

## **Agenda – Equality and Social Justice Committee**

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Meeting Venue:

For further information contact:

Video Conference via Zoom

Rhys Morgan

Meeting date: 21 March 2022

Committee Clerk

Meeting time: 13.30

0300 200 6565

[SeneddEquality@senedd.wales](mailto:SeneddEquality@senedd.wales)

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### **Private pre-meeting and registration (13.00 – 13.30)**

#### **1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest**

(13:30)

#### **2 Fuel poverty and the Warm Homes Programme: Evidence session 5**

(13.30–14.30)

(Pages 1 – 36)

Jane Hutt, Minister for Social Justice

Steve Chamberlain, Domestic Energy Efficiency and Fuel Poverty Policy Lead

Mark Alexander, Head of Public Sector Decarbonisation, Innovation and Fuel Poverty

Attached Documents:

Research paper

Summary of engagement – Fuel poverty and the Warm Homes Programme

Evidence paper from Welsh Government

#### **3 Papers to note**

(14:30)

##### **3.1 Welsh Government response to Committee report: Minding the Future – The Childcare Barrier Facing Working Parents**

(Pages 37 – 55)



Attached Documents:

Welsh Government response

**3.2 Correspondence from the Senedd Commission on the use of the term BAME**

(Pages 56 – 57)

Attached Documents:

Correspondence from the Senedd Commission – 15 February 2022

**3.3 Correspondence from Travelling Ahead regarding the implementation of the Housing (Wales) Act**

(Pages 58 – 60)

Attached Documents:

Correspondence from Travelling Ahead to the Local Government and Housing Committee – 2 March 2022

**3.4 Correspondence from the Enforcement Conduct Board regarding debt enforcement**

(Page 61)

Attached Documents:

Letter from Enforcement Conduct Board – 14 March

**4 Motion under SO17.42 (iv) and to exclude the public from the remainder of today's meeting**

(14:30)

**Break (14:30–14:45)**

**5 Fuel poverty and the Warm Homes Programme: Briefing session with Audit Wales**

(14:45–15:10)

Mark Jeffs, Audit Wales

Chris Pugh, Audit Wales

Seth Newman, Audit Wales

- 6 Fuel poverty and the Warm Homes Programme: Consideration of evidence**  
(15:10 – 15:25)
- 7 UK Government consultation on proposals to reform Human Rights Act 1998: consideration of draft correspondence**  
(15:25–15:30) (Pages 62 – 63)
- Attached Documents:  
Draft response to UK Government
- 8 Future Generations Commissioner: annual scrutiny – draft report**  
(15:30–16:10) (Pages 64 – 142)
- Attached Documents:  
Draft report  
Correspondence to the Future Generations Commissioner – 14 February 2022  
Correspondence from the Future Generations Commissioner to Chair – 1 March 2022  
Correspondence to Welsh Government – 15 February 2022  
Correspondence from Welsh Government – 7 March 2022
- 9 Forward work programme**  
(16:10–16:30) (Pages 143 – 148)
- Forward Work Programme
- Attached Documents:  
Forward work programme
- 10 EU Settlement Scheme: Monitoring report**  
(16:30–16:35) (Pages 149 – 161)

Attached Documents:

Note: EU Settlement Scheme in Wales

Monitoring report (October–December 2021): EU Settlement Scheme in Wales

Document is Restricted

By virtue of paragraph(s) vii of Standing Order 17.42

Document is Restricted

Jane Hutt AS/MS  
Y Gweinidog Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Social Justice



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref MA/JH/00831/22

Jenny Rathbone MS  
Chair of the Equality and Social Justice Committee  
Welsh Parliament

8 March 2022

Dear Jenny

Thank you for your letter of 15 December, regarding the inquiry into fuel poverty and the Warm Homes Programme being undertaken by the Equality and Social Justice Committee.

As requested, I have attached my evidence for consideration by the committee. Tackling poverty is a cross Government endeavour and I work closely with Julie James MS, Minister for Climate Change who leads on the delivery of the Warm Homes Programme.

On 17 February, I convened a cost of living summit with key stakeholders to explore how best the Welsh Government can support households through the current crisis. I was joined by my Cabinet Colleagues, Julie James MS Minister for Climate Change and Rebecca Evans MS, Minister for Finance and Local Government, together with representatives from the Welsh Local Government Association. We heard directly from key partners, including National Energy Action, Bevan Foundation and Citizens Advice about the impact this cost of living crisis is having on households across Wales. I will continue to work with our partners as we navigate this latest crisis.

May I also take the opportunity to welcome the committee's scrutiny at a time when bill payers are facing significant increases in their domestic energy bills, fuelled by dramatic fluctuations in the global wholesale price of oil and gas. The increase in the default and variable domestic energy tariff price cap announced by Ofgem on 7 February is a direct consequence of the continuing market volatility. Households identified as being at risk of fuel poverty in 2018 are likely to be in fuel poverty today, meaning more than a quarter of all Welsh households are struggling to meet the basic costs of heating, food and housing bills.

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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.

It is with regret and disappointment I note the limited actions the UK Government have taken to relieve lower income and vulnerable households from this cost of living crisis. The announcement made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the UK Parliament on 3 February falls short of the help needed. A £200 rebate paid in October, six months after the price increase takes effect, adds further costs in the form of a “buy now, pay now and pay later” tax. This is a further regressive tax on households least able to pay and is storing up more problems for the future.

The Minister for Climate Change and I have called on the UK Government to remove the social and environmental costs added to domestic energy bills. These costs should be met from general taxation. We have also called for an increase in payments available through the Warm Homes Discount Scheme and for energy debt write off schemes to be available through energy suppliers to relieve bill payers from the immediate crisis. We have also joined others calling for the UK Government to introduce a windfall tax on the significant additional profits of the oil and gas companies to help meet the cost of the additional support needed by hard pressed households.

Whilst these are matters reserved to the UK Government, the Welsh Government has taken action using our limited resources to support households most at risk. The Committee will be aware that I announced a £51m household support fund in November, with £38m being allocated to support a winter fuel support scheme. This offered working age households in receipt of means tested benefits a one off payment of £100 toward the cost of their energy needs. On 1 February I announced a doubling of this payment to £200.

On 15 February, the Minister for Finance and Local Government announced a £330m package of measures to tackle the rising costs of living. This will ensure that our Winter Fuel Support Scheme can be extended to run again next winter, reaching even more households. The package of measures also includes a £150 cost-of-living payment to be provided to all households in properties in council tax bands A to D. This payment will also reach households who receive support through the Council Tax Reduction Scheme in all council tax bands. In the absence of sufficient action by the UK Government, this will help households meet the cost of living and energy crisis now upon us.

Longer term, the Committee will know we are also consulting on the future of the Warm Homes Programme. Our aim is to balance the twin objectives of environmental and social justice, learning lessons from the past to provide support to those in fuel poverty.

Despite our efforts, considerable challenges lie ahead of us in 2022. The loss of the £20 Universal Credit uplift, the increase in taxes coming into effect in April together with continuing energy cost volatility means households across the UK are likely to suffer and will increasingly need to make difficult choices about where to spend their limited funds.

The Welsh Government is continuing to press the case for action by the UK Government to safeguard households from the abject poverty many will experience. I heard first hand from front line service providers during a round table held on 17 February of the desperate plight of those dealing with this cost of living crisis.

It is important for the Welsh Government to continue to work with our partners, helping families and the most vulnerable in our society. I look forward to the findings and recommendations that emerge from the Committee's inquiry to help identify further actions that we can take to support households through this difficult period.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane Hutt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line above the first letter 'J'.

**Jane Hutt AS/MS**

Y Gweinidog Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Social Justice

# WELSH GOVERNMENT EVIDENCE TO THE EQUALITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE REGARDING FUEL POVERTY AND THE WARM HOMES PROGRAMME

## Introduction

[Fuel poverty statistics published in August 2019](#) suggests 155,000 households, approximately 12% of all households, were living in fuel poor homes. New estimates of fuel poverty have been commissioned by the Welsh Government and will be published in May 2022.

The Welsh Government published its [plan to tackle fuel poverty](#) in March 2021. The plan covers the period to 2035 at a high level, including our ambitions and targets, but focuses on ten short term actions to be delivered over the next two years. Given the speed of change in this sector, delivery is monitored and subject to regular review. This provides Welsh Government with the opportunity to revise and update our action plan to ensure activities remain correctly focused to achieve our targets by 2035.

While noting the Welsh Government cannot influence all of the wider determinants of fuel poverty, our plan includes meaningful and stretching targets. These take account of lessons from the past and the representations submitted to us during [the public engagement exercise](#), which ended on 31 December 2020. By 2035, our aim is that:

- No households are estimated to be living in severe or persistent fuel poverty as far as reasonable practicable;
- Not more than 5% of households are estimated to be living in fuel poverty at any one time as far as reasonably practicable; and
- The number of all households “at risk” of falling into fuel poverty will be more than halved based on the 2018 estimate.

The actions Welsh Government are taking are described in the plan in detail. However, in order to support the Committee’s work, I would like to highlight a few here.

- Investment in the Warm Homes Programme has continued, and has contributed to estimated levels of fuel poverty in Wales being halved between 2008 and 2018. As at the end of March 2021, investment of more than £397m<sup>1</sup> delivered through the Warm Homes Programme (Nest and Arbed) had improved the energy efficiency of more than 67,100 homes in Wales. More than 160,000 people have received energy efficiency advice through the Programme since 2011. These schemes support some of the most vulnerable people in our society by improving their resilience to avoidable ill health and preventing premature death. Creating a comfortable home also supports our children to give them the best start in life to help them better realise their full potential.
- Welsh Government has issued a consultation on the next iteration of the Warm Homes Programme, which started on 22 December. This consultation seeks to learn the lessons of the past and balance the twin goals of climate and social justice.
- The cold weather resilience plan was published on 3 December. This set out a series of actions we are taking to encourage and support lower income households to improve the cold weather resilience of their homes.

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<sup>1</sup> Includes European, UK and Welsh government funding delivered through the Warm Homes Programme

- Welsh Government has set up a Fuel Poverty Advisory Panel. Through this valuable forum, the Welsh Government has co-ordinated the Welsh response to consultations undertaken by the UK Government to reform the Energy Company Obligation Scheme and Warm Home Discount Scheme.

In addition to the work of our Fuel Poverty Advisory Panel, I will continue to work with organisations who were represented at the cost of living summit I hosted on 17 February. The summit was a clear demonstration of how Ministers are working across Government to harness our efforts to tackle poverty in all its forms, in concert with the range of organisations in the public, private and third sectors who have dedicated themselves to the task ahead of us.

More recently, we have seen energy prices spiral. Approximately 145,000, or 11% of all Welsh households in 2019, were at risk of living in fuel poverty, spending between 8% and 10% of their household income on their domestic energy needs. The October 2021 increase in energy bills announced by Ofgem, together with the further increase announced in February means most, if not all of the households at risk of fuel poverty in 2018 are now likely to be living in fuel poverty. National Energy Action has advised the increase in the domestic energy default and variable tariff price cap will mean more than 280,000 households in Wales could be in fuel poverty come April. This represents a further 100,000 households since October 2021 and an 80% increase compared to Welsh Government 2018 estimates.

The Welsh Government has taken action to tackle this, alongside other contributing factors to the cost of living crisis such as the withdrawal of the £20 universal credit uplift, increasing interest rates, and increased national insurance contributions. Using our limited resources to best effect as described in the covering letter to this evidence paper, we will continue to lobby the UK Government to shoulder its fair share of the burden and to support those in greatest need.

The Minister for Climate Change and I have called on the UK Government to remove the social and environmental costs added to domestic energy bills. These costs should be met from general taxation. We have also called for an increase in payments available through the Warm Homes Discount Scheme and for energy debt write off schemes to be available through energy suppliers to relieve bill payers from the immediate crisis. We have joined others calling for the UK Government to introduce a windfall tax on the excess profits of the oil and gas companies to help meet the cost of the additional support needed by hard pressed households.

Further action is also required by the UK Government to reconsider their approach to Local Housing Allowance (LHA). The increase in LHA rates to the 30th percentile for Housing Benefit and Universal Credit recipients living in the Private Rented Sector was a welcome response to the Covid-19 crisis. The LHA rates, however, were frozen in 2021 and the announcement that the rates will not be increased until at least the beginning of the 2023 financial year, with no guarantee of an uplift then, is a disappointment. Consequently, the LHA rates in payment up until the 31 March 2023 will be reflective of the rental market for the period October 2018 – September 2019.

I would now like to turn to the questions set out in your letter.

#### Main lessons learned from the Welsh Government's current Warm Homes Programme

The Warm Homes Programme Area-based Arbed Scheme ended in November 2021. The demand led Nest Scheme continues until April 2023. Assessment of our current programme

is ongoing and will be published with the outcome of the consultation exercise currently underway.

In advance of this, I was pleased to be able to draw on the findings and recommendations within the [Warm Homes Programme Report published by Audit Wales in November](#), together with the recommendations made [fifth Senedd's Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee report on fuel poverty](#), which have helped to shape the consultation on the next iteration of the Warm Homes Programme. The Welsh Government accepts the recommendations in both reports and has already implemented changes in the current schemes where appropriate to do so. Learning from the Welsh Government's [Optimised Retrofit Programme](#) alongside the [consultation exercise undertaken on the plan to tackle fuel poverty in 2020](#) have also helped shape the consultation on the next iteration of the Warm Homes Programme.

Examples of lessons include:

- The tension between affordable and clean heat, while supply chains and skills are still maturing.
- The over-reliance on means tested benefits as a measure of low income needs to be addressed. This has potentially excluded people living on lower incomes, not in receipt of benefits, who nonetheless experience difficulty meeting the cost of their home energy needs.
- More action needed to encourage positive attitudes and behaviours to domestic energy use, supported by more investment in smart and low carbon heat technology to improve energy efficiency in the home.
- The process for handling complaints and appeals under the current programme is unclear for many applicants and needs improvement in the next iteration of the Warm Homes Programme. Arrangements to appeal decisions following the whole house assessment, or when installations have led to unintended consequences and where the scheme provider has not resolved the person's concerns to their reasonable satisfaction could also be improved.
- Whether area-based schemes remain fit for purpose in tackling fuel poverty.

How can these lessons help shape the next iteration of the Warm Homes Programme to ensure that it better supports those living in, or at risk of, fuel poverty?

The [consultation on the next iteration of the Warm Homes Programme](#) was published on 22 December 2021 and includes 19 questions. Picking up on many of the lessons of the past, these questions have been designed to invite views and opinions regarding the purpose of the next iteration of the programme, the eligibility criteria to be used and the home energy efficiency measures to be provided to households through the programme. During the consultation exercise and in partnership with National Energy Action, three virtual workshops have been held with participation from key Welsh stakeholders. The consultation ends on 1 April 2022. Views on these matters will be published by the Welsh Government in our response to the consultation, expected before the Senedd's summer recess.

## What specific support should be made available to meet the challenges associated with rural fuel poverty?

[Fuel poverty statistics published in 2019](#) estimate levels of fuel poverty are higher in rural areas in Wales, with Gwynedd (23%) Ceredigion (21%), Anglesey (17%) and Powys (17%) reporting levels well above the national average of 12% of all households. An area is considered rural if it is outside of settlements with a population of more than 10,000. Evidence published from the [Welsh Housing Conditions Survey](#) highlighted homes in rural areas tend to be less energy efficient than dwellings in urban areas. This is likely to be because homes in rural areas tend to be older and more are detached. There are also fewer homes in the social housing sector in rural areas, which tend to be the most energy efficient type of dwelling.

The current Warm Homes Programme makes provision for additional funding for homes not connected to the mains gas grid, mainly in rural areas. Funding for each home is limited to £5,000 or £8,000 depending on the energy efficiency rating of the home when connected to the gas network. Funding for off gas grid homes is increased to £8,000 or £12,000.

The Welsh Government has acknowledged the additional pressures experienced by households reliant on liquid gas and heating oil for space and water heating. These are not regulated by Ofgem and whilst the price cap applies to electricity supplied through the national grid, the cost of oil and liquid gas are not capped and are prone to seasonal changes. Lower income households can struggle to access budgeting accounts and are faced with large bills to bulk purchase supplies, or risk increasing costs still further by having multiple smaller deliveries during the winter.

In addition to providing boiler repair grants, the Discretionary Assistance Fund was extended to provide winter fuel assistance to help households meet the cost of oil and liquid gas. Additional support in the form of emergency payments of up to £250 have been available for off-grid clients since 1 October. Off gas grid fuel clients do not enjoy the same security of supply and can be effectively “cut off” and unable to heat their homes if the money to pay for deliveries is not available to them. I have agreed to extend this support which will continue until 31 March 2023.

Rural households will also benefit from the household support fund I announced in November, with £38m being allocated to support a winter fuel support scheme. This offered working age households in receipt of means tested benefits a one off payment of £100 toward the cost of their energy needs. On 1 February I announced a doubling of this payment to £200. On 15 February, the Minister for Finance and Local Government announced a £330m package of measures to tackle the rising costs of living. This will ensure that our Winter Fuel Support Scheme can be extended to run again next winter, reaching even more households.

The package of measures also includes a £150 cost-of-living payment to be provided to all households in properties in council tax bands A to D. This payment will also reach households who receive support through the Council Tax Reduction Scheme in all council tax bands. In the absence of sufficient action by the UK Government, this will help households meet the cost of living and energy crisis now upon us.

Further options to help meet the challenges associated with rural fuel poverty will be considered as part of the Warm Homes consultation and in partnership with the Fuel Poverty Advisory Panel.

### How can private sector landlords be encouraged to tackle fuel poverty amongst tenants?

Housing in the private rented sector is subject to energy efficiency standards set by the UK Government. At the end of 2020, the UK Government [consultation on energy efficiency standards in the private rented sector](#) suggested a suite of policy proposals towards achieving improved energy efficiency in the domestic private rented sector. This included the UK Government's preferred policy scenario of requiring 'new tenancies' to reach (EPC) Band C from 1 April 2025 and 'all tenancies' to reach (EPC) Band C by April 2028. The UK Government is considering the representations submitted during the consultation.

[Fuel poverty estimates published in August 2018](#) suggested households living in the private rented sector were more likely to be fuel poor with 20% of these households living in fuel poverty (12% for all households). The Warm Homes Programme Nest Scheme works in collaboration with Rent Smart Wales to encourage landlords to improve their domestic energy efficiency. In 2020/21, households in the private rented sector accounted for more than 20%<sup>2</sup> of the 4,559 households benefitting from domestic energy efficiency improvements.

### How can any successor scheme(s) better advance equality and social justice considerations?

The plan to tackle fuel poverty was subject to an integrated impact assessment and this will be reviewed and updated as proposals are developed for the next iteration of the Warm Homes Programme. For example, we know that being part of a minority ethnic group is linked with a greater likelihood of relative income poverty. For the period 2015-16 to 2019-20 there was a 29% likelihood of people whose head of household comes from a minority ethnic group living in relative income poverty. This compares to a 24% likelihood for those whose head of household comes from a white ethnic group. For children the likelihood of being in relative income poverty in a household whose head is from a minority ethnic group is twice as much as in a household whose head comes from a white ethnic group.

From 2017-18 to 2019-20, 38% of children who lived in a household where there was someone with a disability were in relative income poverty compared with 26% in households where no-one was disabled. Similarly, 31% of working-age adults who lived in a household where there was someone with a disability were in relative income poverty compared with 18% of those who lived in a household where no-one was disabled.

I have expressed concern to the UK Government about their proposals to remove the automatic eligibility to support through the Warm Home Discount Scheme for households in receipt of Personal Independence Payments and Disability Living Allowance. We will carefully consider how our programmes continue to support disabled households.

### How can the Welsh Government ensure that the next iteration of the Warm Homes Programme better aligns with its efforts to decarbonise Welsh housing?

On 28 October, the Welsh Government published its [Net Zero Wales Plan](#), focussed on the Carbon Budget 2 (2021-2025). It includes actions to be taken over the early part of this decade to decarbonise homes and prepare for further emissions reductions. In the buildings chapter of the Net Zero Wales Plan, we discuss:

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<sup>2</sup> <https://nest.gov.wales/workspace/uploads/files/nest-annual-report-20-21-engli-61a8bab91155e.pdf>

- Energy Efficiency – Setting demanding standards for new build, and existing properties, with the social housing sector leading the way;
- Low Carbon Heat – Phasing out fossil fuel heat sources;
- Behavioural shift and demand reduction – Examining how behavioural and societal shifts could lead to reduced demand and the energy efficiency of appliances; and
- Just transition - how we ensure we leave no-one behind as we move to a cleaner, stronger, fairer Wales.

The Warm Homes Programme clearly has a role to play in supporting non-social housing to optimise its thermal and energy efficiency, in line with our approach to buildings decarbonisation. There is a tension, however, between tackling fuel poverty and decarbonising Welsh homes. This is being considered as part of the consultation on the next iteration of the Warm Homes Programme. Despite the urgency of the climate emergency, we cannot push more people in fuel poverty as a consequence of our focus on reducing the over reliance on the burning of fossil fuels. For example, for households living with a broken or inefficient heating system, installing an efficient gas boiler will provide a carbon saving, improve comfort and should help reduce the cost of maintaining a satisfactory heating regime. .

There are many homes where for time and money reasons, moving to other kinds of heating now would defeat the object of tackling fuel poverty. Electricity generation needs to be cleaner and cheaper before all householders transfer to electric heating. Our expectation is low carbon heating alternatives, such as heat pumps, will become significantly cheaper and more accessible by the end of the decade.

The opportune moment to replace a gas boiler in some cases, therefore, may arise a few years from now when there is a stronger supply chain and when costs have come down. Efficient and hydrogen ready gas boilers may continue to be the appropriate net zero response for fuel poverty for some time until a suitable alternative is available. This is a matter being considered with stakeholders as part of the consultation on the next iteration of the Warm Homes Programme, which needs to strike the balance between housing decarbonisation and safeguarding lower income households from fuel poverty.

#### Auditor General's report on the current Warm Homes Programme November 2021

The findings and five recommendations set out in the Auditor General's report on the Warm Homes Programme have been accepted by the Welsh Government. The report has informed the consultation currently underway and will help to ensure that arrangements put in place for the next iteration of the Warm Homes Programme deliver on our policy objectives. The report is the result of extensive collaboration between the Welsh Government and Audit Wales to learn the lessons from the current programme.

The Welsh Government has commissioned external consultants to provide technical and commercial advice as the next iteration of the Warm Homes Programme is developed.

#### Fifth Senedd's Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee report on fuel poverty.

The Committee report on fuel poverty was published on 24 March 2020. Recommendations 7,8,10 and 11 focused on action the Welsh Government should take to monitor the impact the Warm Homes Programme has on fuel poverty in Wales, how support is targeted, household eligibility and the availability of enabling works. The [Welsh Government response](#)

of 9 June 2020 accepting these recommendations set out how the consultation on the next iteration of the Warm Homes Programme would take the issues raised into account when designing the new programme.

The Warm Homes Programme Nest annual reports have been published since the scheme was launched in 2011. Following recommendation 7, reporting requirements were enhanced for the Warm Homes Programme Arbed 3 Scheme. Both schemes are subject to periodic independent evaluation which include an assessment of the impact the schemes have made in relation to efforts to tackle fuel poverty. [An evaluation of the Arbed 3 Scheme](#) was published on 28 February.

In accordance with actions in our plan, progress has been made developing tools to support efforts to identify households at risk of, or living in fuel poverty (recommendation 8). Our fuel poverty dashboard will soon be published. The dashboard will provide data on the determinants of fuel poverty. Information on the cost of energy, household incomes and domestic energy efficiency will be publicly available to support the efforts of our partners to tackle fuel poverty, and more recently the energy and cost of living crisis.

There is some evidence to suggest observance of inflexible eligibility criteria has resulted in vulnerable households, including disabled people and families, not being able to access support despite being in need. As part of the new plan and in response to recommendation 10, the Welsh Government proposed to review the Regulations setting out the eligibility criteria for support through the Warm Homes Programme based on the learning from the Nest Scheme Health Conditions Pilot. Based on the outcome of the current consultation, amendments to the Home Energy Efficiency (Wales) Regulations may be made, to improve access to support available through the programme.

The Welsh Government agrees the lack of financial support to undertake enabling works for those in fuel poverty to better support homes needing home energy efficiency improvements is a barrier to helping some people most in need (recommendation 11). This is being considered as part of the next iteration of the Warm Homes Programme consultation now underway. As part of our Cold Weather Resilience Plan, we are considering what more can be done to support households to undertake minor repairs to improve household resilience to cold weather.

**Welsh Government Response: Equality and Social Justice Committee –  
 Response to the Equality and Social Justice Committee Report: Minding the  
 Future - The Childcare Barrier Facing Working Parents**

Access to affordable and flexible childcare is often cited by parents, and particularly mothers, as one of the main barriers preventing them from working, or progressing further in their careers. The mixed model of childcare provision in Wales is intended to ensure there is choice and flexibility for parents in the type of care they use for their children. We look forward to working with the Committee, and other partners across the childcare sector and local government, in addressing the issues raised in this report.

The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic has been profound. It has impacted on the childcare sector in terms of places available and settings. We will need to work to collaboratively to address those issues, as well as responding to the exciting opportunity offered by the phased expansion of early years provision, to include all two year olds.

This is an exciting and ambitious period of time for Childcare in Wales and I hope the actions of Welsh Government and partners enable and support the sector to respond.

I would like to thank the members of the Equality and Social Justice Committee for their report on the childcare barriers facing working parents. I am particularly pleased to see the Committee’s recommendations are in line with our current and future plans. In responding to the Committee’s report I have provided direct information in response to the recommendation or conclusion, but also provided some comments in relation to the broader report which I hope you find helpful. I have set out my response to the Report’s individual recommendations below.

**Detailed Responses to the report’s recommendations are set out below:**

**Recommendation 1**

The Committee recommends that:

*The Welsh Government sets out in its response how it intends to work with local authorities and health boards to improve awareness and understanding of the childcare support available to new parents. Potential approaches could include:*

- *writing to new parents or promoting the support available when parents register the birth of their child;*
- *providing information to parents in sufficient time ahead of the end of maternity leave to help them to make informed decisions about childcare; and*
- *developing a “one-stop shop” information service to allow parents to search which provision their child is eligible for at any point in time.*

**Response:** Accept in principle

The Welsh Government agrees that it is important to ensure that parents have the information they need about the childcare options and support available to make informed choices about their childcare arrangements. There are already mechanisms in place to raise awareness amongst parents and “parents to be” of the various options available to them. However we acknowledge that there is more that could be done to enable parents to access and use information about provision and support.

One of the main sources of information to support parents and carers in making informed childcare choices is the local authorities’ [Family Information Services](#). This website allows users to enter their postcode and find information about the childcare options available to them in their local areas, whether that is childcare provision close to their home, or work location. The Family Information Services website also allows parents to access information in relation to play schemes, wrap around schemes, holiday clubs and other support services, such as speech and language, parenting or support with behavioural issues.

To improve this support, the Welsh Government provided grant funding to the CWLWM consortium in 2021-22 to undertake work to refresh the “Choosing Childcare” online booklet aimed at parents and carers. This includes information on the benefits of childcare, the different types of childcare available to parents and signposts to more information about what financial support is available to help with childcare costs. The refreshed booklet should be available to parents later in the Spring.

Working with sector partners we will consider other opportunities to raise awareness of childcare options. This will include ways of engaging with new parents and at key transition points when parents are likely to review their childcare arrangements, such as returning to or starting work, moving to education provision at 3, and moving to full time schooling. We will look to maximise existing engagement points including our plans for rolling out Baby Bundles to more parents, our ‘Parenting – Give it Time’ campaign and funded schemes such as Flying Start and the Childcare Offer.

Local Authorities are responsible for ensuring that Flying Start services are promoted within the communities who benefit from them. This is predominantly achieved through the work of dedicated Flying Start Health Visitors who engage with families as part of Flying Start’s enhanced Health Visiting services. Flying Start teams are also required to have other strategies for engaging with families and are expected to outline these as part of annual planning processes. Social media platforms are increasingly used by Local Authorities as a mechanism for ensuring that key messages are received by Flying Start families.

We continue to work with HMRC to update the UK Government’s [Childcare Choices](#) website which also provides parents with localised information about childcare options. The Childcare Choices website also provides a ‘Childcare Calculator’, which helps parents find out if any financial support schemes are available to them and helps to support financial decision making with regards to childcare and choosing what works best for their family.

**Financial Implications** – None. Any additional costs will be drawn from existing programme budgets.

### **Conclusion 1**

*The Committee welcomes the commitment in the Co-operation Agreement to expand the existing Childcare Offer to two year olds, but are of the view that increasing the offer beyond the current 20 hours per week will enable more parents to return to work, and therefore further reduce inequalities.*

### **Response: Notes**

Our updated Programme for Government (PfG) contains three commitments related to childcare and our longer term Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) vision, as follows:

- Continue to support our flagship Flying Start Programme
- Fund childcare for more families where parents are in education and training or on the edge of work
- Deliver a phased expansion of early years provision to include all two year olds, with a particular emphasis on strengthening Welsh medium provision

Since its inception, the primary aims of the Childcare Offer have been to enable more parents, particularly mothers, to return to work; increase the disposable income of those in work and help counteract poverty for those in low-paid jobs; and to encourage child development and school readiness.

Increasing support with childcare costs for parents in education and training reflects the value placed on supporting those seeking to improve their employment prospects by gaining qualifications, retraining or changing career paths. To this end, and in support of the PfG commitment, the Welsh Government has agreed to the [expansion of the Childcare Offer](#) to parents in education and training from September 2022, with an initial focus on those enrolled on higher and further education courses.

