**Senedd Cross Part Group (CPG) on Rural Growth**

**Inquiry into Rural Productivity in Wales**

**Call for submissions of evidence for the second session, 14 March 2023**

The Cross Party Group on Rural Growth (CPG) seeks to examine the actions that would reduce the productivity gap between urban and rural areas, and primarily focus on areas of the Welsh economy that are causing the most issues. The CPG is a group of Members of the Senedd that in 2023 will hold four evidence sessions between January and July that look into different areas of the rural economy and whether productivity has improved. The key output of this work will be the production of a final report with policy recommendations for increasing rural productivity.

The themes of housing and planning, farming and food, diversification and tourism, the economy and infrastructure will form the bedrock of the inquiry and each session will look at one of these through the lens of rural productivity, focusing on what data is currently available or what needs to be developed.

The first session on 24 January focused in general terms at the rural economy and its’ infrastructure. Evidence can still be submitted on these themes.

The CPG would prefer written evidence summarized in around 500 words. However other media, reports or other relevant resources may be submitted. These should be signposted by email. Evidence may be submitted in English or Welsh.

Please send your evidence for the second session to: cpgruralgrowth@cla.org.uk by 10 March 2023.

**Call for Submissions of Evidence: Themes and Questions**

1. **The state of the rural economy in Wales**

The rural economy in Wales is made up of different sectors which are economically affected in a variety of ways. In your view, how can these be further developed? What are the barriers to growth - and what needs to change to deliver this?

1. **Potential for growth of the rural economy**

Whilst it is accepted that the rural economy has the potential to grow (through increased productivity, for example) what is needed to make this a reality?

1. **Infrastructure: Connectivity – Digital and Transport**

Digital connectivity and transport infrastructure are vital for the rural economy to function efficiently. In your view what needs to be done to improve these?

1. **Infrastructure: Energy**

How can we incentivise the expansion of renewable energy sources for the rural economy? What do you see as the key barriers to expansion and should there be greater incentives for landowners to sell into the grid?