

Agenda – Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee

Meeting Venue:

Hybrid – Committee room 3 Senedd
and video Conference via Zoom

Meeting date: 25 January 2024

Meeting time: 09.30

For further information contact:

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Committee Clerk

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Private pre-meeting (09.15–09.30)

Public meeting (09.30–11.30)

1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions, and declarations of interest

(09.30)

2 Scrutiny of the Welsh Government Draft Budget 2024–25 – part 1

(09.30–10.30)

(Pages 1 – 104)

Julie James MS, Minister for Climate Change

Lee Waters MS, Deputy Minister for Climate Change

Dean Medcraft, Director of Finance & Operations – Welsh Government

Claire Bennett, Director of Environmental Sustainability – Welsh Government

Peter McDonald, Director Economic Infrastructure – Welsh Government

Elen Shepard, Deputy Director of Climate Change and Fuel Poverty – Welsh Government

Attached Documents:

Research brief – Scrutiny of the 2024/25 Draft Climate Change Budget

Paper – Welsh Government: Climate Change Draft Budget 2024/25

Paper – Welsh Government annex A



Paper – Welsh Government: Draft Budget Financial Briefing Pack – Description
by Budget Expenditure Line (BEL)

Break (10.30–10.40)

3 Scrutiny of the Welsh Government Draft Budget 2024–25 – part 2

(10.40–11.30)

Julie James MS, Minister for Climate Change

Lee Waters MS, Deputy Minister for Climate Change

Dean Medcraft, Director of Finance & Operations – Welsh Government

Claire Bennett, Director of Environmental Sustainability – Welsh Government

Peter McDonald, Director Economic Infrastructure – Welsh Government

Elen Shepard, Deputy Director of Climate Change and Fuel Poverty – Welsh
Government

4 Papers to note (11.30)

4.1 Inter–Institutional Relations Agreement

(Page 105)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Deputy Minister for Climate Change to the Chair of the
Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee in relation to the Inter–
Institutional Relations Agreement

4.2 The Conservation and Sustainable use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (“BBNJ treaty”)

(Pages 106 – 107)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee
to the Chair in relation to the Conservation and Sustainable use of Marine
Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction (“BBNJ treaty”)

- 5 **Motion under Standing Order 17.42 (vi) and (ix) to resolve to exclude the public from the remainder of today's meeting**
(11.30)

Private meeting (11.30–12.00)

- 6 **Consideration of evidence received under items 2 and 3**

Document is Restricted

Memorandum on the Climate Change Draft Budget Proposals for 2024-5

Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee – 25th Jan 2024

This paper provides information on the Climate Change budget proposals as outlined in the 2024-25 Draft Budget published on 19 December 2023. It also provides an update on specific areas of interest to the Committee.

Strategic Context

The table below provides an overview of budgets for the Climate Change MEG published in the draft Budget 2024-25

CLIMATE CHANGE - SUMMARY	2023-24 Final Budget Feb 2023 Restated	2024-25 Indicative Final Budget Feb 2023 Restated	Budget Reductions / Allocations	2024-25 Changes	2024-25 Draft Budget December 2023
Resource	1,165,687	1,187,687	-78	28,398	1,216,007
Capital	1,766,278	1,665,393	0	-33,327	1,632,066
Total Resource & Capital	2,931,965	2,853,080	-78	-4,929	2,848,073
Total AME	57,477	-60,295	0	-2,871	-63,166
CLIMATE CHANGE - TOTAL BUDGET	2,989,442	2,792,785	-78	-7,800	2,784,907

Resource

The changes made from the 2024-25 Indicative Final Budget in Feb 2023 (restated to account for portfolio changes) are as follows:

£000	2024/25 Changes
Budget Reductions	(150,078)
Budget Allocations	150,000
Transfers from reserves	28,398
Total	28,320

The total budget allocation is represented by the pressure faced on rail services by Transport for Wales. Of the £150.078m of savings which fund, or reduce the pressure, only £116.278m relate to budget lines relevant to this committee and are as follows:

Budget Expenditure Line (BEL)		£'000
3770	Clean Energy	(5,400)
3771	Climate Change Action	(1,900)
1893	Marine Energy	(200)
2256	Planning & Regulation Expenditure	(100)
2230	Flood Risk Management & Water Policy Delivery	(8,500)
2232	Coal Tip Safety Delivery	(700)
2817	Environment Protection	(250)
2820	Local Places for Nature	(750)
2825	Biodiversity, Evidence and Plant Health	(1,500)
2827	Forestry	(2,715)
2451	Natural Resources Wales	(24,000)
2190	Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy	(3,000)
2195	Landfill Disposals Tax Communities Scheme	(1,000)
2832	Enabling Natural Resources and Wellbeing	(3,008)
2875	Marine Policy, Evidence and Funding	(250)
1885	Network Operations	(16,855)
1883	Aviation	(1,250)
1880	Bus Support	(150)
1895	Transport for Wales	(39,250)
1890	Rail Ancillary	(250)
2030	Sustainable and Active Travel	(5,250)
	Total	(116,278)

A number of the reprofiled funding changes are in areas where there was a planned uplift in the baseline funding for a programme, where a programme was coming to an end and where historic patterns of spend have suggested possible rescoping of funding with limited impacts. Changes to planned delivery timescales have also been considered, rather than lack of delivery, as well as alternative approaches to delivery.

The transfers from reserves are result of a capital to revenue swap with the Rural Affairs MEG that was approved as recurrent and first enacted in the 2023/24 first Supplementary Budget (£23m) and an additional allocation from reserves to manage the costs of the A465 MIM (£5.2m). These changes for budget lines relevant to this committee are summarised in the following table:

Budget Expenditure Line (BEL)		£'000
1893	Marine Energy	600
2451	Natural Resources Wales	17,450
2190	Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy	148
1884	Network Asset Management	5,200
2030	Sustainable and Active Travel	5,000
	Total	28,398

Capital

The changes made from the 2024-25 Indicative Final Budget in Feb 2023 (restated to account for portfolio changes are as follows:

£000	2024/25 Changes
Budget Reductions	(37,327)
Budget Allocation from Reserves	27,000
Transfers to Reserves	(23,000)
Total	(33,327)

The transfers to reserves relate to the £23m capital to revenue swap described in the earlier Resource table showing allocation in reserves, the BEL analysis being as shown in the following table:

Budget Expenditure Line (BEL)		£'000
2820	Local Places for Nature	(4,710)
2190	Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy	(12,400)
2832	Enabling Natural Resources	(290)
1893	Marine Energy	(600)
2030	Sustainable and Active Travel	(5,000)
	Total	(23,000)

The £27m allocations from reserves represents Financial Transaction Capital allocations, £20m relates budget lines relevant to this committee, as follows:

Budget Expenditure Line (BEL)		£'000
2809	Welsh Government Energy Service	20,000

Preventative Spend

These budget proposals reflect my continuing commitment to protect and prioritise investment that supports preventative measures as far as possible. Value for money and clarity over how we use our resources effectively is central to delivering our

priorities. Once expenditure is planned in line with priorities, we have well-established processes in place to ensure that resources are used effectively for the purposes intended.

Specific metrics are used to evaluate support programmes, as set out in the Wales Transport Strategy for example.

The assessment and value for money is referenced further down in the specific questions.

Evidence-based policy making

Evidence from a wide range of sources underpins our financial decisions such as published research, engagement with stakeholders, previous policy evaluations and statistics. This is embedded in decision making with some examples as follows:

Evidence continues to be gathered on the environmental impacts of problematic single-use products made from or containing plastic. This includes the Welsh Government participating in two UK wide consultations on proposals to introduce legislation to prohibit or restrict the use of plastic containing wet-wipes and single-use disposable e-cigarettes/ vapes). These exercises have allowed the Welsh Government to link into UK wide research and stakeholder engagement. This work is intended to continue to deliver on the Programme for Government to legislate to abolish more commonly littered single-use plastic items.

Underpinning the wider implementation of the Circular Economy Strategy is a range of evidence, including for example compositional analysis of waste streams to understand areas where recycling or prevention of waste could be improved (Compositional Analysis of Municipal Waste in Wales (2022) was published in July 2023); data on the performance and efficiency of Local Authority recycling and waste management operations, including measurement of the carbon impact of our recycling (Local authority municipal waste management April 2022 to March 2023 data was published on 7 December 2023); and evidence to support improved resource efficiency further up the waste hierarchy (for example surveys to provide insight into behaviours around re-use and repair and food waste) .

Our approach to deliver Net Zero Wales is focused around ensuring a just transition. To strengthen our approach, we published a call for evidence at the end of 2022. We were pleased we received 117 responses from a wide range of organisations including business, academia, third sector organisations, trade unions and community groups. A summary of the 117 responses was published in October and the information has helped to inform Welsh Government's approach to Just Transition. A consultation on our Just Transition Framework was published on 5 December 2023.

A key priority within net zero Wales has been the development of a heat strategy to set out how Wales will decarbonise heat of domestic and industrial buildings in Wales which will be essential to meet net zero. We launched our consultation on the Strategy in the summer and it closed on 8 November. The responses to that consultation will be analysed and published in a final strategy early in 2024.

Our work on energy planning has produced a granular evidence base in the hands of local authorities that will support prioritisation and development of projects across Wales that can deliver climate and economic benefits. This evidence can support policy development and delivery across the areas of heat, transport and the built environment and can leverage in external investment in energy networks.

Transport for Wales update and publish on our behalf monitoring and evaluation data for the Wales Transport Strategy that will be used to track progress against achieving the priorities and ambitions and identify any areas where further interventions may be required to meet our targets. This is part of the broader work that the analytical unit in TfW carries out on our behalf to support the assessment of policies and schemes to deliver the Welsh Government's ambitions and statutory duties using bespoke data collection and synthesis and Wales-wide transport models.

Well-being of Future Generations Act

My draft budget preparations show how I have sought to reflect the framework of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act in setting our spending priorities. We reviewed current trends and future projections and their potential impacts in the short, medium and longer term. We did this to ensure, as far as possible, that short term responses do not have longer term detrimental impacts.

The Circular Economy Strategy, *Beyond Recycling*, has been recognised as a WFG exemplar in the way in which the well-being of future generations goals and ways of working underpin the actions and their implementation. For example, on work to support the redistribution of surplus food to benefit families and communities, including those living in poverty; and the re-use and repair programmes and initiatives across Wales are supporting people to live more sustainably and reduce costs in the cost of living crisis, whilst also providing opportunities to acquire new skills.

Equality, Welsh language and children's rights assessment

As part of the Draft Budget, we have taken an integrated approach to impact assessments, as well as considering the impact of decisions and policies on social, economic, cultural and environmental well-being, as set out within the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act, which continues to be an important driver guiding our Budget considerations.

Our Budget sets out the impacts of our spending decisions, including highlighting spending decisions that directly impact on our stakeholders. This is complemented by the Strategic Integrated Impact Assessment (SIIA), outlining the strategic evidence and impacts that have supported our spending decisions.

Budget Structure

Summary of Budget Allocations and Changes

A breakdown of the 2024-25 draft budget by Spending Programme Area (SPA), Action and Budget Expenditure Line (BEL), both revenue and capital, along with 2023-24 Final Budget allocations as a comparison. A narrative description of the policy areas funded through each BEL.

Annex A provides the full BEL tables for the Climate Change portfolio as published as part of the draft budget.

Responses to Specific Questions

Legislation

The Environmental Protection (Single-use Plastic Products) (Wales) Act 2023

Work continues on delivering the Welsh Government's Programme for Government commitment to legislate to abolish more commonly littered single-use plastic items. On 30 October 2023 the first phase of commencement of the products listed in Table 1, Schedule 1 of the Environmental Protection (Single-use Plastic Products) (Wales) Act 2023 (the Act) began. Work will continue during 2024/25 to commence the bans and restrictions on the remaining three products (plastic carrier bags, products made of oxo-degradable plastic and polystyrene lids for cups and food containers). The Act also identifies two priority products for further consideration with a joint UK wide consultation already undertaken in relation to plastic containing wet wipes. Evidence will also be sought in relation to sauce sachets. Wider legislative work will also be undertaken during 2024/25 in relation to disposable single-use vapes.

Development of legislation to support a Deposit Return Scheme and Extended Producer Responsibility

The draft budget provides for the work associated with the development of the legislation for extended producer responsibility scheme for packaging (EPR) and the deposit return scheme for drink containers (DRS). The EPR reforms are being taken forward on a UK wide basis, with extensive Welsh Government policy and legal services input. The DRS regulations will be made on a Wales only basis. (see further detail below – in response to request relating specifically to development and delivery of these schemes)

Delivery of Workplace Recycling Regulations

The draft budget provides for the work associated with the delivery of the Workplace Recycling Regulations that will come into force 6 April 2024, supporting activities required for successful implementation, regulation and monitoring of the new requirements. Evidence will also be gathered and reviewed with regards to the future phasing in of the requirement to separate out additional materials such as all textiles, small electricals and flexible plastics for recycling.

The proposed Disused Tips (Mines and Quarries) Bill:

The coal tip safety revenue budget settlement includes costs for the scoping and design of a national asset register, and for the recruitment of the Board for the new supervisory authority, including the initial running costs during the financial year 2024/25. Whilst it is not anticipated that the body will go live during this financial year, the budget for 2024-25 also includes funds for a Welsh Government team to establish the new public body.

A full Regulatory Impact Assessment is near completed as required prior to the introduction of the Disused Tips (Mines and Quarries) Bill, which will provide detailed costings for the establishment of the new public body (including staffing) and implementation of the new regime. Assumptions such as pay inflation and pay rises have been built into this work.