There are currently no plans to increase the number of funded childcare hours available under the Childcare Offer. However we will consider this within the ambition of our ECEC action plan.

As part of the Co-operation Agreement we are working to implement a phased expansion of early years provision, to include all two year olds in Wales. We continue to develop the delivery plan for the rollout of this commitment in consultation with stakeholders and further announcements will be made in due course.

**Financial Implications** – The Budget 2022-23 includes an allocation of up to £9m per annum to enable expansion of the Offer to parents in education and training.

## Recommendation 2

The Committee recommends that:

*The Welsh Government sets out in its response its plans for addressing the gap in childcare between the end of maternity leave and eligibility for the Childcare Offer. This should include indicative timescales, and an evaluation of the financial and practical factors that would need to be taken into account in addressing this gap.*

**Response:** Accept in principle

We launched our vision for a holistic Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) system in Wales in October 2019. Our aim is to increase access to ECEC provision in Wales over the next 10 years, to ensure more children and families can benefit from access to funded provision before statutory school age. However, we are conscious of the need to support and grow the sector in order to enable this.

The Childcare Offer is a key component of supported provision. The first step of this expanding provision is the work underway to broaden the Childcare Offer to support access to childcare for the parents/carers of 3-4 year olds who are in education or training. This was set out in our [written statement](#) issued on 2 March 2022.

This is in addition to the phased expansion of early years provision, to include all two year olds in Wales as set out in our updated Programme for Government and the Cooperation Agreement. While the policy is still in development, when fully implemented it would make the provision of childcare for 2 year olds in Wales the more generous of the home nations.

We will be producing an ECEC action plan later this year which will lay out the roadmap for the next 10 years and how we will ensure that the childcare and early years sector is supported to meet the ambitious aims of ECEC, including opening up access to more children and families. This will include our ambitions for childcare and play settings, as well as those who are delivering early education provision for 3-4 year olds. Any further expansions to support for parents to help with childcare costs will be considered in the context of affordability and informed by evaluation of initiatives to assess their impact.

**Financial Implications** – None. Any additional costs will be drawn from existing programme budgets. Future decisions on policy changes will be informed by the availability of future budgets and form part of the normal budget rounds.

## Conclusion 2

*The Committee concludes that the Welsh Government should use their planned expansion of the Childcare Offer as an opportunity to review and reduce the eligibility of each parent earning up to £100,000 per year.*

**Response:** Notes

The Childcare Offer for Wales was established to support working parents, with associated eligibility criteria. At the lower end, parents need to earn the equivalent of

16 hours per week at the relevant minimum wage and at the upper end they may not earn more than £100,000 gross income per annum per parent.

While moving to a household earnings cap, or reducing the upper earnings cap, might be considered to provide greater equity across the scheme, evidence from the [independent evaluation of the Offer](#) suggest the majority of parents accessing it do not earn close to this limit.

The median annual gross salary band of individuals accessing the Offer between September 2020 and August 2021 was £20,800 to £25,999. This is lower than the national average full-time salary of £28,158 per annum in 2020, recorded by the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (Office of National Statistics). Over half (at least 55 per cent) of parents accessing the Offer earned below the national average annual salary level for full-time workers. Furthermore, just over a quarter (27 per cent) of parents earned less than £15,600. Conversely, only a minority (6 per cent) earned £52,000 or above.

We keep all aspects of the Offer under review and will look at what more can be done to increase access to funded ECEC provision for all children as part of our longer term proposals to further deliver our ECEC vision.

In respect of expanding early years provision to all two year olds, this policy is still in development, but consideration of eligibility will form part of policy considerations.

**Financial Implications** – None. Any additional costs will be drawn from existing programme budgets.

### **Recommendation 3**

The Committee recommends that:

*The Welsh Government sets out in its response how it intends to address the eligibility criteria in the Childcare Offer to make it easier for parents employed in atypical hours, such as insecure work, shift work or on zero-hours contracts, to access provision.*

**Response:** Accept in principle

Since rollout began in 2017 the eligibility criteria underpinning the Childcare Offer have ensured it is open to all eligible working parents, whether employed or self-employed. This includes those with non-standard working patterns and those on zero-hour contracts. Apprentices are also eligible for the Offer.

In addition, the Childcare Offer has always provided flexibility for parents in terms of how and when they access it. To this end, the childcare element of the Offer can be accessed during any operating hours, night or day, including at weekends. This means that breakfast clubs, afternoon clubs and holidays clubs are also able to deliver the childcare element of the Offer, providing they are registered with CIW (or Ofsted if based in England). We do not, therefore, believe adjustments to the eligibility criteria for the Offer are required to allow parents to apply for or receive the funded provision.

We do, however, recognise that the ability to access the funding towards childcare under the Offer is not the same as being able to find childcare that meets the needs of individual families. Affordable, flexible and accessible early education and childcare is key to the Welsh Government's drive to increase economic growth, tackle poverty and reduce inequalities. Those who work on a-typical or zero hours contracts or work in roles with flexible working patterns often struggle more generally to find childcare provision that is right for their needs.

Local authorities, in completing their Childcare Sufficiency Assessments in 2022, will be establishing the childcare needs of parents working atypical hours and exploring any barriers experienced by these families in accessing childcare. Should there be evidence that there is insufficient or unsuitable childcare for these families, local authorities will be expected to identify actions which can be taken to address these gaps.

At a national level we will continue to work with our partners to ensure that there is provision across Wales to meet the needs of all parents and children.

**Financial Implications** –None. Any additional costs will be drawn from existing programme budgets.

#### **Recommendation 4**

The Committee recommends that:

*The Welsh Government sets out in its response its plans to strengthen guidance and legislation to deliver greater and more consistent provision of community-focused schools across Wales.*

**Response:** Accept

The Welsh Government's Programme for Government includes a commitment to "invest in the learning environment of community schools, co-locating key services and securing stronger engagement with parents and carers outside of traditional hours".

Making effective use of educational facilities for children and the local community has always been a key aim underpinning education investment through the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme. All projects it supports need to show how their school facilities can be used to support their local community to make them accessible and shared resources across Wales' communities, both during and outside school hours; including the opportunity to innovatively co-locate services for their area. In building community facilities, stakeholders need to comply with the Education Act 2002 and Control of School Premises 2008 which outline specific responsibilities with regards community facilities. These are also conditions of grant under the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme.

A £15 million Community Hubs Pilot Scheme was made available in 2019-20. Managed through the Programme, it provide capital funding for 21 pilot schemes. To date 11 have been completed, 4 are under construction and 6 are due to start. The funding was allocated on the basis of three themes; widening family and community

engagement; extending the use of physical assets for community use; and co-locating services to form community hubs.

In the second wave of Programme investment, totalling £2.3 billion, one of the two investment objectives is to optimise the use of infrastructure and resources to deliver public services for our communities by 2024. This includes flexibility of assets so that space and facilities available to our communities are maximised; using their facilities to widen family and community engagement and co-locating services to form community hubs. Our robust business case scrutiny process assessment ensures a join up with wider Welsh Government ambitions for communities; and more investment in multi-use facilities, hosting Flying Start and ECEC provision, with options to also hold after school activities. This should include provision of inclusive play spaces, accessible outside of core school hours. The budget includes an allocation of £70m over the next three years which sits within the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme, for childcare providers to access capital funding to support capital improvements, with a particular focus on co-location of services and Welsh medium provision.

The Welsh Government also continues to develop a policy framework and strengthen existing guidance by working with a number of stakeholders, including officials from cross-policy areas and externally, leaders and key groups in the education sector. Welsh Government officials have established a joint working group bringing together Health and Social Services Integration, Sustainable Communities for Learning, Housing and Community Schools teams. The group are looking at opportunities to co-locate public services in a way which best meets the needs of communities. Examples could be in co-locating health visitors, speech and language therapists and child mental health support services however this could also include services for the wider community such as GPs.

As part of the 2022/23 budget settlement, £20m has been allocated within the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme to drive forward community schools priorities including the co-location of support services/facilities.

**Financial Implications** – We will consider the need for funding to support community schools as part of future budget planning processes. Any additional capital costs will be drawn from existing and future programme budgets.

### **Recommendation 5**

The Committee recommends that:

*The Welsh Government sets out in its response its plans to place more Welsh-medium childcare on school sites, given that progression from Welsh-medium childcare to Welsh-medium primary education is higher when this occurs.*

**Response:** Accept

The progression from Welsh medium childcare provision provided through cylchoedd meithrin is high at 90%. This is improved further to 96% where the cylch and school are co-located. In order to deliver on progress towards Cymraeg 2050, it is essential

that the importance of Welsh medium childcare provision is maximised as far as possible.

One of the main priorities for funding during the last phase of the Childcare Offer capital grant programme was funding Welsh medium settings. Over half of the £80m investment for childcare was allocated for Welsh medium provision and we approved 53 proposals across Wales to develop new or to refurbish Welsh medium school-based settings.

We are currently developing the successor programme to support capital investment in childcare settings (2022-23 to 2024-25). The budget includes an allocation of £70m over the next three years for childcare providers to access capital funding to support capital improvements, with a particular focus on co-location of services and Welsh medium provision. We will continue to work with local authorities to identify improvements to Welsh medium childcare provision, including co-location on school sites.

**Financial Implications** – None. Any additional costs will be drawn from existing programme budgets.

### **Recommendation 6**

The Committee recommends that:

*Welsh Government publishes a Children’s Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA) and an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) for the new, expanded childcare offer.*

- *The CRIA must demonstrate how the concerns of the Children’s Commissioner about the Children’s Rights Impact Assessment for the Childcare Funding (Wales) Act 2019 have been taken account of and addressed.*
- *The EIA is required to ensure that equality is mainstreamed into the development of childcare expansion, and to enable stakeholders and the Committee to scrutinise the extent to which this has been achieved.*
- *Both the CRIA and the EIA should be completed and published as soon as possible and as a minimum at least one month before the new, expanded childcare offer goes live.*

**Response:** Accept

Welsh Government has agreed to the expansion of the Childcare Offer to parents in education and training from September 2022, with an initial focus on those enrolled on higher and further education courses. As part of the work to deliver this expansion, the Integrated Impact Assessment for the Childcare Offer, which includes both a Children’s Rights Impact Assessment and an Equality Impact Assessment will be updated. The Integrated Impact Assessment will be published at least one month before the new expanded Offer goes live.

In respect of expanding early years provision to all two year olds, policy officials have commenced a full Integrated Impact Assessment, to include a Children’s Rights and

Equality Impact Assessment, in order to allow a full range of impacts to be taken into account as part of the development of this far reaching policy. The Integrated Impact Assessment will be refined as a live document throughout the policy lifecycle of the commitment to expand early years provision to all two year olds to ensure the diverse needs of children and families in Wales are kept at the heart of the decision making at key milestones. The Integrated Impact Assessment will be published at least a month before the extended offer goes live.

**Financial Implications** – None. Any additional costs will be drawn from existing programme budgets.

### **Recommendation 7**

The Committee recommends that:

*The Welsh Government sets out in its response its plans to work with local authorities to ensure that Family Information Services provide resources in community languages other than, and in addition to, English and Welsh*

**Response:** Accept

The Family Information Service (FIS) in Wales has been developed to provide free, impartial information and advice on a wide range of services for children and young people (from birth to 25 years old), parents and families. This includes information on a wide range of Childcare, Support for Children and Families, other Family related issues and, where relevant, a signposting service for all parents, carers and guardians. The target audience for FIS includes parents and carers, children and young people, professionals, employers, existing and prospective childcare providers who may be looking for information on a wide range of services that have an impact on the lives of children and their families.

Local Authorities are ideally placed to understand the needs of their local communities and deliver a quality service to all, regardless of demographic or community background. Welsh Government also meets regularly with Heads of Family Information Service. In order to support further progress in this area, we will highlight the important findings and recommendations in this report to FIS services across Wales, including the need for more inclusivity and the need to provide accessible information to everyone in their community. We recognise the opportunity to build on good practice from areas such as Cardiff that provide information in a number of languages beyond Welsh and English and we will highlight this effective practice in our discussions with FIS services.

The Welsh Government is currently revising its “Choosing Childcare” online booklet aimed at parents and carers. This includes information on the benefits of childcare, the different types of childcare available to parents and signposts to more information about what financial support is available to help with childcare costs. The refreshed booklet should be available to parents shortly. Initially, this will be published in English and Welsh. However, we will explore the need for translation to other languages where this is appropriate.

**Financial Implications** – None. Any additional costs will be drawn from existing programme budgets.

### **Recommendation 8**

The Committee recommends that:

*In order to address widespread concerns around the lack of ethnic diversity in the sector, the Welsh Government sets out in its response its plans for:*

- *their new race disparity unit to build an evidence base around the level of ethnic minority representation in the childcare workforce; and*
- *the development of an action plan, including ambitious targets, for increasing the number of ethnic minority staff in the sector.*

**Response:** Accept

Welsh Government have pledged to work towards becoming an anti-racist nation by 2030. We have made a commitment in the Programme for Government to implement and fund the commitments made in the Race Equality Action Plan.

The formal 16 week consultation of the draft [Race Equality Action Plan](#) was held during March 21 to 15 July 2021. The consultation received 320 responses. Those responses are now being analysed and being used to strengthen the draft Plan.

The original Plan did not contain actions specifically under a Childcare and Play sector heading, although the Social Care and Education sectors did. Many representative bodies and individual childcare and play settings helpfully contributed to the consultation and raised concerns about the absence of any specific actions within the Childcare and Play sector. Since then we have been working to scope some initial proposed actions for Welsh Government and partners in the sector to ensure that we are able to contribute to the aims and ambitions of the Plan as future iterations are developed.

The Race Equality Action Plan will be published by May 2022 and we will continue to work in partnership to develop proposed actions for the Childcare and Play sector. The Action Plan will be a live document that will evolve and be updated and the Childcare and Play actions will be incorporated once stakeholder engagement has concluded.

We will review our 10 year plan for the childcare, playwork and early years workforce, published in December 2017, to see if in light of recent developments a refreshed plan is required. Alongside this we will build on work already underway by CWLWM partners to develop and produce resources and training relating to anti-racism principles, as well as the promotion of childcare in ethnic minority communities, to develop resources, including webinars and training to support childcare practitioners.

We will work with key partners to improve promotion of the childcare sector and awareness of career opportunities with ethnic minority groups in Wales.

We will work with the Race Disparity Unit to identify an evidence base for the childcare sector in order to better understand the current profile of the workforce and to be able to measure future progress.

**Financial Implications** – None. Any additional costs will be drawn from existing programme budgets.

### **Recommendation 9**

The Committee recommends that:

*The Welsh Government sets out in its response a plan which requires all childcare providers to undertake cultural and diversity awareness training, such as that being developed by CWLWM, and to ensure that it becomes part of continuous professional development within the sector.*

**Response:** Accept

The proposals we are developing as part of the childcare and play sector's contribution to the Race Equality Action Plan will be the first stepping stone towards addressing these entrenched issues, but that is not to say those steps will be small. It is important to acknowledge that we must ensure that our foundations are strong to allow us to take greater steps in the future.

We must all work together to deliver change and ensure that we do not continue to fail our ethnic minority communities. The responsibility of its success lies with us all. Work is already underway with our CWLWM partners to support a more culturally diverse childcare sector. Through Welsh Government grant funding, the CWLWM consortium are developing resources and providing webinars and training to the sector to enhance understanding of diversity, equality and anti-racism principles and promote good practice across the sector.

In reviewing our 10 year workforce plan we will work with stakeholders and social partners to determine how we can best support the sector to be more culturally diverse and what training and resources may be required to do so.

**Financial Implications** – None. Any additional costs will be drawn from existing or future programme budgets.

### **Recommendation 10**

The Committee recommends that:

*The Welsh Government sets out in its response its plans to develop and strengthen the childcare provision for children with additional learning needs, including increasing the amount of funding available through the Childcare Offer for Wales Additional Support Grant to improve provision for children with disabilities and/or additional or complex needs.*

**Response:** Accept in principle

The Childcare Offer for Wales includes specific provision to support children with additional learning needs under the Additional Support Grant. This Welsh

Government funding, which is not subject to an upper cap, is available to support a range of support needs including additional staff costs, the purchase of equipment or the provision of training, and local authorities ensure alignment of support across the education and childcare elements of the Offer.

Local authorities will be completing Childcare Sufficiency Assessments in 2022 to establish the extent to which there is sufficient childcare in their local authority area to enable parents to work or train. A fundamental part of this process is establishing the needs of families with children who have additional learning needs or a disability, as well as the barriers experienced by these families in accessing childcare. Should there be evidence that there is insufficient or unsuitable childcare for children with additional learning needs, local authorities will be expected to identify actions which can be taken to address these gaps. These assessments also inform the funding required to respond to these needs. The Welsh Government provides £2.2m annually to local authorities to support activity in their areas to address gaps in provision identified in their Childcare Sufficiency Assessment, particularly where this relates to provision for children which need additional support. This funding sits within the Children and Communities Grant.

**Financial Implications** – None. Any additional costs will be drawn from existing programme budgets. Future decisions on policy changes will be informed by the availability of future budgets and form part of the normal budget rounds.

### **Recommendation 11**

The Committee recommends that:

*The Welsh Government sets out in its response how it will ensure sufficient funding is available in the expansion of the childcare offer under the Co-operation Agreement to allow two year olds with additional or complex needs to fully access provision.*

**Response:** Accept in principle

As we look to the phased expansion of early years provision, to include all two year olds in Wales, this will include consideration of those with additional or complex needs. We will ensure that these requirements are fully considered in scoping plans to offer this support and in rolling out provision, with appropriate allowances within budgets to provide this support.

We will also ensure that this support sits within the wider early years landscape, drawing on the full range of early years programme available to children and families. This is seen in our Flying Start programme, where children and families benefit from access to support with speech, language and communication as well as additional access to health visitors and parenting support.

**Financial Implications** – None. Any additional costs will be drawn from existing programme budgets as the programme is developed. Future decisions on policy changes will be informed by the availability of future budgets and form part of the normal budget rounds.

## Recommendation 12

The Committee recommends that:

*The Welsh Government sets out in its response its plans to ensure the long-term capacity plan for the Welsh-medium sector, which the Welsh Government will explore as part of the Co-operation Agreement, is undertaken alongside work for the English-medium sector. This should reflect the impact that staff shortages are having on both the English-medium and Welsh-medium sector.*

### **Response:** Accept

There are well documented issues in terms of workforce capacity for the childcare and play sector. These focus particularly around recruitment and retention, but also career progression. These issues are exacerbated for Welsh medium provision.

We are committed to supporting the childcare sector to grow, ensuring access to flexible and affordable childcare for all families. Central to that is expanding the workforce, and ensuring those working across the sector have access to the training and support they need to develop their careers. Working with key partners including local authorities, CWLWM and Social Care Wales we will be taking steps to ensure a career in childcare is open to as many people as possible, drawing in a broad range of skills and experiences.

We have been speaking with key partners about the recruitment and retention challenges currently faced by the sector. These are varied, and there are some specific issues for both the Welsh medium sector and the English medium sector, but there is also much commonality. Our childcare practitioners want to be respected and to feel valued for the important work they do to support our children. They want to be paid appropriately, and to have terms and conditions of employment which are fair and reasonable. And they want access to learning and development opportunities to allow them to progress in their careers.

We will undertake a mid-term review of our 10 year workforce plan, reaffirming our commitment to developing a high quality ECEC sector, with a respected and highly skilled workforce. As part of this review we will work with key partners to increase the diversity of the workforce, develop new pathways for those looking to enter the workforce or retrain within it and attract people from a broad range of backgrounds into the sector. This may require us to refocus existing training and development programmes, tailor new investment as the Progress for Success programme comes to an end and direct capital investment in new facilities into areas where there is currently insufficient childcare.

Looking specifically at the challenges for Welsh medium provision, we are undertaking analytical work to the current profile of services as well as to provide projections for the size and profile of the Welsh medium workforce over the next 5 years. This will inform planning around the size of the Welsh medium workforce needed to meet commitments outlined in Programme for Government and the Co-operation agreement. Once this work is complete we will discuss the findings with key partners, and work with them to develop plans to support and increase Welsh medium provision.

**Financial Implications** – None. Any additional costs will be drawn from existing programme budgets.

### **Recommendation 13**

The Committee recommends that:

*The Welsh Government sets out in its response its plans for a review of the promotion of careers in the Welsh-medium childcare and early years sector, and how further education and work-based learning can be used to ensure that it has sufficient staff.*

**Response:** Accept

The Welsh Government have funded CWLWM partners, particularly Mudiad Meithrin, to undertake a variety of activities to support and promote Welsh medium childcare careers from career building schemes to specific courses for potential Welsh medium practitioners with schools and FE colleges.

A commitment to continue and build on the promotion and support for the Welsh medium workforce will be included in the refreshed workforce plan.

**Financial Implications** – None. Any additional costs will be drawn from existing programme budgets.

### **Recommendation 14**

The Committee recommends that:

*The Welsh Government sets out in its response its plan to deliver a sufficient increase in the hourly payment to providers under the Childcare Offer to enable an increase in staff pay, and a timeframe by which all childcare workers will be paid the Real Living Wage, learning from the Scottish Government's incorporation of this into their childcare expansion plans.*

**Response:** Accept

Following a review of the hourly rate paid for childcare under the Childcare Offer, the Welsh Government has agreed that the rate will increase from £4.50 to £5.00 per hour from April 2022. This was announced in a [Written Statement](#) issued on 22 February. In addition, the Welsh Government has committed to review the Childcare Offer hourly rate at least every three years.

As part of this commitment additional funding has been agreed to support the continued alignment of Foundation Phase Nursery and childcare funding rates under the Childcare Offer, alongside additional investment in Flying Start childcare.

Most childcare settings in Wales are private or charitable providers and so Welsh Government does not have the ability to set pay levels. However, we recognise the key role of government funding in supporting settings to create good working conditions. One of the aims of the upcoming increase in the Childcare Offer hourly rate for childcare is to support settings ability to offer reasonable rates of pay to their staff.

**Financial Implications** – The Budget 2022-23 includes an indicative allocation of £10m for each of the next three years to fund the rate increase.

### **Recommendation 15**

The Committee recommends that:

*The Welsh Government sets out in its response its plan to ensure their upcoming workforce plan is developed with social partners, and includes a focus on improving working conditions in the sector as well as developing the workforce.*

**Response:** Accept in principle

The Welsh Government's 10 Year Workforce Development Plan was published in 2017 and will be refreshed later this year. This will review the work to date as well as identify new aims and objectives that take into account the impact of the pandemic and new commitments arising from the Programme for Government and Co-operation agreement, all of which affect the childcare workforce and the structure of childcare provision.

The refreshed plan will be developed with sector stakeholders and social partners and have a continued focus on supporting and developing the workforce, whether that be the size, shape and diversity of the workforce or the skills and knowledge of individual practitioners.

Most childcare settings in Wales are private or charitable providers and so Welsh Government does not have the ability to define working conditions directly. However, we recognise the key role of government funding in supporting settings to create good working conditions. One of the aims of the upcoming increase in the childcare offer rate paid to settings is to support settings ability to offer reasonable rates of pay to their staff. Other Welsh Government support such as the 100% business rates relief for registered childcare settings, capital funding investments and support, as well as sustainability grants available from local authorities are aimed at supporting settings with overhead costs to support them in being able to offer reasonable rates of pay.

**Financial Implications** – None. Any additional costs will be drawn from existing programme budgets.

### **Recommendation 16**

The Committee recommends that:

*The Welsh Government sets out in its response its plan to ensure that the upcoming childcare recruitment campaign by Social Care Wales reaches and attracts groups such as ethnic minorities and Welsh speakers who are under-represented in the childcare workforce.*

**Response:** Accept

Welsh Government works with a range of partners to promote childcare careers in Wales and this work is under continual review. To help attract people with the right skills and behaviours into the sector and to be recognised and valued for the work

that they do, we provide funding to Social Care Wales for their national recruitment and retention campaign: [WeCare.Wales](#).

This aims to raise the profile of the sector, to show what it's really like to work within it and showcase the career opportunities on offer. This is supported by a national stakeholder group which comprises membership from childcare and play umbrella bodies.

In light of the pandemic, Social Care Wales are now taking forward an always "on" campaign which allows for responsive action in relation to any attraction, recruitment and retention issues. This is building on their recent [TV advert](#) showcasing the qualities and skills required to work with children and their [#diolch](#) work where children and parents recognised and thanked practitioners for all they do for them.

Social Care Wales have also developed WeCare.Wales Ambassadors who raise the profile of working in early years, childcare and play. Ambassadors are volunteers from a variety of backgrounds who are working in the sector. They help people explore the different career options and progression opportunities available within the sector. The work of an Ambassador can involve presentations to school or college students; informal talks or discussions; attending career or job fairs, events or conferences.

WeCare.Wales aims to attract a diverse range of people to the childcare workforce, we will work with Social Care Wales to ensure a renewed emphasis on diversity and ensure Ambassadors are drawn from a diverse range of backgrounds.

**Financial Implications** – None. Any additional costs will be drawn from existing programme budgets.

### **Recommendation 17**

The Committee recommends that:

*The Welsh Government sets out in its response its plan to deliver universal wrap-around care, including after-school clubs that can accommodate all those who want to benefit from them.*

**Response:** Accept in principle

Local authorities, through their Childcare Sufficiency Assessments, gauge the level of demand for out of school childcare in their area, and what services are available to meet that demand. The Welsh Government also funds local authorities to support their efforts to meet any unmet demands for childcare in their local areas, which can include activity to increase wrap-around and out of school childcare and playwork activities. The Welsh Government funds Clybiau Plant Cymru Kids Clubs as part of the annual grant to the CWLWM consortium to support and advise the out of school sector in Wales, helping new clubs to be established and become registered with Care Inspectorate Wales. This includes the expansion of Welsh medium out of school provision.

In terms of after school provision, the Welsh Government has provided a £6.4m Winter of Wellbeing package for all schools to provide more sessions in and around

the school day to promote physical, mental and emotional wellbeing through increased access to creative, sporting, play and cultural activities in English and Welsh. This is intended to create a better environment for learning and progression and seek to re-build confidence in all learners, particularly those most disadvantaged by the impacts of the pandemic. This wider package will also give us valuable evidence and information for future policy development.

We are also Funding a small scale trial, which guarantees over 1,800 learners five hours a week of additional enrichment activities around the school day. This trial will help us to consider how we can best support learner and staff well-being, narrow educational inequalities, and better align with modern living and working patterns. The learning from this trial will help expand the evidence base around the structure of the school day.

We will continue to work with our key stakeholders to identify where there are opportunities for Government to support work to strengthen wrap-around and out of school provision.

**Financial Implications** – None. Any additional costs will be drawn from existing programme budgets.

### **Recommendation 18**

The Committee recommends that:

*The Welsh Government sets out in its response its plans to undertake the full consultation on the Exceptions Order that it committed to in 2019 in order to address concerns around the negative impact it has had on registered providers and on the safeguarding of children.*

**Response:** Accept

The Welsh Government is planning to undertake a consultation on the Exceptions Order during 2023, building on the findings of the Call for Evidence already undertaken. It is also important that the consultation takes into account the findings and any actions arising from the Ministerial Review of Play. We will work with the sector to ensure they are engaged in the development of proposals and the formal consultation.

**Financial Implications** – None. Any additional costs will be drawn from existing programme budgets.

Mark Isherwood MS  
Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee Chair  
[by e-mail]

15 February 2022

Dear Mark

Thank you for your letter dated 10 December 2021 regarding the use of the acronym 'B.A.M.E' by the Senedd Commission.

Early during the Autumn term 2021, Commission officials consulted with the Commission's Race, Ethnicity and Cultural Heritage workplace equality network (REACH) regarding its preferences. Network members expressed a number of opinions, and the networks' collective preference was to retain the acronym B.A.M.E. As a result of your letter, the network has worked with the Commission's Diversity and Inclusion team to revisit the position.

The Senedd Commission considered the use of the acronym 'B.A.M.E' at its meeting on 31 January. The Commission considered a paper that set out some of the wider debate surrounding the use of the acronym and recognised the difficulty of capturing the complex histories and cultures of people from ethnic minority backgrounds in a single phrase or acronym.



Commissioners agreed that the Commission would:

- a. Observe context as a key driver for use of terminology and opt for specificity when using terminology wherever possible;
- b. Where specificity is not possible, to replace use of the acronym and collective term B.A.M.E. with the collective term(s) 'ethnic minority' and 'ethnic minority community'; and
- c. regularly review use of terminology and monitor internal and external debate.



In addition they agreed that Commission officials should seek meetings with those Members of the Senedd who are from an ethnic minority background to discuss the matter further, and that the



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information Commissioners had considered should form the basis of a briefing for Members, initially committee chairs.

Commissioners agreed that the guidance contained in the paper would be published internally to support Commission officials in drafting documents.

The Chairs' Forum will consider the item on Thursday 17 February 2022.

You will be aware that the Commission's Sixth Senedd Diversity and Inclusion Strategy is currently being consulted upon. Members have been asked to engage with the consultation process through the Members' Engagement Survey which is currently live. A number of Members have indicated that they would welcome a further discussion with Commission Officials, and these are currently being arranged. Similarly, if Members of the Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee would find a similar conversation helpful, please let me know, and I can make the necessary arrangements.

Yours sincerely



**Manon Antoniazzi**

**Prif Weithredwr a Chlerc y Senedd / Chief Executive and Clerk of the Senedd**

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg. We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.



