

Agenda – Plenary

Meeting Venue:

Siambwr Hywel – Tŷ Hywel

Meeting date:

Wednesday, 28 January 2026

Meeting time: 13.30

327 (v3)

This meeting will be held in a hybrid format, with some Members in Siambwr Hywel, Tŷ Hywel and others joining by video-conference.

1 Questions to the Cabinet Secretary for Housing and Local Government

(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 Cabinet Secretary for Education

(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 Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip

Adam Price ([Carmarthen East and Dinefwr](#)): Will the Cabinet Secretary make a statement on the impact on Wales of the UK Government's White Paper on police reform?



4 90 Second Statements

(5 mins)

Motion to elect a Member to a committee

(5 mins)

NNDM9123 [Elin Jones \(Ceredigion\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd, in accordance with Standing Order 17.3, elects James Evans (Independent) as a member of the Health and Social Care Committee.

5 Member Debate under Standing Order 11.21(iv) – Helen's Law

(60 mins)

NNDM9115 [Cefin Campbell \(Mid and West Wales\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Notes the provisions of Helen's Law, formally the Prisoners (Disclosure of Information About Victims) Act 2020, which requires the parole board to consider whether offenders have disclosed the location of a victim's remains or identified child victims when making parole decisions.
2. Recognises that the Act was introduced following the case of Helen McCourt, whose killer has never disclosed the location of her body, and that non-disclosure continues to cause significant and ongoing distress to victims' families.
3. Notes calls for the introduction of Helen's Law Part 2: Stop the Desecration, which seeks to reform burial and sentencing laws, including the creation of a new criminal offence of desecrating a body.
4. Further notes the introduction of similar provisions in Northern Ireland through Charlotte's Law, including making the concealment of a victim's remains a statutory aggravating factor in sentencing; providing incentives for cooperation in the recovery of remains, and placing a duty on parole authorities to consider non-disclosure.
5. Recognises that the implementation of these measures in Northern Ireland demonstrates that such reforms are achievable elsewhere within the UK.
6. Calls on the Welsh Government to support the consideration of equivalent legislative reforms, in collaboration with the UK Government, to strengthen justice and provide greater dignity and closure for victims and their families.

Co-submitters

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

Supporters

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

6 Welsh Conservatives Debate – Transport connectivity

(60 mins)

NDM9121 [Paul Davies \(Preseli Pembrokeshire\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Recognises the importance of good transport connectivity to the economic prosperity of Wales.
2. Calls on the Welsh Government to:
 - a) restore the default speed limit to 30mph;
 - b) build an M4 relief road;
 - c) upgrade the A55;
 - d) dual the A40;
 - e) deliver a third Menai crossing; and
 - f) unfreeze all road projects.

The following amendments were tabled:

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

Delete all after point 1 and replace with:

Notes that, under successive UK Governments, Wales has not received a fair share of transport investment, limiting its ability to improve connectivity and unlock its full economic potential.

Calls on the UK Government to ensure Wales receives fair, needs-based funding for transport infrastructure, including:

- a) full consequential funding for major transport projects in England, including HS2 and Northern Powerhouse Rail;
- b) an end to the historic under-funding of Welsh transport infrastructure; and
- c) the devolution of greater decision-making powers over transport investment to Wales.

Calls on the Welsh Government to prioritise an integrated, evidence-led approach to transport investment that improves connectivity between communities, supports economic development, and reflects Wales's environmental and social responsibilities.

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

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

Delete all after point 1 and replace with:

Recognises the achievements of the Welsh Government in delivering better transport:

- a) developing a world class South Wales Metro system on the back of the Welsh Government's investment of over £1 billion to improve the infrastructure of the devolved core valleys lines rail network;
- b) investing £800 million in new trains to almost double capacity and deliver a huge growth in passenger services;
- c) bringing the largest UK Government investment in wider Welsh rail since the 2009 announcement of the electrification of the South Wales main line by the last UK Labour Government;
- d) passing the landmark Bus Services (Wales) Bill to introduce franchising and put people before profit in the provision of bus services;
- e) attracting two million young people to travel on the buses with a £1 young person's fare cap;
- f) exciting plans for a £2 adult fare cap and a 10 per cent uplift in routes in the next Senedd;
- g) delivering a prioritised major asset renewal starting with the £180 million River Dee replacement scheme;
- h) starting work on clearing the roads maintenance backlog following 14 years of Conservative austerity, improving 627km of road surfaces and filling 203,000 potholes following a £25 million boost to maintenance budgets for the strategic road network and a £60 million (£120 million over 2 years) Local Authority Borrowing Initiative to fix local roads;

