

National Assembly for Wales

The Economy in Wales Current Awareness

July 2009

This paper provides information on recent events, publications and legislative developments concerning the economy in Wales which may be of interest to Assembly Members.

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The Economy in Wales Current Awareness

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The Welsh Economy: Current Awareness

Coverage

This paper provides information on recent events, publications and legislative developments concerning the economy in Wales which may be of interest to Assembly Members. The electronic version of this paper contains links to relevant websites: underlined text denotes the hyperlinks.

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Welsh Economy: Current Awareness

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9.1 *Business Rate Supplements Bill*

The Bill will create a new power for upper tier local authorities in England and Wales to levy on non-domestic ratepayers to raise money for expenditure on projects expected to promote economic development. In Wales, levying authorities include county councils or county borough councils.

The *Business Rate Supplements Bill* was introduced by Hazel Blears on 04 December 2008 and is now at the reporting stage within the House of Lords. The National Assembly for Wales Subordinate Legislation Committee published their report regarding delegated powers associated with the Bill on 31 March 2009. The report can be accessed online [here](#).

Further information about the progress of the Bill and recent amendments can be accessed via:

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2008-09/businessratesupplements.html>

9.2 *Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill [HL] 2008-09*

The Bill was introduced by Baroness Andrews on 04 December 2008 and seeks to create greater opportunities for community and individual involvement in local decision-making. It also provides for greater involvement of local authorities in local and regional economic development.

The Bill includes a new duty for local authorities to assess economic conditions; a joint duty on regional development agencies and local authorities to produce a single regional strategy; and powers for councils to co-operate in promoting economic development.

The Bill has passed through the House of Lords and had its second reading in the House of Commons on 01 June 2009. Further information about the progress of the Bill and recent amendments can be accessed [here](#).

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