Summary of Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Welsh Languages' letter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer – 17 September 2024

- The Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Welsh Language wrote to the Chancellor of the Exchequer outlining the Welsh Government's priorities for the forthcoming UK Autumn Budget on 30 October.

- In the letter he:

    - Noted the difficult position the UK Government had inherited and expressed a keenness to work collaboratively to rebuild economic foundations.

    - Noted the importance of growing the economy to ensure investment in public services, particularly to address NHS waiting times and work on our shared ambition of tackling poverty.

    - Pointed to Wales' strengths in entrepreneurship, manufacturing, infrastructure and renewable energy, where Wales can make a significant contribution to achieving economic growth and noted future industries which depend upon investment and seed funding in partnership with industry and academia.

    - Welcomed the release of an initial £13.5m from the £80m committed to support the Tata Steel transition and highlighted the need to put in place longer term support to mitigate the impact of the transition on the local economy.

    - Highlighted the need for policy support from the UK Government in key reserved areas, including non-pipeline carbon transport, hydrogen network development, and an effective market offering for offshore wind.

    - Welcomed the Prime Minister's previous commitment that a UK Labour Government would return decision-making on funding to the Welsh Government for post-EU funds and cited the importance of the replacement and uplift of legacy farm funding, and the removal of ringfencing.

    - Highlighted the safety issues around disused coal tips in Wales and proposed a joint programme of investment with UK Government to ensure disused coal tips are safe and deliver a modernised regulatory regime.

    - Emphasised the importance of a fair approach to the application of Barnett in relation to rail funding, including a review of comparability with the Department for Transport and of the Rail Network Enhancements Pipeline processes, and working together to develop an agreed pipeline of rail infrastructure investment across Wales, and agree treatment of the Core Valley Lines (CVL) Network in the Barnett formula.