

Agenda – Plenary

Meeting Venue:

Y Siambr – Y Senedd

Meeting date:

Wednesday, 5 March 2025

Meeting time: 13.30

265(v3)

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 Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Welsh Language (45 mins)

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

[View Questions](#)

2 Questions to the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs (45 mins)

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

[View Questions](#)

3 Topical Questions (20 mins)

To ask the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning

[Samuel Kurtz MS \(Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire\)](#): Will the Welsh Government make a statement on the closure of Oakwood Theme Park in Pembrokeshire?



4 90 Second Statements

(5 mins)

5 Member Debate under Standing Order 11.21(iv) – Needs of the deaf community

(60 mins)

NDM8734 [Mark Isherwood \(North Wales\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd

1. Notes:

- a) the need for service providers to meet the needs of the deaf community;
- b) that people with hearing loss are severely disadvantaged compared to people who have unaffected hearing;
- c) that BSL is the preferred method of communication for many deaf people; and
- d) concern about the decision by Qualifications Wales not to progress with a GCSE in sign language.

2. Calls on the Welsh Government:

- a) to ensure that the disability rights taskforce specifically captures the issues and barriers that affect the lives of deaf people: and
- b) to have a greater involvement with the deaf community to ascertain their needs.

Co-submitters

[Mike Hedges \(Swansea East\)](#)

Supporters

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

[Natasha Asghar \(South Wales East\)](#)

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

6 Welsh Conservatives Debate – Local government finance

(60 mins)

NDM8838 [Paul Davies \(Preseli Pembrokeshire\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Recognises the crucial role that councils play in delivering local public services and the funding challenges they face.

2. Notes that councils hold over £2 billion in usable reserves.

3. Regrets that the proposed average council tax rise in Wales for 2025–2026 financial year is 7.36 per cent.

4. Calls on the Welsh Government to:

a) commission an independent review of the Welsh local government funding formula;

b) work with councils to use their usable reserves to keep council tax as low as possible;

c) require any council proposing a council tax rise of 5 per cent or more to hold a local referendum and obtain a yes vote before implementing the proposed rise;

d) reduce the bureaucracy of Welsh local government to make it more efficient;

e) coordinate with councils to ensure cross-council working and the sharing of resources and services, along with an increase in digitalisation where possible, to ensure efficient delivery of services and to cut costs; and

f) work with local government to develop a business-like culture to ensure effective use of tax-payer funding, whilst cutting waste and reducing spend on vanity projects.

The following amendments were tabled:

Amendment 1 [Heledd Fychan \(South Wales Central\)](#)

Delete all after point 1 and replace with:

Regrets:

a) that the proposed average council tax rise in Wales for 2025–2026 financial year is 7.36 per cent;

b) the impact of 14 years of austerity under the previous UK Conservative Government on the ability of councils to deliver public services; and

c) that the local government settlement for 2025–26 will leave local authorities having to consider substantial council tax rises and further cuts to public services.

Calls on the Welsh Government to:

a) commission an independent review of the Welsh local government funding formula;

b) make urgent representations to the UK Government regarding the rise to national insurance contributions to reduce the burden on Welsh council finances; and

c) explore the feasibility of introducing a minimum funding floor as part of the local government settlement for 2026–27.

If amendment 1 is agreed, amendment 2 will be de-selected.

Amendment 2 [Jane Hutt \(Vale of Glamorgan\)](#)

Delete points 3 and 4 and replace with:

Notes councils make decisions about council tax based on their local circumstances.

Welcomes the provision of a floor in the local government settlement at 3.8 per cent.

Notes that:

a) councils will receive more than £6 billion through the final local government settlement and £1.3 billion additional specific grants in 2025–26; and

b) local government and the Welsh Government jointly review and develop the funding formula so that it continues to be fit for purpose offering authorities both stability and responsiveness.

7 Plaid Cymru Debate – Agricultural Property Relief

(60 mins)

NDM8832 [Heledd Fychan \(South Wales Central\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd:

Calls on the Welsh Government to make representations to the UK Government that they reconsider and pause the family farm tax until such a time as they have

conducted a thorough consultation and economic review of its impact on working farms.

The following amendment was tabled:

Amendment 1 [Jane Hutt \(Vale of Glamorgan\)](#)

Delete all and replace with:

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Notes that agricultural property relief is a reserved matter;
2. Recognises the concerns expressed by Welsh farmers about changes to agricultural property relief; and
3. Recognises that Welsh Ministers have and will continue to advocate to the UK Government that the views of Welsh farmers be given full and proper consideration.