The Environment (Air Quality and Soundscapes)(Wales) Bill

The Bill was passed by the Senedd at the end of November. It is currently awaiting Royal Assent. It's provisions include: strengthening the Welsh Ministers' powers to set air quality targets; placing duties on Welsh Ministers to promote awareness of air pollution and ways of reducing or limiting air pollution; strengthening the legislative framework for local air quality management and the national air quality strategy; enhancing smoke control legislation; extending Welsh Ministers' existing powers in relation to road user charging and vehicle idling, and placing a new duty on Welsh Ministers to prepare and publish a national soundscapes strategy.

The Noise and Soundscape Plan for Wales 2023-2028 published on 4 December 2023 will discharge the Welsh Ministers' obligation under the Bill to prepare and publish a strategy containing their policies with respect to the assessment, management and design of soundscapes in Wales. In light of the current constraints and pressures on public finances, this first national strategy on soundscapes neither announces significant new government spending nor assigns costly actions to other public bodies. Rather it seeks to maximise opportunities for better, more integrated decision-making across all relevant policy areas and organisations, to achieve appropriate soundscapes going forward.

An Explanatory Memorandum, including a Regulatory Impact Assessment, was published when the Bill was introduced and has been updated throughout the scrutiny process. The Regulatory Impact Assessment sets out the estimated costs and benefits of the Bill's provisions.

The Bill has been developed during a time of fiscal challenge. This challenging fiscal context is likely to remain ongoing. Specific funding will support implementation of the Bill, including for the new duty relating to promoting awareness of air pollution. As set out by both the Minister for Climate Change and the Deputy Minister for Climate Change during the Bill scrutiny process, we will need to make important evidence-based decisions regarding the scale and timing of the implementation of some of the secondary legislation that arises from the provisions of the Bill. For example, for the new air quality targets and associated monitoring arrangements, the Regulatory

Impact Assessment contains ranges of costs. Decisions will need to be made in the context of spending plans for future budget rounds, whilst complying with the time limits set out in the Bill for the making of certain regulations.

Bill on Environmental Governance and Biodiversity Targets

A white paper is due to be launched for the EG&BT bill in January 2024. A draft Regulatory Impact Assessment is currently in development to accompany the white paper. This will provide initial estimated costings which will cover the establishment of a new environmental governance body for Wales as well as the implications for imposing new statutory targets on both the Welsh Ministers and wider Welsh public bodies. The full financial impact of these proposals is not expected until after the Bill has been passed by the Senedd, which would likely mean FY 2026-27

Environment

Delivery of the Nature Recovery Action Plan, including management and monitoring of the National Sites Network.

This investment will continue to directly contribute to the delivery of key priorities and actions identified in our Nature Recovery Action Plan (NRAP - <https://gov.wales/nature-recovery-action-plan-2015>) relating to the protection of our habitats and species of principal importance and the creation of resilient ecological networks. This plan is currently being refreshed to align with the targets and goals set out in the new Global Biodiversity Framework as well as defining actions required to deliver our proposed domestic statutory targets.

The National Sites Network will benefit from funding through the continued delivery of our Nature Networks Programme (NNP) in 24/25 helping to deliver our 30 by 30 target. It is key to improving the condition and connectivity of our terrestrial and marine protected sites, creating resilient ecological networks which will allow our most endangered habitats and species to thrive. It will also help to deliver nature to wherever people live through engagement with local communities benefitting not only our environment but also our health and well-being. Robust monitoring and evaluation will be an integral part of the Nature Networks Programme.

Nature Networks Programme, Local Places for Nature, the National Peatlands Action programme and Natur am Byth.

Nature Networks Programme

Nature Networks Programme (NNP) – This allocation will allow continued delivery of the NNP building on the delivery of Land Management Agreements by NRW and the Nature Networks Fund by National Lottery Heritage Fund incorporating the recommendations and actions resulting from the biodiversity deep dive.

Local Places for Nature

The Local Places for Nature Programme is currently in its fourth year of delivery, with indicative funding of £35.4M capital and £8.9M revenue allocated for a further two years. £19.7m capital and £2.95m revenue has been allocated after budget review which includes a cut of £750k revenue and £4.71M capital for 2024-25. Even with these reductions funding levels have moderately increased for the programme over the next 2 years to support the improved expansion of LPfN schemes within communities and to help fund more capital projects on the ground. One notable impact of the reprioritisation of funding is the pausing of the Breaking Barriers scheme managed by National Lottery Heritage Fund. Note these figures are not including Biodiversity and Marine Coastal elements also undertaken by the LPfN programme but funded under different BELs

The programme has been very successful in its first three years, with achievements summarised below. A total programme expenditure of £11.4m was achieved last year.

Table 1 – Highlight Outputs for LPfN Programme 2020-2023.

Highlight Output	Totals 2020/21 - 2022/23
Green Spaces Created or significantly enhanced	1951
Wildlife meadows and verges with new mowing practices	730
Community orchards created	407
Community growing projects	521
Volunteers Involved	12343
Trees planted (urban, small dense woodland, verges, parkland)	210 hectares approximate

All Programme for Government targeted measures for ‘the creation of Green Spaces’ are now projected to be deliverable by Local Places for Nature alone, with many being exceeded by the end of the programme. Of particular Biodiversity significance, the programme has funded all Wales changes to the mowing practices of public green spaces and verges. This behaviour change now has momentum which is important to continue.

Programme delivery is fully underway this year with all schemes now up and running already committing £17.1m to the programme delivery this year. Welsh Government are on target to deliver the current programme but it is no longer viable to upscale the programme as anticipated due to recent budget review exercise that has led to reprioritisation of uncommitted funds. Approximately £480k of Revenue funding (13% of budget) and £1M Capital funding has been ‘released’ from the BEL to the wider MEG. The key schemes to have been affected are the National Lottery Heritage Scheme manages capital Grant and Breaking Barriers schemes

The flexible nature of the LPfN programme, allows us the rapidly adapt to changing circumstances. As demonstrated by the speed at which my announcement for the

additional £3.3M of funding for Biodiversity actions was amalgamated into the LPfN Local Nature Partnership Scheme for the newly procured scheme management contract.

This programme is highly adaptable to cross departmental working. The previous pilot scheme in 2022/23 for increasing Marine and Coastal Capacity, (*Marine and Coastal Partnership Scheme*) was facilitated through the Local Places for Nature Programme. The success of the pilot has led to a standalone scheme being funded and procured as a cross departmental collaborative scheme (*Marine and Coastal Capacity*) for 2023-2025.

National Peatlands Action programme

Analysis of evidence relating to net zero targets is the basis for the increase in the National Peatland Action Programme which is critical to delivering the needs of the population of Wales and has informed these spending proposals.

Natur am Byth

Natur am Byth – This allocation will continue to provide the match funding required to deliver this four year NRW led project. The project aims to tackle the decline of the most threatened species in Wales working with a range of partners helping to address the nature emergency.

Outcomes of the Welsh Government’s deep dive into biodiversity and anticipated commitments made at COP15.

The Minister for Climate Change attended COP15 in December 2022. We committed to and are working towards developing and bringing forward legislation to set in law nature targets in Wales to drive our future action – funding will be required to support the technical development of these targets to be set in secondary legislation (as outlined above). Our key strategies such as the Natural Resources Policy and Nature Recovery Action Plan are being refreshed in readiness for COP16 in December 2024 to reflect the urgent action required to deliver our commitments against the global targets to reverse nature decline.

The Biodiversity Deep Dive resulted in a range of recommendations aimed to drive forward collective actions we can take immediately to support meaningful delivery of the CBD ‘30 by 30’ goal, as well as tackling the nature crisis. Funding will be allocated to support the delivery of the recommendations and actions. Taking effective action to tackle the nature emergency by 2030 will require adequate funding – budget has been allocated to support the development of an innovative future finance model. Funding has been allocated to ramping up delivery of the Peatland Programme and to further work of the Local Nature Partnerships

Delivery of the Clean Air Plan.

The aim of the Clean Air Plan for Wales: Healthy Air, Healthy Wales, is to improve air quality and reduce the impacts of air pollution on human health, biodiversity and our economy. The Plan sets out a pathway to achieving cleaner air, structured around four core themes:-

- People – protecting the health and well-being of current and future generations
- Environment – Taking action to support our natural environment, ecosystems and biodiversity
- Prosperity – Working with industry to reduce emissions, supporting a cleaner and more prosperous Wales
- Place – Creating sustainable places through better planning, infrastructure and transport

We are undertaking a wide range of work with Government departments, different sectors of the economy and the public to drive forward the ambitious actions in the Plan. Funding will support the delivery of its commitments, including action to deliver urgent compliance with statutory NO₂ limits, expansion of our incident response capability, and Local Air Quality Management work (ensuring the regime is health focused and is taking a preventative approach). Measures in the Plan will also help to achieve the UK's emission reduction commitments for pollutants by 2030, and will support our decarbonisation aims

Implementation of the Woodlands for Wales Strategy, including the National Forest Programme

The draft budget allocates [£6.4m] revenue and [£8.3m] capital for forestry. There is a reduction of £2.7m revenue and 1m capital against previous plans. This reprioritisation has been achieved by re-profiling planned work on the public access and trails within the National Forest prioritising activities which need to be undertaken now and delaying those that can start in future years.

The budget will continue to support the ongoing development of the National Forest, we will use the slower roll-out of access work to facilitate more woodland joining the programme. We will continue providing funding through The Woodland Investment Grant to help create new woodlands and enhance existing ones.

Forestry funding will also support the Programme for Government commitment to create a Timber Industrial Strategy and cross-border forestry functions such as tree health and the Woodland Carbon Code.

£32m over three years was committed to the new woodland creation schemes launched in August 2022, supported by a woodland verification team in NRW to help ensure that where planting is being funded, it is properly planned and appropriate.

Implementation of the National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management, including the take up of the Coastal Risk Management Programme.

The National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management sets out how we will manage risk from flooding and coastal erosion over the next decade with the

objectives to prioritise investment, improve our understanding of risk, build resilience, prevent more people becoming exposed to risk and respond to events.

NRW recently submitted the Section 18 report to the Welsh Minister for Climate Change outlining progress made in implementing the Welsh Government's National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management.

The factual report is compiled from information provided by the RMAs operating in Wales, and outlines the progress against the 24 measures:

- 13 measures are already complete, although 7 of those require related ongoing activities to continue and 4 require the consideration of next steps. 9 are underway, with 5 of those measures behind target and 2 remain yet to start or are on hold.

The report shows that good progress has been made in delivering the measures and consequently the objectives within the Strategy. However, there are several areas of work that remain underway or not yet started and there is clearly key further work to be completed in the coming year.

Our Programme for Government (PfG) includes a commitment to fund additional flood protection for more than 45,000 homes this Senedd term. Last year we agreed a three-year capital budget totalling £102 million to allow us to better plan our investment from 2022/3 to 2024/5 to support at-risk communities. This year 2023/4, we allocated a record £75 million of capital and revenue funding for the Flood and Coastal Risk Management Programme, our highest investment in a single year to date.

Our Coastal Risk Management Programme (CRMP) will draw to a close this year with all 15 schemes to commence construction by March 2024. The scheme will invest over £200m in key coastal infrastructure and reduce the risk from flooding and/or coastal erosion to over 15,200 homes and businesses. This will help deliver almost 35% of the PfG commitment to fund additional flood protection for more than 45,000 homes.

Water Quality, including support for the Better River Quality Taskforce

Water quality is under pressure from various threats. The main causes of failure under the Water Framework Directive (WFD) in Wales are attributed to the agriculture sector, mining and quarrying (including pollution from abandoned metal mines), the transport sector, urban pollution and water industry discharges. It is necessary that an integrated cross-sectoral approach is developed and implemented across Wales to ensure long term water quality improvement. Recognising these multiple pressures, we have committed to provide over £40 million of additional funding between 2022-23 and 2024-25 to address water quality challenges across Wales. In 2023-4 we have also provided NRW with £15 million capital grant funding to improve compliance with Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017 and related legislation which will deliver water quality improvements.

One of our Programme for Government commitments is to begin designating inland bathing waters sites, following the successes of our coastal bathing waters. We have boosted capacity in NRW by funding a post dedicated specialist Water Quality Policy advisor to lead on the implementation of this PfG commitment to begin designating inland bathing waters.

This year we have also made available up to £1.1 million funding to our Nutrient Management Boards to support the delivery of priority actions in failing Special Area of Conservation (SAC) river catchments, taking our total contribution to £1.5 million to date. This work forms part of the wider River Pollution Summit process with all key sectors, which are designed to drive our approach to addressing phosphorus pollution in failing SAC rivers in Wales. Our most recent summit was on 30 November and the next Summit will be hosted by Natural Resources Wales in March 2024.

In 2022 the Better River Quality Taskforce was established to evaluate the current approach to the management and regulation of overflows in Wales and to set out detailed plans to drive rapid change and improvement. Welsh Government are members alongside Natural Resources Wales, the water companies, Ofwat, industry stakeholders providing independent challenge from a stakeholder and consumer perspective. In October 2023 the Taskforce published the Storm Overflow Evidence for Wales (SOEfW) Report under its Environmental Regulation of Overflows Action Plan. The report does not contain recommendations, rather it compares the costs and benefits of different policy options in the regulation of Combined Storm Overflows (CSOs). The Taskforce is carefully considering the options and their cost implications to develop an achievable and affordable programme to prevent ecological harm in Wales' waterways.

Development of permanent environmental governance arrangements, and the work of the Interim Environmental Protection Assessor.

The Welsh Government remains committed to working towards the establishment of an environmental governance body for Wales during this Senedd term. There is a budget of £480,000 available for this work.

