

Votes and Proceedings – Plenary

Meeting Venue:

Y Siambr – Y_Senedd

Meeting date:

Wednesday, 24 June 2020

Meeting time: 11.00

This meeting can be viewed

on [Senedd TV](#) at:

<http://senedd.tv/en/6375>

281

The item started at 11.00

The Llywydd welcomed Members to the virtual Plenary and set out that this Plenary meeting, being held by video conference in accordance with the Standing Orders of the Welsh Parliament, constitutes proceedings of the Senedd for the purposes of the Government of Wales Act 2006.

The Llywydd stated that, having consulted with the Business Committee, some of the provisions of Standing Order 34 will apply – all of which were noted on the agenda.

The Llywydd stated that, in accordance with Standing Order 34.15, that the public have been excluded from attending this Plenary meeting, as is required to protect public health, though the meeting would be broadcast live and the record of proceedings would be published as usual.

The Llywydd also reminded Members that Standing Orders relating to Order and the organisation of business in Plenary meetings would apply to this meeting.

1 Questions to the First Minister

The item started at 11.00

The first 9 questions were asked. The Presiding Officer invited party leaders to ask questions to the First Minister after question 2. The Deputy Minister and Chief Whip answered the first four questions for the last 15 minutes of this session on matters relating to her responsibilities.



Senedd Cymru
Welsh Parliament

2 Business Statement and Announcement

The item started at 12.27

3 Questions to the Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs

The item started at 12.35

The first 6 questions were asked. The Presiding Officer invited party spokespeople to ask questions to the Minister after question 2.

At 13.19, the meeting was suspended until 14.00.

4 Questions to the Minister for Housing and Local Government

The item started at 14.00

The first 8 questions were asked. Questions 5, 7 and 8 were grouped together for answer. Question 6 was answered by the Deputy Minister for Housing and Local Government. The Presiding Officer invited party spokespeople to ask questions to the Minister after question 2.

5 Topical Questions

The item started at 14.53

To ask the Minister for Health and Social Services

[Rhun ap Iorwerth \(Ynys Môn\)](#): Will the Minister make a statement on the cases of Covid-19 that stem from the 2 Sisters factory in Llangefni?

To ask the Minister for Education

[Sian Gwenllïan \(Arfon\)](#): Will the Minister make a statement giving an update on the arrangements for reopening schools for four weeks before the summer break?

6 Debate on the First Supplementary Budget 2020–21

The item started at 15.20

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

NDM7335 [Rebecca Evans \(Gower\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd, in accordance with Standing Order 20.30, approves the First Supplementary Budget for the financial year 2020–21 [laid](#) in the Table Office on Thursday 28 May 2020.

Footnote:

In accordance with the relevant provisions contained in the Government of Wales Act 2006 and Standing Order 20, the Supplementary Budget comprises the following information:

- (i) the written statement required under section 125(3) of the Government of Wales Act;
- (ii) the resources agreed by the Treasury for the Welsh block budget for the financial year covered by the motion;
- (iii) a reconciliation between the resources allocated to the Welsh block budget by the Treasury and the resources to be authorised for use in the motion;
- (iv) a reconciliation between the estimated amounts to be paid into the Welsh Consolidated Fund by the Secretary of State and the amounts to be authorised for payment out of the Fund in the motion;
- (v) a reconciliation between the resources to be authorised under section 125(1)(a) and (b) of the Act and the amounts to be authorised for payment out of the Welsh Consolidated Fund under section 125(1)(c); and
- (vi) details of any revisions to the information provided in accordance with Standing Orders 20.7 – 20.7B for the draft budget, as specified in the protocol agreed under the Standing Order 20.1A

The following additional information has been made available to Members:

- a note explaining the main changes from previous plans.

The result was as follows:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
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30	24	1	55
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The motion was agreed.

7 Debate on the LCM on the Finance Bill

The item started at 16.14

NDM7336 [Lesley Griffiths \(Wrexham\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd, in accordance with Standing Order 29.6 agrees that provisions in the Finance Bill in so far as they fall within the legislative competence of the Senedd, should be considered by the UK Parliament.

A Legislative Consent Memorandum has been [laid](#) in Table Office on 13 May 2020 in accordance with Standing Order 29.2.

The motion was agreed in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

8 Motion to amend Standing Order 34

The item started at 16.20

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

NDM7338 [Elin Jones \(Ceredigion\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd, in accordance with Standing Order 33.2:

1. Considers the report of the Business Committee, 'Remote Voting' [laid](#) in the Table Office on 17 June 2020.
2. Approves the proposals to amend Standing Order 34, as set out in Annex A of the report of the Business Committee.
3. Notes that these changes are temporary, and will cease to have effect on the dissolution of this Senedd or when the Senedd so resolves, whichever is sooner.

The result was as follows:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
54	1	0	55

The motion was agreed.

9 Debate on the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee report – Impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on the arts sector

The item started at 16.20

NDM7337 [Helen Mary Jones \(Mid and West Wales\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd:

Notes the report of the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee on the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on the arts sector [laid](#) in the Table Office on 5 June 2020.

The motion was agreed in accordance with Standing Order 12.36.

10 Brexit Party Debate – Lifting Lockdown

The item started at 16.50

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

Amendment 1 was not moved

A vote was taken on the motion:

NDM7334 [Caroline Jones \(South Wales West\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd:

Calls on the Welsh Government to:

a) accelerate lifting of lockdown measures;

- b) work with the UK Government to support a UK-wide approach;
- c) facilitate faster re-opening of the Welsh economy;
- d) rule out raising Welsh rates of income tax to pay the costs of an extended lockdown.

