

Committee update

Spring 2025 – Summer 2025

Welcome to our tenth committee update!

This is the tenth bulletin for the Senedd's Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee. It provides an overview of the Committee's recent and planned activities to help you stay up to date and engage with the Committee's work.

This update has been produced by the Clerking team which supports the Committee. If you have any feedback, please let us know using the contact details below.

Contact details

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Follow us on X **[@SeneddEconomy](https://twitter.com/SeneddEconomy)**

Website: **www.senedd.wales/SeneddEconomy**



Welcoming our new Chair

We would like to introduce Andrew RT Davies as the new Chair of the Committee. On 7 January 2025, Andrew was elected as Chair after Paul Davies MS stood down to take on the role of the Conservative Group’s Business Manager. Andrew has been enjoying exploring the remit and leading the Committee, and extends his thanks to Paul for all his work with the Committee.



Current Work

Apprenticeship Pathways

The Committee undertook an inquiry in to [apprenticeship pathways](#) through the Spring term, hearing oral evidence from a range of stakeholders across five panel sessions. The Committee held a consultation as part of this inquiry, which ran from 12 December 2024 to 7 February 2025 and received [39 responses](#).

In conjunction with this consultation, the Senedd’s Citizen Engagement Team undertook an [engagement programme](#), facilitating focus groups and interviews with current apprentices and apprenticeship completers across Wales to gather their views and experiences.

The Committee is aiming to report in the first half of the summer term.

Hybu Cig Cymru

The Committee is currently undertaking an inquiry in to [Meat Promotion Wales / Hybu Cig Cymru](#)

([HCC](#)), with oral sessions running through the Spring term and continuing in to the first half of the Summer term.

The Committee will report in the second half of the Summer term.

AI and the Welsh Economy

The Committee also undertook a short inquiry into [AI and the Welsh Economy](#) at the end of the Autumn term 2024. The Committee is currently drafting its report, which it is aiming to publish early next term.

Soil Health in Agriculture

The Committee agreed to undertake an inquiry into Soil Health in Agriculture, and will begin taking oral evidence during the Committee meetings of the first half of the Summer term 2025.

UK-EU implementation review of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement

Joint-Committee work continues on the [UK-EU implementation review of](#)

[the Trade and Cooperation Agreement](#), with Hannah Blythyn MS representing the Committee during an oral evidence session with Welsh Government, held by the [Culture, Communications, Welsh Language and International Relations Committee](#) on [2 April 2025](#).

Recent Activities

Budget Scrutiny

The Committee scrutinised the Welsh Government's Draft Budget for 2025-26 on [15 January 2025](#) and published its [report](#) on the 3 February 2025 reporting deadline, with a debate on the Draft Budget held in Plenary [the following day](#).

The Committee received responses to its report from the [Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning](#), the [Minister for Culture, Skills and Social Partnership](#), and the [Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs](#) on 3 March 2025.

A plenary debate and vote on the Final Budget was held on [4 March 2025](#).

Sustainable Farming Scheme (SFS)

The Committee held a Ministerial Scrutiny Session with the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs specifically covering the SFS on [5](#)

[February 2025](#). The Committee covered areas of interest including the scheme Preparatory Phase milestones, payment methodology, tenant and common land farmers, and the 10% habitat rule.

Subsequent to the evidence session, the Committee also [wrote](#) to the Deputy First Minister on 24 February 2025, seeking further information in follow-up.