Costs incurred for the Interim Environmental Protection Assessor come out of a budget of £45,000 that is set aside for the IEPAW's functions. This budget previously sat in the EU Exit BEL but will be transferred to the Climate Change MEG from the 2nd supplementary budget for 2022-23 and as part of the Budget process for future years. These interim measures provide a route for people to raise concerns about the functioning of environmental law until the permanent measures are in place.

Delivery of the Marine Protected Area Network Management Plan. Natural Resources Wales (NRW) Details of budget allocations for NRW, including:

Budget will be allocated for funding of successful projects that are awarded during the proposed call for actions, delivering on the priorities and objectives laid out in the MPA network management framework for Wales. Allocations are expected to match awards

from previous years and sourced from the Marine Ecosystems and Biodiversity budgets when finalised. Furthermore, budget is expected to be allocated for actions arising from the publication of the Seabird Conservation Strategy for Wales next year.

How the development of the draft budget has been informed and influenced by any emerging findings of the baseline review, and funding for the Offshore Renewable Energy Programme

The Committee is aware of my intent to close NRW's funding gap on a permanent basis.

Informed by the findings of NRW's baseline review and reprofiling budgets within my MEG, I was pleased to inform the Committee in April I had agreed to provide NRW with a further £18.2m to draw upon in 2023-24, which included £950K allowing NRW to deliver recommendations arising from the end-to-end review of Marine Licensing.

It has been my intention, as part of the 2024-25 draft budget exercise, to baseline the £18.2m uplift to NRW's budget allocation. Tough decisions are still needed, and these will be made in consultation with NRW.

My officials continue to work closely with NRW to ensure the resources they have available are both commensurate to their needs and aligned with their statutory responsibilities and Programme for Government commitments. Over the next years, we will focus on ensuring that NRW have the greatest flexibility possible when allocating their resources and, where possible and appropriate, remove barriers which prevent them from doing so.

National Infrastructure Commission for Wales (NICW) Details of budget allocations for the NICW

In October NICW published its report on renewable energy. This involved bringing together three pieces of work: looking at the tensions arising from renewable energy developments; how we can best capture the value of renewable energy for Wales; and how we could be engaging with communities on renewable energy developments in the future. The report contained 11 recommendations for the Welsh Government which we are currently considering. Commissioners Aleen Khan and Nick Tune led on this work.

The Co-operation Agreement between Labour and Plaid Cymru commits NICW to assessing how the nationwide likelihood of flooding of homes, businesses and infrastructure can be minimised by 2050.

Research work is currently in progress to inform the project. The four workstreams concern developing a vision for flood resilience for 2050; examining the effectiveness of catchment planning; resources; and land use planning. A Project Advisory Group of technical experts is helping to guide this work. Commissioners Eurgain Powell and Eluned Parrott are leading on this work and a report is due to be delivered to the Welsh Government by Autumn 2024.

Scoping for the proposed 2024/25 project on communicating the threat of Climate Change to communities is currently underway. This will examine how communities can be engaged in conversations about their futures in a time of global uncertainty and how inequalities in this area can be reduced. Commissioners Helen Armstrong and Steve Brooks are leading on this work.

Natural Resources Wales (NRW)'s 'funding gap'

The 'funding gap' was resolved by a recurring baseline allocation in the first supplementary budget of 2023/24.

Climate change, energy and energy efficiency

Policies and programmes to support decarbonisation in the housing sector, including allocations for the Welsh Government's Warm Homes Programme and Optimised Retrofit Programme.

The development of a whole housing stock approach to decarbonisation will provide for a long-term strategy for energy efficiency, fuel poverty and decarbonisation for the sector. It will help meet the expectations of our second carbon budget Net Zero Wales and integrate with broader housing objectives.

We launched the Warm Homes Programme in 2011. Since its launch, over 198,000 people have received energy efficiency advice through the service. We have extended the Nest scheme to April 2024 to ensure a continued service and make sure there is support to households struggling with the cost of energy this winter.

The new Warm Homes Programme will continue to act as our primary mechanism to tackle fuel poverty. We will take a fabric, worst, and low carbon first approach, delivering measures to improve the energy efficiency of the least thermally efficient low-income households in Wales. In June 2023 I announced the details of the new scheme and published the invitation to tender in August 2023. Officials are currently carrying out the final stages of the procurement exercise and I remain confident that the new scheme will be mobilised by April 2024, without a break in service to customers. The new demand-led scheme is worth £250m over seven years and is structured around three elements: an advice service, provision of energy efficiency measures, and quality assurance.

Decarbonisation of privately owned homes is undoubtedly more complex than dealing with the social sector or those in fuel poverty so we will continue to apply the ORP ethos of 'test and learn'. ORP and the Innovative Housing Programme are already encouraging small scale local community initiatives, across housing sectors as a starting point.

In the short-term we will continue to deliver the Warm Homes Programme with the capital budget increasing by £5m to £35m in 2023/24 within the draft budget.

Optimised Retrofit Programme

Ministers have prioritised investment in social housing decarbonisation through the funding made available to social landlords through the Optimised Retrofit Programme (ORP).

Our stated approach is to start with social housing, before moving to other tenures as social housing is where we have the most levers. Channelling ORP investment through social landlords supports a 'testing and learning' approach to how to decarbonise homes effectively and efficiently.

The ORP also supports the Leasing Scheme Wales programme to provide support to landlords entering the scheme with additional funding to improve the decarbonisation of those privately rented homes.

For the optimised retrofit programme (ORP), the investment in social homes is targeted to be over £280m over the term of government (with circa £120mm invested to date) towards the retrofit of over 13,000 homes so far.

For the financial year 2024/25 £70m has been allocated to social landlords to undertake retrofit activities in line with ORP with a further £18m allocated to support implementation of the new WHQS standard that was launched in October 2023.

The ORP investment sits alongside MRA funding and Dowry funding (for LAs and large-scale voluntary transfers (LSVTs)) of an additional £108 million per annum which contributes to the achievement of WHQS and ongoing maintenance and leverages considerable funding from local authorities and LSVT partners (35% from WG funding sources while the sector put in around 65%).

The new WHQS 2023 standard builds on the excellent achievements of its predecessor. The new standard keeps anti-poverty requirements at its heart and is intended to improve energy efficiency, with the aim of supporting tenant's comfort and well-being. The standard creates certainty which, in turn, will help drive up efficiency whilst driving down costs. This will ultimately enable us to go further faster, and importantly help to develop the knowledge, skills and supply chains needed to service both the social housing stock and the private housing sector.

Delivery of renewable energy and public sector energy efficiency programmes, including funding for the Welsh Government Energy Service.

The budget provides capital and revenue to support the operation of the Welsh Government Energy Service. This offers commercial, financial, and technical expertise to the public sector and local energy sector to develop energy efficiency and renewable energy schemes. The service also undertakes a strategic leadership role across the sectors, with a focus on increasing ambition, capacity and capability.

To date, projects supported by the Welsh Government Energy Service are expected to generate more than £320m through savings and power generation.

During 2018-2023, the Energy Service has supported nearly 300 projects which range from new installed renewables, to advancing energy efficiency work and zero emission vehicle fleet replacements. The renewable energy projects alone have introduced 40.5MW of new capacity, equivalent to enough electricity to power 16,000 homes.

A total of £169.8 million has been invested in projects across 67 organisations, including health boards, local authorities, national parks and colleges. The projects ranged from LED streetlamp installations to low carbon heat solutions. The support will save 695,000 tonnes of CO2 over their lifetime.

The Energy Service is a key enabler to the public sector to deliver the collective ambition of a net zero public sector by 2030. Given the success of the Service, as recognised by Audit Wales and public Bodies in Wales, the Welsh Government has put in place a new contract to replace the previous one which ended in March 2023. This provides continuity of service delivery for public sector and community-led organisations across Wales.

Monitoring progress and Supporting Decarbonisation Action Plans

Our ambition is for the public sector to be collectively net zero by 2030, a key policy established in the Net Zero Wales plan

The reporting of emissions annually by public bodies in Wales is an important part of achieving that ambition, by helping to shape our actions and priorities. In May 2021 the Welsh Government published the Welsh Public Sector Net Zero Reporting Guide, a universal guide for use by Welsh public bodies to estimate baseline emissions. These emissions cover buildings, transport, waste, supply chain and land use.

The annual public sector carbon emissions report is a key way of tracking carbon emissions across the public sector in Wales. We are pleased that we have had a 100% response rate from 71 public sector organisations for the 2022/23 financial year. This included Local Authorities, Health boards, and Universities. This is a very impressive response especially given that reporting is voluntary demonstrates the commitment from across the Welsh public sector to achieve our ambition of a collective net zero public sector by 2030.

We are working with our contractor, the Carbon Trust to process the data and compile the data set for the pan Wales report.

Analysis of the data for the public sector is published on Welsh Government website each year.

The data collected helps us understand the carbon emissions across the public sector and track progress towards our 2030 collective ambition and also assist organisations from across the public sector to refine their decarbonisation plans and focus their resources.

Welsh Government are continually using the data to evidence future workstreams and policies to help us understand where to focus support for the public sector to decarbonise such as the Local Authority Low Carbon Heat Grant in conjunction with the Local Government Minister supporting 34 buildings (26 Schools, 3 offices, 1 leisure centre, 2 care homes, 2 other – inc. Newport Wellbeing centre in conjunction with the transforming Towns team) across 11 Local Authorities in round 1. A second round is also currently in place for projects up to 2025.

Renewable Energy

We have published new renewable energy targets to scale up the generation of renewable energy in Wales to fully meet our needs by 2035. We remain committed to ensuring that Wales benefits from this new generation and we have a target for 1.5GW of new generation to be locally owned by 2035. Our guidance on how local ownership models can work in Wales will support the discussions between communities and developers to achieve this aim. We continue to prioritise resources within the clean energy BEL to implement the recommendations of the Renewable Energy Deep Dive working in partnership with key shareholders, delivery partners and the energy sector to implement the recommendation.

The budget allocation to clean energy will allow us to continue the programme of energy planning, supporting the four Regional Energy Strategies to deliver by providing detailed evidence of opportunities to decarbonise power use, heat in buildings, and transport. The small teams established in each region will work collaboratively with local authorities and business to identify and prioritise projects and access support from the Welsh Government Energy Service to turn these into investment opportunities.

The budget also supports the establishment in spring of Trydan Gwyrdd Cymru, the publicly owned developer which will develop large scale wind projects on public land in Wales, for the benefit of Welsh people. The company will become established and consult with people on the initial potential project locations over the next year.

Development of proposals for Ynni Cymru

We continue to work with Plaid Cymru on this important Cooperation Agreement commitment to work towards establishing Ynni Cymru to expand community owned renewable energy in Wales. Ynni Cymru was launched in August 2023 and work continues to develop the delivery functions of Ynni Cymru to support the delivery of Smart Local Energy systems. A small team has been recruited to lead the delivery of Ynni Cymru to work with the community energy sector to scale up the delivery of renewable energy in Wales in a way that retains value within our communities. A business case is being developed in partnership with key stakeholders in Wales. To support the building of capacity and capability within the community Energy Sector in Wales £938,680 resource grant funding has been made available to 10 projects in Wales.

Transport

Delivery of the 20mph speed limits policy, particularly details of any ongoing costs / allocations

The approach is set out in the [Written Statement on Supporting highway authorities with the implementation of 20mph \(25 October 2023\)](#) and budget allocations will be subject to the cost estimates arising from this.

Delivery of the rail franchise and the Welsh Government's rail infrastructure priorities

The revenue and capital funding allocated allows for the delivery of the Wales and Borders Rail franchise by TfW on behalf of Welsh Ministers. As part of this TfW will continue delivering on our Programme for Government commitments. They will finish the delivering the brand new rolling stock which is already providing new, faster, and more comfortable trains as well as increasing the resilience of the services which are operated by the rail franchise thus improving performance for customers. Our continued investment in the Core Valley Transformation Project will deliver a truly modern rail network, that operates 100% clean electric trains on the infrastructure we own. It will change the way people travel by improving journey times and service frequency, encouraging more people to use the railways. Furthermore the investment makes a significant contribution to our PfG commitment to make the public transport system more accessible to disabled people by ensuring stations have step free access and improved access on the new rolling stock.

Delivery of the North East Wales, South West Wales and South East Wales Metros

We will transition our metro programmes to an integrated regional transport approach. The progress made on the metro programmes to date will form a basis on which the Corporate Joint Committees (CJCs) can build as they develop new regional transport plans over 2024-25. In North Wales, this will also be informed by the North Wales Transport Commission recommendations. The Transport for Wales regional teams covering North, Mid, South West and South East Wales will support the CJCs as they develop the plans.

As part of this work, TfW will continue to develop strategically important projects across Wales which will help us achieve the mode shift needed to meet our Net Zero Wales targets. These will support the development of infrastructure enhancements, service design, digital, data and behavioural change initiatives in bus, rail and active travel that maximise modal shift.

The development of Transport for Wales – including an update on the work done to improve TfW's budget process following our report on the 2023-24 draft budget, and a breakdown of TfW's full budget allocation for 2024-25, itemising its corporate budget alongside allocations for delivery of specific programmes as well as rail franchise commitments

Following on from the action we took in October to help manage pressures in maintaining rail operations this year, the £125m announced in October that was needed to maintain rail operations across Wales has been baselined. As was outlined in October, these pressures have been caused by the ongoing impact the pandemic has had on the ambitious revenue projections from the original KeolisAmey bid in 2018 alongside some operational costs having increased as a result of inflation.