8 Voting Time

9 Short Debate

(30 mins)

NDM8828 [Hannah Blythyn \(Delyn\)](#)

A little less conversation, a little more action please: the time and tools to accelerate action to end sexual harassment in the workplace.

The Senedd will sit again in Plenary at 13.30, Tuesday, 11 March 2025

Agenda Item 1

Oral Questions tabled on 26/02/2025 for answer on 05/03/2025

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

CABINET SECRETARY FOR FINANCE AND WELSH LANGUAGE

Altaf Hussain *South Wales West*

1 OQ62391 (e)

How does the Welsh Government ensure all its spending decisions represent value for money?

Darren Millar *Clwyd West*

2 OQ62404 (e)

What action is the Welsh Government taking to mitigate the impact of national insurance increases on organisations providing public services in Wales?

Mike Hedges *Swansea East*

3 OQ62375 (e)

How have invest-to-save projects been emulated by other organisations funded by the Welsh Government?

Rhys ab Owen *South Wales Central*

4 OQ62392 (e)

What discussions has the Cabinet Secretary had with the UK Government about the Westminster Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill to ensure there is a requirement to record whether a patient is a Welsh speaker, and if so to undertake the necessary assessments in Welsh?

Hannah Blythyn *Delyn*

5 OQ62407 (e)

How will the Welsh Government's 2025-26 final budget deliver for Delyn?

Heledd Fychan *South Wales Central*

6 OQ62383 (e)

What discussions has the Welsh Government had with the UK Government about the Local Government Pension Scheme consolidation consultation which closed in January?

Russell George *Montgomeryshire*

7

OQ62387 (e)

What consideration did the Cabinet Secretary give to providing funding to support the music sector when determining the draft budget 2025-26?

Peter Fox *Monmouth*

8

OQ62400 (e)

What is the Welsh Government doing to protect households in Wales from council tax rises?

Carolyn Thomas *North Wales*

9

OQ62397 (e)

What discussions has the Cabinet Secretary had with the Cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales about the need to allocate additional funding to locally maintained roads and pavements?

Samuel Kurtz *Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire*

10

OQ62379 (e)

What impact assessments has the Welsh Government undertaken in relation to the visitor levy?

Sam Rowlands *North Wales*

11

OQ62380 (e)

What is the Welsh Government doing to promote a fair distribution of funding for North Wales?

Laura Anne Jones *South Wales East*

12

OQ62410 (e)

Will the Cabinet Secretary make a statement on council tax increases in Wales?

DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER AND CABINET SECRETARY FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Sam Rowlands *North Wales*

1

OQ62381 (e)

What is the Cabinet Secretary doing to support the agri-food sector in North Wales?

Peredur Owen Griffiths *South Wales East*

2 OQ62406 (e)

Will the Cabinet Secretary make a statement on the Welsh Government's preparedness for adverse weather events?

Jenny Rathbone *Cardiff Central*

3 OQ62405 (e)

What is the Welsh Government doing to combat idling in areas already suffering poor air quality?

Carolyn Thomas *North Wales*

4 OQ62399 (e)

Will the Cabinet Secretary provide an update on the designation of a national park in north-east Wales?

Tom Giffard *South Wales West*

5 OQ62401 (e)

How is the Welsh Government working with the UK Government to support farming communities in Wales?

Paul Davies *Preseli Pembrokeshire*

6 OQ62385 (e)

How is the Welsh Government monitoring air quality in Preseli Pembrokeshire?

Lesley Griffiths *Wrexham*

7 OQ62377 (e)

What is the Welsh Government doing to reduce agricultural pollution?

Natasha Asghar *South Wales East*

8 OQ62394 (e)

What steps is the Welsh Government taking to support farmers in South Wales East?

Sioned Williams *South Wales West*

9 OQ62376 (w)

How is the Welsh Government ensuring the safety of South Wales West residents who live near former opencast coal mines?

Joyce Watson *Mid and West Wales*

10

OQ62393 (e)

Will the Cabinet Secretary provide an update on what the Welsh Government is doing to support the reintroduction of the European beaver to Wales?

Mike Hedges *Swansea East*

11

OQ62374 (e)

What assessment has the Cabinet Secretary made of river pollution levels?

Rhys ab Owen *South Wales Central*

12

OQ62395 (e)

What discussions has the Cabinet Secretary had with the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning, Gwent Wildlife Trust, and Cardiff and Newport councils about ecologically responsible planning decisions for projects on the Gwent Levels?