Green Economy

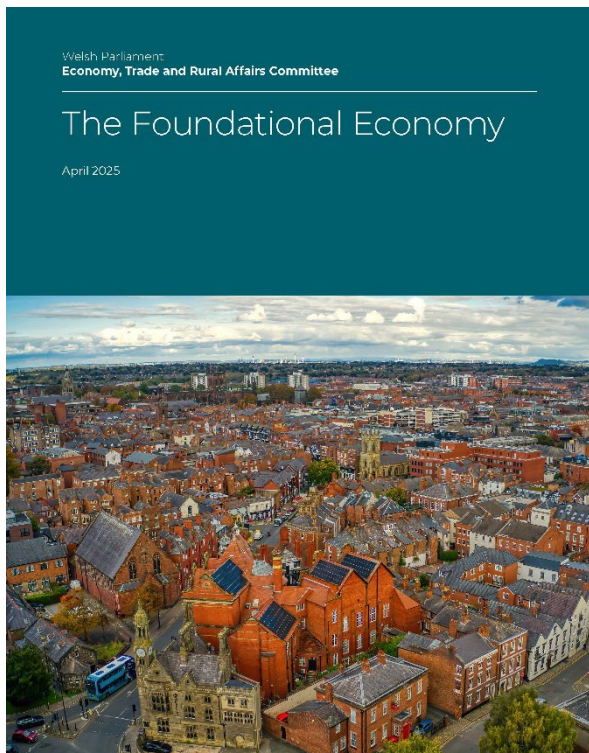
The Committee published its [report on the Green Economy](#) on 14 March 2025, with a Plenary debate planned for the Summer term.



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Foundational Economy

The Committee undertook an inquiry in to the Foundational Economy throughout the Autumn term 2024, with the [Committee's report on this published](#) on 17 April 2025.



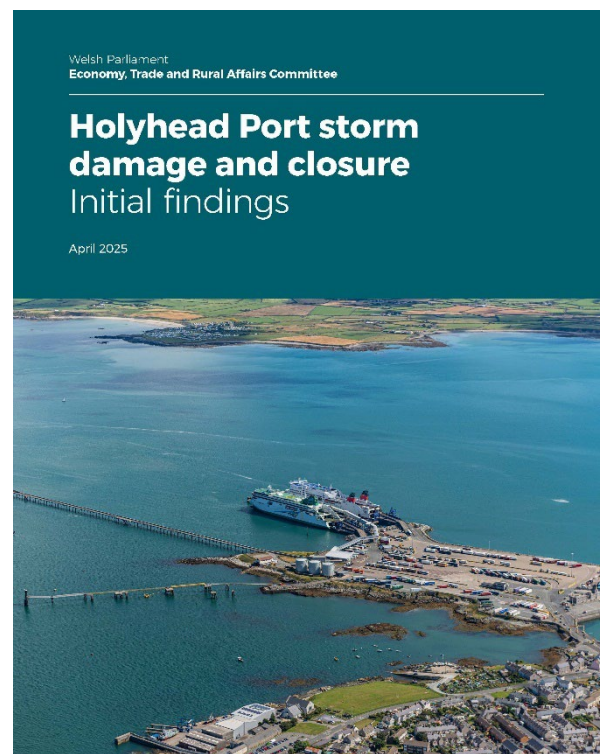
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Holyhead Port Storm Damage and Closure

Storm Darragh hit the British Isles on the weekend of 7-8 December 2024, during which Holyhead Port closed as a result of damage to its terminal 3 and terminal 5 berths. In light of the damage and subsequent continued closure of terminal 3, the Committee undertook a one-day inquiry on [6 March 2025](#).

The Committee heard oral evidence across four panels, from

representatives of the ports industry, local business and local government, trade and logistics experts, and the Cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales with the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning, Welsh Government. The Committee subsequently [published its report](#) on 3 April 2025.



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Forward Work Programme

The Committee has agreed its [work programme](#) into Summer 2025. The published work programme indicates the current intentions of the Committee at the time of publishing; however, it may change at any time to respond to external events. The work is expected to include inquiries in to City and Growth Deals, and Food Processing

and Value Added, alongside its Soil Health in Agriculture inquiry. The Committee has agreed a number of other areas of work for the Autumn term 2025, however these require

further scoping to develop them into inquiries. More information on this scoping work will be included on the [website](#) as it is agreed

Remit

The Committee was established on 23 June 2021, with a remit encompassing (but not restricted to): economic development, regeneration, skills, trade, research, and development (including technology and science), and rural affairs.

Committee Members



Committee Chair:
Andrew RT Davies
MS
Welsh Conservatives



Hefin David MS
Welsh Labour



Luke Fletcher MS
Plaid Cymru



Samuel Kurtz MS
Welsh Conservatives



Hannah Blythyn MS
Welsh Labour



Jenny Rathbone MS
Welsh Labour