Without this funding, Transport for Wales (TfW) would not have been able to maintain the continued operation of all its rail services. The significant investments already made into rail across Wales would have been put at risk without the additional funding provided in the revised spending plans. The wider package of investment will also help to grow demand and increase revenue income significantly over the coming years. Like all public services in Wales this will mean tough choices to live within this settlement. In response to these inflationary pressures, TfW will also need to increase rail fares to help close the gap and ensure sustainability going forwards. We are continuing to work with TfW to make savings and to minimise the gap between income and costs.

TfW submitted the first draft of their budget to the Welsh Government earlier this year in the summer much earlier than in previous years in order to inform the draft budget. This has been invaluable in this budget round in ensuring that there was a common understanding of costs for next year.

Since its submission, officials have held a number of challenge sessions focussing on specific areas where further detail was required including bus, active travel, headcount, and active travel in order to offer policy leads and budget holders the opportunity to interrogate the forecasts and inform future iterations. This has resulted in a reduction in central costs of £1.4m and a reduction in the rail support of £5m offset by an increased farebox income from rail.

TfW have been challenged to look creatively at rail fares and not apply a blanket increase but to create a basket of fares based on usage patterns and the outputs of their impact assessments. This could include lower fare rises on certain routes or for certain groups (eg those holding disability or youth travel cards).

The next version of the forecasts were due to be available in December. However, there may some delay in order take account of the Welsh Government's draft budget which has been especially challenging this year. As a result of the timescales to finalise the budget, it is unlikely that we will be in a position to publish TfW's budget in time for scrutiny in January. However, an itemised version of their budget will be published alongside next financial year's funding letter.

Investment in the trunk road and motorway network and how these have been shaped by the new roads policy statement / the outcome of the roads review

Funding across transport has been aligned with the sustainable transport hierarchy as set out in the Wales Transport Strategy, this approach prioritises investment in active travel such as walking and cycling and public transport such as bus and rail, above investment in steps which increase private car usage. This approach is

fundamental to achieve our challenging modal shift targets and climate change commitments.

On 13th July the Deputy Minister for Climate Change set out in a written statement the response to the independent Lugg Review of the annual maintenance programmes on the Strategic Road Network (SRN) which took into account the Road Review's panel report 'The Future of Road Investment in Wales' and our response including the National Transport Delivery Plan 2022-2027.

We are therefore progressing to adopt a new approach to road maintenance and by also implementing the recommendations of the independent review, this will maximise the delivery of our policies and minimise and adapt to the adverse effects of climate change and enhance biodiversity within the challenging budget environment.

We are developing a Major Asset Renewal programme with a 5 to 10 year timescales which can be adjusted to match funding availability. This will ensure when we invest in maintenance the work will be designed in a way which reflects the "function" or "character" of the route and will maximise every opportunity to:

- Deliver modal shift to more sustainable forms of transport, reflecting the transport hierarchy in the Wales Transport Strategy;
- Provide a net benefit for biodiversity and enhanced ecosystem resilience;
- Improve the resilience of the network and its surroundings to the effects of climate change;
- Minimise pollution, including air, noise, water, and land; and
- WG will apply the carbon reduction hierarchy when maintaining and operating the SRN in line with PAS 2080 – Carbon management in infrastructure.

In future we will not assume like for like replacement of infrastructure. Instead, asset renewal will be treated as an opportunity to reconsider the underlying purpose of the road in question taking into account the Wales Transport Strategy and the four road building tests set out in our response to the Roads Review.

The Lugg recommendations identified that the Trunk Road Maintenance Manual (TRMM) should be revised and move to a risk-based system of inspection and repair and be aligned with the Asset Management Policy and Strategy.

TRMM sets out the Welsh Government's requirements of the Trunk Road Agents by defining the standards to which the SRN should be inspected and maintained. This includes minimum annual cyclic routine inspection and maintenance activities required to ensure the day-to-day safety and serviceability of the SRN for all modes of travel.

In line with the Lugg recommendations, a revised TRMM was co-developed between Welsh Government officials and the trunk road agents and implemented in May 2023. Key changes include reviewing all sections of maintenance alongside the Design Manual for Roads, including sections for decarbonisation and revising the manual with the changes that have occurred since 2016 when it was last updated.

Assets such as structures are already being managed using a risk-based approach and further work is currently being undertaken to move to a risk approach across all other

assets. These changes will be addressed in further annual iterations of the TRMM, which would likely benefit from independent challenge.

There will be an emphasis and drive with the development of the revenue activities to:

- (1) optimise spend and work towards achieving best value for both carbon and cost;
- (2) look wherever possible to use the opportunity of maintenance spend to support modal shift (for example, maintaining an active travel route with a local authority alongside any proximate work on the SRN).

In the development and subsequent publication (October 2023) of *Llwybr Newydd i Natur*, our Nature Recovery Action Plan for the Strategic Road Network, we have taken into account the core principles and new approach set out in the Road Review panel's report and recommendations to maintain and enhance biodiversity, and increase ecosystem resilience through transport operations and infrastructure projects.

Llwybr Newydd i Natur brings to the forefront how we think about, plan for, and deliver for nature, driving a step change in our work for biodiversity and ecosystem resilience on the Network estate across Wales.

It will embed actions to protect and enhance nature as a core principle of every aspect of our work, strengthening the requirements for biodiversity improvement measures in our road infrastructure schemes; and delivering an ambitious programme of nature recovery projects on our existing network, funded through our capital programme.

There are a number of programmes being delivered across the Strategic Road Network (SRN) intended to be preventative. They include:

- Ash Dieback – Proactive measures to identify and remove diseased trees that could cause safety issues on the SRN.
- Surfacing preventative Treatments – Surface dressing treatments that extend the life of the wearing course of the carriageway, increasing maintenance intervention frequency, lowering cost and carbon.

Delivery of active travel policy, including a summary of planned activity and a table detailing total and per capita allocations for active travel for 2024-25, compared with each of the preceding three years. Revenue and capital allocations should be clear and broken down by individual funding stream.

Over the last year we have started addressing many of the recommendations made by the Cross-Party Group on the Active Travel Act in their review of the Act as well as other actions to strengthen the delivery framework for active travel nationally and at the local level. This has seen the restructuring of the Active Travel Board with the appointment of independent members and a strengthened scrutiny as well as public facing role. Transport for Wales have developed a route prioritisation tool and delivered the first tranche of tailored active travel training to officers across Wales.

Over 2024-25 we will continue to focus our efforts on further broadening the range and depth of support and tools available for local authorities in the delivery of their Active Travel Networks as well as building central expertise within Transport for Wales and trial new delivery approaches in collaboration with local authorities. A particular focus will be on more effective promotion of active travel, including the development of guidance for local authorities on their new duty to promote active travel as a way of reducing or limiting air pollution as a result of the new Air Quality and Soundscapes Act. Monitoring is another area where we will further step up work together with partners to improve consistency of practice.

Active travel continues to be a focus for capital investment, in particular through the mechanism of the Active Travel Fund. In recognition of the largely local nature of active travel infrastructure, the majority of the funding is directed at local authorities.

The Active Travel Fund is designed to enable local authorities to deliver the active travel route networks which have just been updated and which were approved by Ministers in 2022. The Fund is made up of a core allocation for each local authority and a competitive funding element. The Fund is complemented by smaller additional funding programmes.

The Safe Routes in Communities Grant is focused on school travel improvements and is geographically not limited to the larger towns which form the focus of the Active Travel Fund.

Funding for active travel schemes on and intersecting with the Strategic Road Network will be prioritised and taken forward in dialogue with the local authorities in which they are located. Active travel schemes that are linked to implementing Metro or South East Wales Transport Commission proposals will also be developed collaboratively in these contexts.

Capital investment will be complemented by a small number of targeted revenue activities. Our main focus for 2024-25, in line with recommendations made by the Cross Party Group and the Active Travel Board is to continue and improve support for interventions that increase active travel to school, which are typically delivered by third sector partners.

Support for bus and community transport services, including a summary of planned activity and a table detailing total and per capita allocations for 2024-25 compared with each of the preceding three years. Revenue and capital allocations should be clear and the table should be broken down by individual funding stream.

We will continue to provide revenue support to the bus industry in 2024-25. In the past financial year we have provided direct post-covid revenue support to bus operators under the guise of the Bus Emergency Scheme and the Bus Transition Fund. In 2024-25 we will establish the Bus Network Support Grant, funding local authorities to secure the services they deem socially necessary. This funding scheme will sit alongside the longstanding Bus Services Support Grant. We will continue to provide funding to Transport for Wales for preparatory work for franchising, the management of our TrawsCymru network, Fflecsi services, the provision of timetable information through

Traveline Cymru.

REVISED

Total per capita				
Bus Revenue support - 2021-22 to 2024-25				
	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
Mid-year population estimate Wales*	3,107,500	3,105,000	3,105,000	3,105,000
Bus Users UK Cymru Grant	289,457	217,000	217,000	-
School Transport	10,000	10,000	10,000	-
BUS REVENUE SUPPORT	1,061,818	677,000	399,000	-
Bus Ancillary	-	-	-	2,396,000
Community Transport Association - Core Funding	285,482	285,482	193,000	-
Bus Services Support Grant	25,000,000	25,000,000	25,000,000	25,000,000
Bus Revenue Support - Traws Cymru	3,159,745	3,159,745		-
TfW Support		178,000	9,459,000	9,459,000
Traveline Cymru	998,616	998,616	-	-
Concessionary fares	62,595,259	60,482,000	58,209,000	45,482,000
Youth Discounted Travel	1,999,969	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,000,000
Bus Emergency Scheme COVID	59,099,546	28,000,000	28,000,000	39,000,000
Total	154,499,892	121,007,843	123,487,000	123,337,000
Total per capita	£49.72	£38.97	£39.77	£39.72

Support for local transport priorities

We will continue to invest in local schemes that support the delivery of the Wales Transport Strategy. Funding in the next financial year will have a focus on schemes to improve bus journey times and to help deliver Regional Transport Plans.

We will take forward the Programme for Government commitment to modernise transport grants as we transition towards a regional approach and the CJsCs develop regional transport plans.

Annex A

BEL tables for the Climate Change portfolio as published as part of the Welsh Government Detailed Draft Budget Proposals 2024-25

December 2023

CLIMATE CHANGE

SUMMARY	2023-24	2024-25			
	2023-24 Final Budget February 2023 Restated	2024-25 Indicative Final Budget February 2023 Restated	Revisions to the 2024-25 Indicative Allocations	Other Changes	2024-25 Draft Budget December 2023
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Resource	1,165,687	1,187,687	(78)	28,398	1,216,007
Capital	1,766,278	1,665,393	(37,330)	4,003	1,632,066
TOTAL RESOURCE AND CAPITAL (Excluding AME)	2,931,965	2,853,080	(37,408)	32,401	2,848,073
Resource AME	57,477	(60,295)	-	(2,871)	(63,166)
Capital AME	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL AME	57,477	(60,295)	-	(2,871)	(63,166)
TOTAL CLIMATE CHANGE	2,989,442	2,792,785	(37,408)	29,530	2,784,907

CLIMATE CHANGE

RESOURCE

Budget Expenditure Line	2023-24 Final Budget February 2023 Restated	2024-25 Indicative Final Budget February 2023 Restated	Revisions to the 2024-25 Indicative Allocations	MEG to MEG Transfers	Transfers Within MEG	Allocations to / from Reserves	2024-25 Draft Budget December 2023
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Environment Legislation, Governance and Communications	226	226	-	-	-	-	226
Action: Develop and deliver overarching policy and programmes on sustainable development and natural resource management	226	226	-	-	-	-	226
Fuel Poverty Programme	4,370	4,370	-	-	-	-	4,370
Action: Fuel Poverty Programme	4,370	4,370	-	-	-	-	4,370
Welsh Government Energy Service	3,970	3,970	-	-	-	-	3,970
Environment Protection	6,200	6,650	(250)	-	-	-	6,400
Clean Energy	9,767	10,767	(5,400)	-	(2,470)	-	2,897
Climate Change Action	4,486	5,486	(1,900)	-	-	-	3,586
Ynni Cymru	-	-	-	-	2,470	-	2,470
Marine Energy	-	-	(200)	-	-	600	400
Action: Develop and implement climate change policy, energy efficiency, Green Growth and environmental protection	24,423	26,873	(7,750)	-	-	600	19,723
Flood Risk Management & Water Policy Delivery	43,840	52,390	(8,500)	-	(25,000)	-	18,890
Coal Tip Safety Delivery	4,000	4,500	(700)	-	-	-	3,800
Action: Develop and implement flood and coastal risk, water and sewage policy and legislation	47,840	56,890	(9,200)	-	(25,000)	-	22,690
Landfill Disposals Tax Communities Scheme	1,500	1,500	(1,000)	-	-	-	500
Enabling Natural Resources	3,008	3,008	(3,008)	-	-	-	-
Biodiversity, Evidence and Plant Health	13,521	13,349	(1,500)	-	-	-	11,849
Forestry	5,320	9,151	(2,715)	-	-	-	6,436
Forestry - Non cash	83	83	-	-	-	-	83
Local Places for Nature	3,400	3,700	(750)	-	-	-	2,950
Environment Act Implementation	849	890	-	-	-	-	890

