

Agenda – Plenary

Meeting Venue:

Y Siambr – Y Senedd

Meeting date:

Wednesday, 24 January 2024

Meeting time: 13.30

185(v5)

This meeting will be held in a hybrid format, with some Members in the Senedd Chamber and others joining by video-conference.

1 Questions to the Minister for Finance and Local Government (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 Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd (45 mins)

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

[View Questions](#)

3 Topical Questions (20 mins)

To ask the Deputy Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism

[Heledd Fychan \(South Wales Central\)](#): Will the Minister make a statement about the UK Government's decision not to include Six Nations rugby in the free-to-air category for broadcasting purposes?

To ask the Deputy Minister for Climate Change



[Natasha Asghar \(South Wales East\)](#): Will the Minister make a statement on the planned review of 20 mph speed limits?

4 90 Second Statements

(5 mins)

5 Urgent Debate – Job losses at Tata Steel and the future of the steel industry in Wales

(90 mins)

[Luke Fletcher \(South Wales West\)](#): Job losses at Tata Steel and the future of the steel industry in Wales

6 Member Debate under Standing Order 11.21(iv) – Charitable hospice funding

(60 mins)

NDM8448 [Mabon ap Gwynfor \(Dwyfor Meirionnydd\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Notes that:

a) charitable hospice care providers play a vital role in providing essential care and support to people affected by terminal illness across Wales;

b) the charitable hospice sector provides care for more than 20,000 people each year with their services supporting dying people to stay in their own homes and reduce hospital admissions, delivering better outcomes for individuals and the NHS;

c) rising staff and energy costs, workforce pressures, and increasing demand for complex care pose an existential threat to the sustainability of the sector;

d) 90 percent of hospices are budgeting for a deficit in 2023/24 and drawing on reserves to meet the shortfall; and

e) demand and need for palliative care is set to grow significantly as the population ages and more people are living longer with multiple chronic conditions.

2. Calls on the Welsh Government to:

- a) commit to working with the sector to address the immediate funding challenges, including ensuring a fair salary offer for the hospice workforce, equivalent to the Agenda for Change increases, so there is parity with NHS colleagues;
- b) develop a long-term sustainable funding solution in partnership with the sector, including a new national funding formula, workforce plan, and palliative and end-of-life care service specification; and
- c) extend the Welsh Government's end-of-life care funding review, which is due to conclude in January 2024, if this is not feasible in this timescale.

Supporters

[Adam Price \(Carmarthen East and Dinefwr\)](#)

[Cefin Campbell \(Mid and West Wales\)](#)

[Jane Dodds \(Mid and West Wales\)](#)

[Mark Isherwood \(North Wales\)](#)

[Peredur Owen Griffiths \(South Wales East\)](#)

[Sioned Williams \(South Wales West\)](#)

7 Debate on the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee report – Behind the scenes: The creative industries workforce – Postponed until 31 January 2024

(0 mins)

NDM8458 [Delyth Jewell \(South Wales East\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd:

Notes the report of the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee 'Behind the scenes: The creative industries workforce', which was [laid](#) in the Table Office on 18 October 2023.

Note: The response of the Welsh Government to the report was [laid](#) in the Table Office on 17 January 2024.

8 Welsh Conservatives Debate – Local government funding

(60 mins)

NDM8459 [Darren Millar \(Clwyd West\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Recognises the vital role that councils play in delivering public services across Wales and the funding challenges they face.
2. Acknowledges that the Welsh Government is receiving record levels of funding from the UK Government.
3. Notes that councils have over £2.75 billion in useable reserves.
4. Regrets that councils are consulting on council tax rises of up to 25 per cent for the 2024–2025 financial year.
5. Calls on the Welsh Government to:
 - a) commission an independent review of the Welsh local government funding formula;
 - b) work with local authorities to use their useable reserves to keep council tax as low as possible; and
 - c) require any local authority proposing a council tax rise of over 5 per cent to hold a local referendum and obtain a yes vote before implementing the proposed rise.

The following amendments were tabled:

Amendment 1 [Lesley Griffiths \(Wrexham\)](#)

Delete points 1 and 2 and replace with:

Recognises the vital role local authorities play in delivering public services across Wales, the significant increases in the local government settlement over the past 2 years, the protection of the 3.1 per cent increase for 2024–25, and the funding challenges authorities nevertheless face.

Acknowledges that the Welsh Government budget for 2024–25 is now worth up to £1.3 billion less in real terms than when it was set in 2021.

Amendment 2 [Peredur Owen Griffiths \(South Wales East\)](#)

Delete all after point 2 and replace with:

Regrets:

- a) the chronic underfunding of Wales by successive UK governments which impacts local authority budgets; and
- b) estimates of a £750 million funding gap by 2027 which will further entrench deprivation and inequality.

Believes that local government finances in Wales are on an unsustainable trajectory without a fair funding model from Westminster.