2 March 2022

Dear John

I am writing on behalf of our coalition of organisations, activists, and race equality groups who have been working together on Part 4 of the 'Police Bill' – the criminalisation of trespass and its impact on Gypsy and Traveller communities across Wales. You can see our recent [briefing](#) to members of the Senedd and subsequent [Travellers Times](#) article

We are writing to you as Chair of the Local Government and Housing Committee to raise concerns about the lack of progress in delivering Gypsy and Traveller sites under the duty brought in by the Housing (Wales) Act in 2016. This correspondence is also copied to Jenny Rathbone as Chair of the Equality and Social Justice Committee as many of the issues are pertinent to the work of that committee too

There are some key issues which we feel the Committee should be aware of and might want to consider:

- a. Section 103 of the Housing Act Wales brought in a duty on local authorities to periodically **assess** the needs of Gypsy and Traveller communities in their areas for residential sites or pitches and to assess the need for transit provision for families to facilitate the nomadic way of life. The duty also requires local authorities to then **meet** that need through the provision of quality sites with decent facilities which provide permanent, or temporary pitches as assessed  
The Welsh Government has also made a substantial capital Sites Grant Fund available since that time for local authorities to draw down costs to build new sites as well as re-furbishing old and run-down sites  
The first of the new Gypsy and Traveller Assessments (GTAA) took place in 2016, the second assessments were due to be submitted to the Minister on 24 February 2022
- b. We know there has been very slow progress, in some local authority areas there has been none – leaving families (whose need was already well known) waiting on pieces of land with no access to quality facilities, and families overcrowded and doubling up on pitches on existing sites some of which are extremely run down. Many families have sought to meet their own need; bought land and developed their own small sites many of which are struggling to gain permanent planning permission and under constant threat of enforcement

The progress on making transit sites in Wales has been even less productive – there remain ZERO transit sites even proposed, never mind developed, across Wales in 6 years of the duty being in place; this means that travelling families continue to have to encamp on whatever land they can find, without access to facilities and at the mercy of local hostility and the ensuing pressure put on elected members and local authorities to ‘move people on’

- c. There has been a lack of accountability and monitoring at all levels. For many Local Authorities, no action has been taken over the six-year period and is now mostly spurred into action by the requirement to undertake their new assessment and meet the Welsh Government deadline. We have seen local councils and elected members actively campaigning against sites and even incidents of elected members accused of hate speech and discrimination being part of the decision-making process.

All in all, this has led many people from different Gypsy and Traveller communities across Wales losing faith in this process and indeed some refusing to engage in the most recent assessments because they see no evidence that the legal measures lead to any tangible benefit

- d. Of urgent concern is the impact of the UK Government’s Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill which is likely to proceed within the next few weeks to statute with Part 4 of the Bill in place. This will criminalise trespass with an ‘intent to reside’, changing this from a civil offence as it currently is, giving new powers to the Police to evict, seize vehicles (i.e., people’s homes), fine and potentially imprison anyone found guilty under the new legislation. The Bill also includes the ‘likelihood’ of distress or damage being caused amongst the potential triggers for invoking the powers and having no other place (including being homeless) will not be an exemption. The guidance for Police Forces which accompanies this Bill already published urges the Police ‘not to gold plate human rights’ when making their decisions.

The consequences of this on nomadic life and long held cultural traditions (going back to the 15th century here in Wales as elsewhere) are catastrophic; the increased criminalisation of a protected ethnic group already overrepresented in the criminal justice system; the increased incidence of homelessness and potential for children to go into local authority care (local authorities will have to provide and pay for all of this) and further marginalisation of families who already face huge prejudice and daily as well as structural racism.

The reason this is so relevant is that with the lack of pitches available and NO transit provision available in any part of Wales, families have no other option than to encamp on public and sometimes private land – this will leave families vulnerable to prosecution because local authorities have not met their own duties to provide sites – no wonder Gypsies and Travellers have no faith in the process

- e. In these coming weeks and months, it is crucial in our view that real progress, scrutiny, and challenge, are made so that the Housing Act duty and Wales’s commitment to support and uphold the rights of Gypsy and Traveller communities in Wales translate into tangible benefits and actions

The Minister for Social Justice now has all the 22 GTAA’s in front of her and her officials for assessment and review; of those we have had sight of prior to submission very few have used the opportunity to report on progress or analyse their failure to meet the duty and how they might go about overcoming future barriers.

- f. Extremely concerning is the emerging picture already that a significant number of local authorities have failed to find enough evidence that there is a need for 'transit' provision (permanent facilities in designated places) and are instead reporting that they will opt to adopt the 'negotiated stopping model' or the similar 'Managing Unauthorised Encampments' Welsh guidance. This guidance has been in place for nearly 10 years with no monitoring or consistency of practice across Wales, many local authorities (particularly under community or political pressure) do no more than move people on to another locality where the process is then repeated. The inclusion of these approaches as the *only* provision requires commitment of time and resources; dedicated liaison officers, identifying 'stopping places', positive engagement and relationships with Gypsies and Travellers - necessarily underpinned by political will – almost none of which has been apparent or is guaranteed by the production of a 'fresh' GTAA report

**Key areas for action we have identified are:**

1. That Welsh Government's review of the GTAAs is used as opportunity to hold local authorities to account and to drive urgent action to make provision under the Housing Act
2. An independent review of the lack of progress to date and the impact this has had on Gypsy and Traveller families across Wales
3. Effective and supportive protocols /local arrangements developed in partnership with Gypsy and Traveller communities with local authorities and the four police forces in Wales
4. The Welsh Government to continue to consider *all* the levers available to us in Wales to combat the UK legislation and its impacts; the Police Bill conflicts with Wales's responsibilities, specifically including our human rights obligations under the Government of Wales Act as well as all the commitments enshrined in the Children and Young People's Rights Measure; the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act and our socio- economic duty
5. The Welsh Government ensures that guidance is created for social workers in supporting human rights and family justice focused welfare assessments.

Please contact us if you require additional information or to discuss further

**Contacts:**

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Jenny Rathbone MS  
Chair, Equality and Social Justice Committee  
Welsh Parliament  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff CF99 1SN

Catherine Brown  
Chair  
Enforcement Conduct Board  
First Floor, 10 Queen Street Place  
London EC4R 1BE

14 March 2022

Dear Ms Rathbone

In light of your position as Chair of the Welsh Parliament's Equality and Social Justice Committee, I am writing to introduce myself as the new Chair of the Enforcement Conduct Board.

The Board is the new regulatory body for the debt enforcement sector. It has been created through a partnership between leading debt advice charities, such as the Money Advice Trust and StepChange, and enforcement businesses. Operating independently of both industry and the UK Government, the Board will have a clear mandate to ensure fair treatment and appropriate protection for people subject to action by enforcement agents (bailiffs).

I am very pleased to be taking up this critical position at a time of change for the debt enforcement sector. I know that the Board can play a key role in raising standards and improving consistency in the industry both in Wales and other parts of the UK – protecting vulnerable debtors, and improving the effectiveness and ethical defensibility of enforcement practices (on which Local Authorities are highly dependent).

With many households and Local Authorities experiencing significant pressures on their income due to the COVID-19 pandemic and current challenges around the cost of living, the Board has an important role to play from the outset. Accordingly, I am looking forward to getting properly started in my new role over the coming weeks, including through commencing the work to recruit other Board members. A formal launch of the Board is then expected to take place in June.

Following the recent announcement of the creation of the Board and of my new role, I would appreciate the chance to have a discussion with you on next steps and priorities for the new organisation at an early stage in developing our thinking. I live in Abergavenny so would be delighted if we were able to arrange this as a face-to-face meeting in Cardiff. I will, if I may, ask my colleagues to contact your office to agree a date and time for this to take place.

Yours sincerely,



**Catherine Brown**  
Chair, Enforcement Conduct Board

# Agenda Item 7

By virtue of paragraph(s) vii of Standing Order 17.42

Document is Restricted

# Agenda Item 8

By virtue of paragraph(s) vii of Standing Order 17.42

Document is Restricted

Sophie Howe  
Future Generations Commissioner

14 February 2022

Dear Sophie,

**Follow-up to annual scrutiny session on 7 February 2022**

Thank you for joining us on 7 February for our annual scrutiny session. We were grateful for your time and appreciative of your full and frank responses to our questions. Thank you also for sharing information in relation to your budget position immediately following the session.

During the session, there were a number of points raised on which you offered to provide additional information. I have summarised these points below:

- Case studies: You noted that you have collected examples of public bodies' engagement and actions following publication of the Future Generations Report. Please could you provide details of these examples?
- Implementation gap: You noted your concerns in terms of the implementation gap between Welsh Government policy and delivery, and that you had a list of examples you could share with the Committee. We would be grateful to receive a copy of this list.
- Requests for support from the Welsh Government: You noted that you had received 1,061 requests for support since May 2018, including 362 from public bodies and of those, 157 from the Welsh Government. Could you please tell us the number of times you have declined requests for support from the Welsh Government, the nature of the requests and any additional information relating to those decisions?

I look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely



Jenny Rathbone  
Chair, Equality and Social Justice Committee

By email

1st of March 2022

Dear Jenny,

**Response to Equality and Social Justice Committee: Follow up to annual scrutiny session 7 February 2022**

Please find below the further information requested by the Committee:

- ***Further case studies and examples of public bodies' engagement and actions following publication of the Future Generations Report.***

The Committee can find a list of published case studies on my website: [https://www.futuregenerations.wales/resources\\_posts/case-studies/](https://www.futuregenerations.wales/resources_posts/case-studies/)

My team are continuously adding to this pool of examples that help to raise awareness, promote the Act, share learning and advise organisations on the application of my recommendations and the legislation. Through the points of contact I have been able to allocate to each public body this year, we are gathering examples all the time. I have attached a technical document (a working draft spreadsheet) to provide the Committee with a flavour of the sorts of information we have gathered following publication of the Future Generations Report.

- ***Implementation gap: You noted your concerns in terms of the implementation gap between Welsh Government policy and delivery, and that you had a list of examples you could share with the Committee.***

I have described the 'implementation gap' as a tendency to push out legislation, policies, guidance and direction from Government with little understanding of how it will be delivered or adequately resourced in practice. Public bodies frequently provide me and my team with examples of where they are struggling to implement the various requirements from different parts of Government and, as such, they want practical help to deliver in the form of experts providing implementation support. We recognise there is good practice within Government too, which I am keen to highlight. This work will be explored further within my recently launched Section 20 Review. More information [here](#).

Some examples of this 'implementation gap' include:

- **Welsh Government guidance on procurement and decarbonisation:**
  - In 2019, as part of my [Section 20 Review into procurement](#), I reviewed 363 public sector procurement contracts and found that only two referenced the Well-being of Future Generations Act, only 35 referenced community benefits and there was not a single reference to carbon reduction.



- As well as a recommendation I made to public bodies as part of my [Section 20 Review into procurement](#) that every public body should set out how they have considered the carbon impact of their procurement decisions, Welsh Government have published guidance and policy on this.
- Welsh Government have recently published two Public Procurement Notes on decarbonisation; funded the WLGA to run a support programme for the Local Authorities on decarbonisation and, in line with the Welsh Government published [Net Zero by 2030 Route Map](#), has publicly stated action on procurement to decarbonise.
- However, there is an implementation gap between the high-level guidance and practice on the ground. My most recent review of public sector procurement contracts found limited references once again to the Act, to social value and no obvious reference to requirements around decarbonisation.
- The [Welsh Transport Appraisal Guidance \(WelTAG\)](#) was updated in 2017, with input from my team to help officials provide guidance that was more in line with the Act. Still, there has been a lack of resources and training for its proper implementation and no analysis of capacity in the current system to enable these changes to happen.
- A current Welsh Government consultation, titled '[Planning legislation and policy for second homes and short-term holiday lets](#)', provides no link to the Well-being of Future Generations Act, the Welsh Government's well-being objectives, how such a policy would apply the sustainable development principle and, therefore, how local actors are meant to use such a policy to improve well-being and equality for the people they serve.
- The tender for a provider of the [new Jobs Growth Wales Plus](#) programme misses opportunities to align the well-being goals to its aspirations for young people to enter training and employment. For example, proper implementation of the programme would include a focus on future trends, green industries and skills, improving equality and well-being. There is a lack of reference to Welsh Government's well-being objectives and steps. A section of the document shows a lack of integration with other Government policies, like the Llwybr Newydd Transport Strategy, as it discusses providing support costs for people to travel by car or motorcycle with no reference to Llwybr Newydd, which sets out a transport hierarchy that should reduce the need for people to travel or help people to choose active travel options. The section within the document on 'Partnership Working' fails to mention Public Services Boards (all of whom have well-being objectives on skills) or Corporate Joint Committees (which set to be responsible for economic development for their areas).
- A Welsh Government consultation on '[Improving social care arrangements](#)' proposed making Regional Partnership Boards corporate legal entities, giving them powers to hold funds, employ staff, integrate budgets and jointly commission etc. At the time, the consultation created implementation issues for those working at a local level within Regional Partnership Boards, Public Services Boards and beginning to plan for Corporate Joint Committees. The consultation was silent on how giving the former more powers would enable Welsh Government to fulfil their well-being objectives or how they will work locally and practically with other strategic boards.

- ***Requests for support from the Welsh Government: You noted that you had received 1,061 requests for support since May 2018, including 362 from public bodies and of those, 157 from the Welsh Government. Could you please tell us the number of times you have declined requests for support from the Welsh Government, the nature of the requests and any additional information relating to those decisions?***

As of February 2022, my team have received 1,113 requests since May 2018. We have recorded 55 instances where we have declined requests from the Welsh Government. Please see Annexe 1 below for more detail on the nature of the requests.

As I explained to the Committee, I have adopted criteria for determining whether we can complete a request for support. This is to manage the limited capacity and resource of my team due to the broad remit of the Act. In most cases, the capacity of my team and relevance of the topic to our work were the reasons for declining requests from Welsh Government.

When appropriate and relevant, my team politely decline the request but provide any pertinent links to our tools, recommendations, publications and links to other organisations or contacts who may be able to help.

The criteria used to determine whether we can complete a request includes the following considerations:

*Our internal criteria for responding to requests for support:*

- **Background Information:**
  - Who is the request from? What are they requesting?
  - What is the scale of their request (how much time is it likely to take)?
  - Will the project team requesting support use the 5 ways of working in planning and in delivering the project?
  - Will the project assist public bodies or PSBs in carrying out their duties under the Act; or will assist any other person taking steps that may contribute to the achievement of the goals?
- **Criteria for determining response to the request for support:**
  - Does the request come within our policy areas of focus or other work we have done already?
  - Are there significant or quick opportunities to deliver against our strategy and impacts?
  - Is there a significant risk of us doing (or not doing) the work?
  - How could the project contribute to the achievement of the well-being goals, their definition, the sustainable development principle or the four dimensions of well-being?
  - Can we resource the work (is there sufficient capacity)?
  - What is the potential for knowledge transfer?

My team and I are happy to provide the Committee with any further information regarding these topics.



Comisiynydd  
**Cenedlaethau'r  
Dyfodol**  
Cymru

**Future  
Generations**  
Commissioner  
for Wales

Yours sincerely,

Sophie

Sophie Howe

Comisiynydd Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol Cymru / Future Generations Commissioner for Wales

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**Comisiynydd Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol Cymru**

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## Annex 1:

Table showing declined requests for support and advice from Welsh Government to the Office of the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales:

Title/ subject of email making request	Date Received
Petroleum Extraction Policy Consultation	6/7/18
Join the Air Quality Independent Review Panel	17/9/18
Energy Potential Workshop	21/8/18
Historic Environment & Climate Change Sector Adaptation Plan Consultation Workshop	24/10/18
Final measures to reduce air pollution on the Motorway and Trunk Roads in Wales	27/9/18
Setting a minimum price for alcohol	28/9/18
Transport Appraisal of the A483	30/10/18
Independent Review Panel, Air Quality Directions	10/1/19
Climate Change Adaptation Plan Consultation	16/1/19
Smart Export Guarantee scheme with UK Government	17/1/19
Curriculum & Assessment White Paper	28/1/19
Official Statistics Producers Group	14/2/19
National Air Pollution Control Programme consultation	14/2/19
WG notifying us of 3 different UK consultations related to plastic and the environment	29/3/19
Joint Institutions group meeting on Active Travel, Housing, Circular economy	7/1/19
Regulation work on hearing the tenants' voice	11/4/19
Money and pensions listening event	24/5/19
Fuel poverty plan	11/4/19
Resource Efficiency Strategy and Route Map	2/6/19
Green Infrastructure working group meetings	20/6/19
Place based working and developing practical areas for support	25/6/19
Home Grown Homes project - Powys CC	22/7/19
Ministerial Play Review Steering Group	27/8/19
Draft International Strategy	7/8/19
Tailored Review Workshops (national library)	13/8/19
A data led investigation into the impact of Universal Credit in Wales: Survey launch	12/9/19

Increasing recycling by businesses	23/9/19
Engagement on Regional Economic Frameworks	19/9/19
Association of Directors of Education in Wales Planning of School Places Group	28/10/19
Legal Services in Welsh Government	25/11/19
Child Poverty Review	29/11/19
Clean Air Plan for Wales: Healthy Air, Healthy Wales	19/12/19
Cardiff City Region Energy Plan Workshop	24/1/20
Consultation Events Beyond Recycling	18/3/20
Sustaining the Gwent Levels SMS project	4/3/20
Consultation on draft coal policy	6/7/20
Welsh Hydrogen Reference Group	8/7/20
Valleys taskforce evaluation	16/10/20
Consultation on replacement of DQR with a new standard	5/8/20
Consultation Document: Draft statutory guidance – Performance and governance of principal councils	11/11/20
Review of Learner Travel Measure	17/11/20
White Paper consultation- Rebalancing care and support	13/1/21
Reducing emissions from domestic burning of solid fuels	13/1/21
Consultation on Future Funding for Equality and Inclusion Grant Programme	16/2/21
Duty of Candour stakeholder workshops	11/8/21
Bws Cymru	23/7/21
Draft Corporate Joint Committee (General) (Wales) Regulations 2022	10/11/21
Welsh Government Innovation Strategy External Stakeholder Working Group	22/10/21
A Smoke Free-Wales Strategy and Delivery Plan	8/11/21
Adolydiad Cyfnodol Cyffredinol / Universal Periodic Review	22/11/21
Renewable Energy Deep Dive - Industry / Supply Chain Round Table Invite - Thu 25 Nov 14:30	22/11/21
Period Dignity Strategic Action Plan - consultation launched today	20/10/21
Transport Performance Board	8/12/21
Amending the South East Wales Corporate Joint Committee Regulations 2021	20/12/21
Energy Price Crisis - Fuel Poverty Panel Views	27/1/22

EXAMPLES PROVIDED FOR SENEDD ESJ COMMITTEE - FEB 2022						
Organisation	Region	Example	Key theme / link to the Act	Key words	Additional detail	Web / Internal Dynamics links?
Cyngor Gwynedd Council	North Wales	Learn and Grow online conference			taking a look at what Gwynedd Council Community Arts has been supporting during the pandemic. Creative organisations and workers will be presenting and hosting activities to show the work they have been doing during and after the pandemic. Presentations will be by; Lyndsey Colbourne, Dr. Denise Baker, Iola Ynyr on behalf of Ynys Blastig and more!	<a href="https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/dysgu-a-thyfu-learn-and-grow-tickets-169185023961">https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/dysgu-a-thyfu-learn-and-grow-tickets-169185023961</a>
Cyngor Gwynedd Council	North Wales	Share your stories for Black History Month	5 ways of working		Gwynedd Council is calling on local residents to share their stories of how black people have contributed to Gwynedd's society in different ways over the years.  Those put forward will be included in Gwynedd Council's celebration of Black History Month 2021, which will be marked in October.	<a href="https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/en/Council/News/Press-releases/September-2021/Share-your-stories-for-Black-History-Month-2021.aspx?utm_source=Twitter&amp;utm_medium=social&amp;utm_campaign=Orlo">https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/en/Council/News/Press-releases/September-2021/Share-your-stories-for-Black-History-Month-2021.aspx?utm_source=Twitter&amp;utm_medium=social&amp;utm_campaign=Orlo</a>
Denbighshire County Council	North Wales	Biodiversity project tracks	Good practice		A project committed to improving Denbighshire's biodiversity has	<a href="https://www.denbighshire.gov.uk">https://www.denbighshire.gov.uk</a>
Conwy Council	North Wales	Traffic free zone	5 ways of working		We had positive feedback from residents and visitors about the traffic free zone at Conwy Quay over the summer.  So we've decided to extend this until the end of October, after the half term holiday.	<a href="https://twitter.com/ConwyCBC/">https://twitter.com/ConwyCBC/</a> <a href="https://www.dailypost.co.uk/news/local-news/cars-conwy-quay-banned-between-2654937">https://www.dailypost.co.uk/news/local-news/cars-conwy-quay-banned-between-2654937</a>
Flintshire County Council	North Wales	Summer of fun	5 ways of working		With £218,000 funding available for Flintshire, there are some activities which took place throughout the county.	<a href="https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Council-Apps/NewsPortlet.aspx?id=8144">https://www.flintshire.gov.uk/en/Resident/Council-Apps/NewsPortlet.aspx?id=8144</a>
Welsh Government		Net Zero Carbon Status by 2030: A route map for decarbonisation across the Welsh public sector	Decarbonisation		- Includes commitments on the 4 areas (procurement, buildings, travel, land use) - Overview of key priorities for action - Does not set out the 'how' or 'who' or the actions needed to achieve the milestones...	<a href="https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021-07/a-route-map-for-decarbonisation-across-the-welsh-public-sector.pdf">https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021-07/a-route-map-for-decarbonisation-across-the-welsh-public-sector.pdf</a>
Welsh Government		Welsh Public Sector Net Zero Carbon Reporting Guide	Decarbonisation		- "This guide details the principles and priorities for the Welsh Public Sector Net Zero Carbon reporting approach...its operational and organisational scope and the data which public bodies in Wales will need to assemble in order to fulfill the reporting requirements" - Aim is to provide universal guide / set of instructions for use by PBs	<a href="https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021-05/welsh-public-sector-net-zero-reporting-guide_1.pdf">https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021-05/welsh-public-sector-net-zero-reporting-guide_1.pdf</a>

The Carbon Trust (with NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership)		NHS Wales Decarbonisation Strategic Delivery Plan 2021-2030	Decarbonisation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A lot of info on NHS Wales' carbon emissions (detailed breakdown)</li> <li>- Details NHS Wales commitments (under headings 1) Moving up a gear: 2020-22; 2) Well on our way: 2022-26; 3) Achieving our goal: 2026-2030)</li> <li>- The 'Delivery Plan Implementation' section might be useful to showcase the 'how' to PBs?</li> </ul>	<a href="https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021-03/nhs-wales-decarbonisation-strategic-delivery-plan-2021-2030-summary.pdf#:~:text=This%20NHS%20Wales%20Decarbonisation%20Strategic%20Delivery%20Plan%20demonstrates,such%20as%20poverty%2C%20health%20inequalities%2C%20and%20climate%20change.">https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021-03/nhs-wales-decarbonisation-strategic-delivery-plan-2021-2030-summary.pdf#:~:text=This%20NHS%20Wales%20Decarbonisation%20Strategic%20Delivery%20Plan%20demonstrates,such%20as%20poverty%2C%20health%20inequalities%2C%20and%20climate%20change.</a>
Welsh Government		£1.9m to address food poverty in Welsh communities			Over £1.9m of funding is being awarded to organisations across Wales to help tackle food poverty and addressing food insecurity within local communities. They will also focus on addressing food issues in a more sustainable way, working with local and regional partners to meet the specific needs of their communities.	<a href="https://gov.wales/19m-address-food-poverty-welsh-communities">https://gov.wales/19m-address-food-poverty-welsh-communities</a>
North Wales Fire and Rescue Service	North Wales	Apprentice training	Priority areas		Last Friday, we held a Covid-safe celebration of achievement at Rhyl Fire Station recognising the completion of the initial training of our most recent group of Apprentices – many congratulations to them all	<a href="https://twitter.com/NorthWalesFire/status/1433761794976272386">https://twitter.com/NorthWalesFire/status/1433761794976272386</a>
Snowdonia National Park Authority	North Wales	National Parks photography competition	5 ways of working		National Parks have a key role to play in a green recovery. Landscapes feel the impact of climate change, but also have the	<a href="https://www.cnp.org.uk/photog">https://www.cnp.org.uk/photog</a> <a href="https://twitter.com/visitsnowdo">https://twitter.com/visitsnowdo</a>
Snowdonia National Park Authority	North Wales	Polytunnel being built in	Well-being Goals		The trees that have been planted here are from local seeds which	<a href="https://twitter.com/visitsnowdo">https://twitter.com/visitsnowdo</a>
Snowdonia National Park Authority	North Wales	CGG and Snowdonia National Park Authority Identify Significant Microplastic Pollution on Summit of Yr Wyddfa (Snowdon)	5 ways of working		<p>CGG successfully conducted a microplastics pollution survey as part of a scoping study into whether it would be possible to create a Plastic Free zone on Yr Wyddfa (Snowdon).</p> <p>Partneriaeth Yr Wyddfa (the Snowdon Partnership) led by the Snowdonia National Park Authority aims to increase public awareness of plastic pollution on the UK's most visited mountain and consider the practicalities of introducing Plastic Free Areas in the National Park.</p>	<a href="https://www.snowdonia.gov.wales/authority/news-and-media/latest-news/2020-press-releases/2020-news-items/cgg-and-snowdonia-national-park-authority-identify-significant-microplastic-pollution-on-summit-of-yr-wyddfa-snowdon">https://www.snowdonia.gov.wales/authority/news-and-media/latest-news/2020-press-releases/2020-news-items/cgg-and-snowdonia-national-park-authority-identify-significant-microplastic-pollution-on-summit-of-yr-wyddfa-snowdon</a>

Snowdonia National Park Authority	North Wales	Trees Outside Woods – A new collaborative project between the National Park Authority and Coed Cadw, the Woodland Trust in Wales.	5 ways of working		This autumn the Snowdonia National Park Authority and the Woodland Trust will work in collaboration to implement a special new project with the aim of planting more trees and hedgerows within a designated area of the National Park. Thanks to funding by the People’s Postcode Lottery – the Woodland Trust will fund over £25,000 worth of fencing work to protect the new trees and hedgerows while they become established. The trees will be supplied from the Snowdonia National Park Authority’s tree nursery at Plas Tan y Blwch, with the aim of planting 8,000 native trees and 1,800 metres of hedgerow. The project area encompasses 27 Community Councils and runs from Beddgelert to the north, all the way south to Pennal and Aberdyfi, and stretches to the east as far as Rhydymain and Mawddwy.	<a href="https://www.snowdonia.gov.wales/authority/news-and-media/latest-news/2020-press-releases/2020-news-items/trees-outside-woods-a-new-collaborative-project-between-the-national-park-authority-and-coed-cadw-the-woodland-trust-in-wales">https://www.snowdonia.gov.wales/authority/news-and-media/latest-news/2020-press-releases/2020-news-items/trees-outside-woods-a-new-collaborative-project-between-the-national-park-authority-and-coed-cadw-the-woodland-trust-in-wales</a>
Snowdonia National Park Authority	North Wales	Capital grant scheme			The capital fund will be available to local communities and voluntary groups/societies for socio-economic resilience purposes. The fund will be available for the 2021/2022 financial year only. Which means that all funded projects must be completed and claimed for before the end of March 2022.  The priorities of the capital fund are broad and reflect by means of example (but are not confined to), the areas listed below:  · Support for community led Covid resilience projects in the area.  · Energy efficiency / low carbon projects which benefit the wider community e.g. village halls	<a href="https://www.snowdonia.gov.wales/authority/news-and-media/latest-news/2020-press-releases/2020-news-items/cronfa-cymunedol-eryri-a-new-funding-opportunity">https://www.snowdonia.gov.wales/authority/news-and-media/latest-news/2020-press-releases/2020-news-items/cronfa-cymunedol-eryri-a-new-funding-opportunity</a>
Arts Council for Wales	North Wales	diverse voices			As part of our commitment to advance the influence of diverse voices in Arts Council of Wales’ core work and operations, we’re looking for expressions of interest from a wide range of people across all communities. Let us know if you would like to join us for paid work as an Associate, providing insight and advice on our programmes of work.	<a href="https://arts.wales/news-jobs-opportunities/arts-council-wales-associate-call-out">https://arts.wales/news-jobs-opportunities/arts-council-wales-associate-call-out</a>
Bridgend County Borough Council		Safe homes for Afghan families			As part of Bridgend County Borough Council’s commitment to the national Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy, up to three families will be provided with safe homes and support.	<a href="https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/news/safe-homes-for-afghan-families/">https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/news/safe-homes-for-afghan-families/</a>
Caerphilly County Borough Council		Come and help shape our future	5 ways of working		Public bodies in Gwent are beginning to look at what services and facilities will be needed in the future to meet the aspirations of our communities, and we need you to get involved.	<a href="https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/News/News-Bulletin/September-2021/Come-and-help-shape-our-future">https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/News/News-Bulletin/September-2021/Come-and-help-shape-our-future</a>