CLIMATE CHANGE

RESOURCE

Budget Expenditure Line	2023-24 Final Budget February 2023 Restated	2024-25 Indicative Final Budget February 2023 Restated	Revisions to the 2024-25 Indicative Allocations	MEG to MEG Transfers	Transfers Within MEG	Allocations to / from Reserves	2024-25 Draft Budget December 2023
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Action: Deliver nature conservation and forestry policies and local environment improvement	27,681	31,681	(8,973)	-	-	-	22,708
Natural Resources Wales	59,725	59,725	(14,000)	-	58,080	17,450	121,255
Natural Resources Wales - Non cash	10,000	10,000	-	-	-	-	10,000
Natural Resources Wales - Timber Income	-	-	-	-	(33,080)	-	(33,080)
Windfarm Income via NRW	-	-	(10,000)	-	-	-	(10,000)
Action: Sponsor and manage delivery bodies	69,725	69,725	(24,000)	-	25,000	17,450	88,175
Environment Management (Pwllperian) - Non cash	38	38	-	-	-	-	38
Action: Developing an appropriate evidence base to support the work of the Department	38	38	-	-	-	-	38
Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy	35,241	35,241	(3,000)	-	-	148	32,389
Action: Increase Resource Efficiency and Support Transition to a Circular Economy	35,241	35,241	(3,000)	-	-	148	32,389
National Park Core Funding	11,416	11,416	-	-	-	-	11,416
Action: Promote and support protected landscapes, wider access to green space	11,416	11,416	-	-	-	-	11,416
Marine Policy, Evidence and Funding	1,911	1,911	(250)	-	-	-	1,661
Action: Restore, Maintain and Improve Marine Environment	1,911	1,911	(250)	-	-	-	1,661
Homelessness Support & Prevention	46,147	51,147	(3,000)	-	166,763	-	214,910
Action: Homelessness Prevention	46,147	51,147	(3,000)	-	166,763	-	214,910
Housing Policy	6,471	6,471	-	-	(5,103)	-	1,368
Housing Support Grant	166,763	166,763	-	-	(166,763)	-	-
Rapid Response to Independent Living	-	-	-	-	5,103	-	5,103
Action: Independent Living	173,234	173,234	-	-	(166,763)	-	6,471
Residential Decarbonisation & Quality	2,173	2,673	(1,000)	-	-	-	1,673
Action: Achieve Quality Housing	2,173	2,673	(1,000)	-	-	-	1,673

CLIMATE CHANGE

RESOURCE

Budget Expenditure Line	2023-24 Final Budget February 2023 Restated	2024-25 Indicative Final Budget February 2023 Restated	Revisions to the 2024-25 Indicative Allocations	MEG to MEG Transfers	Transfers Within MEG	Allocations to / from Reserves	2024-25 Draft Budget December 2023
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Building Safety	6,000	6,500	(2,000)	-	-	-	4,500
Action: Building Safety	6,000	6,500	(2,000)	-	-	-	4,500
Housing Finance Grant	13,100	13,100	(9,000)	-	-	-	4,100
Action: Increase the Supply and Choice of Affordable Housing	13,100	13,100	(9,000)	-	-	-	4,100
Housing Programme Revenue Funding	173	173	-	-	-	-	173
Action: Housing Revenue Funding	173	173	-	-	-	-	173
Land Release Fund	2,150	2,250	(3,800)	-	-	-	(1,550)
Action: Land Division	2,150	2,250	(3,800)	-	-	-	(1,550)
Regeneration	1,271	1,671	(15,000)	-	-	-	(13,329)
Cardiff Harbour Authority	5,400	5,400	-	-	-	-	5,400
Action: Regeneration	6,671	7,071	(15,000)	-	-	-	(7,929)
Planning and Environment Decisions Wales	2,997	2,997	-	-	-	-	2,997
Planning & Regulation Expenditure	2,099	2,099	(100)	-	-	-	1,999
Action: Planning and Regulation	5,096	5,096	(100)	-	-	-	4,996
Strategic Infrastructure Development	950	950	-	-	-	-	950
Action: Strategic Infrastructure	950	950	-	-	-	-	950
Network Asset Management	4,481	4,481	-	-	-	5,200	9,681
Network Operations	66,023	66,023	(16,855)	-	-	-	49,168
Action: Motorway & Trunk Road Operations	70,504	70,504	(16,855)	-	-	5,200	58,849
Network Operations - Non Cash	188,691	188,691	-	-	-	-	188,691
Action: Improve and Maintain Trunk Road Network (Domestic Routes) - Non Cash	188,691	188,691	-	-	-	-	188,691
Aviation	4,402	2,422	(1,250)	-	-	-	1,172
Frontline Rail Services	850	850	(250)	-	-	-	600

CLIMATE CHANGE

RESOURCE

Budget Expenditure Line	2023-24 Final Budget February 2023 Restated	2024-25 Indicative Final Budget February 2023 Restated	Revisions to the 2024-25 Indicative Allocations	MEG to MEG Transfers	Transfers Within MEG	Allocations to / from Reserves	2024-25 Draft Budget December 2023
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Transport for Wales	254,258	256,238	110,750	-	-	-	366,988
Transport for Wales - Non cash	38,000	38,000	-	-	-	-	38,000
Action: Road, Rail, Air and Sea Services and Investment	297,510	297,510	109,250	-	-	-	406,760
Bus Support	61,005	61,005	(150)	-	62,482	-	123,337
Concessionary Fares	60,482	60,482	-	-	(60,482)	-	-
Youth Discounted Travel Scheme	2,000	2,000	-	-	(2,000)	-	-
Sustainable & Active Travel	1,930	1,930	(5,250)	-	-	5,000	1,680
Action: Sustainable Travel	125,417	125,417	(5,400)	-	-	5,000	125,017
Road Safety	5,000	5,000	-	-	-	-	5,000
Action: Improve Road Safety	5,000	5,000	-	-	-	-	5,000
MEG: CLIMATE CHANGE	1,165,687	1,187,687	(78)	-	-	28,398	1,216,007

CLIMATE CHANGE

CAPITAL

Budget Expenditure Line	2023-24 Final Budget February 2023 Restated	2024-25 Indicative Final Budget February 2023 Restated	Revisions to the 2024-25 Indicative Allocations	MEG to MEG Transfers	Transfers Within MEG	Allocations to / from Reserves	2024-25 Draft Budget December 2023
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Fuel Poverty Programme	35,000	35,000	-	-	-	-	35,000
Action: Fuel Poverty Programme	35,000	35,000	-	-	-	-	35,000
Welsh Government Energy Service	25,000	25,000	-	-	(10,000)	20,000	35,000
Ynni Cymru	-	-	-	-	10,000	-	10,000
Marine Energy	7,000	10,000	-	-	-	(600)	9,400
Environment Protection	2,150	300	-	-	-	-	300
Action: Develop and implement climate change policy, energy efficiency, Green Growth and environmental protection	34,150	35,300	-	-	-	19,400	54,700
Flood Risk Management & Water Policy Delivery	49,000	49,000	-	-	(22,000)	-	27,000
Coal Tip Safety Delivery	11,000	10,300	-	-	-	-	10,300
Action: Develop and implement flood and coastal risk, water and sewage policy and legislation	60,000	59,300	-	-	(22,000)	-	37,300
Enabling Natural Resources	2,000	290	-	-	-	(290)	-
Biodiversity, Evidence and Plant Health	12,500	12,500	-	-	-	-	12,500
Forestry	14,900	9,310	-	-	-	-	9,310
Local Places for Nature	16,700	24,500	-	-	-	(4,710)	19,790
Action: Deliver nature conservation and forestry policies and local environment improvement	46,100	46,600	-	-	-	(5,000)	41,600
Natural Resources Wales	2,358	2,356	-	-	22,750	-	25,106
Action: Sponsor and manage delivery bodies	2,358	2,356	-	-	22,750	-	25,106
Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy	60,000	60,000	-	-	(750)	(12,397)	46,853
Action: Increase Resource Efficiency and Support Transition to a Circular Economy	60,000	60,000	-	-	(750)	(12,397)	46,853
Landscape & Outdoor Recreation	8,900	8,900	-	-	-	-	8,900
Action: Promote and support protected landscapes, wider access to green space	8,900	8,900	-	-	-	-	8,900

CLIMATE CHANGE

CAPITAL

Budget Expenditure Line	2023-24 Final Budget February 2023 Restated	2024-25 Indicative Final Budget February 2023 Restated	Revisions to the 2024-25 Indicative Allocations	MEG to MEG Transfers	Transfers Within MEG	Allocations to / from Reserves	2024-25 Draft Budget December 2023
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Rapid Response Adaption Programme	19,500	19,500	-	-	-	-	19,500
Private Rented Sector	1,500	1,500	-	-	-	-	1,500
Action: Independent Living	21,000	21,000	-	-	-	-	21,000
Health & Housing	60,500	60,500	-	-	-	-	60,500
Action: Integrated Care Fund	60,500	60,500	-	-	-	-	60,500
Major Repairs Allowance and Dowry Gap Funding	108,000	108,000	-	-	-	-	108,000
Residential Decarbonisation & Quality	92,000	92,000	-	-	-	-	92,000
Action: Achieve Quality Housing	200,000	200,000	-	-	-	-	200,000
Social Housing Grants (SHG)	370,000	365,000	-	-	-	-	365,000
Land for Housing - Repayment	(1,930)	(3,000)	-	-	-	-	(3,000)
Action: Increase the Supply and Choice of Affordable Housing	368,070	362,000	-	-	-	-	362,000
Building Safety	135,000	165,000	(37,330)	-	-	-	127,670
Action: Building Safety	135,000	165,000	(37,330)	-	-	-	127,670
Market Housing and Other Schemes	67,000	65,000	-	-	-	7,000	72,000
Market Housing and Other Schemes - Repayment	(2,440)	(2,830)	-	-	-	-	(2,830)
Homebuy	2,500	4,000	-	-	-	-	4,000
Action: Increase the Supply and Choice of Market Housing	67,060	66,170	-	-	-	7,000	73,170
Land Release Fund	20,000	25,000	-	-	-	-	25,000
Land Release Fund - Repayment	-	(9,361)	-	-	-	-	(9,361)
Action: Land Division	20,000	15,639	-	-	-	-	15,639
Regeneration	50,000	50,000	-	-	-	-	50,000
Action: Regeneration	50,000	50,000	-	-	-	-	50,000
Strategic Infrastructure Development	14,500	5,000	-	-	-	-	5,000

CLIMATE CHANGE

CAPITAL

Budget Expenditure Line	2023-24 Final Budget February 2023 Restated	2024-25 Indicative Final Budget February 2023 Restated	Revisions to the 2024-25 Indicative Allocations	MEG to MEG Transfers	Transfers Within MEG	Allocations to / from Reserves	2024-25 Draft Budget December 2023
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Action: Strategic Infrastructure	14,500	5,000	-	-	-	-	5,000
Network Operations	185,000	185,000	-	-	-	-	185,000
Action: Motorway & Trunk Road Operations	185,000	185,000	-	-	-	-	185,000
Aviation	13,328	1,783	-	-	-	-	1,783
Transport for Wales	196,672	75,217	-	-	-	-	75,217
Action: Road, Rail, Air and Sea Services and Investment	210,000	77,000	-	-	-	-	77,000
Bus Support	58,000	68,000	-	-	-	-	68,000
Local Transport Priorities	33,328	40,000	-	-	-	-	40,000
Sustainable and Active Travel	93,672	99,000	-	-	-	(5,000)	94,000
Sustainable and Active Travel - Repayment	(360)	(372)	-	-	-	-	(372)
Action: Sustainable Travel	184,640	206,628	-	-	-	(5,000)	201,628
Road Safety	4,000	4,000	-	-	-	-	4,000
Action: Improve Road Safety	4,000	4,000	-	-	-	-	4,000
MEG: CLIMATE CHANGE	1,766,278	1,665,393	(37,330)	-	-	4,003	1,632,066

CLIMATE CHANGE

AME - RESOURCE

Budget Expenditure Line	2023-24 Final Budget February 2023 Restated	2024-25 Indicative Final Budget February 2023 Restated	Revisions to the 2024-25 Indicative Allocations	Other Changes	2024-25 Draft Budget December 2023
	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Market Housing - AME	(3,035)	(2,527)	-	(2,871)	(5,398)
Action: Increase the Supply and Choice of Market Housing	(3,035)	(2,527)	-	(2,871)	(5,398)
Roads Impairment - AME	148,512	30,232	-	-	30,232
Action: Motorway & Trunk Road Operations - Non Cash	148,512	30,232	-	-	30,232
Transport for Wales - AME	2,000	2,000	-	-	2,000
Action: Road, Rail, Air and Sea Services and Investment	2,000	2,000	-	-	2,000
NRW Provision for Pensions - AME	10,000	10,000	-	-	10,000
NRW Impairment of Forestry & Biological Assets - AME	(100,000)	(100,000)	-	-	(100,000)
Action: Sponsor and manage delivery bodies	(90,000)	(90,000)	-	-	(90,000)
MEG: CLIMATE CHANGE	57,477	(60,295)	-	(2,871)	(63,166)