Calls on the Welsh Government to:

- a) formally request the UK Government to review the Barnett funding model on the basis of Welsh societal needs to support all budget areas, including local authority funding;
- b) urgently bring forward detailed plans which will put local authorities and all public services on a sustainable footing; and
- c) provide guidance on how the current Revenue Support Grant floor relates to the local government settlement for 2024–25, and develop a strategy to ensure that the Revenue Support Grant is applied consistently through subsequent financial years.

Calls on the UK Government of the day to always implement a fair funding formula which enables the Welsh Government to adequately fund local authorities.

If amendment 2 is agreed, amendment 3 will be de-selected.

Amendment 3 [Lesley Griffiths \(Wrexham\)](#)

Delete point 5 and replace with:

Notes that the Welsh Government will:

- a) continue to develop and maintain the Welsh local government funding formula in partnership with local government; and
- b) continue to recognise the importance of local democratic decision making on council budgets and public services.

9 Voting Time

10 Short Debate

(30 mins)

NDM8457 [Altaf Hussain \(South Wales West\)](#)

A burning issue: tackling oesophageal and stomach cancer in Wales.

The Senedd will sit again in Plenary at 13.30, Tuesday, 30 January 2024

Agenda Item 1

Oral Questions tabled on 17/01/2024 for answer on 24/01/2024

The Presiding Officer will call party spokespeople to ask questions without notice after Question 2.

MINISTER FOR FINANCE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Samuel Kurtz *Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire*

1 OQ60565 (e)

What discussions has the Minister had with the Minister for Climate Change about financial support for councils to facilitate the delivery of renewable projects in Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire?

Luke Fletcher *South Wales West*

2 OQ60566 (e)

Will the Minister provide an update on the Welsh Government's work around reforming business rates?

John Griffiths *Newport East*

3 OQ60577 (e)

How is Welsh Government supporting public libraries in Newport East?

Darren Millar *Clwyd West*

4 OQ60548 (e) *Withdrawn*

What consideration has the Welsh Government given to legislating to provide the public with a greater say on council tax increases in their local authority area?

Peredur Owen Griffiths *South Wales East*

5 OQ60554 (e)

How does the Minister use real-time data when monitoring Welsh Government budgets?

Mark Isherwood *North Wales*

6 OQ60545 (e)

How does the Minister monitor the impact of policies within the Finance and Local Government portfolio on small business?

Altaf Hussain *South Wales West*

7 OQ60556 (e)

What action does the Welsh Government take to ensure fiscal responsibility in local government?

Jane Dodds *Mid and West Wales*

8 OQ60569 (e)

What discussions has the Minister had with the Minister for Health and Social Services about funding the expansion of Flying Start in Mid and West Wales?

Sarah Murphy *Bridgend*

9 OQ60570 (e)

What consideration does the Minister give to the Equality Act 2010 when allocating the revenue support grant for local authorities?

Sam Rowlands *North Wales*

10 OQ60550 (e)

Will the Minister provide an update on the future of town and community councils?

James Evans *Brecon and Radnorshire*

11 OQ60541 (e)

What discussions has the Minister had with the Minister for Climate Change about the financial support the Welsh Government provides to councils to support recycling?

Sian Gwenllian *Arfon*

12 OQ60547 (w)

What discussions has the Minister had with Gwynedd Council in relation to the implementation of provisions in the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 regarding job sharing?

MINISTER FOR RURAL AFFAIRS AND NORTH WALES, AND TREFNYDD

James Evans *Brecon and Radnorshire*

1 OQ60540 (e)

Will the Minister provide an update on Welsh Government support for young entrants to the agricultural industry?

Janet Finch-Saunders *Aberconwy*

2 OQ60549 (e)

What steps is the Minister taking to promote Welsh local produce?

Delyth Jewell *South Wales East*

3 OQ60552 (w)

What discussions has the Welsh Government had with local authorities regarding holding reviews of the breeding of illegal dogs in their areas?

Ken Skates *Clwyd South*

4 OQ60561 (e)

Will the Minister make a statement on the support available for farmers suffering from poor mental health?

John Griffiths *Newport East*

5 OQ60576 (e)

How is the Welsh Government working to promote responsible dog ownership?

Darren Millar *Clwyd West*

6 OQ60572 (e) *Withdrawn*

Will the Minister provide an update on Welsh Government action to protect red squirrels from squirrel pox?

Samuel Kurtz *Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire*

7 OQ60567 (e)

How is the Welsh Government supporting fisheries and aquaculture?

Paul Davies *Preseli Pembrokeshire*

8 OQ60542 (e)

What is the Welsh Government doing to support the agricultural industry in Preseli Pembrokeshire?

Jack Sargeant *Alyn and Deeside*

9 OQ60553 (e)

How is the Minister working with colleagues across Government to protect communities in Alyn and Deeside from flooding?

Sarah Murphy *Bridgend*

10 OQ60563 (e)

What internal discussions has the Welsh Government had regarding the animal welfare plan for Wales?

Peter Fox *Monmouth*

11

OQ60562 (e)

What progress has the Welsh Government made in establishing a sustainable food system?

Jenny Rathbone *Cardiff Central*

12

OQ60557 (e)

How is the Welsh Government using the sustainable farming scheme to encourage farmers to grow more vegetables?