---------|---------|-------|
| 10 | 0 | 35 | 45 |

The motion without amendment was not agreed.

The following amendments were tabled:

Amendment 1 – Aled Roberts (North Wales)

Insert as new point 3 and renumber accordingly:

Recognises the importance of the UK's continued membership of the European Union to make Wales a more prosperous, sustainable and secure place.

A vote was taken on Amendment 1:

| For | Abstain | Against | Total |
|-----|---------|---------|-------|
| 45 | 0 | 0 | 45 |

Amendment 1 was agreed.

Amendment 2 – Elin Jones (Ceredigion)

Add as new point at end of motion:

Notes that UK withdrawal from the European Union would end Wales'role in the EU decision making process and be detrimental to the economy.

A vote was taken on Amendment 2:

| For | Abstain | Against | Total |
|-----|---------|---------|-------|
| 35 | 0 | 10 | 45 |

Amendment 2 was agreed.

Amendment 3 – Elin Jones (Ceredigion)

Add as new point at end of motion:

Calls on the Welsh Government to:

- a) work at European level to strengthen the role of the Committee of the Regions; and
- b) seek a greater voice for Wales in the European institutions

A vote was taken on Amendment 3:

| For | Abstain | Against | Total |
|-----|---------|---------|-------|
| 45 | 0 | 0 | 45 |

Amendment 3 was agreed.

A vote was taken on the motion as amended:

NDM5493 Paul Davies (Preseli Pembrokeshire)

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

1. Notes the recommendations of the recent Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee report into Wales' role in the EU decision-making process.
2. Further notes that European Structural Funding is awarded to regions with a GDP of less than 75% of the European Union average and regrets that West Wales and the Valleys has qualified for a third round of funding.
3. Recognises the importance of the UK's continued membership of the European Union to make Wales a more prosperous, sustainable and secure place.
4. Calls on the Welsh Government to ensure that EU-funded schemes are more comprehensively, and more regularly, updated through WEFO.
5. Regrets the dramatic failure of high-profile projects including Genesis 2 Cymru.
6. Calls on the Welsh Government to ensure that the funding for the 2014–2020 period is utilised effectively to ensure that Wales does not qualify for a fourth round.
7. Notes that UK withdrawal from the European Union would end Wales' role in the EU decision making process and be detrimental to the economy.
8. Calls on the Welsh Government to:
 - a) work at European level to strengthen the role of the Committee of the Regions; and
 - b) seek a greater voice for Wales in the European institutions.

| For | Abstain | Against | Total |
|-----|---------|---------|-------|
| 12 | 0 | 33 | 45 |

The motion as amended was not agreed.

5 Welsh Conservatives Debate

The item started at 16.02

NDM5494 Paul Davies (Preseli Pembrokeshire)

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

1. Notes the positive economic and social impact the pub has on local communities.
2. Further notes the impressive work being done by schemes such as Pub is the Hub, across Wales and England, in ensuring pubs can become more community focused.
3. Recognises the case studies by campaign groups, such as Pub is the Hub and the Campaign for Real Ale, as important studies to learn from.
4. Regrets the recent Campaign for Real Ale statistics that suggest three pubs are closing a week in Wales.
5. Calls on the Welsh Government to work more effectively with the pub industry in Wales to ensure the continued success of Welsh pubs.

The motion was agreed in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

6 Plaid Cymru Debate

The item started at 16.56

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

A vote was taken on the motion without amendment:

NDM5495 Elin Jones (Ceredigion)

To propose that the National Assembly for Wales:

1. Notes that the youth unemployment rate stands at 21.3% – the highest level of all the four UK nations;
2. Regrets that long-term youth unemployment has quadrupled since the current Welsh Government took office;
3. Recognises the value of young people to the Welsh economy; and
4. Calls on the Welsh Government to take immediate steps to enhance the economic prospects of young people.

| For | Abstain | Against | Total |
|-----|---------|---------|-------|
| 8 | 0 | 37 | 45 |

The motion without amendment was not agreed.

The following amendments were tabled:

Amendment 1 – Aled Roberts (North Wales)

In point 3, after ‘economy’ insert ‘and regrets that only 60% of employed, full-time, first-degree graduates from Welsh HEIs remained in Wales for employment six months after graduation’.

A vote was taken on Amendment 1:

| For | Abstain | Against | Total |
|-----|---------|---------|-------|
| 22 | 0 | 23 | 45 |

Amendment 1 was not agreed.

The Presiding Officer did not select amendment 2 for debate.

Amendment 3 – Paul Davies (Preseli Pembrokeshire)

In point 4 delete ‘take immediate steps’ and replace with ‘work jointly with the UK Government’.

A vote was taken on Amendment 3:

| For | Abstain | Against | Total |
|-----|---------|---------|-------|
| 14 | 0 | 31 | 45 |

Amendment 3 was not agreed.

Amendment 4 – Aled Roberts (North Wales)

Add as new point at end of motion:

Calls on the Welsh Government to collect improved data in order to inform evidence-based policies to better match training opportunities and graduates in Wales.

A vote was taken on Amendment 4:

| For | Abstain | Against | Total |
|-----|---------|---------|-------|
| 22 | 0 | 23 | 45 |

Amendment 4 was not agreed.

As the Assembly did not agree the motion without amendment, and did not agree the amendments tabled to the motion, the motion is therefore not agreed.

Voting Time

The item started at 17.41

7 Short Debate

The item started at 17.46

NDM5488 Christine Chapman (Cynon Valley)

200,000 silent children?

Considering the needs of children affected by parental imprisonment.

The meeting concluded at 18.04

The Assembly will sit again in Plenary at 13.30, Tuesday, 6 May 2014