Climate Change MEG

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RESOURCE BUDGET			£'000	£'000
Action	BEL No.	BEL Description	2023-24 Final Budget	2024-25 Draft Budget
Strategic Infrastructure	3830	Strategic Infrastructure Development	950	950
Motorway and Trunk Road Operations	1884	Network Asset Management	4,481	9,681
	1885	Network Operations	66,023	49,168
	1886	Network Operations Non-Cash	188,691	188,691
Road, Rail, Air and Sea Services and Investment	1883	Aviation	4,402	1,172
	1895	Transport for Wales	254,258	376,988
	1895	Transport for Wales – Non-cash	38,000	38,000
	1890	Frontline Rail Services	850	600
Sustainable Travel	1880	Bus Support	61,005	123,337
	2000	Concessionary Fares	60,482	-
	2001	Youth Discounted Travel Scheme	2,000	-
	XXXX	Boarding Charge Income		-10,000
	2030	Sustainable and Active Travel	1,930	1,680
Improve Road Safety	1892	Road Safety	5,000	5,000
Environment Quality and Marine	2875	Marine Policy, Evidence and Funding	1,911	1,661
Water, Flood and Coal Tips Safety	2230	Flood Risk Management & Water Policy Delivery	43,840	18,890
	2232	Coal Tip Safety Delivery	4,000	3,800
Land Nature Forestry and Natural Resources and Communities	2825	Biodiversity, Evidence and Plant Health	13,521	11,849
	2820	Local Places for Nature	3,400	2,950
	2814	Environment Management (Pwllperian) (Non-Cash)	38	38
	2827	Forestry	5,320	6,436
	2827	Forestry (Non-Cash)	83	83
	2490	National Park Core Funding	11,416	11,416
	2195	Landfill Disposals Tax Communities Scheme	1,500	500
	2832	Enabling Natural Resources	3,008	-
	2837	Environment Act Implementation	849	890

Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy	2190	Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy	35,241	32,389
NRW Sponsorship	2451	Natural Resources Wales	59,725	121,255
	2451	Natural Resources Wales (Non-Cash)	10,000	10,000
	XXXX	Natural Resources Wales - Timber Income		-33,080
	XXXX	Windfarm Income via NRW		-10,000
	2812	Environment Legislation, Governance and Communications	226	226
Climate Change, Energy and Planning	3770	Clean Energy	9,767	2,897
	2809	Welsh Government Energy Service	3,970	3,970
	1270	Fuel Poverty Programme	4,370	4,370
	2817	Environment Protection	6,200	6,400
	3771	Climate Change Action	4,486	3,586
	3772	Ynni Cymru	0	2,470
	1893	Marine Energy	0	400
Planning and Regulation	2250	Planning & Regulation Expenditure	2,099	1,999
	2256	Planning and Environment Decisions Wales	2,997	2,997
Homelessness Prevention	1120	Homelessness	46,147	214,910
Independent Living	1100	Housing Policy	6,471	1,368
	1083	Housing Support Grant	166,763	-
Achieve Quality Housing	1065	Residential Decarbonisation & Quality	2,173	1,673
	1285	Rapid Response to Independent Living		5,103
Building Safety	2255	Building Safety	6,000	4,500
Increase the Supply and Choice of Affordable Housing	0984	Housing Finance Grant	13,100	4,100
Housing Revenue Fund	1181	Housing Programme Revenue Fund	173	173
Land Division	6410	Land Release Fund	2,150	-1,550
Regeneration	4151	Regeneration	1,271	-13,329
	4162	Cardiff Harbour Authority	5,400	5,400
EXTRACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE - TOTAL RESOURCE BUDGET			1,165,687	1,216,007

CAPITAL BUDGET			£'000	£'000
Division	BEL No.	BEL Description	2023-24 Final Budget	2024-25 Draft Budget
Strategic Infrastructure	3830	Strategic Infrastructure Development	14,500	5,000
Motorway and Trunk Road Operations	1885	Network Operations	185,000	185,000
Road, Rail Air and Sea Services & Investment	1883	Aviation	13,328	1,783
	1895	Transport for Wales	196,672	75,217
Sustainable Travel	1880	Bus Support	58,000	68,000
	1882	Local Transport Priorities	33,328	40,000
	2030	Sustainable and Active Travel	93,672	94,000
	2030	Sustainable and Active Travel - Repayment	-360	-372
Improve Road Safety	1892	Road Safety	4,000	4,000
Water, Flood and Coal Tips Safety	2230	Flood Risk Management & Water Policy Delivery	49,000	27,000
	2232	Coal Tip Safety Delivery	11,000	10,300
Land Nature Forestry and Natural Resources and Communities	2825	Biodiversity, Evidence and Plant Health	12,500	12,500
	2820	Local Places for Nature	16,700	19,790
	2827	Forestry	14,900	9,310
	2490	National Park Core Funding	8,900	8,900
	2832	Enabling Natural Resources	2,000	-
Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy	2190	Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy	60,000	46,854
NRW Sponsorship	2451	Natural Resources Wales	2,358	25,106
Climate Change, Energy and Planning	2809	Welsh Government Energy Service	25,000	35,000
	2817	Environmental Protection	2,150	300
	3772	Ynni Cymru	0	10,000
	1893	Marine Energy	7,000	9,400
Fuel Poverty Programme	1270	Fuel Poverty Programme	35,000	35,000
Independent Living	1285	Rapid Response Action Programme	19,500	19,500
	1182	Private Rented Sector	1,500	1,500
Integrated Care Fund	0986	Health & Housing	60,500	60,500
Achieve Quality Housing	1061	Major Repairs Allowance and Dowry Funding	108,000	108,000
	1065	Residential Decarbonisation & Quality	92,000	92,000

Increase the Supply and Choice of Affordable Housing	0982	Social Housing Grants (SHG)	370,000	365,000
	0989	Land for Housing – Repayment	-1,930	-3,000
Building Safety	2255	Building Safety	135,000	127,670
Increase the Supply and Choice of Market Housing	0987	Market Housing and Other Schemes	67,000	72,000
	0987	Market Housing and Other Schemes – Repayment	-2,440	-2,830
	0980	Homebuy	2,500	4,000
Land Division	6410	Land Release Fund	20,000	25,000
	6410	Land Release Fund – Repayment		-9,361
Regeneration	4151	Regeneration	50,000	50,000
EXTRACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE - TOTAL CAPITAL BUDGET			1,766,278	1,632,067

Strategic Infrastructure

1. Strategic Infrastructure Development

BEL	Resource Budget £'000	Capital Budget £'000 (Inc. FTR)
3830 - Strategic Infrastructure Development	950	5,000
Overview		
<p>Strategic Infrastructure Development is a commercially focussed division that supports delivery of key transport infrastructure projects and transport policy objectives along with implementing major carbon reduction initiatives. This is achieved through a collaborative approach to develop innovative solutions whilst working with partners from the Private Sector and also engaging the resources of UK Government and Welsh Local Authorities to optimise external funding. The commercial financing skills and expertise of the division are also made available as an internal consultancy to support colleagues across Economic Infrastructure, The Economy Directorate and Tourism.</p> <p>A number of the projects managed by the team have a strong cross portfolio impact whilst revenue resource is used to develop delivery solutions and business cases that enable third party and public capital investment. In addition to core budget the Division regularly makes investments and loans through utilisation of FT monies.</p> <p>The PfG commitment to deliver the GCRE project remains an ongoing priority that is not fully funded. The FTR totals £9.500m.</p>		

Motorway and Trunk Road Operations

2. Motorway and Trunk Roads

BEL	Resource Budget £'000 (inc. non-cash)	Capital Budget £'000
1884 - Network Asset Management	9,681	-
1885 - Network Operations	49,168	185,000
1886 - Network Operations - Non-Cash	188,691	-
Overview		
<p>Welsh Government is directly responsible for the Motorway and Trunk Road Network, one of Wales' most important infrastructure assets. It has a depreciated replacement cost of circa £17bn. Appropriate maintenance is essential for the Welsh Government to meet its statutory duties for safety and achieve its wider policy objectives for Wales.</p> <p>Forecast spend includes an allowance for 'over-programming' to take advantage of additional funding that may become available through slippage in other programme spend that become evident late in the year. Should no additional funding materialise the over-programmed element will be managed into next year.</p> <p>Non-cash totals 188,691.</p>		

Road, Rail Air and Sea Services & Investment

3a. Aviation

BEL	Resource Budget £'000	Capital Budget £'000
1883 - Aviation	1,172	1,783
Overview		
<p>The Aviation function seeks to ensure air connectivity is part of the integrated transport system in Wales, connecting Wales with the world and the world with Wales, to support the socioeconomic wellbeing of the nation. The activity includes support for and development of Wales' Aviation facilities, including the Cardiff Airport restructuring package.</p>		

3b. Transport for Wales

BEL	Resource Budget £'000 (Inc. non-cash)	Capital Budget £'000
1895 - Transport for Wales	404,988	75,217
Overview		
<p>Transport for Wales is a not-for-profit company, wholly owned by the Welsh Government, it exists to drive forward the Welsh Government's vision of a high quality, safe, integrated, affordable, and accessible transport network that the people of Wales are proud of.</p> <p>This BEL is focused on the costs of operating and managing the rail network. It includes revenue funding for operating rail services, maintaining the Core Valley Lines network, and some unallocated corporate costs for running CVL. The Capital funding is predominantly the major investment in the Core Valley Lines Transformation programme but also includes smaller capital investment programmes such as station improvements.</p> <p>Non-cash totals £38m.</p>		

3c. Frontline Rail Services

BEL	Resource Budget £'000	Capital Budget £'000
1890 - Frontline Rail Services	600	-
Overview		
<p>This budget supports delivery and development of sustainable transport modes and for supporting local transport initiatives.</p>		

Sustainable Travel

4a. Sustainable Travel

BEL	Resource Budget £'000	Capital Budget £'000
1880 - Bus Support	123,337	68,000
1882 - Local Transport Priorities	-	40,000
2000 - Concessionary Fares	-	-
2001 - Youth Discounted Travel Scheme	-	-
Overview		
<p>This budget supports delivery and development of sustainable transport modes and for supporting local transport initiatives. A significant element of the funding is focussed on free bus services for the elderly and disabled, and discounted bus travel for young travellers, as well as providing other socially necessary services. . The concessionary fare funding shown is direct funding for the scheme from Welsh Government Transport budgets, but this is supplemented by additional funding from local authorities. The discounted bus travel scheme for younger persons (aged 16-21-year-olds), enabling them to access opportunities for work, education, training and apprenticeships is of particular benefit to people from low-income households and helps to tackle poverty. This also includes an element of grant funding for local authorities for capital projects related to modal shift and climate adaptation, money related to the transition of the bus fleet to electric vehicles and to support the ambitions of Bus Cymru. Some of the Local Transport budget will be used to support Local Authorities to develop and deliver bus priority schemes that improve journey times for bus services and make them an attractive alternative to the private car.</p>		

4b. Active Travel

BEL	Resource Budget £'000	Capital Budget £'000 (inc. FTC)
2030 - Sustainable and Active Travel	1,680	93,628
Overview		
<p>This budget supports the delivery of active travel infrastructure and programmes to encourage increased use of active travel modes to reduce barriers to mode shift towards walking and cycling, in line with Llwybr Newydd, the Wales Transport Strategy.. It also includes funding to support the transition to electric vehicles.</p> <p>The Active Travel Fund and the Safe Routes in Communities Grant enable delivery of active travel infrastructure by local authorities, supported through Transport for Wales. This is complemented by the active travel programme on the Strategic Road Network and improvements to the National Cycle Network. Revenue funding primarily supports</p>		

promotion of active travel to school and workplaces alongside other initiatives that increase access to active travel.

Improve Road Safety

5. Road Safety

BEL	Resource Budget £'000	Capital Budget £'000
1892- Road Safety	5,000	4,000
Overview		
The Resource Budget supports engagement and funding arrangements with external partners in the public, private and third sectors to achieve casualty reduction. The capital budget supports capital road safety engineering improvements on the trunk and local road networks.		

Environment Quality and Marine

Overview
<p>Establish a targeted scheme to support restoration of seagrass and saltmarsh habitats along our coastline.</p> <p>In addition, the Marine division also feeds into and supports the delivery of a number of other PfG commitments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a Tidal Lagoon Challenge and support ideas that can make Wales a world centre of emerging tidal technologies. • Work towards the establishment of an Environmental Governance Body, a statutory duty and targets to protect and restore biodiversity. • Legislate to abolish the use of more commonly littered, single use plastics.

6. Marine

BEL description	Resource Budget £'000	Capital Budget £'000
2875 - Marine	1,661	-
Proposed BEL activity		
<p>Welsh Government's ambition for the marine environment is that Welsh seas are 'clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse'. The budget will be used to deliver the Minister for Climate Change's marine priorities to help meet this ambition, including the specific Programme for Government commitment on coastal restoration.</p> <p>Work will focus on marine planning and licensing, biodiversity, and climate change policy development. We will continue to enhance ecosystem resilience through Marine Protected Area network designation and targeted recovery interventions whilst maintaining our commitments to meeting Good Environmental Status. We will be responsive to developing evidence around blue carbon habitats and their global importance as part of our future marine decision-making processes, and contribution to achieving Net Zero.</p>		

Water, Flood and Coal Tips Safety

Overview

Flood Policy Team

To fund flood alleviation projects to reduce the risk of flooding and coastal erosion to homes in communities across Wales. The Welsh Government provides NRW and Local Authorities with opportunities to apply for grant funding to support their role as RMAs to carry out flood and coastal risk management activities. The process for applying for this funding, including eligibility criteria and grant rates, is set out in the FCERM Grant Memorandum. The BEL consists of both capital and revenue.

Coal Tip Safety

A coal tip safety unit has been established and is responsible for the deliver a wide programme including developing new policy and legislation, emergency preparedness and operational delivery. The Welsh Government provides capital funding to local authorities to undertake necessary maintenance works on disused coal tips on both public and private land.

Water Policy Team

Responsible for policy and legislation on environmental water quality, drinking water, water resources and water industry and consumer issues.

Programme for Government commitments:

- Introduce legislation to deal with the legacy of centuries of mining and ensure coal tip safety; strengthening local authority powers to protect the public and the environment.
- Fund additional flood protection for more than 45,000 homes.
- Deliver nature-based flood management in all major river catchments to expand wetland and woodland habitats.
- Legislate to strengthen the requirements for the use of sustainable drainage systems that provide wildlife habitat.
- Begin to designate Wales' inland waters for recreation, strengthening water quality monitoring.

