



21st November 2024

Dear Senedd Members,

During Plenary on 6 November 2024, I promised to write to you outlining the funding streams available to help reduce the number of empty properties and bring them back into use.

We are working with Local Authorities via the [Transforming Towns programme](#) to redevelop empty properties including empty commercial properties in towns across Wales, which can include the delivery of homes. We have invested £125 million in funding from 2022 to 2025 to support our towns and city centres.

The [Land and Buildings Development Fund](#) is also available to Local Authorities and Social Landlords to redevelop difficult buildings where high abnormal costs are being observed and stalling progress.

[Leasing Scheme Wales](#) was launched in January 2022. The scheme involves local authorities leasing and taking over the management of properties over a period of between five and 20 years. We have committed £30 million over the next 5 years to support improvements to accommodation to bring them onto the scheme.

Through the [Empty Homes Grant](#) scheme, grants of up to £25,000 are available to renovate empty properties to make them safe to live in. This funding will accelerate our work to bring empty properties back into use as homes. The [Social Housing Grant](#) programme is a rolling grant programme planned over 3 to 5 years. It provides grant funding for affordable housing to either build new properties, renovate existing properties, or convert non-domestic buildings.

To assist local authorities in dealing with their more complicated, long-term empty properties, we have developed a Transforming Towns Empty Property Enforcement Fund. The fund is available to LAs who wish to undertake enforcement action on prominent town centre properties or residential properties in any location. The fund is a 15-year loan programme which is repayable in full at the end of the term and is managed by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council on Welsh Government's behalf.

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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.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jayne Bryant". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jayne Bryant AS/MS

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

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