Caerphilly County Borough Council		Fund to empower communities now live	Good practice		A brand new fund which aims to empower communities across Caerphilly county borough to develop projects to support their local area has today (Wednesday 1st September) gone live and is now open for bids.	<a href="https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/News/News-Bulletin/September-2021/Fund-to-empower-communities-now-live!">https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/News/News-Bulletin/September-2021/Fund-to-empower-communities-now-live!</a>
Caerphilly County Borough Council		Catering team leads the way with electric vehicles	Other (listed in anything extra)		Caerphilly County Borough Council is continuing to take great strides in delivering on its commitment to help tackle the climate crisis and lower carbon emissions.	<a href="https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/News/News-Bulletin/August-2021/CCBC%E2%80%99s-Catering-Team-lead-the-way-with-Electric-Ve">https://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/News/News-Bulletin/August-2021/CCBC%E2%80%99s-Catering-Team-lead-the-way-with-Electric-Ve</a>
Cardiff Council		Cardiff's first fleet of e-bikes			Fifty electric bikes hit the streets of Cardiff this week as the city's OVO Bikes scheme, operated by nextbike, becomes more accessible than ever.	<a href="https://www.cardiffnewsroom.co.uk/releases/c25/27365.html">https://www.cardiffnewsroom.co.uk/releases/c25/27365.html</a>
Ceredigion County Council		Lampeter wellbeing centre			At a Cabinet meeting held on 01 December 2020, it was agreed that Lampeter Leisure Centre would become the location of the Council's first Wellbeing Centre in the County.	<a href="http://www.ceredigion.gov.uk/resident/news/exciting-new-developments-on-the-horizon-for-lampeter-wellbeing-centre/">http://www.ceredigion.gov.uk/resident/news/exciting-new-developments-on-the-horizon-for-lampeter-wellbeing-centre/</a>
Ceredigion County Council		Active travel routes			Ceredigion County Council has commenced a 12-week consultation period on both existing and planned walking and cycling (Active Travel) routes in the county, beginning today.	<a href="http://www.ceredigion.gov.uk/resident/news/ceredigion-residents-to-have-their-say-on-future-active-travel-routes-1/">http://www.ceredigion.gov.uk/resident/news/ceredigion-residents-to-have-their-say-on-future-active-travel-routes-1/</a>
Denbighshire County Council	North Wales	Young people take part in Food and Fun programme			Almost 500 children and young people have taken part in a healthy eating scheme this summer.  Denbighshire School Holiday Enrichment's Food and Fun programme saw eight schools keep their doors open for three weeks of the school holidays for those aged between 3 and 12.	<a href="https://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/en/news/news-detail.aspx?article=704423eb-0386-4bcd-948e-16937bb3bec6">https://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/en/news/news-detail.aspx?article=704423eb-0386-4bcd-948e-16937bb3bec6</a>
Cyngor Gwynedd Council	North Wales	Sport for Life team joins Byw'n lach			Gwynedd Council's Sport for Life Team is transferring over to Byw'n lach. Byw'n lach is a not-for-profit company, which manages 12 Leisure Centres across the county on behalf of the Council.	<a href="https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/en/Council/News/Press-releases/September-2021/Gwynedd-Sport-for-Life-team-joins-Bywn-lach.aspx">https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/en/Council/News/Press-releases/September-2021/Gwynedd-Sport-for-Life-team-joins-Bywn-lach.aspx</a>
Monmouthshire County Council		Play schemes offer fun and activities to county's young people			Children in Monmouthshire have enjoyed a fun-filled summer holiday, thanks to two successful play provision schemes offered by MonLife, the council's tourism, leisure, culture and youth services body.	<a href="https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/2021/09/play-schemes-offer-fun-and-activities-to-countys-young-people/">https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/2021/09/play-schemes-offer-fun-and-activities-to-countys-young-people/</a>

Neath Port Talbot Council		Approval for 137 homes plan on former Afan Lido site			Neath Port Talbot Council's Planning Committee has granted Persimmon Homes West Wales conditional planning permission to build 137 homes on the site of the former Afan Lido Leisure Centre on the Aberavon Seafront.	<a href="https://www.npt.gov.uk/1410?pr_id=6887">https://www.npt.gov.uk/1410?pr_id=6887</a>
Pembrokeshire County Council		Consultation launched for new public transport interchange			A £8m modern public transport interchange is being planned for Haverfordwest, as part of Pembrokeshire County Council's commitment to enhancing the town and enabling people to access the centre much more easily.  The scheme forms part of the South West Wales Metro project and will provide a modern and innovative transport hub, integrating all transport modes.  Designs include improvements to pedestrian and cycle facilities through the site, a more efficient and integrated bus station, and construction of a new modern multi-storey.	<a href="https://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/newsroom/consultation-launched-for-new-public-transport-interchange">https://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/newsroom/consultation-launched-for-new-public-transport-interchange</a>
Pembrokeshire County Council		Local residents are being urged to help shape the next Well-Being Plan for Pembrokeshire.			Local residents are being urged to help shape the next Well-Being Plan for Pembrokeshire.  The Pembrokeshire Public Services Board (PSB) is currently assessing the well-being of local people and communities in the County.  This is a requirement under the Well-being of Future Generations Act which encourages people to work together to tackle some of the 'big long-term issues' to improve well-being.	<a href="https://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/newsroom/help-shape-the-next-well-being-plan-for-pembrokeshire">https://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/newsroom/help-shape-the-next-well-being-plan-for-pembrokeshire</a>
Pembrokeshire County Council		Earlier this year, we invited you to tell us about the barriers that you may face when walking and cycling on your everyday journeys.			Earlier this year, we invited you to tell us about the barriers that you may face when walking and cycling on your everyday journeys. We had a great response – over 1,250 people responded making 4,105 contributions!  We have considered these comments and are working with our consultants Atkins to produce draft route plans, showing existing and potential future routes for walking and cycling for everyday journeys.	<a href="https://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/newsroom/help-improve-walking-and-cycling-in-pembrokeshire">https://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/newsroom/help-improve-walking-and-cycling-in-pembrokeshire</a>
Powys County Council		Additional Active Travel Routes to be rolled out in Llandrindod Wells,			Work to begin another two active travel routes to improve walking and cycling facilities within Llandrindod Wells will begin soon.  The two routes were identified and agreed following previous consultations on the county's Active Travel Network Maps.	<a href="https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/11571/Additional-Active-Travel-Routes-to-be-rolled-out-in-Llandrindod-Wells">https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/11571/Additional-Active-Travel-Routes-to-be-rolled-out-in-Llandrindod-Wells</a>
Swansea Council		Have your say on new			The new 12-week consultation is a vital part of Swansea Council's	<a href="https://www.swansea.gov.uk/ar">https://www.swansea.gov.uk/ar</a>

Swansea Council		Affordable city centre living			Wales' largest housing association is investing millions of pounds in affordable city centre living as part of ambitious plans for the future of Swansea.	<a href="https://www.swansea.gov.uk/CityCentreLiving">https://www.swansea.gov.uk/CityCentreLiving</a>
Vale of Glamorgan Council		Enforcement action over Barry Biomass Plant.			The Vale of Glamorgan Council has agreed that enforcement action can be taken over planning concerns relating to the Biomass Gasification Plant in Barry.	<a href="https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/our_council/press_and_communications/latest_news/2021/August/Council-takes-enforcement-action-over-Barry-Biomass-Plant.aspx">https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/our_council/press_and_communications/latest_news/2021/August/Council-takes-enforcement-action-over-Barry-Biomass-Plant.aspx</a>
Bridgend County Borough Council	South East Wales	Major tree-planting scheme planned across county borough			Thousands of trees will be planted this autumn in five different parts of Bridgend County Borough on land owned by the local authority as part of The Queen's Green Canopy initiative 'Plant a tree for the Jubilee'. Also a key part of the council's response to tackling the challenges of climate change and the nature crisis, and aims to help the local authority achieve a position of net zero carbon by 2030. 5 areas involved: Min y Nant in Pencoed, Coytrahen, Maes y Felin in Wildmill, Foxfields in Brackla and land close to Litchard Primary School. A special 'Green Day' event is being organised alongside partner organisations where schools and the local community will be invited to join in, help plant the trees and learn more about the impact this will have on carbon capture, flood prevention, the reduction of pollution and wider well-being aspects associated with nature and biodiversity. The trees will all be native plants that naturally occur in the area and will be planted between October and March. Local authority will be working closely with local communities for their views on the project's plans and the areas to be planted.	<a href="https://futuregenerationswales.crm11.dynamics.com/main.aspx?appid=c54b1b5e-0057-e811-a8b6-00224801a6b7&amp;pagetype=entityrecord&amp;etn=email&amp;id=a7c9ec80-4111-ec11-b6e6-002248422835">https://futuregenerationswales.crm11.dynamics.com/main.aspx?appid=c54b1b5e-0057-e811-a8b6-00224801a6b7&amp;pagetype=entityrecord&amp;etn=email&amp;id=a7c9ec80-4111-ec11-b6e6-002248422835</a>
Bridgend County Borough Council	South East Wales	Afghan Support Scheme	Well-being Goals		The council is continuing to work with the Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO) to determine how best volunteers can help support the Afghan refugee scheme. As part of the council's commitment to the national Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy, up to three families will be provided with safe homes and support.	<a href="https://futuregenerationswales.crm11.dynamics.com/main.aspx?appid=c54b1b5e-0057-e811-a8b6-00224801a6b7&amp;pagetype=entityrecord&amp;etn=email&amp;id=73849018-0e12-ec11-b6e6-002248422835">https://futuregenerationswales.crm11.dynamics.com/main.aspx?appid=c54b1b5e-0057-e811-a8b6-00224801a6b7&amp;pagetype=entityrecord&amp;etn=email&amp;id=73849018-0e12-ec11-b6e6-002248422835</a>
Bridgend County	South East Wales	Active travel consultation	5 ways of working		A public consultation has been launched on a draft Active	<a href="https://futuregenerationswales.crm11.dynamics.com/main.aspx?appid=c54b1b5e-0057-e811-a8b6-00224801a6b7&amp;pagetype=entityrecord&amp;etn=email&amp;id=73849018-0e12-ec11-b6e6-002248422835">https://futuregenerationswales.crm11.dynamics.com/main.aspx?appid=c54b1b5e-0057-e811-a8b6-00224801a6b7&amp;pagetype=entityrecord&amp;etn=email&amp;id=73849018-0e12-ec11-b6e6-002248422835</a>

Bridgend County Borough Council	South East Wales	Help and support available for 16 to 24 year olds who have finished school and college	Priority areas		Got your results and don't know what to do next? The Inspire 2 Work programme can help by providing 121 support and advice from qualified youth workers, free professional CV development, support to complete applications for college or work, access to free online training, interview skills / work experience / confidence building and much more.	<a href="https://futuregenerationswales.crm11.dynamics.com/main.aspx?appid=c54b1b5e-0057-e811-a8b6-00224801a6b7&amp;pagetype=entityrecord&amp;etn=email&amp;id=73849018-0e12-ec11-b6e6-002248422835">https://futuregenerationswales.crm11.dynamics.com/main.aspx?appid=c54b1b5e-0057-e811-a8b6-00224801a6b7&amp;pagetype=entityrecord&amp;etn=email&amp;id=73849018-0e12-ec11-b6e6-002248422835</a>
Bridgend County Borough Council	South East Wales	Over 155,000 tonnes	Good practice		Bridgend County Borough has recycled the equivalent weight of	<a href="https://futuregenerationswales.crm11.dynamics.com/main.aspx?appid=c54b1b5e-0057-e811-a8b6-00224801a6b7&amp;pagetype=entityrecord&amp;etn=email&amp;id=85d6e6b4-1112-ec11-b6e6-00224842251d">https://futuregenerationswales.crm11.dynamics.com/main.aspx?appid=c54b1b5e-0057-e811-a8b6-00224801a6b7&amp;pagetype=entityrecord&amp;etn=email&amp;id=85d6e6b4-1112-ec11-b6e6-00224842251d</a>
Bridgend County Borough Council	South East Wales	Council launches new Welsh Language Strategy	Well-being Goals		Bridgend County Borough Council has published a new Welsh Language Strategy for 2021-2026. The new strategy was implemented earlier this week as part of the council's requirements under the Welsh Language Standards. The local authority has to produce a five-year strategy and an annual report to outline how it has complied with the standards, progress made towards objectives, and how, in collaboration with partners, it has promoted and facilitated the use of the Welsh language more widely in the county borough.	<a href="https://futuregenerationswales.crm11.dynamics.com/main.aspx?appid=c54b1b5e-0057-e811-a8b6-00224801a6b7&amp;pagetype=entityrecord&amp;etn=email&amp;id=85d6e6b4-1112-ec11-b6e6-00224842251d">https://futuregenerationswales.crm11.dynamics.com/main.aspx?appid=c54b1b5e-0057-e811-a8b6-00224801a6b7&amp;pagetype=entityrecord&amp;etn=email&amp;id=85d6e6b4-1112-ec11-b6e6-00224842251d</a>
Cardiff Council	South East Wales	New training facility for construction	Priority areas		An exciting new facility, offering essential training and on-site construction experience to job seekers and construction diploma students across South East Wales, has opened in Cardiff.	<a href="https://www.linkedin.com/posts/cardiff-county-council_an-exciting-new-facility-offering-essential-activity-6834430569716310016-vP9I">https://www.linkedin.com/posts/cardiff-county-council_an-exciting-new-facility-offering-essential-activity-6834430569716310016-vP9I</a>
Cyngor Sir Ynys Môn	North Wales	Awel y Mor proposed offshore wind farm virtual exhibition and consultation.	Priority areas			<a href="https://exhibition.awelymor.cy/mru/">https://exhibition.awelymor.cy/mru/</a>

Cyngor Sir Ynys Môn	North Wales	Care inspectors' 'assurance check' highlights positives during pandemic	Other (listed in anything extra)		<p>A recent Assurance Check held by Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) found that the County Council had continued to deliver its statutory duties during extremely challenging circumstances. Positives highlighted included</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- promoting the safety and well-being of vulnerable people on Anglesey has been the key priority for the local authority during the past year</li> <li>- continued contact with people throughout the pandemic – with their views are sought and captured and where needed developing new ways of contacting people and maintaining communication through IT. This will continue even as more opportunities for face-to-face working returns</li> <li>- an 'all hands on deck' approach during the pandemic saw officers from across directorates helping to meet challenges as they arose</li> <li>- good partnerships with independent care and support providers remaining</li> <li>positive examples of joint working between social services and housing services to delivering projects to support people to reconnect and remain within their communities</li> <li>- practitioners and managers reporting how well supported they are by leaders and the senior management team</li> <li>- a growing expertise in adults services in the area of mental capacity and liberty protection safeguards</li> <li>- children benefitting directly from increased knowledge, skills and confidence gained from relevant training provided to</li> </ul>	<a href="https://www.anglesey.gov.uk/en/newsroom/news/care-inspectors-assurance-check-highlights-positives-during-pandemic">https://www.anglesey.gov.uk/en/newsroom/news/care-inspectors-assurance-check-highlights-positives-during-pandemic</a>
Cyngor Sir Ynys Môn	North Wales	Anglesey Council commits to resettle refugees from Afghanistan	Well-being Goals		<p>As part of the council's commitment to the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy, one family from Afghanistan will be provided a home and essential support on Anglesey.</p>	<a href="https://www.anglesey.gov.uk/en/newsroom/news/anglesey-council-commits-to-resettle-refugees-from-afghanistan">https://www.anglesey.gov.uk/en/newsroom/news/anglesey-council-commits-to-resettle-refugees-from-afghanistan</a>
Cyngor Gwynedd Council	North Wales	Gold Standard for Gwynedd Council as it supports health and wellbeing of staff			<p>Gwynedd Council has retained its gold standard in the National Health Quality Framework - the national guide as set out by the Welsh Government to promote and improve health and well-being in the workplace.</p> <p>The framework recognises good practice with regard to the health and wellbeing of staff and targets issues around preventable disorders, to ensure that staff are in the best place to continue to deliver key services to the people of the county.</p> <p>Gwynedd Council was awarded the Gold Standard for the first time back in 2011 and the organisation has held the standard consistently since then.</p>	<a href="https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/en/Council/News/Press-releases/Awst-2021/Gold-Standard-for-Gwynedd-Council-as-it-supports-health-and-wellbeing-of-staff.aspx">https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/en/Council/News/Press-releases/Awst-2021/Gold-Standard-for-Gwynedd-Council-as-it-supports-health-and-wellbeing-of-staff.aspx</a>

Cyngor Gwynedd Council	North Wales	Gwynedd Council helps with the resettlement of Afghan refugees	Well-being Goals		<p>In response to the current catastrophic situation in Afghanistan, Gwynedd Council has been working hard behind the scenes to provide a home for individuals fleeing the country.</p> <p>With two people already housed in the county, the Council is also committed to housing more individuals in the coming weeks</p>	<a href="https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/en/Council/News/Press-releases/Awst-2021/Gwynedd-Council-helps-with-the-resettlement-of-Afghan-refugees.aspx">https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/en/Council/News/Press-releases/Awst-2021/Gwynedd-Council-helps-with-the-resettlement-of-Afghan-refugees.aspx</a>
Cyngor Gwynedd Council	North Wales	Gwynedd Council to buy first electric recycling truck to join county's fleet	Good practice		<p>An electric powered truck is set to become a permanent member of Gwynedd Council's recycling fleet after Welsh Government grant funding was secured.</p> <p>As the authority bids to reduce its carbon footprint, it was confirmed that the cash will allow the authority to purchase an electric vehicle to join its waste disposal service.</p> <p>Promised to be quieter than traditional refuse lorries, the trucks are also capable of travelling up to about 80 miles between charges.</p>	<a href="https://www.dailypost.co.uk/news/north-wales-news/gwynedd-council-buy-first-electric-21580286">https://www.dailypost.co.uk/news/north-wales-news/gwynedd-council-buy-first-electric-21580286</a>
Bridgend County Borough Council	South East Wales	Local schools lead the way with new classroom technology	Priority areas		<p>Pencoed Primary has become the third school in South Wales to receive Reference School status from the online technology company, Google.</p> <p>The accolade, which is awarded to individual schools and colleges as well as specific regions, recognises the outstanding use of technology within the classroom to drive forward and deliver positive learning outcomes.</p>	<a href="https://futuregenerationswales.crm11.dynamics.com/main.aspx?appid=c54b1b5e-0057-e811-a8b6-00224801a6b7&amp;pagetype=entityrecord&amp;etn=email&amp;id=c8c48fc9-a017-ec11-b6e6-002248412e44">https://futuregenerationswales.crm11.dynamics.com/main.aspx?appid=c54b1b5e-0057-e811-a8b6-00224801a6b7&amp;pagetype=entityrecord&amp;etn=email&amp;id=c8c48fc9-a017-ec11-b6e6-002248412e44</a>
Bridgend County Borough Council	South East Wales	Council developing new plan for how it will work in future	Good practice		<p>Following an ongoing review, the council is developing a new blended model of working which will see staff dividing their time between both home and office.</p> <p>"In addition to potential financial savings and reductions in traffic, pollution and sickness absence levels, the benefits of adopting a new model include improved retention and recruitment within key service areas, greater alignment with the council's ongoing digitalisation strategy, and improved well-being among staff.</p>	<a href="https://futuregenerationswales.crm11.dynamics.com/main.aspx?appid=c54b1b5e-0057-e811-a8b6-00224801a6b7&amp;pagetype=entityrecord&amp;etn=email&amp;id=c8c48fc9-a017-ec11-b6e6-002248412e44">https://futuregenerationswales.crm11.dynamics.com/main.aspx?appid=c54b1b5e-0057-e811-a8b6-00224801a6b7&amp;pagetype=entityrecord&amp;etn=email&amp;id=c8c48fc9-a017-ec11-b6e6-002248412e44</a>
Cardiff Council	South East Wales	Edible playgrounds for Cardiff schools	Good practice		<p>Ten primary schools in the Welsh capital, Cardiff, are being given 'Edible Playgrounds' through a partnership that could help the city achieve UNICEF child-friendly status.</p>	<a href="https://www.childinthecity.org/2021/09/16/child-friendly-cities-edible-playgrounds-for-cardiff-schools/">https://www.childinthecity.org/2021/09/16/child-friendly-cities-edible-playgrounds-for-cardiff-schools/</a>

Bridgend County Borough Council	South East Wales	Green infrastructure project awarded £580,000 funding	Priority areas		A number of nature reserves, parks and outdoors spaces in Bridgend County Borough are set to benefit following a £580,000 Welsh Government grant approval. Part of the Cwm Taf Nature Network Project, the scheme aims to form a collaboration of organisations in the region to manage the green infrastructure for the benefit of people, businesses and communities.	<a href="https://futuregenerationswales.crm11.dynamics.com/main.aspx?appid=c54b1b5e-0057-e811-a8b6-00224801a6b7&amp;pagetype=entityrecord&amp;etn=email&amp;id=5dec38d4-851c-ec11-b6e7-002248435b9c">https://futuregenerationswales.crm11.dynamics.com/main.aspx?appid=c54b1b5e-0057-e811-a8b6-00224801a6b7&amp;pagetype=entityrecord&amp;etn=email&amp;id=5dec38d4-851c-ec11-b6e7-002248435b9c</a>
Bridgend County Borough Council	South East Wales	Sign up for 'feel good' sessions	Well-being Goals		'Feel Good for Life' sessions will begin at Ogmere Vale Life Centre on 4 October to support people experiencing dementia, loneliness and depression.	<a href="https://futuregenerationswales.crm11.dynamics.com/main.aspx?appid=c54b1b5e-0057-e811-a8b6-00224801a6b7&amp;pagetype=entityrecord&amp;etn=email&amp;id=5dec38d4-851c-ec11-b6e7-002248435b9c">https://futuregenerationswales.crm11.dynamics.com/main.aspx?appid=c54b1b5e-0057-e811-a8b6-00224801a6b7&amp;pagetype=entityrecord&amp;etn=email&amp;id=5dec38d4-851c-ec11-b6e7-002248435b9c</a>
Bridgend County Borough Council	South East Wales	Pioneering demonstration project in Cornelly to help create low carbon communities	Priority areas		Bridgend County Borough Council is developing an innovative demonstration project focused on the creation of low carbon communities and local energy markets. The Low Carbon Communities Initiative aims to see how locally generated renewable electricity produced as a result of solar power can potentially be shared with other homes nearby. The local authority is working closely alongside a number of energy companies on the scheme - Challoch Energy, Nuvision Energy (Wales) Ltd and Passiv UK.	<a href="https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/residents/housing/low-carbon-communities/">https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/residents/housing/low-carbon-communities/</a>
Bridgend County Borough Council	South East Wales	Have your say on the council's spending priorities	5 ways of working		Residents in Bridgend county borough are being asked to help shape the local authority's spending priorities over the coming year. Today (Monday, September 20), sees the launch of Bridgend County Borough Council's annual budget consultation. This year the budget consultation involves consideration of a longer-term vision for the county borough, covering areas such as investment in schools, roads, regeneration projects, energy schemes and sea defences; council tax levels; fees and charges for car parking and sports pavilions as well as the development of online services.	<a href="https://futuregenerationswales.crm11.dynamics.com/main.aspx?appid=c54b1b5e-0057-e811-a8b6-00224801a6b7&amp;pagetype=entityrecord&amp;etn=email&amp;id=ff7e2859-871c-ec11-b6e7-002248435b9c">https://futuregenerationswales.crm11.dynamics.com/main.aspx?appid=c54b1b5e-0057-e811-a8b6-00224801a6b7&amp;pagetype=entityrecord&amp;etn=email&amp;id=ff7e2859-871c-ec11-b6e7-002248435b9c</a>

Bridgend County Borough Council	South East Wales	Valley brownfield site transformed into haven for wildlife	Good practice		Bridgend County Borough Council has supported Ogmores Community Council in transforming the site of a disused coal washery in the Ogmores Valley into a haven for nature and wildlife. Several grants were successfully applied for by the community council and the local authority's Rural Development Team, Reach, to develop the Ogmores Washeries site into an area that would benefit the local community.	<a href="https://futuregenerationswales.crm11.dynamics.com/main.aspx?appid=c54b1b5e-0057-e811-a8b6-00224801a6b7&amp;pagetype=entityrecord&amp;etn=email&amp;id=6e70eeeb-881c-ec11-b6e7-002248435b9c">https://futuregenerationswales.crm11.dynamics.com/main.aspx?appid=c54b1b5e-0057-e811-a8b6-00224801a6b7&amp;pagetype=entityrecord&amp;etn=email&amp;id=6e70eeeb-881c-ec11-b6e7-002248435b9c</a>
Cyngor Sir Ynys Môn	North Wales	Countryside walks help improve mental health	Well-being Goals	mental health. Nature. Active. A healthier Wales.	The Council's Countryside and Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Team and Social Services are working closely with Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board to use walks as a form of natural therapy. Clients can be referred by their own local GP or through Anglesey's Community Mental Health Team. A referral is needed before an individual can join the walks. Walking groups provide people with various opportunities to experience the outdoors, and the feeling of well-being it can provide. The walks also contribute to related goals of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 – and help build towards a healthier Wales, mental well-being.	<a href="https://www.anglesey.gov.uk/en/newsroom/news/countryside-walks-help-improve-mental-health">https://www.anglesey.gov.uk/en/newsroom/news/countryside-walks-help-improve-mental-health</a>
Cyngor Sir Ynys Môn	North Wales	Clean electricity pledge a boost for new energy projects		decarbonisation. Energy	Isle of Anglesey County Council has welcomed the UK Government's pledge to power homes and businesses with affordable, clean and secure electricity by 2035. "If these plans are to come to fruition, new nuclear projects must play a significant role in delivering them. This is good news for the Wylfa site on Ynys Môn, which is, as we know, the best development site in the UK. The Island has shown support for a new development on the Wylfa site for many years; and we are committed to playing our part in delivering clean and secure energy production."	<a href="https://www.anglesey.gov.uk/en/newsroom/news/clean-electricity-pledge-a-boost-for-new-energy-projects">https://www.anglesey.gov.uk/en/newsroom/news/clean-electricity-pledge-a-boost-for-new-energy-projects</a>
Cyngor Sir Ynys Môn	North Wales	Pioneering Market Hall project wins another award		Community. Heritage.	Anglesey Council's pioneering project to rejuvenate the iconic Market Hall in Holyhead has won the 2021 AJ100 Community Impact Award. The Architects' Journal judges described the Holyhead Market Hall as a 'stand-out winner' and praised it for being a 'building that matters' and 'feels embedded in the community'. It's great to see that it is now contributing to community life in the area once again. Further community based events and activities at the building are being planned for the next 12 months." These benefits were made possible through the invaluable funding support of the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Welsh Government and European Regional Development Fund."	<a href="https://www.anglesey.gov.uk/en/newsroom/news/pioneering-market-hall-project-wins-another-award">https://www.anglesey.gov.uk/en/newsroom/news/pioneering-market-hall-project-wins-another-award</a>

Cyngor Sir Ynys Môn	North Wales	Front door appears on Anglesey beach to encourage people across Wales to open their homes to foster children			The unveiling of life-sized front doors across Wales represents the combined national goal of working together to help build better futures for children in Wales. This week's event follows the recent launch of a wider Foster Wales campaign which aims to make a substantial national impact on the futures of young people in Wales.	<a href="https://www.anglesey.gov.uk/en/newsroom/news/front-door-on-anglesey-beach-to-encourage-people-to-foster-children">https://www.anglesey.gov.uk/en/newsroom/news/front-door-on-anglesey-beach-to-encourage-people-to-foster-children</a>
Cyngor Sir Ynys Môn	North Wales	Final stage of Anglesey's Active Travel Network Map consultation now open		Active travel Community	Anglesey's Head of Service Highways, Waste and Property, Huw Percy, said, "During 2021, we have sought your views on how cycling and walking provision on the Island could be improved. We have carefully considered all the comments in combination with other relevant information to produce a revised draft of the Active Travel Network Map (ATNM). "It is important that we understand what matters to local residents when it comes to walking and cycling routes and we'd therefore encourage you to share your thoughts on the routes that we have proposed to cater for everyone in the community." the County Council asked the public what prevented them from walking and cycling on day-to-day journeys and what improvements could be made to local routes.	<a href="https://www.anglesey.gov.uk/en/newsroom/news/final-stage-of-angleseys-active-travel-network-map-consultation-now-open">https://www.anglesey.gov.uk/en/newsroom/news/final-stage-of-angleseys-active-travel-network-map-consultation-now-open</a>
Monmouthshire CBC	Gwent	Nature-friendly play park	Good practice	Resilient Wales Nature Play Children Procurement	Councillor Jane Pratt said: "This new playground follows years of extensive work by Monmouthshire County Council and partners and is a testament to our commitment to providing inclusive spaces that everyone can enjoy. It's been wonderful seeing families and children enjoy the new equipment today. It's an area that not only provides a fun place to visit but the wooden play equipment fits perfectly with the environment while encouraging play through the exploration of nature."  Sustainable materials used	<a href="https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/2021/10/highly-anticipated-new-inclusive-play-park-in-monmouth-officially-opens-to-families/">https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/2021/10/highly-anticipated-new-inclusive-play-park-in-monmouth-officially-opens-to-families/</a>

Arts Council of Wales	North Wales	The Welsh Government and the Arts Council of Wales are delighted to announce that applications are now open for Go and See and Go Creative funds, as part of the Creative learning through the arts programme.		Arts Culture	Go and See offers funding for visits to high-quality arts and cultural experiences. Schools can apply for small, grants of up to £1,000 to fund single visits to arts and cultural events in venues across Wales. Go and See experiences could include visits to performances and exhibitions, or visits to experience arts professionals developing and creating their work. The Go Creative fund is designed to offer teachers with the opportunity to work with a Creative Practitioner to experiment with creative pedagogy and to explore new and fresh approaches to learning. Schools can apply for a grant of £1,000 to work with a creative practitioner for four days to support them in providing creative approaches to learner engagement.	<a href="https://arts.wales/news-jobs-opportunities/new-funding-opportunities-open-part-creative-learning-through-arts">https://arts.wales/news-jobs-opportunities/new-funding-opportunities-open-part-creative-learning-through-arts</a>
Merthyr Tydfil Council	South East Wales	School Council pupils question Councillors on local environmental issues		Children Involvement	Councillors recently held a virtual meeting session with school council pupils from Bedlinog Community Primary School and Trelewis Primary School. Jacob, Rhys, Charlie, and Lacey questioned Cabinet members on environmental issues in their school area and pressed for answers on what could be done. The meeting also involved a question-and-answer session asking the Councillors about their roles and what it entails.	<a href="https://www.merthyr.gov.uk/news-and-events/latest-news/school-council-pupils-question-councillors-on-local-environmental-issues/">https://www.merthyr.gov.uk/news-and-events/latest-news/school-council-pupils-question-councillors-on-local-environmental-issues/</a>
Cardiff Council	South East Wales	WOW! Cardiff's walk to school programme rolled out to record numbers with support from Wales' Future Generations Commissioner		Children Active travel	A record number of Cardiff school children are travelling to school in healthier and cleaner ways as part of a UK-wide walk to school programme.	<a href="https://www.cardiffnewsroom.co.uk/releases/c25/27571.html?">https://www.cardiffnewsroom.co.uk/releases/c25/27571.html?</a>
Cardiff Council	South East Wales	Race Equality Taskforce reveals latest action plan for Cardiff		Inequality Race	The Race Equality Taskforce has revealed major new plans in their latest report to help address racial inequality in the city.	<a href="https://cardiffnewsroom.co.uk/releases/c25/27803.html">https://cardiffnewsroom.co.uk/releases/c25/27803.html</a>
Cardiff Council	South East Wales	Coed Caerdydd		Tree planting Biodiversity	The Council's One Planet Strategy includes an aim to increase tree canopy from 18.9% to 25% by 2030. In order to do this, we have established a long term tree planting programme for the city called Coed Caerdydd.	<a href="https://www.outdoorcardiff.com/biodiversity/coed-caerdydd/">https://www.outdoorcardiff.com/biodiversity/coed-caerdydd/</a>
Carmarthenshire Council	West and Central Wales	Partnership Working (both with other public bodies, and through the Public Service Board)			They have employed a dedicated Officer for the Public Service Board, paid for between the three Councils (Pembrokeshire and Ceredigion). They have since seen a huge amount of progress made since this Officer (Carys) started in August.	
HEFCW	West and Central Wales	Health + Partnership working (Involvement)	5 ways of working		Project with Cardiff University around building relationships with Health Boards, improving pathways between Health Boards and the University.	