Cooperation agreements:

- Flood capital investment and national resilience – Invest more in flood management and mitigation and plan to respond to the increased risk of flooding. We will ask the National Infrastructure Commission for Wales to assess how the nationwide likelihood of flooding of homes, businesses and infrastructure can be minimised by 2050.
- Flood review – Commission an independent review of the local government section 19 and Natural Resources Wales reports into extreme flooding in winter 2020-21 and act on its recommendations.

8a. Water and Flood

BEL description	Resource Budget £'000	Capital Budget £'000
BEL 2230 - Flood and Water	18,890	27,000
Purpose of BEL		
<p>Proposed Revenue Programme</p> <p>The FCERM Resource Budget largely funds Wales' Risk Management Authorities in undertaking activities such as asset maintenance, awareness raising work, flood investigation (Section 19 reports) mapping, warning, and informing and staff costs.</p>		
<p>Water Revenue Programme</p> <p>This is used to deliver statutory and regulatory functions in respect of water and sewage, including working with stakeholders on the statutory 2024 price review which sets water bills and charges and water company investment for 2025 – 2030. It also funds support for delivering Programme for Government commitments to strengthen the requirements for the use of sustainable drainage systems that provide wildlife habitat and begin to designate Wales' inland waters for recreation, strengthening water quality monitoring.</p>		
<p>Flood Capital Programme</p> <p>Capital funding is not only used to build new flood and coastal risk management schemes but also to fund preparatory business case and design work ahead of construction.</p> <p>Capital funding is also provided to NRW to support their core capital funded activities which include scheme development work (including business case development), mapping and modelling projects, staff costs, ICT for flood projects, car fleet/plant hire and capital maintenance.</p>		
<p>Water Capital Programme</p> <p>The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2017 aim to reduce pollution and improve the condition of aquatic ecosystems, promote the sustainable use of water and reduce the effects of floods and droughts. The Regulations place a duty on Welsh Ministers to prevent deterioration and improve all water bodies to good status by 2027.</p> <p>NRW has prepared a flexible multi-year programme of work designed to decrease the number of watercourses failing to meet good ecological status. We propose to provide NRW with the necessary funding to undertake work prioritised using the following agreed criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivers improvements to water quality and/or improvements in resilience to water quality pressures; • Has clear, measurable capital outputs (delivers/will deliver on the ground actions); 		

- High confidence of delivery within the financial year;
- WFD status of waterbody and/or failing against a SAC condition attribute; and
- Value for money for the taxpayer.

This programme of work includes remediation work for abandoned metal mines to help prevent discharges of hazardous pollution into waterways, and a range of capital work to address the key factors causing water quality failures NRW will prioritise the work according to where it has the most impact and where it can be completed within this financial year.

8b. Coal Tip Safety Delivery

BEL description	Resource Budget £'000	Capital Budget £'000
BEL 2232 - Coal Tip Safety Delivery	3,800	10,300
Purpose of BEL		
<p>Coal Tips Safety</p> <p>The capital budget for 24/25 is £10.3 million. The BEL is for the CTS Grant Scheme for local authorities to carry out works on tips, which has been identified in inspections reports or where a slip has occurred. In addition, we are committed to the final phase of remediation of the Tylorstown coal tip and work on reservoirs.</p> <p>The long-term reclamation costs of £500-600m is not expected to be required until 2025 for the 10-15 year reclamation programme. Correspondence from the UKG has continually been negative, clearly stating in their view this is for the WG to fund.</p>		

Land Nature Forestry and Natural Resources and Communities

Overview

The Landscapes, Nature and Forestry Division is responsible for ensuring our natural resources are managed sustainably and our natural environment is protected and enhanced.

We lead work to increase tree cover, enhance and protect nature, manage threats to our wildlife and ensure our landscapes can be enjoyed by the people of Wales and visitors without harming our ecosystems. Our aims include:

- Restoring and enhancing nature to create more resilient ecosystems and reverse the decline in biodiversity;
- Increasing tree cover for the benefit of people, nature and the economy;
- Protecting Wales' natural environment through sustainable management of natural resources; and ensuring access to nature for recreation and well-being.

Programme for Government commitments:

- Create a National Forest to extend from the North of Wales to the South.
- Harness the economic, cultural, and recreational potential of the National Forest as part of progress towards a sustainable timber industry.
- Designate a new National Park to cover the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley (now a MRANWT responsibility).
- Expand arrangements to create or significantly enhance green spaces.
- Create a timber based industrial strategy that can develop and sustain the high value production and processing of Welsh wood.
- Support communities to create 30 new woodlands and connect habitat areas.

9a. Biodiversity, Evidence and Plant Health

BEL description	Resource Budget £'000 (inc. non-cash)	Capital Budget £'000
BEL 2825 - Biodiversity, Evidence and Soils	11,849	12,500
BEL 2814 - Environment Management (Pwllperian) (Non-Cash)	38	-
Purpose of BEL		
<p>Biodiversity delivery is focussed on actions to tackle the nature emergency and deliver PfG commitments including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nature Networks Programme – improving the condition and connectivity of our protected sites network (enhance green spaces). • Local Nature Partnerships – promoting coordination of locally driven action. • Developing legally binding targets and appropriate reporting and monitoring mechanisms through a year four Bill. • Embedding biodiversity in decision making through the biodiversity taskforce and section 6 duty. • Species recovery including pollinators and bee health <p>The BEL also funds the following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>National Peatland Action Programme</u> <p>The NPAP provides national, coordinated leadership through Natural Resources Wales for sustained peatland restoration. The aim is to restore functioning ecosystems which in turn safeguards and sequesters carbon.</p>		

9b. Local Places for Nature

BEL description	Resource Budget £'000 (inc. non-cash)	Capital Budget £'000
BEL 2820 - Local Places for Nature	2,950	19,790
Purpose of BEL		
<p><u>Local Places for Nature</u></p> <p>Local Places for Nature (LPfN) intends to help communities create nature on their doorsteps. The programme is aimed at communities and community organisations to restore and enhance nature in their local areas, particularly in areas of deprivation and communities with little or no access to nature. The programme began in 2020 and delivers the current Programme for Government commitment, “Expand arrangements to create or significantly enhance green spaces”.</p> <p>Capital funding is delegated to three Scheme Managers, WCVA, KWT & NLHF who work collaboratively, running individual schemes;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) WCVA - 25 Local Nature Partnerships, led by Local Authorities and National Parks deliver projects locally. 2) An open access competitive capital grant scheme run by NLHF, via an MOU with DCMS. KWT - Community Packages to create pollinator and community growing gardens including on manmade structures. 		

9c. Forestry

BEL description	Resource Budget £'000 (inc. non-cash)	Capital Budget £'000
BEL 2827 - Forestry	6,436	9,310
BEL 2827 - Forestry (Non-Cash)	83	-
Purpose of BEL		
<p><u>National Forest</u></p> <p>Allocated to funding National Forest Woodland Liaison Officers, funding the creation and enhancement of woodlands which meet National Forest standards and creating the covid 19 commemorative woodlands.</p> <p><u>Cross-border MOU</u></p> <p>Allocated to cover areas where cross-border collaboration is beneficial: tree health, the Woodland Carbon Code, forestry research, forestry economics and the UK Forestry Standard. Wales contributes 10% of total funding to the MOU, with 90% funding split</p>		

between Scotland and England.

Forestry policy

Allocated to work to increase woodland creation and to meet ongoing forestry policy costs.

Timber industrial strategy

Allocated to funding the Home-Grown Homes project and the creation of the strategy.

NRW funding

Allocated to funding NRW to verify that woodland creation plans meet the UK Forestry Standard.

Woodland Restoration

Allocated to restoring woodlands affected by tree disease.

Forest Research MOU

Forest Research is the research agency of the Forestry Commission. Through our service agreement we fund them to map woodland in Wales, provide monitoring and surveillance of tree health and identify tree diseases and research key issues in forest management.

Non-cash totals 83k.

9d. National Park Core Funding

BEL description	Resource Budget £'000	Capital Budget £'000
BEL 2490 - National Park Core Funding	11,416	8,900
Purpose of BEL		
<p>Provide core funding to the 3 National Park Authorities.</p> <p>Fund any public appointments to National Park Authorities.</p> <p>Our Designated Landscapes (National Parks (20%) and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (5%) play a crucial role in protecting some of our most precious and beautiful areas and cover 25% of Wales's land area. They are also key drivers for a number of Welsh Government priorities. These include tourism, biodiversity, decarbonisation, health and wellbeing, sustainable communities, and the Welsh Language. The National Park Authority strategic grant ensures that the management of these landscapes is resilient and can realise these ambitions.</p> <p>In addition to funding for National Park Authorities, the draft budget included funding for a number of related areas , including:</p> <p>Provide the WG's contribution to the maintenance and promotion of the Wales Coast Path.</p> <p>Provide the Sustainable Development Fund for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs).</p>		

Fund a number of programmes, services and interventions to deliver WG and First Minister priorities around access and recreation, green spaces and allotments.

Fund a number of WG responsibilities such as any court cases relating to access.

9e. Landfill Disposal Tax Communities Scheme (LDTCS)

BEL description	Resource Budget £'000	Capital Budget £'000
BEL 2195 - Landfill Disposal Tax Communities Scheme (LDTCS)	500	-
Purpose of BEL		
<p>In April 2018, the collection of landfill tax was devolved to Wales, as set out in the Landfill Disposals Tax (Wales) Act 2017. Section 92 of the Act places a duty on the Welsh Ministers to prepare and publish a Landfill Disposals Tax Communities Scheme, which will make provision for grant funding for the benefit of communities affected by landfill disposals or activities at waste transfer stations. The budget for 24-25 is to continue with existing commitments already made.</p>		

9f. Environment Act Implementation

BEL description	Resource Budget £'000	Capital Budget £'000
BEL 2837 - Environment Act Implementation	890	-
Purpose of BEL		
<p>The purpose of this BEL is to support the Ministerial commitment to further the sustainable management of natural resources and the implementation of the Environment Act through a number of delivery schemes. It supports the staff posts required to run and manage these schemes and grant programmes. It also helps to support the international Eco-Schools programme across Wales, the Ministerial commitment to the tree planting and climate change educational programme delivered by charity Size of Wales.</p>		

Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy

Overview

The things we make, import and consume represent around 45% of Wales' total emissions and the extraction and processing of natural resources, such as the mining and farming sectors, are responsible for more than 90% of global biodiversity loss. The Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy division's budget is aligned to supporting the transition to the circular economy, by keeping resources in use and thereby addressing those emissions and the extraction of natural resources as a crucial element of tackling the climate and nature emergency. It also directly supports the collecting and processing of recycling and waste and improvements to the collection system as a frontline service, alongside action to redistribute food and reuse and repair items which provides important support, particularly in a cost of living crisis.

The divisions work is fundamental to the delivery of multiple overarching Programme for Government objectives, particularly:

- Build an economy based on the principles of fair work, sustainability and the industries and services of the future.
- Build a stronger, greener economy as we make maximum progress towards decarbonisation.
- Embed our response to the climate and nature emergency in everything we do.

It also leads on several specific commitments, namely:

- Introduce an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme to incentivise waste reduction by businesses.
- Support 80 re-use and repair hubs in town centres.
- Bring together a place-based zero waste challenge network of organisations to support cultural change in businesses and communities.
- Support the development of community recycling facilities in town centres and promote repair and re-use facilities to encourage zero-waste shopping.

10. Resource Efficiency and Circular Economy

BEL description	Resource Budget £'000	Capital Budget £'000
BEL 2190 - Resource Efficiency & Circular Economy	32,389	60,000
Purpose of BEL		
<p>Programme Staff – Programme funded staff that are crucial to the delivery of the Welsh Government's Circular Economy strategy and overarching Programme for Government and Net Zero Wales commitments.</p> <p>Funding of Delivery Partners - Delivery of the work on a circular economy is heavily dependent on the external support provided by various Delivery Bodies, which provide both crucial expertise and capacity to deliver against the breadth of the commitments. Significant work has been undertaken with WRAP and Local Partnerships to align resource to the PfG priorities, including the Extended Producer Responsibility Programme and Circular Economy Infrastructure Programme - with the bolstering of Programme and Project Management arrangements to the former and support to Local Authorities to produce robust business cases for infrastructure investment.</p> <p>In addition, the budget supports delivery partners such as Repair Café Wales to roll-out repair cafes across Wales and Fareshare to arrange the redistribution of food that would otherwise be wasted from the food and drink industry to communities in need across Wales.</p> <p>This also includes funding to NRW to support the implementation of workplace recycling reforms, EPR and DRS with the provision of detailed technical and enforcement advice and as the regulator for the circular economy in Wales. NRW are also the lead authority for waste crime and waste tracking and have a key role in decarbonisations work to address emissions from legacy landfill.</p> <p><u>Sustainable Waste Management Grant -</u> Funding to help Local Authorities to design, develop and execute strategic improvements in their approach to the Circular Economy, move up the waste hierarchy and preparing for EPR.</p> <p><u>Recycling Targetted Improvement & Strategic Planning -</u> Funding for the continued improvement in terms of the performance and efficiency of recycling collection and wider services, including repair and reuse. Focusing in particular, on utilising the evidence to take action to improve Wales' recycling rates to meet the next 70% target for 2024/25 and prepare for the implementation of EPR payments on the basis of service efficiency and effectiveness.</p> <p><u>EPR, DRS & Workplace Recycling</u> This funding is allocated against the delivery of the Welsh Governments commitments to deliver EPR, DRS and Workplace Recycling Reforms. These commitments represent economy wide reforms with significant carbon savings as well as being crucial to further progress on recycling in moving up the waste hierarchy.</p>		

Provision for Legal Support -

This budget provision is allocated in line with standard arrangements. £50k has been set aside for such an eventuality.