- i) commissioning a review of road and traffic conditions of major strategic roads, such as the M4, A55 and A494 to assess priority interventions to improve the efficiency of the highways serving strategic economic corridors;
- j) collaborating with local authorities to develop a regional transport planning capability, with new regional transport plans developed by Corporate Joint Committees and over £100 million available for their delivery; and
- k) working with regions to renew momentum toward the development of regional “metros” in North Wales and South West Wales.

7 Plaid Cymru Debate – Housing

(60 mins)

NDM9122 [Heledd Fychan \(South Wales Central\)](#)

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Notes that housing conditions in Wales are amongst the worst in Europe.
2. Acknowledges the significant impact of poor housing and the wider housing crisis on public health, the cost of living, fuel poverty, and the environment.
3. Believes that a clear, cross-government focus is required for the remainder of this Senedd term to remove barriers and increase the supply of new social homes, in response to rising homelessness, long waiting lists, the high use of temporary accommodation, and unaffordable rents.
4. Recognises the multiple benefits of improving housing standards, including reduced household costs, job creation, support for local economies, savings for the NHS, and progress in tackling climate change.
5. Calls on the Welsh Government to:
 - a) implement the recommendations of the Affordable Housing Taskforce at pace and provide a comprehensive update;
 - b) set out how it will adapt its retrofit programmes and Tackling Fuel Poverty plan following the closure of ECO4, the loss of local retrofit skills, and changes to the UK Government’s Warm Homes plan; and
 - c) outline its priorities for allocating the anticipated increase to the Welsh Government budget as a consequence of the UK Government’s commitments during this spending review period.

[Affordable Housing Taskforce: report and recommendations](#)

The following amendments were tabled:

Amendment 1 [Paul Davies \(Preseli Pembrokeshire\)](#)

Delete all and replace with:

1. Acknowledges that Wales is in the midst of a housing crisis.
2. Regrets that successive Welsh Governments have failed to build enough new homes to keep up with demand.
3. Recognises the benefits of people owning their own homes.
4. Calls on the Welsh Government to make Wales a home owning democracy by:
 - a) abolishing land transaction tax on all main homes;
 - b) restoring the right-to-buy in Wales, reinvesting sale proceeds into more affordable housing;
 - c) building more lifetime homes that are accessible and adaptable for people of all ages and abilities throughout their lives;
 - d) bringing more empty homes back into use; and
 - e) extending and expanding the help-to-buy scheme to all first-time buyers.

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

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

Delete all and replace with:

To propose that the Senedd:

Welcomes the bold and ambitious legislative reform set out in the Homelessness and Social Housing Allocation (Wales) Bill to support the long-term goal of ending homelessness.

Recognises that over the current Senedd term more than £540 million has been invested by the Welsh Government to improve the energy efficiency of homes in Wales, and that the Welsh Government has committed a further £98 million for the Optimised Retrofit programme to improve social homes in 2026–27.

Welcomes the UK Government's Warm Homes Plan and notes the Welsh Government's intention to work in partnership to maximise the impact of the interventions and investment that will flow from the plan, to improve outcomes for the people of Wales.

Acknowledges that over £2 billion has been invested in social housing by the Welsh Government, with delivery of 20,000 additional low carbon homes for rent in the social sector on track for November.

Recognises the damage to housing development pipelines as a result of the Liz Truss mini-budget and Brexit, and calls on all parties to commit to an ambitious programme of housing across social, private and intermediate sectors, over the next Senedd term and beyond.

Welcomes the commitment and collective ownership of Welsh Government and sector partners in implementing the Affordable Housing Taskforce's recommendations.

8 Voting Time

9 Short Debate

(30 mins)

NDM9120 [Mike Hedges \(Swansea East\)](#)

Co-operative housing – the need for more

The Senedd will sit again in Plenary at 13.30, Tuesday, 3 February 2026

Agenda Item 1

Oral Questions tabled on 21/01/2026 for answer on 28/01/2026

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

CABINET SECRETARY FOR HOUSING AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Russell George *Montgomeryshire*

1 OQ63714 (e)

How does the Welsh Government assess the performance and governance of local authority cabinets?