Hywel Dda UHB	West and Central Wales	Social Value Task Force	Priority areas	Social Value	They commissioned Social Value Portal to complete an assessment of work across Hywel Dda's geographic area, and is now doing a cluster level assessment. They want to work with the Public Services Board on this area. The Task Force will be meeting in the autumn for the first time, and is envisioned to be an ongoing piece of work.	
Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority	West and Central Wales	Conservation + biodiversity	5 ways of working		As a result of more funding from Welsh Government, they bought more land, more allotments. Through this they are working on various projects with: the community; dairy farmers; roots to recovery; conserving the parks.	
Pembrokeshire Council	West and Central Wales	Green energy, decarbonisation	Good practice		Good progress highlighted: solar energy; electric charging points; their energy provider is very committed to green energy; recognition of importance of green energy at a corporate level. They are hosting a green zone for COP26. They have a bill in the offing – an experimental nuclear reactor design project, its on the UK long list.	
Bridgend County Borough Council	South East Wales	Local schools kitted out with energy-saving technology		Education Decarbonisation	A number of schools in Bridgend County Borough have been kitted out with a range of energy conservation measures to help improve their energy performance, reduce energy bills and carbon emissions. The council's Refit programme, which has been run in partnership with energy experts Ameresco, has seen schools and public buildings fitted with a range of measures including LED lighting, lighting controls, Building Management Systems and solar PV systems.	<a href="https://futuregenerationswales.crm11.dynamics.com/main.aspx?appid=c54b1b5e-0057-e811-a8b6-00224801a6b7&amp;pagetype=entityrecord&amp;etn=email&amp;id=b672a53f-3137-ec11-8c64-000d3a0af482">https://futuregenerationswales.crm11.dynamics.com/main.aspx?appid=c54b1b5e-0057-e811-a8b6-00224801a6b7&amp;pagetype=entityrecord&amp;etn=email&amp;id=b672a53f-3137-ec11-8c64-000d3a0af482</a>
Cardiff and Vale UHB	South East Wales	Waste streaming in		Waste reduction	An area requiring improvement in Cardiff University University	<a href="https://www.greenhealthwales.co.uk/post/recycling-in-the-anaesthetic-room">https://www.greenhealthwales.co.uk/post/recycling-in-the-anaesthetic-room</a>
Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB	South East Wales	Recycling in the Anaesthetic Room		Waste reduction Health board	Recycling bins and poster campaign to raise awareness and prevalence of recycling in Anaesthetists Rooms	<a href="https://www.greenhealthwales.co.uk/post/recycling-in-the-anaesthetic-room">https://www.greenhealthwales.co.uk/post/recycling-in-the-anaesthetic-room</a>

Hywel Dda UHB	West and Central Wales	Decarbonisation activities		Decarbonisation, water management, renewables	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Formed a Decarbonisation Task Force to lead their work to address the climate emergency, improve the natural environment, and support well-being of staff and the public. A decarbonisation strategy is being developed, and strategic partnerships are being explored to deliver improvements within communities.</li> <li>-They have been identifying financial and carbon savings through water management. Between 1st April 2020 and 28th February 2021, made savings of 7.9 tonnes per carbon dioxide equivalent (TCO2e), and £47,600 of savings.</li> <li>-‘Decarbonisation’ and ‘Sustainable Use of Resources’ has been adopted as a Strategic Planning Objective.</li> <li>-Solar Photo Voltaic Panels are being installed at multiple acute and community sites.</li> <li>-They plan to install electrical vehicle charging points at acute and community sites</li> </ul>	WBFG Annual Report 2020-21
Ceredigion Council	West and Central Wales	Carbon Management Plan	Good practice	Decarbonisation	<p>Appendix 1 outlines projects designed to help reduce carbon emissions. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Converting every streetlight to LED where possible</li> <li>-Conversion of school heating systems from electric to wet (fired by natural gas or LPG)</li> <li>-Fleet renewal, replacing 16 of the most inefficient vehicles with EURO 6 rated vehicles</li> <li>-Building rationalisation</li> <li>-Installing solar PV across several sites</li> <li>-Penrhos Wind Turbine installation</li> <li>-21st Century School capital investment programme across three sites</li> </ul>	<a href="https://data.climateemergency.uk/media/data/plans/ceredigion-county-council-b094a50.pdf">https://data.climateemergency.uk/media/data/plans/ceredigion-county-council-b094a50.pdf</a>
Carmarthenshire Council	West and Central Wales	Carmarthenshire Nature Partnership	5 ways of working	Biodiversity, conservation, land management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Brings together the Council, Welsh Government, wildlife bodies, wildlife charities, and voluntary groups. Meets three times a year, facilitated by the Council’s Biodiversity Officer.</li> <li>-Focuses on action that maintains and enhances biodiversity in the area either through land management, or action to help specific species. Produces an annual report to highlight the work of the partners.</li> <li>-A Local Nature Recovery Plan will be developed, which will include: embedding biodiversity throughout decision-making at all levels; increasing environmental resilience by restoring habitats; safeguarding species.</li> </ul>	<a href="https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/planning/biodiversity/carmarthenshire-nature-partnership/#.YXmR2J7MLD4">https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/planning/biodiversity/carmarthenshire-nature-partnership/#.YXmR2J7MLD4</a>

Pembrokeshire Coast NPA	West and Central Wales	Sustainable Development Fund project - Marine Wildlife Awareness Schools Roadshow	Well-being Goals	Conservation, education	Delivered by 'Silent World to You'. This brought marine life into primary school classrooms (3-7 year olds), with 25 roadshows delivered in total. This raised awareness of local marine wildlife, sustainable use of the marine environment, conservation, and the effects of pollution.	<a href="https://www.pembrokeshirecoast.wales/about-the-national-park-authority/sustainable-development-fund/sdf-case-studies/education-project-examples/">https://www.pembrokeshirecoast.wales/about-the-national-park-authority/sustainable-development-fund/sdf-case-studies/education-project-examples/</a>
Pembrokeshire Coast NPA	West and Central Wales	Sustainable Development Fund project - Wise Up On Waste	Well-being Goals	Recycling, waste, education	Delivered by the Darwin Centre in partnership with Withy hedge Landfill Site and Recycling facility. Over two years, the programme was delivered to 16 primary schools and six community groups. It focused on tackling the issues of waste, with issues including landfill pressures, problems with plastic in the environment, and methane removal. In the follow-up workshop, pupil learned how to make plastics biodegradable by making plastic themselves using milk and vinegar.	<a href="https://www.pembrokeshirecoast.wales/about-the-national-park-authority/sustainable-development-fund/sdf-case-studies/education-project-examples/">https://www.pembrokeshirecoast.wales/about-the-national-park-authority/sustainable-development-fund/sdf-case-studies/education-project-examples/</a>
Pembrokeshire Coast NPA	West and Central Wales	Sustainable Development Fund project - Affordable Solar Homes	Priority areas	Housing, renewable energy	Delivered by Western Solar Ltd. This supported the design and construction of a working prototype of an affordable eco-home, generating enough solar electricity to meet all of its own energy requirements. The next phase of the wider project vision is to commercialise the prototype for sale as a prefabricated house, planned to create jobs and apprenticeships. A factory site has been established, and the company has found suitable land where it plans to build 6 homes based on the prototype.	<a href="https://www.pembrokeshirecoast.wales/about-the-national-park-authority/sustainable-development-fund/sdf-case-studies/affordable-solar-homes/">https://www.pembrokeshirecoast.wales/about-the-national-park-authority/sustainable-development-fund/sdf-case-studies/affordable-solar-homes/</a>
Carmarthenshire Council	West and Central Wales	Walk the Global Walk project	Well-being Goals	Young people, climate change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Three-year international project focusing on mobilising young people in support of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.</li> <li>-Supports 15 schools, with a focus on climate action. Pupil ambassadors raise awareness of climate change, lead actions in their communities, and share learning with decision makers in the annual Global Walk.</li> <li>-This work led to the creation of the Carmarthenshire Climate Action Manifesto.</li> </ul>	<a href="https://www.local.gov.uk/case-studies/carmarthenshire-county-council-walk-global-walk-project">https://www.local.gov.uk/case-studies/carmarthenshire-county-council-walk-global-walk-project</a>
Ceredigion Council	West and Central Wales	Egni Sir Gâr Cyfyngedig	Well-being Goals	Renewable energy, solar panels, decarbonisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Egni Sir Gâr Cyfyngedig is an energy community benefit society established by the Council in 2015. It installs rooftop solar on council owned buildings.</li> <li>-Its aim is to tackle climate change by reducing energy costs, generate clean renewable energy, lower carbon emissions and keep the profits within the local area.</li> <li>-In 2020, it dedicated £42,300 of interest payments to local food banks via vouchers which can be exchanged for food products from designated suppliers. As a result of this, it won a community award in the British Renewable Energy Awards 2020.</li> </ul>	

Pembrokeshire Coast NPA	West and Central Wales	Tirweddau Cymru Landscape Wales	Well-being Goals	Partnership working, decarbonisation, green recovery, tourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-A new Partnership (October 2021) working together to address shared challenges, including climate change and nature emergencies.</li> <li>-Membership includes the three Welsh National Park Authorities, and the five Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty in Wales.</li> <li>-Aims to enable a more structured way of working across Wales, and it coordinates delivery of the Welsh Government capital fund 'Sustainable Landscapes, Sustainable Places'. This fund supports projects working on decarbonisation, nature recovery, sustainable tourism, and green Covid recovery.</li> </ul>	<a href="https://www.pembrokeshirecoast.wales/news/designated-landscapes-working-together-delivering-for-wales/">https://www.pembrokeshirecoast.wales/news/designated-landscapes-working-together-delivering-for-wales/</a>
Pembrokeshire Coast NPA	West and Central Wales	Pembrokeshire Coastal Bus Services	Well-being Goals	Sustainable transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-This project was established through the Pembrokeshire Greenways Project, which seeks to encourage sustainable modes of transport (cycling, walking, bus and train travel).</li> <li>-Pembrokeshire Coastal Bus Services are local bus services that travel along the coast to access walks, beaches, boat trips, local villages and attractions. Enables better access to the Coastal Path.</li> <li>-They operate on a 'Hail and Ride' basis in rural areas, so all you have to do is signal to the driver to stop. Passengers can be picked up or set down at any point along the bus route – providing it is safe to do so.</li> </ul>	<a href="https://www.pembrokeshirecoast.wales/plan-your-visit/travel-and-parking/coastal-buses/">https://www.pembrokeshirecoast.wales/plan-your-visit/travel-and-parking/coastal-buses/</a>
Bridgend County Borough Council	South East Wales	Caerau Heat Scheme	Priority areas	Low-carbon heat demonstrator	Changes have been agreed to ongoing efforts to develop small-scale, low-carbon heat demonstrator projects in Caerau. With funding agreements requiring a pilot scheme to be in place by June 2023, the council has agreed to focus on setting up a joint mine water heating system and wind farm connection for Caerau Primary school. As a longer-term goal, work will also continue on setting up a fully funded scheme for testing whether local homes and buildings can be heated via low-cost energy using water from flooded former mine workings.	

Amgueddfa Cymru		Carbon Literacy Training	Good practice	Carbon Literacy Training	<p>As you know, we've developed a training course on carbon literacy, accredited by the Carbon Literacy Project. Over 100 of you are now certified carbon literate, and we're looking forward to rolling out the training to everyone over the next year.</p> <p>We've also received Bronze Level Carbon Literate Organisation status for our training and today we're taking part in the first Carbon Literacy Action Day. As part of the training, you've made pledges to reduce your carbon footprint. We've recorded a short video of your pledges and you can find out more here. Thank you to everyone who's taken part.</p>	<a href="https://futuregenerationswales.sharepoint.com/sites/PerformanceTeam/Shared%20Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx?RootFolder=%2Fsites%2FPerformanceTeam%2FShared%20Documents%2FGeneral%2FPublic%20Bodies%2F2%20Working%20with%20Public%20Bodies%202020%2D25%2FSouth%20East%20Wales%20meeting%20notes%20etc%2FAmgueddfa%20Cymru&amp;FolderCTID=0x0120003265F2B6D1087949B37E94CB4943542A">https://futuregenerationswales.sharepoint.com/sites/PerformanceTeam/Shared%20Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx?RootFolder=%2Fsites%2FPerformanceTeam%2FShared%20Documents%2FGeneral%2FPublic%20Bodies%2F2%20Working%20with%20Public%20Bodies%202020%2D25%2FSouth%20East%20Wales%20meeting%20notes%20etc%2FAmgueddfa%20Cymru&amp;FolderCTID=0x0120003265F2B6D1087949B37E94CB4943542A</a>
Amgueddfa Cymru		Sustainable Development Co-ordinator	Good practice	Sustainable Development Co-ordinator Carbon management action plan Human resources	<p>To help us become carbon neutral, we're in the process of recruiting a Sustainable Development Co-ordinator. They will shape our response to the climate crisis by developing our carbon management action plan, as well as our carbon reduction and green land management projects. We're looking forward to sharing more with you soon!</p>	<a href="https://futuregenerationswales.sharepoint.com/sites/PerformanceTeam/Shared%20Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx?RootFolder=%2Fsites%2FPerformanceTeam%2FShared%20Documents%2FGeneral%2FPublic%20Bodies%2F2%20Working%20with%20Public%20Bodies%202020%2D25%2FSouth%20East%20Wales%20meeting%20notes%20etc%2FAmgueddfa%20Cymru&amp;FolderCTID=0x0120003265F2B6D1087949B37E94CB4943542A">https://futuregenerationswales.sharepoint.com/sites/PerformanceTeam/Shared%20Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx?RootFolder=%2Fsites%2FPerformanceTeam%2FShared%20Documents%2FGeneral%2FPublic%20Bodies%2F2%20Working%20with%20Public%20Bodies%202020%2D25%2FSouth%20East%20Wales%20meeting%20notes%20etc%2FAmgueddfa%20Cymru&amp;FolderCTID=0x0120003265F2B6D1087949B37E94CB4943542A</a>

Amgueddfa Cymru		Carbon audit	Good practice	Carbon audit Carbon footprint Carbon neutral	All our museums are currently undergoing a Carbon Audit, carried out by an Environmental Consultancy, GEP Environmental. The audit will tell us what our current carbon footprint is and identify new opportunities to reduce our carbon across our work. It will also help support the delivery of the Welsh Government's ambition of achieving a carbon neutral public sector by 2030.	<a href="https://futuregenerationswales.sharepoint.com/sites/PerformanceTeam/Shared%20Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx?RootFolder=%2Fsites%2FPerformanceTeam%2FShared%20Documents%2FGeneral%2FPublic%20Bodies%2F2%20Working%20with%20Public%20Bodies%202020%2D25%2FSouth%20East%20Wales%20meeting%20notes%20etc%2FAmgueddfa%20Cymru&amp;FolderCTID=0x0120003265F2B6D1087949B37E94CB4943542A">https://futuregenerationswales.sharepoint.com/sites/PerformanceTeam/Shared%20Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx?RootFolder=%2Fsites%2FPerformanceTeam%2FShared%20Documents%2FGeneral%2FPublic%20Bodies%2F2%20Working%20with%20Public%20Bodies%202020%2D25%2FSouth%20East%20Wales%20meeting%20notes%20etc%2FAmgueddfa%20Cymru&amp;FolderCTID=0x0120003265F2B6D1087949B37E94CB4943542A</a>
Amgueddfa Cymru		Exhibitions and outreach	Good practice	Climate change Sustainability Exhibitions Awareness	Climate change and sustainability will be incorporated into our public programming for exhibitions and learning. The upcoming Minerals exhibition will look at the environmental impact of everyday objects such as mobile phones.	<a href="https://futuregenerationswales.sharepoint.com/sites/PerformanceTeam/Shared%20Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx?RootFolder=%2Fsites%2FPerformanceTeam%2FShared%20Documents%2FGeneral%2FPublic%20Bodies%2F2%20Working%20with%20Public%20Bodies%202020%2D25%2FSouth%20East%20Wales%20meeting%20notes%20etc%2FAmgueddfa%20Cymru&amp;FolderCTID=0x0120003265F2B6D1087949B37E94CB4943542A">https://futuregenerationswales.sharepoint.com/sites/PerformanceTeam/Shared%20Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx?RootFolder=%2Fsites%2FPerformanceTeam%2FShared%20Documents%2FGeneral%2FPublic%20Bodies%2F2%20Working%20with%20Public%20Bodies%202020%2D25%2FSouth%20East%20Wales%20meeting%20notes%20etc%2FAmgueddfa%20Cymru&amp;FolderCTID=0x0120003265F2B6D1087949B37E94CB4943542A</a>

Amgueddfa Cymru		Events	Good practice	Sustainability Olion Event	We're always looking at ways that we can make our activities more sustainable. We'll be again hosting our sustainability event Olion to empower others to take action.	<a href="https://futuregenerationswales.sharepoint.com/sites/PerformanceTeam/Shared%20Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx?RootFolder=%2Fsites%2FPerformanceTeam%2FShared%20Documents%2FGeneral%2FPublic%20Bodies%2F2%20Working%20with%20Public%20Bodies%202020%2D25%2FSouth%20East%20Wales%20meeting%20notes%20etc%2FAmgueddfa%20Cymru&amp;FolderCTID=0x0120003265F2B6D1087949B37E94CB4943542A">https://futuregenerationswales.sharepoint.com/sites/PerformanceTeam/Shared%20Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx?RootFolder=%2Fsites%2FPerformanceTeam%2FShared%20Documents%2FGeneral%2FPublic%20Bodies%2F2%20Working%20with%20Public%20Bodies%202020%2D25%2FSouth%20East%20Wales%20meeting%20notes%20etc%2FAmgueddfa%20Cymru&amp;FolderCTID=0x0120003265F2B6D1087949B37E94CB4943542A</a>
Amgueddfa Cymru		Engagement	Good practice	Carbon literacy Young people	Through our 700 volunteers and 100 Amgueddfa Cymru Producers we're promoting carbon literacy through partnership working with young people. By working with communities we hope to create a greener Wales and make sure that everything we do is better for the environment.	<a href="https://futuregenerationswales.sharepoint.com/sites/PerformanceTeam/Shared%20Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx?RootFolder=%2Fsites%2FPerformanceTeam%2FShared%20Documents%2FGeneral%2FPublic%20Bodies%2F2%20Working%20with%20Public%20Bodies%202020%2D25%2FSouth%20East%20Wales%20meeting%20notes%20etc%2FAmgueddfa%20Cymru&amp;FolderCTID=0x0120003265F2B6D1087949B37E94CB4943542A">https://futuregenerationswales.sharepoint.com/sites/PerformanceTeam/Shared%20Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx?RootFolder=%2Fsites%2FPerformanceTeam%2FShared%20Documents%2FGeneral%2FPublic%20Bodies%2F2%20Working%20with%20Public%20Bodies%202020%2D25%2FSouth%20East%20Wales%20meeting%20notes%20etc%2FAmgueddfa%20Cymru&amp;FolderCTID=0x0120003265F2B6D1087949B37E94CB4943542A</a>

Bridgend County Borough Council	South East Wales	School's eco work showcased in front of global audience	Well-being Goals	Climate change education COP26	<p>A teacher at Coychurch Primary School has taken part in the Office for Climate Education's first ever "Teachers COP" event, presenting to a global audience on the eco-work of the school. Melanie Treadwell was one of only three UK-based teachers chosen to make a presentation on leading the way in Climate Education at the event, and the only primary school teacher to do so.</p> <p>The event in Glasgow, which preceded the COP26 climate change conference, involved teachers from around the world and provided an opportunity to vote on adopting a statement with concrete propositions to improve climate change education. Built with contributions from teachers from every continent, the statement is being presented to policy makers and education stakeholders at the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26).</p>	<a href="https://futuregenerationswales.crm11.dynamics.com/main.aspx?appid=c54b1b5e-0057-e811-a8b6-00224801a6b7&amp;pagetype=entityrecord&amp;etn=email&amp;id=a6f8a9f2-0542-ec11-8c62-002248437a61">https://futuregenerationswales.crm11.dynamics.com/main.aspx?appid=c54b1b5e-0057-e811-a8b6-00224801a6b7&amp;pagetype=entityrecord&amp;etn=email&amp;id=a6f8a9f2-0542-ec11-8c62-002248437a61</a>
Bridgend County Borough Council	South East Wales	Community Renewal Fund projects are confirmed for Bridgend County Borough	Good practice	skills, life-long learning	<p>UK Government has confirmed which projects have been approved to receive funding from the new Community Renewal Fund in Bridgend County Borough. Bridgend County Borough will receive £785,149. Initiatives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Enterprise Bridgend- aims to support people, especially women by helping them develop skills and confidence for moving into self-employment.</li> <li>-The Life You Want- this project will develop a one-stop online portal for supporting people who want to develop and improve their skills or undertake new training in order to gain new work and improve their lives.</li> <li>-Transforming Young Minds for Tomorrow- encourage more pupils to consider careers in manufacturing and engineering.</li> <li>-Bridgend Elevate and Prosper- business support focussed on pop up initiatives, start-ups and micro-business.</li> <li>-Women's focussed Incubator for Ambitious Entrepreneurs- business incubator programme for female entrepreneurs.</li> <li>-Connecting Teachers with Industry- informs teachers so they can encourage and share details about creative, digital, environment and advanced materials and manufacturing sectors, seeking to enthuse pupils</li> </ul>	<a href="https://futuregenerationswales.crm11.dynamics.com/main.aspx?appid=c54b1b5e-0057-e811-a8b6-00224801a6b7&amp;pagetype=entityrecord&amp;etn=email&amp;id=263c656c9e43-ec11-8c62-002248437075">https://futuregenerationswales.crm11.dynamics.com/main.aspx?appid=c54b1b5e-0057-e811-a8b6-00224801a6b7&amp;pagetype=entityrecord&amp;etn=email&amp;id=263c656c9e43-ec11-8c62-002248437075</a>

Cardiff Council	South East Wales	Percussion and Play - Bute Park to come alive with the sound of music!		Play, nature, user feedback	Bute Park has announced its newest improvement project to enhance the Cardiff city centre park. 'Percussion and Play' has been selected as the next fundraising project after user feedback suggested visitors to the park would like to see enhanced play equipment to complement the existing woodland balance trail, numerous play sculptures and natural play opportunities.	<a href="https://www.cardiffnewsroom.co.uk/releases/c25/27868.html">https://www.cardiffnewsroom.co.uk/releases/c25/27868.html</a>
Cardiff Council	South East Wales	Council will lead the way in drive to deliver a carbon neutral Cardiff by 2030		One planet strategy, decarbonisation,	The One Planet Strategy - which sets out Cardiff Council's plans to deliver a carbon neutral local authority by 2030 - has been published and approved by Cardiff Council's Cabinet.	<a href="https://www.cardiffnewsroom.co.uk/releases/c25/27759.html">https://www.cardiffnewsroom.co.uk/releases/c25/27759.html</a>
Merthyr Tydfil Council	South East Wales	Green light for Active Travel improvements		Active travel, cycling, walking	The Council is about to commence work on a series of walking and cycling improvement projects as part of its Welsh Government-funded Active Travel programme.	<a href="https://www.merthyr.gov.uk/news-and-events/latest-news/green-light-for-active-travel-improvements/">https://www.merthyr.gov.uk/news-and-events/latest-news/green-light-for-active-travel-improvements/</a>
Merthyr Tydfil Council	South East Wales	Bus interchange wins another national construction award		Construction, sustainability	Merthyr Tydfil's new bus interchange has won a second prestigious national construction award within the space of a month. The bus station was announced on Friday as winner of the 'Sustainability' category in the 2021 Constructing Excellence in Wales Awards, which was a pre-recorded ceremony. The Sustainability Award is given for 'high environmental and climate performance in construction to meet present day needs for housing, working environments and infrastructure without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs in times to come'.	<a href="https://www.merthyr.gov.uk/news-and-events/latest-news/bus-interchange-wins-another-national-construction-award/">https://www.merthyr.gov.uk/news-and-events/latest-news/bus-interchange-wins-another-national-construction-award/</a>
Merthyr Tydfil Council	South East Wales	Plastics recycling plant would create more than 100 jobs		Waste, recycling, carbon	Local residents are being consulted on plans to construct a plastic recycling and processing facility that would create more than 100 local jobs. As well as providing around 110-plus direct employment opportunities and 44 indirect supply chain jobs, the plant would reduce the amount of waste being disposed by landfill, reducing the country's carbon footprint. The applicant, UK plastics recycling market-leader Jayplas, is currently running a month-long 'pre-application' consultation exercise seeking residents' comments, before submitting a planning application to the County Borough Council in December	<a href="https://www.merthyr.gov.uk/news-and-events/latest-news/plastics-recycling-plant-would-create-more-than-100-jobs/">https://www.merthyr.gov.uk/news-and-events/latest-news/plastics-recycling-plant-would-create-more-than-100-jobs/</a>
Merthyr Tydfil Council	South East Wales	A New Deputy Youth Mayor Elect for Merthyr Tydfil		Youth, leadership	On Thursday, 21st of October, a new Deputy Youth Mayor Elect for Merthyr Tydfil was selected. Katy Richards, who attends Bishop Hedley High School was selected at the Merthyr Tydfil Borough Wide Youth Forum Youth Cabinet hosted at the Red House and will take on the role of Youth Mayor in 2023.	<a href="https://www.merthyr.gov.uk/news-and-events/latest-news/a-new-deputy-youth-mayor-elect-for-merthyr-tydfil/">https://www.merthyr.gov.uk/news-and-events/latest-news/a-new-deputy-youth-mayor-elect-for-merthyr-tydfil/</a>

Rhondda Cynon Taf Council	South East Wales	Progress made towards the ULEV strategy for the region		Ultra low emissions vehicle strategy	The Council's Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group has received an update on the progress made and actions completed towards the Ultra Low Emissions Vehicles (ULEV) Strategy covering the Cardiff Capital Region. Cenex – an organisation specialising in low emission vehicle research and consultancy – was commissioned to prepare the Strategy.	<a href="https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Newsroom/PressReleases/2021/November/ProgressmadetowardstheULEVstrategyfortheregion.aspx">https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Newsroom/PressReleases/2021/November/ProgressmadetowardstheULEVstrategyfortheregion.aspx</a>
Rhondda Cynon Taf Council	South East Wales	Significant Progress in Biodiversity in RCT		Biodiversity	Biodiversity has become a fundamental part of what we do and plays a key part in helping to reduce our carbon footprint in tackling climate change. The great news is, that significant progress has been made across Rhondda Cynon Taf to encourage, enhance and develop Biodiversity within the County Borough. In a detailed report due to be submitted to RCT Council's Climate Change Steering Group (CCSG), it outlines how the changes have made a difference locally and has even led to the discovery of a previously undiscovered population of water voles.	<a href="https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Newsroom/PressReleases/2021/November/SignificantProgressinBiodiversityinRCT.aspx">https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Newsroom/PressReleases/2021/November/SignificantProgressinBiodiversityinRCT.aspx</a>
Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB	South East Wales	Launching Green CTM		Carbon net zero, embedding principles	Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board is formally launching its 'green' initiative this week to coincide with the 26th annual United Nations Climate Change Conference which takes place from October 31 until November 11. Green CTM is the staff working group which aims to ensure that 'green' and 'sustainability' principles are embedded across the Health Board in all aspects of its work and the services provided to patients and communities.  Green CTM actively engaged in responding to Welsh Government's ambitious decarbonisation plans and is currently exploring how carbon net zero can be delivered by 2030 in line with NHS Wales Decarbonisation Strategy.	<a href="https://ctmuhb.nhs.wales/news/latest-news/launching-green-ctm/">https://ctmuhb.nhs.wales/news/latest-news/launching-green-ctm/</a>
Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB	South East Wales	Cwm Taf Morgannwg launches Menopause@CTM for staff on World Menopause Day		Menopause support, menopause friendly employer	On World Menopause Day (October 18), Cwm Taf Morgannwg (CTM) University Health Board is delighted to be launching a new Menopause support service for staff, to have a better understanding of menopause and how it affects relationships and families. This service is open to both men and women.	<a href="https://ctmuhb.nhs.wales/news/latest-news/cwm-taf-morgannwg-launches-menopause-ctm-for-staff-on-world-menopause-day/">https://ctmuhb.nhs.wales/news/latest-news/cwm-taf-morgannwg-launches-menopause-ctm-for-staff-on-world-menopause-day/</a>
Cwm Taf Morgannwg Cardiff and Vale UHB	South East Wales	Cwm Taf Morgannwg first		Mental health	During Mental Health Awareness Week 2021 (Oct 3 - 9), Cwm Taf	<a href="https://ctmuhb.nhs.wales/news/">https://ctmuhb.nhs.wales/news/</a>
	South East Wales	Arts and Minds Programme			Cardiff and Vale University Health Board has been awarded	<a href="https://cavuhb.nhs.wales/news/">https://cavuhb.nhs.wales/news/</a>

