

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Tuesday 19 June 2007

Session 3

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FINANCE COMMITTEE

1st Meeting 2007, Session 3

OLDEST COMMITTEE MEMBER

*Andrew Welsh (Angus) (SNP)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

*Derek Brownlee (South of Scotland) (Con)

*Joe FitzPatrick (Dundee West) (SNP)

*James Kelly (Glasgow Rutherglen) (Lab)

*Liam McArthur (Orkney) (LD)

Tom McCabe (Hamilton South) (Lab)

*Elaine Murray (Dumfries) (Lab)

Alex Neil (Central Scotland) (SNP)

SUBSTITUTE MEMBERS

Roseanna Cunningham (Perth) (SNP)

*attended

CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE

Susan Duffy

SENIOR ASSISTANT CLERK

Mark Brough

ASSISTANT CLERK

Clare O'Neill

LOCATION

Committee Room 1

Scottish Parliament

Finance Committee

Tuesday 19 June 2007

[THE OLDEST COMMITTEE MEMBER *opened the meeting at 14:01*]

Interests

Andrew Welsh (Oldest Committee Member): I welcome everyone to the first meeting of the Finance Committee in the third session of the Scottish Parliament. Under rule 12.1.6 of standing orders, the first meeting is chaired by the oldest committee member. That pleasure falls to me.

I ask members to turn off their mobile phones and pagers. We have received apologies from Tom McCabe and Alex Neil.

Agenda item 1 is declaration of interests. In accordance with section 3 of the code of conduct, I invite members to declare any interests that are relevant to the committee's remit. I will begin by saying that I have no such interests to declare.

Elaine Murray (Dumfries) (Lab): I have no interests to declare.

Liam McArthur (Orkney) (LD): I have no interests to declare.

James Kelly (Glasgow Rutherglen) (Lab): I have no interests to declare.

Joe FitzPatrick (Dundee West) (SNP): I have no interests to declare.

Derek Brownlee (South of Scotland) (Con): I have no interests to declare either.

Convener

14:02

Andrew Welsh: Item 2 is the choice of committee convener. The Parliament has agreed that only members of the Scottish National Party are eligible to be convener of the Finance Committee. That being the case, I seek nominations for the position.

Joe FitzPatrick: I nominate Andrew Welsh.

Andrew Welsh was chosen as convener.

The Convener (Andrew Welsh): Thank you very much. Being a convener is both an honour and a great responsibility. I look forward to working with you all for the benefit of the people of Scotland, whom we all represent.

Deputy Convener

14:03

The Convener: Item 3 is the selection of deputy convener. As members will see from the clerk's note, the procedure is similar to that for the selection of convener. The Parliament has agreed that only members of the Labour Party are eligible to be deputy convener of the Finance Committee. That being the case, I invite nominations for the position.

James Kelly: I nominate Elaine Murray.

Elaine Murray was chosen as deputy convener.

The Convener: Congratulations.

Work Programme

14:04

The Convener: Under item 4, we will consider our approach to developing a work programme. Members have received a note from the clerk and a copy of the previous Finance Committee's legacy paper. I invite comments from members, but the normal procedure is to hold an away day. Such a day will give us the time and the necessary information to consider how to develop our work programme.

Members *indicated agreement.*

The Convener: The clerks and I will liaise with members on the details of the away day.

Budget Adviser

14:05

The Convener: Under item 5, which is the final item on the agenda, we will consider in principle whether to appoint a budget adviser. Members have received a note from the clerk and a draft specification for an adviser. As members will see from the note and from the legacy paper, the previous committee found it "invaluable" to have such an adviser. If members agree that we should have an adviser, a shortlist of suitable candidates will be presented at the committee's next meeting, which could be held on 26 June. As we will be discussing individuals, I ask members to agree that that item should be considered in private.

Members *indicated agreement.*

The Convener: We have now made decisions on all our agenda items, and the clerk confirms that we have done all that we need to do today. I therefore close the first meeting of the Finance Committee in this session of Parliament. I thank all members for their attendance and their contributions.

Meeting closed at 14:06.

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