

# Committee update

## Spring 2026

### Welcome to our thirteenth committee update

This is the thirteenth, and final, bulletin for the Senedd's Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee. It provides an overview of the Committee's recent activities to help you stay up to date 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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Website: **[www.senedd.wales/SeneddEconomy](http://www.senedd.wales/SeneddEconomy)**



## Thank you

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On 8 April 2026, the Sixth Senedd will dissolve and there will no longer be an Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee. So, this is the last bulletin you will receive from us this Senedd! We hope you have found them useful.

On behalf of the whole team who support the Committee we would like to thank you for your interest in, and engagement with, the Committee over the last five years. Insight from stakeholders is vital to support committee scrutiny, help Members hold the Government to account and add weight to their reports and recommendations.

Following the election, the next Business Committee will decide the details of how committees will operate in the Seventh Senedd, which will also include remits. So please keep an eye on the Senedd's social website and social media platforms for updates.

## Recent activities

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### Soil Health in Agriculture

The Welsh Government responded to the Committee's report 'Digging the dirt: Improving Wales' soil health' on 28 January 2026. A debate on the report was held in Plenary on 4 February 2026.

### Food Processing

Following the completion of the inquiry in the Autumn term, the Committee's report on Food Processing was published on 20 January 2026.

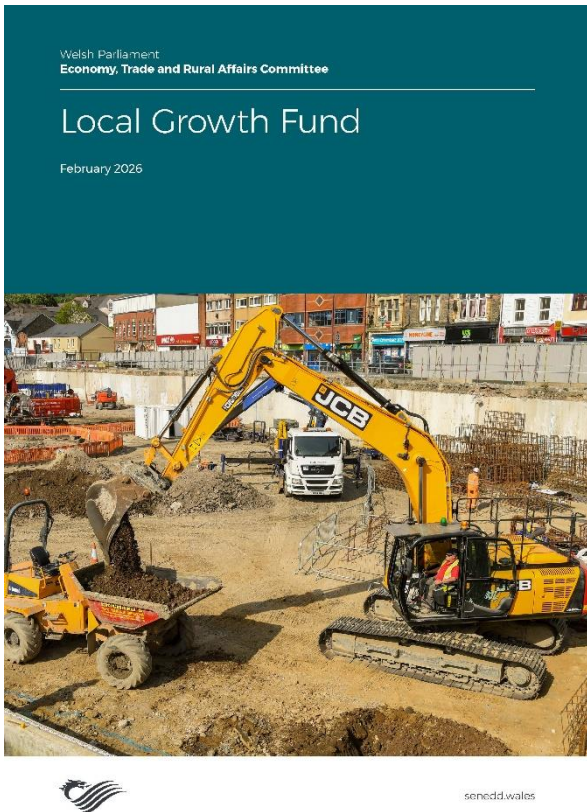
The Welsh Government laid their response on 4 March 2026, with a debate on the report held in Plenary on 11 March 2026.



### Local Growth Fund

The Committee completed its short inquiry into the Local Growth Fund, with a session with the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning on 29 January 2026.

The Committee published its [report](#) on 23 February 2026, which was [debated in Plenary](#) on 11 March 2026.



## Inward Investment

The Committee undertook its inquiry into [Inward Investment](#) throughout January, taking oral evidence from 11 stakeholders across 2 meetings, followed by a final session with the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning on [29 January 2026](#).

The Committee published its [report](#) on the topic on 19 March 2026.



## Development of Tourism and Regulation of Visitor Accommodation (Wales) Bill

Following the Committee's Stage 1 consideration of the [Development of Tourism and Regulation of Visitor Accommodation \(Wales\) Bill](#) during the Autumn term, Stage 2 proceedings [took place in Committee](#) on 5 February 2026.

The Bill then continued its journey through the legislative process, and the final text of the Bill was passed by the Senedd on [17 March 2026](#).

## General Scrutiny

The final General Scrutiny sessions of this Senedd were held across two meetings this term.

Economy and Skills were covered on 25 February 2026 with the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning, and the Minister for Culture, Skills and Social Partnership.

This was followed on the 5 March 2026 by a Trade session with the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning, and the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs. A final session focussing on Rural Affairs also took place on 5 March, with evidence from the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs.

## **The Steel Industry in Wales**

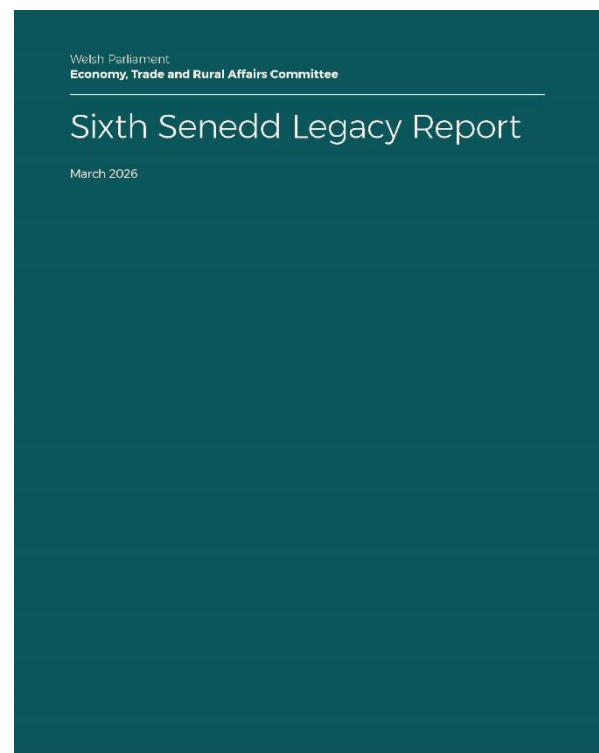
The Committee continued its on-going work on this important issue, holding a scrutiny session with the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning on 29 January 2026.

The Committee has been closely monitoring developments within the Welsh steel industry, and following the announcement of the UK Government's Steel Strategy on 19 March 2026, the Committee used its final meeting slot of the Sixth Senedd to discuss the issue with stakeholders.

On 25 March 2026, oral evidence was taken from Tata Steel, Steel Unions and 7 Steel, followed by the Committee issuing a press statement, and a letter to both the First Minister and the Secretary of State for Wales.

## **Legacy report**

The Committee published its legacy report covering its work over the Sixth Senedd, and recommendations for its successor Committee, on 31 March 2026.



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## 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

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**Committee Chair:**  
**Andrew RT Davies**  
**MS**  
Welsh Conservatives



**Jenny Rathbone MS**  
Welsh Labour



**Luke Fletcher MS**  
Plaid Cymru



**Samuel Kurtz MS**  
Welsh Conservatives



**Hannah Blythyn MS**  
Welsh Labour



**Alun Davies MS**  
Welsh Labour