Velindre NHS Trust	South East Wales	Survey finds biodiversity an integral aspect of new Velindre Cancer Centre		Biodiversity, green design, engagement, accessibility	As part of its collaboration with Gower based social enterprise, Down To Earth, Velindre University NHS Trust (VUNHST) found in its digital conversation survey that the biggest priority for respondents for the new Velindre Cancer Centre was enhancing biodiversity and natural design principles. The survey, which took place during summer 2021, received more than 500 responses – 35% being staff and 32% from the local community.	<a href="https://velindre.nhs.wales/news/latest-news/survey-finds-biodiversity-an-integral-aspect-of-new-velindre-cancer-centre/">https://velindre.nhs.wales/news/latest-news/survey-finds-biodiversity-an-integral-aspect-of-new-velindre-cancer-centre/</a>
Velindre NHS Trust	South East Wales	How a passing conversation with a patient developed into creating an amazing experience for patients, their loved ones and dedicated staff at Velindre Cancer Centre.		Collaboration, engagement, innovation	Chris has been undergoing treatment for the last two years and due to the amazing support he has received from Velindre decided he wanted to show his thanks in a visual way. Chris and his wife Suzanne hand painted the hospital front doors to create a feel of hope and celebration. This then extended into Chris and Suzanne coming up with a design that would develop into a full wall art visual for our reception and main entrance to ensure the first impression when entering the hospital was memorable carrying on the theme of 'Hospital of Hope' which is the centre piece of the design. The area just inside the entrance to the hospital was also upgraded and with a theme of "Rays of Hope" was introduced. This area is dedicated to our patients and their families where they can leave a note of thanks or memories and also celebrate the success and end of their treatment by ringing the bell.	<a href="https://velindre.nhs.wales/news/latest-news/how-a-passing-conversation-with-a-patient-developed-into-creating-an-amazing-experience-for-patients-their-loved-ones-and-dedicated-staff-at-velindre-cancer-centre/">https://velindre.nhs.wales/news/latest-news/how-a-passing-conversation-with-a-patient-developed-into-creating-an-amazing-experience-for-patients-their-loved-ones-and-dedicated-staff-at-velindre-cancer-centre/</a>
NRW and Flintshire		NRW supports Flintshire County Council to get more schools learning in the natural environment		Outdoor learning, new curriculum, skills, environment, education	Natural Resources Wales (NRW) is working with Flintshire County Council to increase outdoor learning opportunities for learners across the county. Natural Resources Wales (NRW) is working with Flintshire County Council to increase outdoor learning opportunities for learners across the county. This is part of an initiative by the Council to provide training and support for schoolteachers and practitioners so that they can increase the amount of time spent learning in, about and for the natural environment. Outdoor learning is advocated by the Welsh Government as a key approach to delivering the new Curriculum for Wales. It is also widely recognised for its significant health and wellbeing benefits.	<a href="https://naturalresources.wales/about-us/news-and-events/news/nrw-supports-flintshire-county-council-to-get-more-schools-learning-in-the-natural-environment/?lang=en">https://naturalresources.wales/about-us/news-and-events/news/nrw-supports-flintshire-county-council-to-get-more-schools-learning-in-the-natural-environment/?lang=en</a>

Natural Resources Wales		Natural Resources Wales at COP26 Harnessing nature for the benefit of people and planet		Greener grangetown, COP, Pen y Cymoedd Wind Farm, environment	Welsh projects inspired by and delivered by nature to tackle the climate emergency will be showcased to a global audience as world leaders gather at COP26 to discuss taking ambitious action on climate change. Natural Resources Wales (NRW) will join the UK's nature conservation, environmental protection, and forestry agencies at the UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow to highlight how nature-based solutions can play a leading role in delivering a net zero future.	<a href="https://naturalresources.wales/about-us/news-and-events/news/natural-resources-wales-at-cop26-harnessing-nature-for-the-benefit-of-people-and-planet/?lang=en">https://naturalresources.wales/about-us/news-and-events/news/natural-resources-wales-at-cop26-harnessing-nature-for-the-benefit-of-people-and-planet/?lang=en</a>
Amgueddfa Cymru		Collecting the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement		Black Lives Matter Collaboration	As a result of this rapid contemporary collecting work, the BLM movement is now represented in the national collection. Placards and photographs collected during the 2020 lockdown were accessioned, catalogued and digitised at the point of entry, for immediate access via Collections Online. The collections also feature in a free-to-download eBook for Key Stage 2 Teachers and pupils on the theme of Campaigning and Protest	<a href="https://futuregenerationswales.sharepoint.com/:b:/s/PerformanceTeam/EYqE_v4Y_vpBIT-IRTsA-SwBhmb7Vq-XF3xNjei7Oq-JDg?e=P7lmb2">https://futuregenerationswales.sharepoint.com/:b:/s/PerformanceTeam/EYqE_v4Y_vpBIT-IRTsA-SwBhmb7Vq-XF3xNjei7Oq-JDg?e=P7lmb2</a>
Amgueddfa Cymru		Family Learning Programmes to support children and young people with post Covid-19 recovery.		Community Access Virtual learning Collaboration	This case study summarises the key activities from the family learning programme over the Summer, which aimed to support children, young people and families in their recovery from the pandemic, by providing enjoyable experiences which contributed to learning and building confidence to visit a museum and engage in a cultural offer.	<a href="https://futuregenerationswales.sharepoint.com/:b:/s/PerformanceTeam/EYqE_v4Y_vpBIT-IRTsA-SwBhmb7Vq-XF3xNjei7Oq-JDg?e=P7lmb2">https://futuregenerationswales.sharepoint.com/:b:/s/PerformanceTeam/EYqE_v4Y_vpBIT-IRTsA-SwBhmb7Vq-XF3xNjei7Oq-JDg?e=P7lmb2</a>
Bridgend County Borough Council	South East Wales	Litchard Primary School awarded for commitment to Welsh language		Welsh language Learning Involvement Good practice	As part of the journey to achieving the Gold Award, pupils and staff at Litchard Primary School promoted the Welsh language through listening to Welsh music during assemblies, made posters promoting the importance of learning Welsh and used a variety of Welsh apps and books to enhance learning. The school were also driven by an enthusiastic Criw Cymraeg – a group of pupils put in charge of leading initiatives, encouraging all pupils and staff to use Welsh every day as well as promoting Welsh culture.	<a href="https://futuregenerationswales.crm11.dynamics.com/main.aspx?appid=c54b1b5e-0057-e811-a8b6-00224801a6b7&amp;pagetype=entityrecord&amp;etn=email&amp;id=315b27fb1949-ec11-8c62-00224841b496">https://futuregenerationswales.crm11.dynamics.com/main.aspx?appid=c54b1b5e-0057-e811-a8b6-00224801a6b7&amp;pagetype=entityrecord&amp;etn=email&amp;id=315b27fb1949-ec11-8c62-00224841b496</a>
Cardiff Council	South East Wales	Cardiff Installs First Of Their Kind Green, Affordable Homes		Energy efficient Innovative design Low cost homes	Wates Residential and Cardiff Council lower nine modular homes onsite at Crofts Street, Plasnewydd First time this method of offsite construction used for permanent family homes in city Homes to be made available to residents on Council's housing waiting list in just five weeks	<a href="https://www.cardiffnewsroom.co.uk/releases/c25/28041.html">https://www.cardiffnewsroom.co.uk/releases/c25/28041.html</a>

Cardiff Council	South East Wales	Cardiff on target to be one of the leading authorities in Wales for air monitoring		Air quality Active travel	<p>A new two-year trial to install 50 air-quality monitors across the city, which measure pollution levels in real time, has been agreed by Cardiff Council's Cabinet following its meeting to discuss air-quality data results for 2020.</p> <p>The development of a real-time, air-quality monitoring network is a crucial step forward for the city. Public Health Wales has made it clear that poor air quality is the second biggest public health concern after smoking.</p> <p>"By increasing the number of real-time monitors in the city, we will be able to get an even better picture of the situation across Cardiff and can then plan mitigations or interventions to address any issues that might arise. ... We can then look at ways in which this real-time data could be published on the Council's website so residents could check the air quality in Cardiff and make better informed choices about how they choose to move around the city. I don't think any of us really wants to add to pollution, and if we can see that pollution is high, it might make us all think twice about taking the car to work when we could walk, cycle or get a bus or a train. Hopefully it will also help residents see that interventions like cycle lanes and bus corridors are cutting pollution improving the air we breathe and our health."</p>	<a href="https://www.cardiffnewsroom.co.uk/releases/c25/28030.html">https://www.cardiffnewsroom.co.uk/releases/c25/28030.html</a>
Merthyr Tydfil Council	South East Wales	Schools, care homes and council buildings switching to energy-saving technology		Carbon neutral Energy efficiency Retrofitting	Over the past five months over 4000 inefficient light fittings have been upgraded to low energy LED lighting and 600 Solar Panels have been installed on MTCBC buildings and schools as part of the council's commitment to Welsh Government's ambition for the public sector to be Carbon Neutral by 2030.	<a href="https://www.merthyr.gov.uk/news-and-events/latest-news/schools-care-homes-and-council-buildings-switching-to-energy-saving-technology/">https://www.merthyr.gov.uk/news-and-events/latest-news/schools-care-homes-and-council-buildings-switching-to-energy-saving-technology/</a>
Amgueddfa Cymru		Amgueddfa Cymru uses museum collections to improve wellbeing in care homes		Well-being Culture	Following the success of Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales project Objects of Comfort, during the Covid pandemic, new digital resources have now been developed to connect people living in care homes and those at risk of social isolation with Wales' national collections. Since September 2020, Amgueddfa Cymru has been creating collections-inspired activities for care homes and groups who wish to have stimulating conversations and take part in engaging activities centred around objects from our museums' collections.	<a href="https://museum.wales/news/1250/Amgueddfa-Cymru-uses-museum-collections-to-improve-wellbeing-in-care-homes/">https://museum.wales/news/1250/Amgueddfa-Cymru-uses-museum-collections-to-improve-wellbeing-in-care-homes/</a>
Cardiff Council	South East Wales	24,000. That's how many residential streetlights we're in the process of upgrading to LEDs across Cardiff.		Energy efficiency		<a href="https://twitter.com/cardiffcouncil/status/1463130463648817160">https://twitter.com/cardiffcouncil/status/1463130463648817160</a>

Cardiff Council	South East Wales	Ready, Steady.... Healthy Cooking is back		Healthy food Families	Cardiff Council's Money Advice team, in partnership with Food Cardiff, is on the look out for 50 households ready to rise to the challenge of producing nutritious, delicious dishes based on recipes developed by the Cardiff and Vale UHB Nutrition and Dietetics team.  The initiative will begin in early December and follows a successful healthy cooking project run earlier this year when challengers were tasked with creating a week's supply of delicious family meals by following the online video tutorials or easy-to-follow, budget-friendly recipe cards.	<a href="https://www.cardiffnewsroom.co.uk/releases/c25/28066.html">https://www.cardiffnewsroom.co.uk/releases/c25/28066.html</a>
Cardiff Council	South East Wales	Cardiff Council votes to declare city-wide nature emergency		Nature emergency Planning One planet strategy Biodiversity Collaboration	"Declaring a Nature and Bio-Diversity Emergency will help shape our policies as we move forward making clear the vision of the city we want to - and can - become."	<a href="https://www.cardiffnewsroom.co.uk/releases/c25/28093.html">https://www.cardiffnewsroom.co.uk/releases/c25/28093.html</a>
Vale of Glamorgan Council	South East Wales	Plans to develop a new play area in Penarth		Play Consultation Biodiversity Recreation	The Council is asking residents for their views on plans for the new play area. Residents are encouraged to offer suggestions as to what new equipment they would like to see at the park and ideas for a new and exciting theme, whether it be nature, sea life or space.	<a href="https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/our_council/press_and_communications/latest_news/2021/November/Plans-to-develop-a-new-play-area-in-Penarth.aspx">https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/our_council/press_and_communications/latest_news/2021/November/Plans-to-develop-a-new-play-area-in-Penarth.aspx</a>
Vale of Glamorgan Council	South East Wales	Barry Housing Estate Set For Facelift		Involvement Energy efficiency	The Buttrills estate in Barry will see work carried out to the gardens of houses, bungalows and flats as well as those in communal areas.  New outdoor spaces for drying clothing and storing items will also be created and more energy efficient LED streetlighting installed in line with the Council's Project Zero commitment to become carbon neutral.  Residents have been very much involved with the plans, which also include tree planting and bird boxes being erected to protect local wildlife.	<a href="https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/our_council/press_and_communications/latest_news/2021/November/Barry-Housing-Estate-Set-For-Facelift.aspx">https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/our_council/press_and_communications/latest_news/2021/November/Barry-Housing-Estate-Set-For-Facelift.aspx</a>
Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB	South East Wales	Kick-start Scheme rolled out within CTMUHB		Kick-start scheme Young people Transferable skills	Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board is delighted to be taking part in the Government funded 'Kick-start' scheme, which supports young people to develop transferable skills and increase their opportunities for sustained employment.	<a href="https://ctmuhb.nhs.wales/news/latest-news/kick-start-scheme-rolled-out-within-ctmuhb/">https://ctmuhb.nhs.wales/news/latest-news/kick-start-scheme-rolled-out-within-ctmuhb/</a>

Cardiff and Vale UHB	South East Wales	Supporting Children and Young People's Emotional Health and Wellbeing		Co-production Wellbeing Mental Health Children Young people	<a href="https://cavyoungwellbeing.wales/">https://cavyoungwellbeing.wales/</a> Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (UHB) has developed a brand-new website, co-produced with children and young people to offer useful information and resources on emotional wellbeing and mental health. The wellbeing of some children and young people has been significantly impacted by the pandemic, it remains vital that people access support. Visitors to the new website can find information about emotional wellbeing, mental health, services available and how to access them.	<a href="https://cavuhb.nhs.wales/news/home-page-news/supporting-children-and-young-peoples-emotional-health-and-wellbeing/">https://cavuhb.nhs.wales/news/home-page-news/supporting-children-and-young-peoples-emotional-health-and-wellbeing/</a>
Cardiff Council	South East Wales	Cardiff: Child Friendly City		Children's rights Wellbeing	Our ambition is for Cardiff to be recognised as a Child Friendly City (CFC): a city with children and young people at its heart, where the rights of children and young people are respected by all, a great place to grow up.	<a href="https://www.childfriendlycardiff.co.uk/">https://www.childfriendlycardiff.co.uk/</a>
Cardiff Council	South East Wales	One Planet Cardiff Twitter Thread		Decarbonisation Climate change		<a href="https://twitter.com/cardiffcouncil/status/144868737300549224?utm_source=Twitter&amp;utm_medium=social&amp;utm_campaign=Orlo&amp;utm_content=Full+Council+Meetings">https://twitter.com/cardiffcouncil/status/144868737300549224?utm_source=Twitter&amp;utm_medium=social&amp;utm_campaign=Orlo&amp;utm_content=Full+Council+Meetings</a>
Neath Port Talbot Council		New biodiversity duty plan agreed		Biodiversity		<a href="https://www.npt.gov.uk/1410?pr_id=6936">https://www.npt.gov.uk/1410?pr_id=6936</a>
Neath Port Talbot Council		Council reinvests £4m into key services to get Covid recovery underway		Covid recovery		<a href="https://www.npt.gov.uk/1410?pr_id=6938">https://www.npt.gov.uk/1410?pr_id=6938</a>
Swansea Council		Glynn Vivian becomes first UK Art Gallery of Sanctuary		Inclusivity	Last year Swansea celebrated 10 years as a City of Sanctuary.	<a href="https://www.swansea.gov.uk/GVsanctuary">https://www.swansea.gov.uk/GVsanctuary</a>
Swansea Council		£2.7bn pension fund aiming to cut its carbon footprint to zero		Carbon footprint		<a href="https://www.swansea.gov.uk/pensionfund11">https://www.swansea.gov.uk/pensionfund11</a>
Swansea Council		Seven projects that improve health and wellbeing through friendship and activities have shared £25,000 in funding from Swansea Council		Health and wellbeing	The grants have been provided to new and existing groups to support an expansion of Men's Sheds in the City to help reduce loneliness and isolation.	<a href="https://www.swansea.gov.uk/menshedsmoney">https://www.swansea.gov.uk/menshedsmoney</a>
Swansea Council		Tackling climate emergency		Climate emergency	A survey on the council's drive to make the area net zero carbon revealed an overwhelming local public demand for action on climate change.	<a href="https://www.swansea.gov.uk/ClimateSurveyResults">https://www.swansea.gov.uk/ClimateSurveyResults</a>
Swansea Council		Race for the One Planet standard		One Planet	Swansea Council is seeking to be the first Welsh council to receive accreditation for the work its doing to reduce its overall ecological footprint	<a href="https://www.swansea.gov.uk/OnePlanetBid">https://www.swansea.gov.uk/OnePlanetBid</a>

Swansea Council		Citizens' climate change pledges to inspire others to take action		Climate change		<a href="https://www.swansea.gov.uk/YourClimatePledge">https://www.swansea.gov.uk/YourClimatePledge</a>
Powys Council		A 'Winter of Wellbeing' for Powys children		Children's wellbeing	More funding available to deliver activities for children across Powys over the winter months	<a href="https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/11969/A-Winter-of-Wellbeing-for-Powys-children">https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/11969/A-Winter-of-Wellbeing-for-Powys-children</a>
Powys Council		Views sought on early ideas for health and wellbeing campus in central Newtown		Intergration		<a href="https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/11915/Views-sought-on-early-ideas-for-health-and-wellbeing-campus-in-central-Newtown">https://en.powys.gov.uk/article/11915/Views-sought-on-early-ideas-for-health-and-wellbeing-campus-in-central-Newtown</a>
Arts Council of Wales		Construction work has started on a new arts, culture and community hub for young people in Bangor.		Nature Creative green space	The development will see the building being transformed into a fully accessible space that will house a small performance and rehearsal space, an underground studio, and various smaller creative spaces for artist residencies.  The vast outdoor space will be a valuable addition to the green spaces available in the city and will include multi purpose performance spaces, a community kitchen and garden. The project has been allocated £1.8m from the National Lottery, administered through Arts Council of Wales, £1.2m through Cyngor Gwynedd by Welsh Government's Transforming Towns programme, £300,000 from the Coastal Communities Fund, £250,000 from the Community Facilities Programme, £200,000 from the Garfield Weston Foundation, and £172,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund.	<a href="https://arts.wales/news-jobs-opportunities/construction-starts-on-new-bangor-creative-hub">https://arts.wales/news-jobs-opportunities/construction-starts-on-new-bangor-creative-hub</a>
Bridgend County Borough Council	South East Wales	Minister opens Bryngarw Country Park's education and wellbeing centre		Skills Play Outdoor Biodiversity Active travel Energy conservation Culture	The new education and wellbeing centre is one of a range of improvements made by Awen Cultural Trust in partnership with Bridgend County Brough Council, following a £750,000 investment by Welsh Government, as part of the Valleys Regional Park.  Over the past 18 months, Awen has made significant developments at Bryngarw Country Park, to improve the visitor experience and enhance its educational offer to even more schools and community groups.	<a href="https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/news/minister-opens-bryngarw-country-park-s-education-and-wellbeing-centre/">https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/news/minister-opens-bryngarw-country-park-s-education-and-wellbeing-centre/</a>
Cardiff and Vale UHB	South East Wales	New Mental Health Single		Mental health	Cardiff and Vale University Health Board has launched a new	<a href="https://cavuhb.nhs.wales/news/">https://cavuhb.nhs.wales/news/</a>
Natural Resources Wales		Take a friend fishing this festive season		Wellbeing Friendship Community Nature	Between Friday, 17 December and Sunday, 2 January, Natural Resources Wales (NRW) is offering its existing rod licence holders the chance to register for a free one-day licence worth £6 so they can take a friend or family member fishing.	<a href="https://naturalresources.wales/about-us/news-and-events/news/take-a-friend-fishing-this-festive-season/?lang=en">https://naturalresources.wales/about-us/news-and-events/news/take-a-friend-fishing-this-festive-season/?lang=en</a>

Cardiff Council	South East Wales	Cardiff launches ten days of £1 bus fares in run up to Christmas		Public transport	We hope this subsidised trial will encourage people back onto public transport and even tempt car users to give bus travel a go. As we face up to the climate emergency, finding ways to convince the public to get out of their cars and to take the bus, walk or cycle to work is becoming increasingly important, so I'm really looking forward to seeing the outcome of this trial. We will be able to compare any increase in numbers travelling by bus against the cost to subsidise these services. This will allow us to see if incentive schemes such as this work in practice.	<a href="https://www.cardiffnewsroom.co.uk/releases/c25/28121.html">https://www.cardiffnewsroom.co.uk/releases/c25/28121.html</a>
Cardiff Council	South East Wales	Mount Stuart Primary becomes the first school in Wales to pilot Anti-Racism training		Anti-racism Training Children	An innovative training programme that enables teachers and school leaders to better educate, navigate and handle racism in schools, has been launched in Cardiff today. 'Promote Equality' is a development programme created by Rachel Clarke, a Deputy Headteacher and the granddaughter of the first Black Headteacher in Wales and champion of equality and diversity, Betty Campbell. The toolkit aims to Educate, Empower and Enhance schools with the resources, support and skills to help broaden understanding and challenge perspectives to imbed long-lasting change in the education system and beyond.	<a href="https://www.cardiffnewsroom.co.uk/releases/c25/28120.html">https://www.cardiffnewsroom.co.uk/releases/c25/28120.html</a>
Rhondda Cynon Taf Council	South East Wales	Supporting the return of manufacturing to former Burberry factory		Local industry Employment Apprenticeships	The Council has provided grant funding to a local enterprise which has exciting plans to restart manufacturing at the former Polikoff and Burberry factory in Ynyswen, with highly-skilled former workers set to return to the site. Our ambition is to see 30-50 people employed by the enterprise, and to start an apprenticeship programme. The factory had been such a huge provider of employment locally, back to the second World War, and we feel it is important to continue to pass on the skills of the workers to the next generation.	<a href="https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Newsroom/PressReleases/2021/December/SupportingthereturnofmanufacturingtoformerBurberryfactory.aspx">https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/Newsroom/PressReleases/2021/December/SupportingthereturnofmanufacturingtoformerBurberryfactory.aspx</a>
Caerphilly CBC	Gwent	Caerphilly Place Shaping	Good practice	Placemaking Infrastructure	Caerphilly Place Shaping - £500 million investment in 6 key areas. Infrastructure Investment: Education; Homes; Transport; Business; Healthy Spaces; Communities	<a href="https://www.caerphillyplaceshaping.co.uk">https://www.caerphillyplaceshaping.co.uk</a>
Newport CBC	Gwent	Environmental Awards	Good practice	Carbon literacy Climate Change	Newport were recently awarded with the Outstanding Organisation award at the National Environmental Awards. Their carbon literacy training and climate change steering groups were key reasons for this.	<a href="https://www.thenational.wales/environment/19696050.national-environmental-awards-honours-wales-making-difference/">https://www.thenational.wales/environment/19696050.national-environmental-awards-honours-wales-making-difference/</a>

South Wales Fire and Rescue Service	Gwent	Safe and Well e-referrals	5 ways of working	Collaboration Digital Prevention	SWFRS have been working collaboratively with the Welsh Ambulance Service, using digital platforms to e-refer vulnerable people for Safe and Well checks; these preventative steps will reduce future harm and potential pressures on public services.	<a href="https://www.southwales-fire.gov.uk/newsroom/news/new-joint-initiative-to-safeguard-vulnerable-people-at-home/">https://www.southwales-fire.gov.uk/newsroom/news/new-joint-initiative-to-safeguard-vulnerable-people-at-home/</a>
Torfaen CBC	Gwent	South East Wales Resilient Uplands Project	Well-being Goals	Resilient Wales Biodiversity Decarbonisation Climate Change	A project led by Torfaen Council, The South East Wales Resilient Uplands Project, was featured at climate roadshow to mark COP26 summit. The project covers around 200 square kilometres and has focussed on improving soil and water quality, increasing biodiversity, and restoring peatlands, which are critical for removing and storing CO2 emissions.	<a href="https://www.torfaen.gov.uk/en/News/2021/November/Project-celebrated-at-climate-roadshow.aspx">https://www.torfaen.gov.uk/en/News/2021/November/Project-celebrated-at-climate-roadshow.aspx</a>
Monmouthshire CBC	Gwent	Rockfield Estate's Community Nature Spaces	5 ways of working	Integration Biodiversity Play Community	<p>Work has begun on Rockfield Estate Community Natures Spaces; these spaces include the provision of wild play opportunities, pollinator planting, shrubs, tree planting including fruit trees and orchards and community food growing beds which will be available for all in the community.</p> <p>Consultation to include voices of local people which did make minor changes.</p> <p>Cllr. Jane Pratt, Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Neighbourhood Services added: "These proposals are another part of the sustainable management of our open spaces, which helps to meet the objectives of our Climate Emergency plan."</p>	<a href="https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/2021/12/work-commences-on-rockfield-estates-community-nature-spaces/">https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/2021/12/work-commences-on-rockfield-estates-community-nature-spaces/</a>
Monmouthshire CBC	Gwent	Be Community Plus	Good practice	Community Training Collaboration	<p>Working with, and receiving funding from, the WCVA, Monmouthshire and GAVO are launching Be Community Plus. The project has three main strands: Mentoring, Funding and Training.</p> <p>Mentoring: Opportunity for approx 8 projects to access a mentoring scheme. Groups will be paired with a professional from the voluntary, private or public sector who has appropriate skills to support their project.</p> <p>Funding: £15,000 for approx 10 projects. Can use the funds for things like venue hire, equipment, materials, specialist training, insurance and tech.</p> <p>Training: £10,000 available to create digital training resources that will be free for community to access. Want to hear from community about what would be most beneficial (e.g. mental health awareness, promoting work through social media, health and safety etc...)</p>	<a href="https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/2021/11/new-scheme-seeks-to-support-community-projects-across-monmouthshire/">https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/2021/11/new-scheme-seeks-to-support-community-projects-across-monmouthshire/</a>

Blaenau Gwent CBC	Gwent	Local Climate Bonds Campaign	Priority areas	Decarbonisation Sustainable Finance Community	<p>Blaenau Gwent have become one of five councils in England and Wales to join Local Climate Bond campaign. This is a commitment to exploring the launch of a bond or related municipal climate investment within next 18 months.</p> <p>These types of municipal investments allow local authorities to raise capital to fund specific “green” initiatives in their neighbourhoods, from wind farms to solar panel installations, rewilding and electric vehicle plans, through a regulated crowdfunding model.</p>	<a href="https://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/story/news/blaenau-gwent-first-five-uk-councils-to-join-national-local-climate-bonds-campaign/">https://www.blaenau-gwent.gov.uk/story/news/blaenau-gwent-first-five-uk-councils-to-join-national-local-climate-bonds-campaign/</a>
Cardiff Council	South East Wales	New Council Flats and Transport Hub Development Granted		Energy efficiency Brown fields Affordable housing Public, active travel	<p>The scheme, on the site of the former recycling centre in Llandaff, will deliver 44 new council homes, office and commercial spaces as well as a new access road designed to integrate the proposed transport hub with the residential development.</p> <p>The new properties, part of the Council's development programme to increase the availability of affordable homes in the city, will be highly energy-efficient, making use of renewable technologies such as ground source heat and solar PVs to achieve significant improvements on current energy performance requirements.</p> <p>Around half of the one bed and two bedroom apartments will be used to accommodate people on the city's housing waiting list while the remaining homes will be temporary, supported accommodation for people who have previously experienced homelessness but are ready to move on to more independent living in their own tenancy. Low level support for these tenants will be provided on site.</p> <p>The integration of the residential development with the transport hub provides benefits for existing residents in the area and the new tenants, enabling more convenient access to other parts of the city, and encouraging active travel choices via improved pedestrian and cycling facilities.</p>	<a href="https://www.cardiffnewsroom.co.uk/releases/c25/28216.html">https://www.cardiffnewsroom.co.uk/releases/c25/28216.html</a>

