



Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1500  
Ein cyf/Our ref JB/00359/25

Carolyn Thomas MS  
Chair - Petitions committee

28 May 2025

Dear Carolyn,

Thank you for your letter of 28 March, enclosing a petition you have received from the Neath Port Talbot branch of UNISON, requesting additional funding for Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council.

I have noted the concerns of UNISON regarding local government funding and I know that demand for services, alongside cost pressures mean that authorities have had to make difficult decisions on services, and council tax in setting budgets. The Welsh Government again prioritised local government and front line public services in its budget decisions. The local government settlement for 2025-2026 provides over £6.1bn in core revenue funding which is an increase of 4.5% compared to 2024-25 on a like for like basis. Neath Port Talbot CBC received an additional £13m in the 2025-26 settlement, an increase of 4.5%, equivalent to the Welsh average uplift.

The core settlement provides un-hypothecated funding for a local authority's ongoing responsibilities, not specific support for specific local incidents such as Tata steel. The data used to inform the settlement distribution includes indicators on benefit rates where appropriate. These will continue to feed through into the annual distribution whilst alternative employment is found.

The UK Government's TSUK Transition fund will provide support and funding for businesses in the supply chain and local businesses to build resilience and grow in the region. In addition, the Business Start Up Fund will enable Tata steelworkers, their immediate family members, and people in the supply chain to receive support, guidance and to access a grant. People who wish to set up new firms will be able to access non-repayable grants of up to £50,000. The 'Resilience Fund' will focus on supporting local businesses who have been impacted by the Tata transition but were not eligible to apply for support via the Supply Chain Fund.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

I welcome the close working between Welsh Government, UK government and the Council. Neath Port Talbot Council will be leading on the administration of the Start-up funding, with Business Wales providing business advice and guidance to individuals and businesses. Neath Port Talbot council will also lead on the Employment and Skills Funding for individuals that been made redundant from Tata Steel UK or a company within its supply chain, to access grant funding to help support training and secure future employment.

Please be assured I am engaging closely with local authorities on the pressures facing them. I have a regular series of meetings with Council Leaders collectively as well as meeting individual Leaders. While the outlook is challenging, I welcome the pragmatic way we are working together with local government to ensure we do all we can within the funding available.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jayne Bryant". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'J' and 'B'.

**Jayne Bryant AS/MS**

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Lywodraeth Leol a Thai  
Cabinet Secretary for Housing and Local Government