Peredur Owen Griffiths *South Wales East*

2 OQ63742 (e)

How is the Welsh Government regenerating town centres in South Wales East?

Altaf Hussain *South Wales West*

3 OQ63744 (e)

How will the local government settlement 2026-27 impact the people of Bridgend?

Hannah Blythyn *Delyn*

4 OQ63752 (e)

Will the Cabinet Secretary provide an update on Welsh Government investment in town centres across north Wales?

James Evans *Brecon and Radnorshire*

5 OQ63755 (e)

Will the Cabinet Secretary provide an overview of the funding it provides to Powys County Council to carry out its statutory duties?

Delyth Jewell *South Wales East*

6 OQ63732 (e)

How is the Welsh Government supporting local authorities to deliver services?

Natasha Asghar *South Wales East*

7 OQ63733 (e)

How does the Welsh Government work with councils in South Wales East to ensure statutory services are being delivered effectively?

Mark Isherwood *North Wales*

8 OQ63717 (e)

What processes does the Welsh Government use to develop and issue guidance to local authorities in the exercise of their functions?

Jenny Rathbone *Cardiff Central*

9 OQ63750 (e)

What assessment has the Welsh Government made of the impact of the UK Government's Warm Homes plan on Wales?

John Griffiths *Newport East*

10 OQ63753 (e)

How is the Welsh Government working with Newport City Council to regenerate Newport city centre?

Cefin Campbell *Mid and West Wales*

11 OQ63738 (e)

What steps is the Welsh Government taking to address funding pressures facing local authorities in Mid and West Wales?

Sioned Williams *South Wales West*

12 OQ63718 (e)

Will the Cabinet Secretary provide an update on the effectiveness of the Government's Warm Homes Scheme?

CABINET SECRETARY FOR EDUCATION

Carolyn Thomas *North Wales*

1 OQ63746 (e)

How is the Cabinet Secretary working with Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning to ensure that tertiary education providers are prepared for the growth of the renewable energy sector in North Wales?

Lindsay Whittle *Caerphilly*

2 OQ63747 (e)

What progress has the Welsh Government made in implementing the recommendations of the Estyn report A New Era: How Artificial Intelligence (AI) is Supporting Teaching and Learning, in schools?

John Griffiths *Newport East*

3 OQ63754 (e)

Will the Cabinet Secretary provide an update on the Welsh Government's support for the relocation of the Coleg Gwent campus to Newport city centre?

Mick Antoniw *Pontypridd*

4 OQ63725 (e)

Will the Cabinet Secretary make a statement on the Welsh Government's policy on the use of smartphones in schools?

Llyr Gruffydd *North Wales*

5 OQ63758 (w)

What assessment has the Government made of the implementation of the additional learning needs system in North Wales?

Adam Price *Carmarthen East and Dinefwr*

6 OQ63739 (w)

Will the Cabinet Secretary set a national expectation that schools in Wales will be phone-free by default during the school day, with clear and limited exceptions for medical reasons, caring responsibilities and additional learning needs?

Sam Rowlands *North Wales*

7 OQ63743 (e) *Withdrawn*

What discussions has the Cabinet Secretary had with the outdoor education sector regarding Qualification Wales's decision to remove the level 1 and level 2 Learning in the Outdoors programmes?

Samuel Kurtz *Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire*

8 OQ63756 (e)

Will the Cabinet Secretary outline the Welsh Government's plans to address school absenteeism in Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire?

Hannah Blythyn *Delyn*

9 OQ63751 (e)

Will the Cabinet Secretary make a statement on future financial support for higher education students?

Lesley Griffiths *Wrexham*

10 OQ63724 (e)

How is the Cabinet Secretary working with the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning to maximise Wrexham University's contribution to the north Wales economy?

Paul Davies *Preseli Pembrokeshire*

11

OQ63729 (e)

Will the Cabinet Secretary make a statement on the delivery of vocational courses in west Wales?

Sioned Williams *South Wales West*

12

OQ63716 (w)

How is the Government ensuring that learners at all schools and colleges understand the democratic process in Wales?