Cardiff Council	South East Wales	Planning green light for first phase of major estate regeneration		Housing	<p>Eighty-one new sustainable and energy-efficient homes for older people have gained planning consent, part of Phase 1 of the Channel View regeneration masterplan that will breathe new life into this area of Grangetown as well as increasing the supply of much-needed affordable homes in the city.</p> <p>Impressive architecture, innovative, green infrastructure, a strong emphasis on place-making and improving the local environment are key aspects of the first phase of the redevelopment, which focuses on the replacement of the existing high-rise council owned tower block for the existing council tenants.</p>	<a href="https://www.cardiffnewsroom.co.uk/releases/c25/28208.html">https://www.cardiffnewsroom.co.uk/releases/c25/28208.html</a>
Cardiff Council	South East Wales	Major improvement works set for Maindy (Gelligaer Street) Park this New Year		Play Outdoors Child-friendly city	<p>A Cardiff council park is set for major improvement works in the New Year.</p> <p>Cabinet Member for Culture and Leisure, Cllr Peter Bradbury, said: "Thanks to your feedback to our online consultation in May 2021, we've developed really exciting plans which will hugely benefit local communities and children as well as our environment.</p> <p>"We want Cardiff to be a Child Friendly City and having safe places to play like this are so important for children to remain happy and healthy. We're pleased to include play equipment, the natural play area and teen sport facilities which will be suitable for all age groups."</p>	<a href="https://www.cardiffnewsroom.co.uk/releases/c25/28204.html">https://www.cardiffnewsroom.co.uk/releases/c25/28204.html</a>
Cardiff Council	South East Wales	Cardiff-wide tree-planting drive marks National Tree Week		Coed Caerdydd Tree planting Place making	<p>Over 400 trees have been planted at special events in Cardiff parks during National Tree Week.</p> <p>Coed Caerdydd is an ambitious 10-year programme of tree canopy expansion in Cardiff, linked to the city's One Planet climate change strategy.</p>	<a href="https://www.cardiffnewsroom.co.uk/releases/c25/28194.html">https://www.cardiffnewsroom.co.uk/releases/c25/28194.html</a>
Cardiff Council	South East Wales	Consultation - Proposals to improve Teaching Assistants career progression		Consultation	<p>A consultation which invites Teaching Assistants across the city to have their say on goals for their career, is now open.</p> <p>Cardiff Council is working in partnership with Central South Consortium to consult Teaching Assistants to ask about what can be done to help further their career development.</p> <p>As a result of the answers, a supportive programme will be developed to help Teaching Assistants break down the barriers to progression.</p> <p>The survey is open to all and Teaching Assistants with a minority ethnic background are particularly encouraged to respond.</p>	<a href="https://www.cardiffnewsroom.co.uk/releases/c25/28189.html">https://www.cardiffnewsroom.co.uk/releases/c25/28189.html</a>

Cardiff Council	South East Wales	Western Gateway's recovery plans to focus on Tidal energy and high-speed rail links			<p>Investigating the full potential of tidal energy from the Severn Estuary and improving high-speed rail links on the Great Western Mainline are just two of the key issues which will be at the forefront of the agenda for the Western Gateway in the New Year. In an update report to Cardiff Council's Cabinet, it is revealed that the Western Gateway is planning to focus on the following four areas in 2022:</p> <p>The potential future for tidal energy in the Severn estuary as the region looks to reach net zero carbon;</p> <p>Improving high-speed connectivity throughout the region by enhancing the Great Western Mainline;</p> <p>Using world-leading research and academic assets in the area to support innovative manufacturing and renewable energy projects;</p> <p>Marketing the Western Gateway region as an attractive location for inward investment and supporting firms to access new export markets.</p>	<a href="https://www.cardiffnewsroom.co.uk/releases/c25/28180.html">https://www.cardiffnewsroom.co.uk/releases/c25/28180.html</a>
Cardiff Council	South East Wales	Strategy and pilot scheme to boost Cardiff's recycling rate revealed			<p>Four thousand homes across Cardiff could take part in a pilot scheme to test ways in which recycling rates across the city might be improved.</p> <p>The scheme is part of a review of waste collections in Wales' capital designed to hit Welsh Government recycling targets by 2025 and to make Cardiff one of the greenest and cleanest cities in the UK.</p> <p>Cardiff is currently the leading, major regional city in the UK for recycling. On average since 2018, 58% of waste produced in the city is recycled or composted. However, Welsh Government has tasked Cardiff with increasing this rate to 64% as quickly as possible and to 70% by 2025.</p>	<a href="https://www.cardiffnewsroom.co.uk/releases/c25/28178.html">https://www.cardiffnewsroom.co.uk/releases/c25/28178.html</a>

Cardiff Council	South East Wales	Building a Greener, Fairer and Stronger Cardiff in a post- COVID world			<p>The views of Cardiff residents, businesspeople and city stakeholders have all been fed into a report on how Cardiff should set about successfully recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic. The Greener, Fairer, Stronger strategy covers a wide range of measures which it recommends the council work towards, including:</p> <p>A key focus must be placed on the future of the city centre making it attractive to visitors, workers and businesses in a post COVID landscape;</p> <p>Cardiff must retain and build on its status as a major events city for both sports and culture, but also develop its own home grow programme;</p> <p>Cardiff must ensure it remains a healthy city to live in with clean air, high quality public spaces, parks and green areas;</p> <p>Cardiff must use the momentum around the 'Green' agenda, and capitalise on the Tech and knowledge sectors already surfacing in the city, to attract investment and deliver jobs;</p> <p>'Liveability' is central to what the city will need to be if it is to retain and to grow and to attract talent and investment; and Building a fitting public transport network which will enable the city to be criss-crossed with ease is essential.</p>	<a href="https://www.cardiffnewsroom.co.uk/releases/c25/28176.html">https://www.cardiffnewsroom.co.uk/releases/c25/28176.html</a>
Bridgend County Borough Council	South East Wales	How Tremains Wood gained its first Green Flag Award			<p>Earlier this year, Bridgend County Borough put itself on the map as one of the country's most beautiful areas after scooping nine Green Flag awards.</p> <p>Among the success stories was Tremains Wood, a small ancient woodland area in the centre of a Brackla housing area, which received a Community Award, its maiden Green Flag triumph. The woods were then visited by a judge who assessed them against the following criteria:</p> <p>A welcoming place  Healthy, safe and secure  Well maintained and clean  Environmental management  Biodiversity, landscape and heritage  Community involvement  Marketing and communication  Management</p>	<a href="https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/news/how-tremains-wood-gained-its-first-green-flag-award/">https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/news/how-tremains-wood-gained-its-first-green-flag-award/</a>

Bridgend County Borough Council	South East Wales	'Partnership' key to transformation of former derelict town centre building			<p>Work to transform a former derelict building in Bridgend town centre has brought the premises back into use as a successful local business and new affordable accommodation.</p> <p>"By working together in partnership, Bridgend County Borough Council, Welsh Government, Coastal Housing and the owners of La Cocina have brought the premises back into use not only as a vibrant local business, but as a source of affordable housing which fits in with our vision of creating a thriving new community of people, living and working at the heart of the town centre, who can support local trade."</p> <p>Welsh Government Deputy Minister for Climate Change, Lee Waters, said: "I am pleased that we've been able to contribute to this important project via our Social Housing Grant and Transforming Towns programmes which provide social housing as well as support for the economic and social recovery of our town and city centres across Wales."</p>	<a href="https://futuregenerationswales.crm11.dynamics.com/main.aspx?appid=c54b1b5e-0057-e811-a8b6-00224801a6b7&amp;pagetype=entityrecord&amp;etn=email&amp;id=804dc7204b62-ec11-8f8f-000d3ad5f959">https://futuregenerationswales.crm11.dynamics.com/main.aspx?appid=c54b1b5e-0057-e811-a8b6-00224801a6b7&amp;pagetype=entityrecord&amp;etn=email&amp;id=804dc7204b62-ec11-8f8f-000d3ad5f959</a>
Hywel Dda University Health Board	North Wales	A new project is underway to provide enhanced on-the-job training to staff	Good practice		<p>The multi-million-pound refurbishment of Ward 10 benefited from more than £500,000 of charitable donations from the health board's Pembrokeshire Cancer Services Fund and Elly's Ward 10 Flag Appeal, together with significant donations from the late Luke Harding and his family.</p> <p>In a first for Hywel Dda University Health Board, staff on the newly-refurbished ward are receiving work-based training to help them meet the needs of oncology, haematology and palliative care patients.</p>	<a href="https://hduhb.nhs.wales/news/press-releases/new-nurse-educator-role-enhances-patient-experience/">https://hduhb.nhs.wales/news/press-releases/new-nurse-educator-role-enhances-patient-experience/</a>
Wrexham County Borough Council	North Wales	Wrexham Play Sufficiency innovation Grant 2021-2022			<p>This short term grants programme has been set up in response to the Welsh Government recently making some funding available to support children's play and specifically the Welsh Play Sufficiency Duty.</p> <p>The purpose of this grant's programme is therefore to improve children's (including teenager's) opportunities for play with the aim of helping to secure sufficient opportunities for play across the county borough.</p> <p>The grants programme is open to any organisations or groups working with or in support of children and their play in Wrexham.</p>	<a href="https://news.wrexham.gov.uk/wrexham-play-sufficiency-innovation-grant-2021-22/">https://news.wrexham.gov.uk/wrexham-play-sufficiency-innovation-grant-2021-22/</a>
Wrexham County Borough Council	North Wales	Free gym for juniors extended to March 2022			<p>Free Gym for Juniors programme has been extended to March 2022 thanks to funding from the Winter Wellbeing Fund.</p>	<a href="https://news.wrexham.gov.uk/free-gym-for-juniors-extended-to-march-2022/">https://news.wrexham.gov.uk/free-gym-for-juniors-extended-to-march-2022/</a>

Denbighshire County Council	North Wales	Volunteers help grow county biodiversity project		decarbonisation climate change	<p>Following the Council's declaration of a climate and ecological emergency in 2019, this project is part of an ongoing commitment to enhancing biodiversity across the county,</p> <p>Nearly 60 sites, including highway verges, footpath edges, cycleways and amenity grasslands, are now being managed to create wildflower meadows.</p> <p>These sites, along with the 11 roadside nature reserves, equate to about 30 football pitches worth of grassland managed as native wildflower meadows.</p> <p>As well as protecting wildflowers, the meadows are also boosting the welfare of native insects to Denbighshire.</p>	<a href="https://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/en/news/news-detail.aspx?article=870f0a6d-ae76-4e10-b277-7f4f21b933fd">https://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/en/news/news-detail.aspx?article=870f0a6d-ae76-4e10-b277-7f4f21b933fd</a>
Bridgend County Council	South East Wales	Dunes to Dunes:	Good practice	Resilient Wales	The Dunes 2 Dunes project aims to form a collaboration of NNR	<a href="https://gov.wales/sites/default/">https://gov.wales/sites/default/</a>
Cardiff Council	South East Wales	Cardiff's first secure-cycle storage facility preparing to open to public		Active travel	<p>A new, secure indoor bike-parking facility is set to open in Cardiff city centre in early 2022.</p> <p>The much-needed facilities are set to open on Windsor Place in early 2022 and will include: Secure storage for at least 50 bikes; Shower, locker and changing facilities; and, A remote workspace and coffee bar.</p> <p>By providing a fully secure, cycle-parking facility in the heart of Cardiff city centre, the Bike Lock will help to deliver a key Burns Commission report recommendation relating to the provision of cycle storage at public transport interchanges and within urban centres.</p> <p>Cycling levels in Cardiff increased noticeably during the Covid 19 pandemic and are estimated to be more than 10% higher than they were in 2019. Surveys for the Bike Life Cardiff 2019 report indicated that around three quarters of Cardiff residents support the construction of segregated cycle lanes. Facilities like the Bike Lock will offer cyclists a secure and safe place to leave their bikes when they travel to work or to visit the city centre and are seen as key elements in encouraging people to cycle into Cardiff.</p>	<a href="https://www.cardiffnewsroom.co.uk/releases/c25/28275.html">https://www.cardiffnewsroom.co.uk/releases/c25/28275.html</a>

Cardiff Council	South East Wales	Residents invited to get bulb planting for a bee-friendly Cardiff		Resilient Wales Biodiversity	Volunteers, 'Friends of' groups, residents and council staff have been busy planting 11,000 bulbs and this new year, more volunteers are invited to help keep Cardiff in bloom. Special bulb planting events have been held at Bute Park; Jellicoe Gardens, Cyncoed; Forest Farm, St Mary's Gardens, Whitchurch and Littleton Street, Riverside, to support pollinators and enhance biodiversity. The bulbs have been funded through the Cardiff Pollinator Project supported by the Cardiff Local Nature Partnership and Welsh Government's Local Places for Nature scheme.	<a href="https://www.cardiffnewsroom.co.uk/releases/c25/28259.html">https://www.cardiffnewsroom.co.uk/releases/c25/28259.html</a>
Bridgend County Borough Council	South East Wales	Care home residents taken on out-of-this world adventure in virtual reality		Age-friendly Wales Culture Well-being	Residents at Bryn y Cae, Brackla and Pantyrwal's Tŷ Cwm Ogwr care homes have been transported across the world and beyond from the comfort of their own armchair thanks to virtual reality technology. Thanks to a project delivered by Awen Cultural Trust and Bridgend County Borough Council, residents enjoyed wildlife adventures, space flights and visits to cities across the world. Funded by Welsh Government's Integrated Care Fund 'Connected Communities' Grant, the project also worked with Cardiff-based Rescape Innovation to create 12 personalised VR experiences for residents with dementia, aimed at unlocking memories and provoking conversations.	<a href="https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/news/care-home-residents-taken-on-out-of-this-world-adventure-in-virtual-reality/">https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/news/care-home-residents-taken-on-out-of-this-world-adventure-in-virtual-reality/</a>
Merthyr Tydfil Council	South East Wales	Town centre pedestrian safety work to begin in New Year			Work will begin in the New Year on work to make crossing the road in a section of the town centre safer for pedestrians. Following a public consultation last summer, an 'informal crossing' at Victoria Street will become a zebra crossing with a much wider raised area for pedestrians. The project is one of a series of walking and cycling improvement schemes being carried out by the Council as part of its Welsh Government-funded Active Travel programme.	<a href="https://www.merthyr.gov.uk/news-and-events/latest-news/town-centre-pedestrian-safety-work-to-begin-in-new-year/">https://www.merthyr.gov.uk/news-and-events/latest-news/town-centre-pedestrian-safety-work-to-begin-in-new-year/</a>

Vale of Glamorgan Council	South East Wales	Rhws Primary pioneer outdoor learning spaces		Skills Outdoor learning Nature	<p>A 100m2 tepee has been erected providing the children with an exciting new space in which to have lessons.</p> <p>The team at Rhws Primary School have unveiled their new outdoor learning spaces, and further projects are underway, including a nurture pod and a nutrition pod, creating a wellbeing 'village' for the children.</p> <p>These outdoor spaces include a large tepee, providing a much needed, large well-ventilated learning space, suitable for a variety of activities, including classroom learning, school performances and PE lessons.</p> <p>The Rangers group aims to help children build resilience, confidence and independence, and learn new skills using outdoor spaces.</p> <p>This area is used for learning about nature and developing outdoor craft skills and team building.</p>	<a href="https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/our_council/press_and_communications/latest_news/2021/December/Rhws-Primary-pioneer-outdoor-learning-spaces.aspx">https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/our_council/press_and_communications/latest_news/2021/December/Rhws-Primary-pioneer-outdoor-learning-spaces.aspx</a>
Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council	South East Wales	Taff Bargoed Catchment Restoration		Sustainable management scheme	<p>This project aims to deliver sustainable catchment management of the Taff Bargoed river in Merthyr Tydfil. The collaboration consists of an established partnership group and members of the local community and at the heart of the project is the restoration of the silted up lake in Parc Taff Bargoed. The project seeks to implement sustainable upland interventions which will: restore a popular amenity for local communities to use and enjoy; reduce siltation of the water environment; enhance biodiversity and ecological resilience; improve water quality; and reduce the flood risk to local communities. Local farms, leisure businesses and the communities of Bedlinog, Trelewis and Treharris will be the key beneficiaries.</p>	<p><a href="https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2022-01/sustainable-management-scheme-synopsis.pdf">https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2022-01/sustainable-management-scheme-synopsis.pdf</a></p> <p>pg17</p>
Membership includes Natural Resources Wales, Merthyr Tydfil and Caerphilly County Borough Councils	South East Wales	Cydweithredu Comin – Common Collaboration		Sustainable management scheme	<p>This collaborative project seeks to improve the Gelligaer and Merthyr Common. Its membership includes Natural Resources Wales, Cadw, the Police, Merthyr Tydfil and Caerphilly County Borough Councils, the Gelligaer and Merthyr Commoners Association, residents and specific interest groups such as walkers, cyclists and the South East Wales Hang Gliding and Paragliding Club. The group has a strong community representation to deliver actions designed to restore the Common's landscape by implementing the sustainable management of natural Resources principles. The project seeks to address a number of social factors in particular anti-social behaviour like illegal off road vehicles, fly-tipping and roadside littering as well as fly-grazing and reduced land management as well as sustainable grazing and habitat restoration.</p>	<p><a href="https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2022-01/sustainable-management-scheme-synopsis.pdf">https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2022-01/sustainable-management-scheme-synopsis.pdf</a></p> <p>pg17</p>

Natural Resources Wales and others		Farming the Gwent Levels Sustainably		Sustainable management scheme	This collaborative project includes RSPB Wales, Natural Resources Wales and the Gwent Wildlife Trust working closely with farmers and other partners to develop the understanding, knowledge, skills and experience need to deliver the sustainable management of natural resources within the Gwent Levels. Participating farmers and project partners will take action to improve water quality, habitat improvement and creation, improving soil condition, and establishing habitat strips for pollinators, which will also act as buffers alongside water course. All actions aiming to Improve the environment of the Gwent Levels for people and nature, whilst supporting sustainable farm businesses.	<a href="https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2022-01/sustainable-management-scheme-synopsis.pdf">https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2022-01/sustainable-management-scheme-synopsis.pdf</a> pg19
Gwent region	Gwent	Nature isn't Neat 2022	Well-being Goals	Resilient Wales Biodiversity Collaboration	Nature Isn't Neat will establish a joined-up approach to the management of green spaces, also known as Green Infrastructure (GI), to create wildflower-rich pollinator habitats across 5 local authority areas (Blaenau Gwent, Caerphilly, Monmouthshire, Newport and Torfaen) An operative's Code of Action and training programme will be delivered, supporting effective pollinator management within the region.  The project will also contribute to the development of Pollinator Policies for local authorities and other relevant organisations to secure wide scale land enhancement for pollinators, creating resilient ecological networks.	<a href="https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/2022/01/gwent-gets-ready-for-nature-isnt-neat-2022/">https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/2022/01/gwent-gets-ready-for-nature-isnt-neat-2022/</a>
Arts Council of Wales	North Wales	Innovations in international cultural exchange and collaboration			With funding from Creative Scotland, Arts Council England, Arts Council Northern Ireland and Arts Council of Wales/Wales Arts International, the pilot Four Nations International Fund is backing artist led proposals which address the key issues facing society - social justice, gender identity and environmental sustainability – in innovative new ways. The projects bring together 82 UK and 48 international partners based in over 24 different countries, from Mexico to Kenya, Barbados to Australia and throughout Europe and USA.	<a href="https://arts.wales/news-jobs-opportunities/innovations-international-cultural-exchange-and-collaboration">https://arts.wales/news-jobs-opportunities/innovations-international-cultural-exchange-and-collaboration</a>

Arts Council of Wales	North Wales	Welsh artists in the spotlight at international showcase			<p>Led by Wales Arts International, the international agency of Arts Council of Wales, the event is supported by Welsh Government's Cymru Wales brand to increase international engagement, career development and touring opportunities for Welsh artists. Six artists from Wales – N'famady Kouyaté, Eve Goodman, Pedair, Cynefin, The Trials of Cato and NoGood Boyo – have been chosen through an open call led by Wales Arts International to represent Wales on the world stage. The Deputy Minister for Arts and Sport, Dawn Bowden said:</p> <p>"I'm delighted that artists from Wales are featuring in this special year for Wales in Celtic Connections and Showcase Scotland. This is a welcome opportunity to develop closer ties between Welsh, Scottish and global arts organisations, with reciprocal opportunities for Scottish and international artists here in Wales.</p>	<a href="https://arts.wales/news-jobs-opportunities/welsh-artists-spotlight-international-showcase">https://arts.wales/news-jobs-opportunities/welsh-artists-spotlight-international-showcase</a>
Conwy County Borough Council	North Wales	Conwy Council recognised as a Dementia Friendly Community			<p>Conwy County Borough Council has been recognised by the Alzheimer's Society for its efforts to become more dementia-friendly. Conwy County Borough Council's work to raise awareness, to support people living with dementia, and to become dementia-friendly was led by a steering group set up by staff. Work to date has included training a number of Dementia Friends and Dementia Champions; getting Integrated Care Fund (ICF) funding for a dementia bus tour where professionals and the public were able to experience what it feels like to have dementia with a range of hands-on exhibits. There has also been the popular dementia-friendly viewings at Theatr Colwyn; the reminiscence handling collections, and the sensory garden with dementia-friendly, accessible paths and seating at Conwy Culture Centre.</p>	<a href="https://www.conwy.gov.uk/en/Spotlight/Press-Releases/Conwy-Council-recognised-as-a-Dementia-Friendly-Community.aspx">https://www.conwy.gov.uk/en/Spotlight/Press-Releases/Conwy-Council-recognised-as-a-Dementia-Friendly-Community.aspx</a>
Denbighshire County Council	North Wales	Denbighshire budget approved for 2022/23		budget	<p>As part of the budget process the Council's draft settlement announced by Welsh Government suggests Denbighshire's budget will increase by 9.2% for the 2022/23 financial year, with increases of 3.3% and 2.2% the following two years.</p>	<a href="https://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/en/news/news-detail.aspx?article=0aa0e436-5321-461a-acb4-b352e5a54dfd">https://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/en/news/news-detail.aspx?article=0aa0e436-5321-461a-acb4-b352e5a54dfd</a>

Denbighshire County Council	North Wales	Woodland takes shape thanks to volunteer help		bioiversity involvement	The Council is continually working to maintain, improve and increase the biodiversity landscape of the county by protecting vulnerable species and habitats for the benefit of both wildlife and people who live and visit Denbighshire. Some of the work already carried out across Denbighshire includes the planting of over 18,000 trees and the enhancement of biodiversity in the County, with 60 sites being managed to create wildflower meadows. The Council has also established a project to look at creating four new woodlands across Denbighshire and is planning to plant nearly 5,000 trees before March this year. Many charities, community groups, volunteer groups, and schools are helping Countryside Service staff to plant trees.	<a href="https://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/en/news/news-detail.aspx?article=d8a0d6a1-caec-4385-99a2-7b2f985909d4">https://www.denbighshire.gov.uk/en/news/news-detail.aspx?article=d8a0d6a1-caec-4385-99a2-7b2f985909d4</a>
Wrexham County Borough Council	North Wales	Have Your Say On Our Proposed Cycling And Walking Routes		citizen engagement active travel	Last year we asked for everyone's comments on barriers to active travel and asked for suggestions how they could be improved. We received hundreds of comments from across the county borough and we've used these comments to help put our proposals together. We're now consulting on our proposals to upgrade and create new walking and cycling routes to make active travel the normal way to get around for local journeys. This will cut down on unnecessary traffic and help families get about safely, improve air quality and increase the attractiveness of places to live and work. The proposals focus on 13 areas of Wrexham that have been chosen because they are where facilities are that people travel short distances to regularly – schools, leisure centres, employment sites, local shopping districts and bus or rail services.	<a href="https://news.wrexham.gov.uk/proposed-cycling-and-walking-routes/">https://news.wrexham.gov.uk/proposed-cycling-and-walking-routes/</a>
Cyngor Sir Ynys Môn / Isle of Anglesey County Council	North Wales	Budget offers chance to invest in services after years of cuts		budget engagement	The County Council will receive a much welcomed and improved financial settlement from Welsh Government this year. Anglesey's Executive launches a consultation to gauge public opinion on its initial spending plans for 2022/23 and a possible 2% increase in the Council Tax. Finance portfolio holder, Councillor Robin Williams, explained, "Since 2013/14, we've been forced to make £25m in service cuts. After years of austerity, we now have an opportunity to reinvest in key service areas to respond to increased pressures, some of which are linked to the Covid-19 pandemic. Feedback from Anglesey residents through the consultation process will play an important role in decisions about future funding, particularly the amount raised through the Council Tax."	<a href="https://www.anglesey.gov.uk/en/newsroom/news/budget-offers-chance-to-invest-in-services-after-years-of-cuts">https://www.anglesey.gov.uk/en/newsroom/news/budget-offers-chance-to-invest-in-services-after-years-of-cuts</a>

Bridgend County Borough Council	South East Wales	Council reveals plans to develop new £12.6m school on land at Brackla		School Brownfield Welsh-medium	Bridgend County Borough Council has revealed plans to provide Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr with larger, £12.6m state of the art new premises on land located off Ffordd Cadfan in Brackla. The Cabinet of Bridgend County Borough Council has agreed to carry out public consultation over the proposals after acquiring a vacant brownfield site within the local catchment area which backs on to Brackla industrial estate. The announcement comes almost a year after the authority confirmed that it was no longer seeking to build the new Welsh-medium school premises on a 14-acre site known locally as Brackla Hill.	<a href="https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/news/council-reveals-plans-to-develop-new-126m-school-on-land-at-brackla/">https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/news/council-reveals-plans-to-develop-new-126m-school-on-land-at-brackla/</a>
Bridgend County Borough Council	South East Wales	Electric refuse lorry to be trialled in Bridgend County Borough		Ultra low emissions vehicles Zero carbon Decarbonisation	Bridgend County Borough Council and its waste partners Kier have announced the acquisition of an all-electric refuse lorry for an exhibition day. The Dennis eCollect will be around the county borough on Tuesday and will provide crucial information for future choices for Ultra Low Emissions vehicles in the county borough.	<a href="https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/news/electric-refuse-lorry-to-be-trialled-in-bridgend-county-borough/">https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/news/electric-refuse-lorry-to-be-trialled-in-bridgend-county-borough/</a>
Bridgend County Borough Council	South East Wales	Council work with Welsh Government on Winter of Wellbeing programme		Children and young people Creativity Food Culture	Bridgend County Borough Council are working with Welsh Government to support the national Winter of Wellbeing programme for children and young people. The programme builds upon the popular Summer of Fun programme in 2021 which saw local communities and organisations come together to create opportunities to be active, meet other young people and try new things to help them manage their wellbeing. Following on from the success of the summer scheme, a further programme of activities and opportunities has been developed as part of the Winter of Wellbeing with additional activities available through January until March 31, including the February school holidays.	<a href="https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/news/council-work-with-welsh-government-on-winter-of-wellbeing-programme/">https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/news/council-work-with-welsh-government-on-winter-of-wellbeing-programme/</a>

Cardiff Council	South East Wales	A 'Winter of Wellbeing' for Cardiff's Children and Young People		Children and young people Creativity Food Culture	<p>The next phase of Cardiff Council's, Welsh Government funded, Winter of Wellbeing is coming soon, in time for February half-term, and running until the end of March.</p> <p>Following on from last year's Summer of Smiles festival, which gave thousands of Cardiff's children and young people a range of experiences and activities, the Winter of Wellbeing programme is offering free opportunities and activities for 0 to 25-year-olds across the city.</p> <p>Winter of Wellbeing started in Cardiff in December, with thousands of families gaining free access to all of the live Christmas performances and events throughout the city. Co-ordinated by the Council's Child Friendly Cardiff team, the next phase of the programme continues until 31st March.</p> <p>The forthcoming phase of Winter of Wellbeing has three main elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A comprehensive arts and cultural Programme</li> <li>- A brand new, Child Friendly Cardiff Pop-Up Shop coming to St David's shopping centre</li> <li>- A significant package of grant-funding for existing community providers</li> </ul>	<a href="https://www.cardiffnewsroom.co.uk/releases/c25/28446.html">https://www.cardiffnewsroom.co.uk/releases/c25/28446.html</a>
Bridgend County Borough Council	South East Wales	Reading book vending machine installed at primary school		Children Reading	<p>Pupils at Penybont Primary School can pick up their new favourite reading books from a unique vending machine.</p> <p>Each week, classes choose one lucky pupil to receive a token with winners chosen for their efforts, attitude and progress in reading. The winning pupil can then use the token to pick out a new book to keep from a vending machine within the school.</p> <p>It was introduced as part of the school's 'Reading for Pleasure' initiative which aims to create a positive mindset for pupils to view reading.</p>	<a href="https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/news/reading-book-vending-machine-installed-at-primary-school/">https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/news/reading-book-vending-machine-installed-at-primary-school/</a>
Cardiff Council	South East Wales	One Planet Cardiff plan for a carbon neutral city by 2030 rated best in Wales		Decarbonisation	<p>One Planet Cardiff, the council's strategy for a carbon neutral city by 2030 has been rated as the best in Wales by a citizen data science project led by Climate Emergency UK, who have assessed and scored Climate Action Plans across 409 UK Councils.</p> <p>Cardiff's plan, developed following its declaration of a climate emergency, scored 70%, against an average UK-wide for single-tier local authorities of 50%.</p>	<a href="https://www.cardiffnewsroom.co.uk/releases/c25/28401.html">https://www.cardiffnewsroom.co.uk/releases/c25/28401.html</a>