For	Abstain	Against	Total
16	0	39	55

The motion was not agreed.

11 Welsh Conservatives Debate – COVID and the economy

The item started at 17.41

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

A vote was taken on the motion without amendment:

NDM7339 [Darren Millar \(Clwyd West\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Recognises that the coronavirus pandemic is both a public health and an economic emergency.
2. Welcomes the economic benefits afforded to Wales as a result of being part of the United Kingdom during the pandemic, including funding for:
 - a) the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme which is protecting 316,500 livelihoods in Wales; and
 - b) the Self-Employed Income Support Scheme which is helping 102,000 people in Wales.
3. Notes with concern the Centre for Towns report 'Covid and our Towns' which suggests that the economies of towns in the valleys and on the north Wales coast will be among those hardest hit by the pandemic.

4. Calls upon the Welsh Government to establish a Covid Community Recovery Fund to provide targeted economic support for those communities most adversely affected by the pandemic.

For	Abstain	Against	Total
15	1	39	55

The motion without amendment was not agreed.

The following amendments were tabled:

Amendment 1 – [Rebecca Evans \(Gower\)](#)

Delete points 3 and 4 and replace with:

Welcomes the Welsh Government's £500m Economic Resilience Fund, part of a £1.7bn package of support for business in Wales in response to the pandemic, which is the most generous anywhere in the UK.

Notes that EU funding has helped the Welsh Government respond to the Covid-19 pandemic and further notes that without successor funding the Welsh Government will be unable to respond at this scale in any future crisis.

Notes the Centre for Towns report 'Covid and our Towns' and welcomes the cross-government measures the Welsh Government is taking through its Town Centre Action Group and 'Transforming Towns' agenda across Wales.

Recognises the important role that creative and dynamic town councils and Business Improvement Districts will play in helping town centres recover from the economic impact of Coronavirus.

Welcomes the experimental work being done through the Foundational Economy Challenge Fund to explore new ways of building resilience into towns and communities across Wales which can support our response to the covid pandemic.

Welcomes calls made by organisations including WLGA, FSB Cymru, Wales TUC, Institute for Fiscal Studies and Wales Governance Centre for the UK Government to

urgently remove the fiscal restrictions that significantly limit the Welsh Government's spending power to allow it to respond effectively to the pandemic.

Further calls on the UK Government to develop a significant economic stimulus package that can support the Welsh Government's work towards a green and just recovery for towns and communities the length and breadth of Wales in light of the pandemic.

A vote was taken on amendment 1:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
30	0	25	55

Amendment 1 was agreed.

As Amendment 1 was agreed amendment 2 was de-selected

Amendment 3 – [Sian Gwenllian \(Arfon\)](#)

Add as new point at end of motion:

Believes that now is the time for the UK Government to devolve further fiscal powers to the Welsh Government so that it is able to better care for the people of Wales in light of the Covid-19 pandemic.

A vote was taken on amendment 3:

For	Abstain	Against	Total
39	0	16	55

Amendment 3 was agreed.

A vote was taken on the motion as amended:

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Recognises that the coronavirus pandemic is both a public health and an economic emergency.
2. Welcomes the economic benefits afforded to Wales as a result of being part of the United Kingdom during the pandemic, including funding for:
 - a) the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme which is protecting 316,500 livelihoods in Wales; and
 - b) the Self-Employed Income Support Scheme which is helping 102,000 people in Wales.
3. Welcomes the Welsh Government's £500m Economic Resilience Fund, part of a £1.7bn package of support for business in Wales in response to the pandemic, which is the most generous anywhere in the UK.
4. Notes that EU funding has helped the Welsh Government respond to the Covid-19 pandemic and further notes that without successor funding the Welsh Government will be unable to respond at this scale in any future crisis.
5. Notes the Centre for Towns report 'Covid and our Towns' and welcomes the cross-government measures the Welsh Government is taking through its Town Centre Action Group and 'Transforming Towns' agenda across Wales.
6. Recognises the important role that creative and dynamic town councils and Business Improvement Districts will play in helping town centres recover from the economic impact of Coronavirus.
7. Welcomes the experimental work being done through the Foundational Economy Challenge Fund to explore new ways of building resilience into towns and communities across Wales which can support our response to the covid pandemic.
8. Welcomes calls made by organisations including WLGA, FSB Cymru, Wales TUC, Institute for Fiscal Studies and Wales Governance Centre for the UK Government to

urgently remove the fiscal restrictions that significantly limit the Welsh Government's spending power to allow it to respond effectively to the pandemic.

9. Further calls on the UK Government to develop a significant economic stimulus package that can support the Welsh Government's work towards a green and just recovery for towns and communities the length and breadth of Wales in light of the pandemic.

10. Believes that now is the time for the UK Government to devolve further fiscal powers to the Welsh Government so that it is able to better care for the people of Wales in light of the Covid-19 pandemic.

For	Abstain	Against	Total
30	0	25	55

The motion as amended was agreed.

Point of Order

Neil Hamilton put on record that he had intended to vote against the Coronavirus Regulations last week, but had been unable to do so due to him having his microphone incorrectly placed.

12 Voting Time

The item started at 18.34

As indicated on the Agenda, today's votes were conducted in accordance with Standing Order 34.11.

Each political group nominated one Member of the group or grouping to carry the same number of votes as there are members of the group. In the case of a political group with an executive role, the nominee will carry the same number of votes as there are members of that group plus any other members of the government. Members who do not belong to a group or grouping voted for themselves.

The meeting concluded at 18.46

The Senedd will sit again in Plenary at 11.00, Wednesday, 1 July 2020