Parliamentary Bureau – Designation of a Bill at Stage 1

Community Wealth Building (Scotland) Bill

Introduction

1. The Community Wealth Building (Scotland) Bill was introduced in the Parliament on 20 March by the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Gaelic, Kate Forbes MSP.

Discussion

2. The Bill creates a strategic foundation for community wealth building in Scotland.

3. The Bill requires the Scottish Ministers to publish a community wealth building statement. This would set out the measures they intend to take to (a) reduce economic and wealth inequality between individuals and communities in and across Scotland, and (b) support economic growth in and across Scotland, by facilitating and supporting the generation, circulation and retention of wealth in local and regional economies.

4. The Bill also requires each local authority, together with relevant public bodies in the area of that local authority, to publish a community wealth building action plan. Local authorities and relevant public bodies would be under a duty to implement the measures in those plans, so far as reasonably practicable.

5. The Bill falls within the remit of the following committees—

   Economy and Fair Work Committee
   The remit of the Economy and Fair Work Committee includes to consider and report on matters within the responsibility of the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Gaelic (with the exception of Gaelic). The Bill has been introduced by the Deputy First Minister. Community wealth building falls within the responsibilities of the Minister for Employment and Investment, who reports to the Deputy First Minister. The remit of the Economy and Fair Work Committee is therefore engaged.

   Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee
   The remit of the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee includes to consider matters relating to local government falling within the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government. The Bill places duties on local authorities in relation to community wealth building action plans, and there are costs associated with those duties. The remit of the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee is therefore engaged.

6. It is understood that the Economy and Fair Work Committee has the main interest in the Bill.

7. The Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee has undertaken some recent work in relation to community wealth building, but does wish to be formally designated as a secondary committee. Lack of formal designation does not, of

course, prevent the Committee from considering the Bill if it subsequently decides to do so.

Recommendation

8. The Bureau is invited to consider recommending to the Parliament by motion that it agrees, under Rule 9.6.1, that the Economy and Fair Work Committee be designated as lead committee.

9. A draft motion can be found below.

Draft Parliamentary Bureau motion on the Community Wealth Building (Scotland) Bill:

Designation of Lead Committee – That the Parliament agrees that the Economy and Fair Work Committee be designated as the lead committee in consideration of the Community Wealth Building (Scotland) Bill at Stage 1.

Parliamentary Business Team
March 2025