Cardiff Council	South East Wales	Five-year plan to support older people in Cardiff		Older people Strategy	A report which outlines how older people in Cardiff will be supported over the next five years, is to be presented to Cardiff Council's Cabinet when it meets next week (Thursday 20, 2022). The Ageing Well Strategy sets out a series of proposals with a focus on how the Council's internal services can work closely to meet the needs of older people, whilst supporting the work of independent and third sector providers and the Regional Partnership Board. The strategy has six key aims: Supporting older people to stay active and connected in an age friendly city Supporting older people to live independently at home through strengths based preventative services Working in partnership to deliver high quality sustainable care Supporting informal carers and valuing their role Ensuring our services meet the needs of the most vulnerable Proactively Modernising our Services	<a href="https://www.cardiffnewsroom.co.uk/releases/c25/28385.html">https://www.cardiffnewsroom.co.uk/releases/c25/28385.html</a>
Cardiff Council	South East Wales	Cardiff's five-year plan to revitalise its city centre post pandemic		City centre Planning	A five-year plan to re-imagine and re-vitalise Cardiff city centre in a post-pandemic world has been published by Cardiff Council. The plan, which is designed to bring partner groups and stakeholders together from across the city to help realise the vision, will focus on nine key themes: 1.A fully curated (managed) city centre which is clean, safe, green and attractive to all. 2.A dynamic business and employment hub delivering more job opportunities. 3.A city centre which lies at the heart of a fully-integrated transport network. 4.A green and bio-diverse city centre. 5.A centre which contains excellent urban design and public realm. 6.A 'blue city centre' which makes use of its rivers and canals. 7.A vibrant centre to live, work and play in. 8.A centre focussed on great cultural offerings. 9.A city centre which offers a quality experience to visitors.	<a href="https://www.cardiffnewsroom.co.uk/releases/c25/28354.html">https://www.cardiffnewsroom.co.uk/releases/c25/28354.html</a>
Conwy County Borough Council	North Wales	Walk your dog month (Jan)		walking	(Twitter) "Get out and about, meet other dog walkers, and improve your own and your dog's well-being". Tweet includes a link to walking routes in Conwy.	<a href="https://twitter.com/ConwyCBC/status/1487364925840310276">https://twitter.com/ConwyCBC/status/1487364925840310276</a>

Conwy County Borough Council	North Wales	libraries as Community Hubs post-Covid-19,			<p>just started work on a project funded through the UK Community Renewal Fund to assess the feasibility of enhancing the role of Conwy's libraries as Community Hubs post-Covid-19, to provide access, both remotely and in person to a range of services to include support skills, employability, digital inclusion and health &amp; wellbeing.</p> <p>There are 2 strands to the work:</p> <p>Work Package 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Researching UK good practice of libraries as community hubs</li> <li>· Identifying digital barriers in our communities and approaches our library services can use to support digital inclusion locally</li> <li>· Proposing a model and guidelines for undertaking community level audits of the digitally excluded (linked to Older People's Commissioner for Wales, Leave No-one Behind)</li> <li>· Researching and recommending technical solutions for remote access points for the digitally excluded in the County's libraries</li> <li>· Proposing a workable model for the loan of digital equipment from library hubs</li> <li>· Assessing additional staff training needs to deliver the community hubs</li> <li>· Recommending an implementation model and communications plan for a multi-agency digital inclusion group</li> <li>· Producing guidelines for a pilot project at Llanrwst Library</li> <li>· Evaluating the model and proposing a suitable community hub model/s supporting a more local and devolved approach to</li> </ul>	
Bridgend County Borough Council	South East Wales	Care home residents taken on out-of-this world adventure in virtual reality		Older people Virtual reality	<p>Residents at Bryn y Cae, Brackla and Pantyrwael's Tŷ Cwm Ogwr care homes have been transported across the world and beyond from the comfort of their own armchair thanks to virtual reality technology.</p> <p>Thanks to a project delivered by Awen Cultural Trust and Bridgend County Borough Council, residents enjoyed wildlife adventures, space flights and visits to cities across the world.</p> <p>Funded by Welsh Government's Integrated Care Fund 'Connected Communities' Grant, the project also worked with Cardiff-based Rescape Innovation to create 12 personalised VR experiences for residents with dementia, aimed at unlocking memories and provoking conversations.</p>	<p><a href="https://futuregenerationswales.crm11.dynamics.com/main.aspx?appid=c54b1b5e-0057-e811-a8b6-00224801a6b7&amp;pagetype=entityrecord&amp;etn=email&amp;id=f8946258-0985-ec11-8d21-6045bd0f07ec">https://futuregenerationswales.crm11.dynamics.com/main.aspx?appid=c54b1b5e-0057-e811-a8b6-00224801a6b7&amp;pagetype=entityrecord&amp;etn=email&amp;id=f8946258-0985-ec11-8d21-6045bd0f07ec</a></p>

Bridgend County Borough Council	South East Wales	Council invited to join UK100 forum	Priority areas	Net zero Decarbonisation Climate emergency	<p>Bridgend County Borough Council has been invited to become a member of UK100, cementing its commitment to tackling the climate emergency.</p> <p>The UK100 is billed as a forum for the ‘most ambitious local leaders across the UK’ and runs campaigns around climate change, clean air and green finance.</p> <p>Currently boasting 60 members – including Cardiff Council, City of Edinburgh, Bristol City Council and Birmingham City Council – the UK100 uses the collective voice of their members to advocate for changes that are necessary to make the transition to net zero.</p> <p>They work with the most ambitious members – the Net Zero Local Leadership Club – who are doing everything within their power to get their communities to net zero as soon as possible, and by 2045 at the latest.</p> <p>Joining the UK100 would also help the council capture a range of benefits from the transition to net zero for communities, residents and businesses in Bridgend County Borough including job creation, improvement of air quality, energy security and better quality homes.</p>	<a href="https://futuregenerationswales.crm11.dynamics.com/main.aspx?appid=c54b1b5e-0057-e811-a8b6-00224801a6b7&amp;pagetype=entityrecord&amp;etn=email&amp;id=f8946258-0985-ec11-8d21-6045bd0f07ec">https://futuregenerationswales.crm11.dynamics.com/main.aspx?appid=c54b1b5e-0057-e811-a8b6-00224801a6b7&amp;pagetype=entityrecord&amp;etn=email&amp;id=f8946258-0985-ec11-8d21-6045bd0f07ec</a>
Bridgend County Borough Council	South East Wales	Wildlife prioritised for light installation		Resilient Wales Low energy lighting Nature	<p>The welfare of wildlife near Bridgend Tennis Club has been taken into consideration while new lights are installed on a popular walking route across the Ogmore River at Newbridge Fields.</p> <p>The path, which includes a footbridge, frequently acts as a shortcut between Bridgend Life Centre and the town’s Tennis, Squash and Bowls Club, which sit on opposite sides of the river.</p> <p>Lights either side of the footbridge were placed at a low-level optimum height to protect any roosting bats in the area and low-level lighting units that illuminate the path were strategically placed in order to avoid up-lighting spill that might disturb any spawning fish in the river.</p>	<a href="https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/news/wildlife-welfare-prioritised-for-new-light-installation/">https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/news/wildlife-welfare-prioritised-for-new-light-installation/</a>

Cardiff Council	South East Wales	Delivering real change in people's lives: Cardiff's homelessness & housing support plan		homelessness housing strategy	Cardiff's key priorities for preventing homelessness and delivering housing support over the next four years have been outlined in a new draft strategy. The Cardiff Housing Support Programme Strategy 2022 - 2026 has been developed following a comprehensive needs assessment and stakeholder engagement and builds on the significant progress made in reducing homelessness over recent years. The strategy sets out how the Council and its partners will support people at risk of losing their home and those who are experiencing homelessness in the city over the next 5 years. The strategy is based on the Council's vision that homelessness should be prevented wherever possible and when that is not possible, experiences of homelessness are rare, brief and not repeated.	<a href="https://www.cardiffnewsroom.co.uk/releases/c25/28312.html">https://www.cardiffnewsroom.co.uk/releases/c25/28312.html</a>
Cardiff Council	South East Wales	Physical Activity and Sport Strategy for Cardiff will help improve lives		Sport Health	A new strategy, which aims for Cardiff to be the 'best physically active city in the UK', will be discussed as part of a plan to help citizens improve their health. The intention is to make it easier for Cardiff residents to take part in regular physical activity and sport and to help all sectors of the community improve their health.	<a href="https://www.cardiffnewsroom.co.uk/releases/c25/28308.html">https://www.cardiffnewsroom.co.uk/releases/c25/28308.html</a>
Cardiff Council	South East Wales	First Homes Cardiff: Helping First Time Buyers		Housing	Cardiff Council's assisted home ownership scheme, helping first time buyers in the city get onto the property ladder, has been relaunched as First Homes Cardiff. First Homes Cardiff aims to help first time buyers living or working in the city who find themselves unable to afford their first home, by offering new build properties for sale on a shared equity basis on developments across the city.	<a href="https://www.cardiffnewsroom.co.uk/releases/c25/28284.html">https://www.cardiffnewsroom.co.uk/releases/c25/28284.html</a>
Vale of Glamorgan	South East Wales	Council to spend £1.5 million on new flats in Barry		Housing Energy efficiency	The site of a former healthcare centre in Barry is to be transformed into a £1.5 million Vale of Glamorgan Council housing development. Planning permission has been approved for the land on Winston Road previously occupied by Colcot clinic will be turned into 12 one-bedroom eco-friendly flats. They will include large open-plan kitchen/living rooms, balconies and off-street parking. The flats will be built using sustainable methods and feature energy efficient heating, solar panels and rainwater harvesting.	<a href="https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/our_council/press_and_communications/latest_news/2022/January/Council-to-spend-1.5-million-on-new-flats-in-Barry.aspx">https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/our_council/press_and_communications/latest_news/2022/January/Council-to-spend-1.5-million-on-new-flats-in-Barry.aspx</a>

Vale of Glamorgan	South East Wales	OVO Bikes return to the Vale of Glamorgan		Active travel	<p>Customers are now able to get back in the saddle, with the bikes available again following a two-month break. To celebrate their return, operators Nextbike have created a £5 voucher code, RELAUNCH22, which can be redeemed by anyone. The scheme was temporarily suspended in Cardiff and the Vale in November after a spate of vandalism and thefts in Cardiff left the fleet depleted and unable to function.</p> <p>Initially, it will relaunch with 400 bikes in operation from the highest-usage stations, with more added over the coming months.</p>	<a href="https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/our_council/press_and_communications/latest_news/2022/January/OVO-Bikes-return-to-the-Vale-of-Glamorgan.aspx">https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/our_council/press_and_communications/latest_news/2022/January/OVO-Bikes-return-to-the-Vale-of-Glamorgan.aspx</a>
Vale of Glamorgan	South East Wales	Local Nature Partnership Community Grant		Resilient Wales Nature	<p>The Vale's Local Nature Partnership are looking for projects which will deliver upon our aim to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote the resilience of ecosystems.</p>	<a href="https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/our_council/press_and_communications/latest_news/2022/January/Vale-Nature-Partnership-Community-Grant.aspx">https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/our_council/press_and_communications/latest_news/2022/January/Vale-Nature-Partnership-Community-Grant.aspx</a>
National Library Wales Arts Council Wales		Widening Engagement Action Plan	Good practice	Engagement Inclusivity	<p>Action plans from National Library Wales and Arts Council Wales.</p> <p>Plan commitments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ensuring that leadership at both organisations is representative of the population. Both organisations have declared zero tolerance of any form of discrimination.</li> <li>- Cultural programmes being led and co-produced by communities and ensuring more equitable use of resources.</li> <li>- Adopting British Sign Language as their third language and working to ensure venues, museums and cultural resources are as accessible as possible.</li> <li>- Continuing to drive forward their work in promoting the Welsh Language and delivering the Welsh Government Cymraeg 2050 goals. The Welsh language belongs to everyone, of all communities, and m</li> </ul>	<a href="https://museum.wales/aims/visi-on-commitments-and-values/widening-engagement-action-plan/">https://museum.wales/aims/visi-on-commitments-and-values/widening-engagement-action-plan/</a>

Monmouthshire	Gwent	You decide, Monmouthshire		Inclusivity Communities	'You decide, Monmouthshire' is a small grant programme offering funding of up to £4,500 for community projects in and around each of the county's five towns to help make these projects a reality. Using funding received from Welsh Government, Monmouthshire County Council and partners will be running a series of events during February and March in which community members will get to decide how best to spend the money in their local area. To be eligible for funding, projects will need to show that they will benefit the local community and bring people together.	<a href="https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/2022/02/calls-for-projects-aimed-at-building-thriving-and-inclusive-communities-to-access-funding/">https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/2022/02/calls-for-projects-aimed-at-building-thriving-and-inclusive-communities-to-access-funding/</a>
Arts Council of Wales Amgueddfa Cymru		Cultural organisations in Wales should reflect the lives of all communities		Community engagement Involvement Co-production Diversity Accessibility	(1 Feb '22) National Museum Wales and Arts Council of Wales are sharing plans which will help ensure they reflect the lives of all individuals and communities. The Widening Engagement Action Plan has been developed in response to three reports on widening engagement, which were commissioned in summer 2020 and published in August 2021. To instigate the changes needed in both organisation, within the sector and in Wales, Amgueddfa Cymru and Arts Council of Wales believe that individuals and communities should be able to contribute to the debate about what counts as culture, where it happens, who makes it and who experiences it. In the plans, both organisations commit to: - Ensuring that leadership at both organisations is representative of the population. Both organisations have declared zero tolerance of any form of discrimination. - Cultural programmes being led and co-produced by communities and ensuring more equitable use of resources. - Adopting British Sign Language as their third language and working to ensure venues, museums and cultural resources are as accessible as possible. - Continuing to drive forward their work in promoting the Welsh Language and delivering the Welsh Government Cymraeg 2050 goals. The Welsh language belongs to everyone, of all communities, and members of those communities use and celebrate the language every day.	<a href="https://museum.wales/news/1256/Cultural-organisations-in-Wales-should-reflect-the-lives-of-all-communities/">https://museum.wales/news/1256/Cultural-organisations-in-Wales-should-reflect-the-lives-of-all-communities/</a>

Cardiff Council	South East Wales	New pop up recycling facility to be trialled in north Cardiff		Recycling Waste	<p>A new, mobile-recycling facility is coming to north Cardiff. The pop-up facility, which will be available at different venues on different dates, is designed to help residents recycle larger household items closer to their homes.</p> <p>The first pop-up facility will open at the former tax offices in Parc Ty Glas on Saturday March 5th between 9am and 3pm. It will return each Saturday - dependent on demand - for eight weeks. More information on the service, and other venues once added, will be publicised through the council's social media channels. Residents can drop off their recycling without booking an appointment, but they will have to show proof of address that they live in Cardiff in order to use the facilities.</p> <p>Cllr Michael Michael, Cabinet Member for Clean Streets, Environment and Recycling said: "We are keen to explore options which will make it easier for people to recycle. The first of these mobile events will take place in north Cardiff and if the scheme is successful, we will be looking at how we might expand the service to other suitable sites across the city."</p>	<a href="https://www.cardiffnewsroom.co.uk/releases/c25/28421.html">https://www.cardiffnewsroom.co.uk/releases/c25/28421.html</a>
Merthyr Tydfil Council	South East Wales	Work to start on Neighbourhood Learning Centre's innovative makeover		Young people Housing Education and training	<p>Work is about to begin on transforming the Council's Neighbourhood Learning Centre at Gurnos into an innovative training and accommodation centre for the county borough's young residents.</p> <p>The building, which has been used as an educational base to help unemployed young people and adults get jobs in a range of vocations for the past 25 years, will continue to offer training alongside five self-contained apartments in one of the three blocks.</p> <p>The aim is to help address a shortage of good quality affordable homes in Wales, while also supporting our young people who require accommodation to live independently while looking to participate in training opportunities to lead to employment.</p>	<a href="https://www.merthyr.gov.uk/news-and-events/latest-news/work-to-start-on-neighbourhood-learning-centre-s-innovative-makeover/">https://www.merthyr.gov.uk/news-and-events/latest-news/work-to-start-on-neighbourhood-learning-centre-s-innovative-makeover/</a>
Rhondda Cynon Taf	South East Wales	Tonnes of MIGHTY New		Recycling	Tonnes of MIGHTY recycling has been collected from across	<a href="https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/">https://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/EN/</a>

Cardiff and Vale UHB	South East Wales	Help shape 'Your Ideal Recovery & Wellbeing College'		Mental and physical health Recovery Co-production	<p>The Cardiff and Vale Recovery &amp; Wellbeing College has been a huge success since its launch in Autumn 2020. In a first of its kind in Wales, the college provides free educational courses on a range of mental health, physical health and wellbeing topics. Anyone is welcome to enrol as a student and courses take place online, as well as in-person, at venues across Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan. The college has facilitated 225 workshops, over 605 teaching hours and registrations from 683 students since it launched.</p> <p>Peer support is at the core of all courses available, co-produced and co-delivered by health care professionals and peer trainers with lived experience of mental health and physical health challenges. Course leads use their experience to support others in their recovery.</p> <p>Co-production underpins the Recovery &amp; Wellbeing College as the first co-produced, peer led mental health service in Wales, not only through the development of courses, but engaging with people in Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan on how the college is run and what its curriculum looks like. The college hosts regular Open Forum sessions where updates are provided and people are invited to share their views. Additionally, the college's Board has student representatives and since the college was established it has worked in partnership with the Third Sector, carers and service users.</p>	<a href="https://cavuhb.nhs.wales/news/home-page-news/help-shape-your-ideal-recovery-wellbeing-college/">https://cavuhb.nhs.wales/news/home-page-news/help-shape-your-ideal-recovery-wellbeing-college/</a>
Cardiff and Vale UHB	South East Wales	Cardiff and Vale University Health Board Supports Optometry Service for Homeless Citizens		Health care Homelessness	<p>The pilot scheme was inspired by Vision Care for Homeless People and local Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians volunteered their time to provide clinical sessions for patients who may not be accessing the healthcare they need. Taking place at a multidisciplinary centre in the heart of the city, Cardiff and Vale University Health Board provided specialist Optometry equipment to the newly refurbished clinical assessment room, ensuring both Optometrists and patients have a suitable and comfortable space to undertake examinations.</p>	<a href="https://cavuhb.nhs.wales/news/latest-news/cardiff-and-vale-university-health-board-supports-optometry-service-for-homeless-citizens/">https://cavuhb.nhs.wales/news/latest-news/cardiff-and-vale-university-health-board-supports-optometry-service-for-homeless-citizens/</a>
Bridgend County Borough Council	South East Wales	Outcome of school modernisation consultation to be presented to Cabinet		Dearbonisation School Education	<p>The outcome of the consultation on the proposed enlargement of Mynydd Cynffig Primary School will be presented to Bridgend County Borough Council's Cabinet.</p> <p>The school will be net zero carbon in operation, producing zero or negative carbon emissions as part of its operational energy. It is envisaged that the school will benefit from a central 'street' which can be used for independent learning, dedicated groups rooms, classrooms conducive to 21st Century teaching and learning, and two all-weather sports pitches.</p>	<a href="https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/news/outcome-of-school-modernisation-consultation-to-be-presented-to-cabinet/">https://www.bridgend.gov.uk/news/outcome-of-school-modernisation-consultation-to-be-presented-to-cabinet/</a>

Cardiff Council	South East Wales	Artwork to celebrate LGBTQ+ History Month painted on Castle Street		LGBTQ+ History Month	To celebrate LGBTQ+ History Month this year, new artwork has been revealed on Castle Street, with four progressive pride flag designs painted on the carriageway to celebrate and remember the history, lives, and experiences of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, plus community in Cardiff.	<a href="https://www.cardiffnewsroom.co.uk/releases/c25/28454.html">https://www.cardiffnewsroom.co.uk/releases/c25/28454.html</a>
Cardiff Council	South East Wales	Get Cycle Ready for Spring		Active travel Cycling	A Cycle Ready for Spring campaign - designed to encourage more people to cycle and to get their bikes road-ready in time for Spring - is coming to Cardiff. Run by Cardiff Council and its partners, the family-friendly events will have entertainment, live music and cycle-kit giveaways. Residents can get their bikes checked over by professionals, have small repairs done, and get them security tagged by South Wales Police at four, free events held in Grangetown, Canton, Splott and the city centre.	<a href="https://www.cardiffnewsroom.co.uk/releases/c25/28466.html">https://www.cardiffnewsroom.co.uk/releases/c25/28466.html</a>
Merthyr Tydfil Council	South East Wales	PLANS REVEALED: Merthyr Tydfil to become entertainment capital of the Valleys with new, state-of-the-art venue		Culture	Merthyr Tydfil could soon become a hub of live music, comedy, food and arts — with plans to transform the town centre's derelict Rugby Club into a vibrant new entertainment venue. Set to welcome a top-secret line up of world-famous artists, the transformative project has been made possible by an investment from the Transforming Towns Placemaking scheme, in conjunction with Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council. The 700-person Clwb will become the highest capacity venue in the Heads of the Valleys region, comprising a coffee, wine and tapas bar on one side and a high-spec performance space on the other — to accommodate theatre, dance, comedy and live music. What's more, the venue will also offer spaces for community collaboration in the town centre, including rehearsal spaces for amateur dramatic companies and choirs, exhibition rooms for artists and modern meeting places for other local groups.	<a href="https://www.merthyr.gov.uk/news-and-events/latest-news/plans-revealed-merthyr-tydfil-to-become-entertainment-capital-of-the-valleys-with-new-state-of-the-art-venue/">https://www.merthyr.gov.uk/news-and-events/latest-news/plans-revealed-merthyr-tydfil-to-become-entertainment-capital-of-the-valleys-with-new-state-of-the-art-venue/</a>
Vale of Glamorgan	South East Wales	Barry playgroup scoops national award		Early years Outdoor education School	West End Playgroup in Barry, part of the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Healthy and Sustainable Pre-school Scheme, has won an Early Years Wales Award. West End Playgroup in Barry, part of the Vale of Glamorgan Council's Healthy and Sustainable Pre-school Scheme, has won an Early Years Wales Award.	<a href="https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/our_council/press_and_communications/latest_news/2022/February/Barry-playgroup-scoops-national-award.aspx">https://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/en/our_council/press_and_communications/latest_news/2022/February/Barry-playgroup-scoops-national-award.aspx</a>

Cardiff and Vale UHB	South East Wales	Celebrating our Youth Board's contributions to mental health services		Youth involvement Wellbeing and health Mental health Emotional wellbeing	Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (UHB) has its very own Youth Board, made up of young volunteers aged 13 to 25. The Youth Board is instrumental in ensuring young people are part of the Health Boards decision making processes. The programme is extremely successful, particularly due to the perspectives it offers and contributions it makes towards the way we shape our services. In turn, this helps the Health Board improve access to services for children and young people, as well as supporting them to lead healthier lifestyles.	<a href="https://cavuhb.nhs.wales/news/home-page-news/celebrating-our-youth-boards-contributions-to-mental-health-services/">https://cavuhb.nhs.wales/news/home-page-news/celebrating-our-youth-boards-contributions-to-mental-health-services/</a>
Natural Resources Wales		Innovative 'tree catcher' reduces flood risk to hundreds of Cardiff residents		Flood risk Climate change	Natural Resources Wales (NRW) has completed a scheme to reduce the risk of flooding to 490 properties in the Ely and Fairwater areas of Cardiff.  The scheme involved constructing a 'tree catcher' upstream of where the River Ely passes under Cowbridge Road West (A48) to reduce the chance of trees and other large objects getting trapped under the bridge.	<a href="https://naturalresources.wales/about-us/news-and-events/news/innovative-tree-catcher-reduces-flood-risk-to-hundreds-of-cardiff-residents/?lang=en">https://naturalresources.wales/about-us/news-and-events/news/innovative-tree-catcher-reduces-flood-risk-to-hundreds-of-cardiff-residents/?lang=en</a>
Amgueddfa Cymru		Sugar Creative chosen to re-think the museum experience		Culture	Sugar Creative has been awarded the Amgueddfa Cymru Challenge Fund to research and develop (R&D) innovative ways to experience and interact with the museum's collections on a local and global scale.	<a href="https://museum.wales/news/1259/Sugar-Creative-chosen-to-re-think-the-museum-experience/">https://museum.wales/news/1259/Sugar-Creative-chosen-to-re-think-the-museum-experience/</a>

Jane Hutt MS  
Minister for Social Justice

15 February 2022

Dear Jane

**Future Generations Commissioner: Review of public bodies subject to the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015**

We held our annual scrutiny session with the Future Generations Commissioner on 7 February 2022.

One of the areas we discussed with the Commissioner was the current review of public bodies subject to the *Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015* (the Act). As I noted during the Plenary debate on the Draft Budget 2022-23, we were concerned to hear about the number of additional public bodies currently being considered and the potential impact this would have on the Commissioner's capacity.

It is important that the resources allocated to the Commissioner be commensurate to the work that her office is expected to undertake. I would therefore be grateful if you could provide further information on this review, including the number of bodies being considered and whether you could update us on your consideration of the Commissioner's budget estimate, which asks for a significant increase in the Commissioner's resources.

During our scrutiny session, the Commissioner expressed concern about comments made by the former Permanent Secretary when giving evidence to the Public Accounts Committee in the Fifth Senedd. When asked whether she had had to challenge a Minister regarding an inconsistency between the policy or approach that a Minister wanted to take and the Act, the Permanent Secretary replied that she could not think of any examples. Could you confirm if you agree with this assessment? I would be grateful if you could outline what systems the Welsh Government has in place to ensure that its business and conduct is compliant with the Act.

I am copying this letter to the Future Generations Commissioner, the Chair of the Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee and the Chair of the Finance Committee.

Yours sincerely



Jenny Rathbone  
Chair, Equality and Social Justice Committee



7 March 2022

Dear Jenny

Thank you for your letter of 15 February regarding the review of public bodies subject to the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, the resourcing of the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales, and the Welsh Government's implementation of the Act.

I am pleased and encouraged by the level of interest and appetite for the Act's legislative framework to be extended to other public bodies – this illustrates the importance of the Act in changing how public services work together to deliver a more sustainable Wales, as defined through the seven well-being goals. Since the Act was passed into law, the public sector landscape in Wales has changed and it is right that we assess whether additional public bodies warrant designation to be subject to the Act. The decision to conduct a review has been informed by the work of the Auditor General for Wales in their report, *So, what's different? Findings from the Auditor General's Sustainable Development Principle Examinations (May 2020)* and the Public Accounts Committee (5th Senedd) report, *Delivering for Future Generations – the story so far (March 2021)*.

The public bodies currently subject to the Act were identified according to a set of four criteria which we will apply again as part of the review. I have provided the detail of these criteria in Annex A, which are also detailed in the Explanatory Memorandum for the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Bill. The Commissioner's estimate of additional public bodies outlined at the Equality and Social Justice Committee on 7 February was based on a long list of bodies that consists of those highlighted by the Auditor General for Wales in his 2020 report, as well as those suggested by some stakeholders in the consultation on the draft Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Bill in 2021. Based on our initial assessment, many of the public bodies identified in this list will not satisfy the established criteria, and we estimate that there will be fewer than ten additional public bodies subject to the Act following the review.

In extending the list of public bodies subject to the Act, we will engage with all affected parties to understand the likely implications. We will consult on the changes to the list of bodies subject to the Act, and intend to conclude this work by the summer. We are in

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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.

discussions with the Commissioner's office on the financial implications on her office in monitoring and supporting additional public bodies.

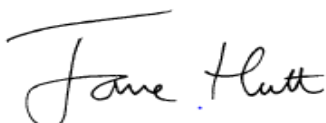
My officials and I also continue to have open dialogue with the Commissioner on the level of Government funding provided to her office. As you are aware, given the significant pressures on Welsh Government budgets in 2022-23, I was only able to allocate a flat-lined revenue budget for Commissioners within my portfolio. I understand this will cause financial pressures for those Commissioners over the year ahead, but we are eager to jointly explore alternative options to alleviate these pressures. As outlined in my letter to the Commissioner on 14 February, I have agreed a temporary increase to the level of financial reserves the Commissioner can carry over into 2022-23. This decision has been welcomed by the Commissioner and will provide greater short-term certainty while enabling joint discussions on longer-term funding to continue.

With regards to the Commissioner's concerns about the role of the Act within Government, Welsh Ministers receive advice from civil servants to inform the decisions we take, the policies we develop, and the laws we propose. All advice to Ministers takes account of relevant legislative and policy matters, including the Well-being of Future Generations Act. It is important to note that the well-being duty placed on Welsh Ministers and public bodies subject to the Act does not dictate the decision that they must reach in any given situation. Instead, it sets out the factors – such as the sustainable development principle – that need to be taken into account in the delivery of well-being objectives. In January 2021, the former Permanent Secretary provided a supporting paper to the Public Accounts Committee's (5th Senedd) inquiry into the barriers to the successful implementation of the Act, which outlined how the Act has changed the way that the Welsh Government works.

Welsh Ministers are steadfast in our commitment to act in accordance with the Act. Publishing our well-being objectives as part of the Programme for Government demonstrates the central role of the Act in how we will deliver a stronger, greener and fairer Wales. The objectives have been set in accordance with the sustainable development principle and formalise our contribution to Wales' seven well-being goals. Progress towards these objectives and the associated steps are kept under review through our Annual Report.

I hope this information provides clarity on the steps we are taking to ensure the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 continues to shape how Government and public bodies work in pursuit of a sustainable Wales. I am copying this letter to the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane Hutt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line above the first name.

**Jane Hutt AS/MS**

Y Gweinidog Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol

Minister for Social Justice

## Annex A

### Public authorities subject to the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act

The public authorities that are subject to the provisions of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act were identified following consideration of a set of criteria.

This criteria was set out in paragraph 61 of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Bill's [explanatory memorandum](#) as follows:

- **Funding:** The authority is over 50% public funded;
- **Impact on Well-being:** The authority undertakes functions or activities that impact on the economic, social and environmental well-being of Wales or their local area;
- **Functions:** The authority has strategic functions;
- **Auditable:** The authority is an 'auditable public authority' as defined in Schedule 7 of the GOWA 2006.

Welsh Ministers may, by regulations, amend the meaning of public body by adding or removing a person from the list, or amending the description of such a person (as provided for in section 52 of the Act).

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By virtue of paragraph(s) vii of Standing Order 17.42

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