Circular Economy Fund for Business -

The funding delivers on the key commitment within *Beyond Recycling* and *Net Zero Wales* to support businesses to adapt their processes to become more circular, for example in using recycled content in manufacturing or moving to more sustainable materials and follows on from the successful pilot delivered over the last three years.

Circular Economy Fund for the Public Sector -

This capital funding, is primarily targeted at Local Authorities, to address core Circular Economy actions and develop a pipeline of circular economy infrastructure projects being developed collaboratively with Local Authorities. This includes improvements in recycling performance, increasing repair & reuse activity, enhancing climate resilience and decarbonising waste & recycling operations in line with the 2030 target.

Funding is also allocated to support Local Authorities to continue the transition of their fleet to Ultra-Low Emission collection Vehicles for recycling and residual waste.

Natural Resources Wales (NRW) Sponsorship

Overview

The Sponsorship Team within the Environmental Protection Division is responsible for the Welsh Government's sponsorship of NRW. The wider division also holds responsibility for protecting and enhancing health, nature, and the environment by developing evidence-based policy and legislation to underpin action across Wales, and by delivering proportionate environmental regulations (see Environmental Protection section below).

11a. Natural Resources Wales

BEL description	Resource Budget £'000 (inc. non-cash)	Capital Budget £'000
BEL 2451 - Natural Resources Wales	88,185	25,106

Purpose of BEL

This BEL provides Grant in Aid to NRW for its primary operational and regulatory responsibilities. NRW is the principal environmental adviser and regulator to Welsh Government and help to deliver a wide range of ministerial priorities and commitments, in delivering action to address the climate and nature emergencies.

2. Non-cash totals £10m

11b. Environment Legislation & Governance

BEL description	Resource Budget £'000	Capital Budget £'000
2812 - Environment Legislation & Governance	226	-

Proposed BEL activity

The BEL provides budgetary cover for legislation, governance and legal costs affecting MEG environmental and related programmes and includes the programme staffing costs for a solicitor.

Climate Change, Energy and Planning

Energy Division

Overview

Programme for Government commitments and Deep Dive into Renewables:

- Uphold our policy of opposing the extraction of fossil fuels in Wales, both on land and in Welsh waters, using the powers available to us.
- Support innovation in new renewable energy technology.
- Expand renewable energy generation by public bodies and community groups in Wales by over 100MW by 2026.
- Support delivery of deep dive recommendations.
- Work towards the creation of Trydan Gwyrdd Cymru and Ynni.
- Pursue devolution of powers needed to help reach net zero, including management of the Crown Estate in Wales.
- Launch the Tidal Lagoon Challenge

Divisional Background

The division's activities are focused across three broad work priorities: policy and evidence, delivery and financial support for renewable energy projects.

Work priorities are aligned to;

- Programme for Government commitments and well-being objectives.
- Recommendations from the deep dive into renewable energy.
- Our statutory commitments and policy framework.
- Policies and proposals set out in Net Zero Wales.

12a. Clean Energy

BEL description	Resource Budget £'000	Capital Budget £'000
BEL 3770 – Clean Energy	2,897	-
<p>Purpose of BEL</p> <p>The clean energy BEL funds the development of evidence to support the development of policy activity to deliver the Programme for Government commitments listed above. Specifically this includes the delivery of the Heat Strategy for Wales and feasibility studies for the use of mine water heat for heating systems in Wales. This funding also supports the delivery of key priorities in energy in Wales. Funding within the BEL is allocated to set up Trydan Gwyrdd Cymru our public sector renewable energy developer. Funding is also allocated to deliver Local Area energy Plans across every local authority area in Wales.</p>		
<p>BEL 3770 provides revenue funding for the Energy Division's work priorities.</p> <p>Programme for Government commitments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uphold our policy of opposing the extraction of fossil fuels in Wales, both on land and in Welsh waters, using the powers available to us. • Support innovation in new renewable energy technology and the launch of the Tidal Lagoon Challenge. • Expand renewable energy generation by public bodies and community groups in Wales by over 100MW by 2026. • Work towards the creation of Trydan Gwyrdd Cymru and Ynni Cymru. <p>Pursue devolution of powers needed to help reach net zero, including management of the Crown Estate in Wales.</p> <p>We have a cross governmental commitment to decarbonisation and have set net-zero targets, demonstrating how Wales can lead the way on climate change. It is recognised in the Programme for Government and Deep Dive into Renewables that our ambitions for a decarbonised energy system must be driven by the scaling up of renewable energy generation.</p> <p>The revenue aims to develop evidence to establish a path for decarbonising Wales' energy system, including the involvement of stakeholders in developing and promoting the resulting policy outcomes and funding for the division's programme of energy delivery work.</p> <p>Allocated budget within the BEL is focused on;</p>		

- Policy development across a range of energy matters including, heat strategy, decarbonising power and scaling up renewables.
- Delivery of policy evidence including opportunity mapping for mine water heat, , Energy Generation in Wales and Energy Use in Wales reports.
- Delivery of energy deep dive policy recommendations.
- Delivery of the fossil fuel and carbon capture and storage licensing systems to effectively apply fossil fuel policy.
- Delivery of the fossil fuels and carbon capture and storage licensing case work in accordance with statutory commitments and policy framework.
- Financial support for renewables, including grant funding for Community Energy Wales and the Local Energy Grant Scheme. .
- The Energy Planning Programme provides support to each region to take forward the delivery plans from the regional energy strategies, and to run regionally led Local Area Energy Planning (LAEP) with each authority within the region.
- the Renewable Energy Developer programme, as part of the launch of Net Zero Wales.
- Delivery of the recommendations from the Future Net Zero Grid for Wales Report.
- To support the Programme for Government commitment to launch the Tidal Lagoon Challenge and explore the potential of harnessing wave and tidal energy.
- Delivering a stakeholder engagement plan to support the energy delivery programme. Working with the energy sector and communities across Wales.
- Additional revenue support for delivery of new renewable projects and innovations via the WGES, where additional revenue need has been identified.
- Staff costs and the requirement for external specialist technical support and research costs covering the areas set out above.

12b. Welsh Government Energy Service

BEL description	Revenue Budget £000	Capital Budget £000
BEL 2809 – Welsh Government Energy Service (WGES)	3,970	35,000
Purpose of BEL		
<p>BEL 2809 Welsh Government Energy Service - This investment is to support public bodies to undertake energy efficiency, and renewable energy projects. It also supports communities to develop renewable energy projects.</p> <p>This budget also covers implementation of the net zero public sector route map, publication of the Welsh public sector carbon emissions annual report and guide.</p> <p>The capital budget includes £20m of FT Capital for the ‘Further and Higher Education Decarbonisation Scheme’.</p>		

12.c Ynni Cymru

BEL description	Revenue Budget £000	Capital Budget £000
BEL 3772 – Ynni Cymru	2,470	10,000
Purpose of BEL		
<p>This is a Programme for Government commitment, reflecting the Co-operation Agreement, to work with Plaid Cymru to scope the establishment of Ynni Cymru, a publicly owned energy company for Wales to expand community-owned renewable energy generation. The BEL funds scoping work to accelerate delivery of community owned renewable energy generation.</p>		

Climate Change and Energy Efficiency Division

Overview
<p>Programme for Government commitments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to improve existing homes, helping us tackle fuel poverty, create much needed jobs, training opportunities, and supply chains. • Support innovation in new renewable energy technology.

12c. Fuel Poverty Programmes

BEL description	Revenue Budget £000	Capital Budget £000
BEL 1270 – Fuel Poverty Programmes	4,370	35,000
Purpose of BEL		
<p>BEL 1270's revenue and capital budgets support the development of a replacement Warm Homes programme and grant funding for remedial works to local authorities.</p> <p>The revenue allocation of £4,370m covers delivery of the Advisory Services and Independent Quality Assurance functions of the new Warm Homes Programme, and staff, legal, technical and procurement advice costs associated with delivering and managing the Warm Homes Programme contracts.</p>		

Environmental Protection

Overview

The *Environmental Protection Division* comprises three teams; the Local Environment Quality team, the Air Quality, Noise and Chemicals team, and the Radioactivity and Industrial Pollution team. Local environment quality (fly-tipping, littering, single use plastics, statutory nuisance, contaminated land and dog fouling).

- Protecting the environment and human health from radioactive substances and radioactive waste
- Reducing carbon emissions, air pollution and waste from industry
- Reducing the impact of fluorinated greenhouse gases (F-gases) on climate change and reducing the impact of ozone depleting substances (ODS) on the ozone layer
- Air quality improvement
- Chemicals regulation
- Noise and soundscape policy
- Common Frameworks with UK governments setting out how we are working together in the context of returning EU powers.

Programme for Government commitments:

- Legislate to abolish the use of more commonly littered, single use plastics.
- Introduce a Clean Air Act for Wales, consistent with World Health Organisation guidance and extend the provision of air quality monitoring.

12d. Environmental Protection

BEL description	Resource Budget £'000	Capital Budget £'000
BEL 2817 – Environment Protection (was Radioactivity and Pollution Prevention)	6,400	300
Purpose of BEL		
<p>This BEL supports the policy and legislative work in respect of air quality, chemicals, environmental noise, industrial pollution, and radioactivity/radioactive waste. This includes implementing associated legislation as necessary to deliver those policy measures. It also covers the management of infraction cases, including some legal costs, associated with industrial pollution and air quality.</p>		

12e. Climate Change Action

BEL description	Revenue Budget £000	Capital Budget £000
BEL 3771 – Climate Change Action	3,586	-
Purpose of BEL		
<p><u>Climate Adaptation</u> -</p> <p>Funding to support <i>Prosperity for All: A Climate Conscious Wales</i> implementation, as set out in MA/JJ/0047/22 including :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake an engagement and review exercise to understand the current state of climate risk preparedness across the public sector and identify any constraints to adaptation planning. • Support the development and administration of the pilot exemplar grant scheme to support the public sector’s local climate adaptation measures. <p><u>Decarbonisation Programme</u> -</p> <p>Funding to develop the next iteration of the Net Zero Wales Delivery Plan which will detail how we intend to meet emission reduction targets and our Carbon Budget. This includes evidence and analysis to develop decarbonisation pathways; policy development and implementation including for a Just Transition Framework; and Wales’ contribution to fund the Climate Change Committee which provides advice to WG on both adaptation and mitigation. . The budget also covers staff costs, development, training and T&S.</p> <p><u>Decarbonisation Innovation / Smart Living</u> -</p> <p>Includes technical and analytical support for development of innovative and whole systems solutions to place-based issues. The funding will be focussed at multi-energy vector and multi-sector infrastructure and technology, processes and systems approaches involving public, private and academic key stakeholders.</p> <p><u>Emissions Trading Scheme and Carbon Pricing</u></p> <p>Funding to implement the Welsh Government’s obligations as part of the UK ETS Authority. These include costs for maintaining and developing the IT system, research and translation. The budget also covers staff costs associated with further enhancing and improving the UK ETS. Should funding allow, early research will be commissioned to understand in which sectors a carbon pricing signal may be helpful in meeting our long-term carbon reduction targets.</p> <p><u>Climate-led Behavioural Change Programme</u> -</p> <p>Funding to deliver the commitments made in the Climate Public Engagement Strategy, including engagement (through Wales Climate Week and Climate Conversations workshops) with stakeholders and the general public to involve them in shaping the right policy solutions, social research to build our understanding around the barriers people face and motivations around making green choices, and on-going national</p>		

communications (digital focus), and enhancements to the climateaction.gov.wales digital hub to encourage action on climate change

International Climate Action

Membership of groups representing sub-national states and regions, including the Under2 Coalition, enabling Wales to have its voice heard on the international stage, including at COP.

12f. Marine Energy

BEL	Resource Budget £'000	Capital Budget £'000
1893 – Marine Energy	400	9,400

Overview

The Marine Energy Programme (MEP) was set up in 2019 to deliver on the First Minister’s commitment to develop marine energy including a tidal lagoon.

Marine energy is covered by several commitments in the 2021 Programme for Government projecting socio-economic outcomes as well as green renewable energy and decarbonisation, as follows:

- Develop a Tidal Lagoon Challenge and support ideas that can make Wales a world centre of emerging tidal technologies
- Support innovation in new renewable energy technology
- Build a sustainable future for our key [air and] seaports

The MEP is made up of three main workstreams, Tidal Range (lagoons), Ports Infrastructure to support offshore wind and Tidal Stream & Wave Energy

Tidal Lagoon Challenge

The approach to the tidal lagoon challenge (TLC) is currently being developed. The current proposal is that the TLC will be a research challenge fund. The TLC will award grant funding to successful organisations to undertake research to address barriers to tidal lagoon development. This could include environmental and economic research.

Tidal Lagoon Project

The Tidal Lagoon Project will be a collaboration with other partners, to consider what needs to be done to bring forward a pathfinder tidal lagoon scheme in Wales.

Ports Infrastructure

This workstream has three component parts

- Early-stage support: exploring the potential for WG support for the early stages of Ports planning and consenting for longer-term infrastructure development for both FLOW and fixed OW
- Operational de-risking options: exploring whether there is a role for WG (or other partners) to help secure infrastructure upgrades, by de-risking the early years of port operation when there is lack of certainty over the pipeline of work / revenue stream
- Potential supply chain support for FLOW: a gap analysis is being undertaken to explore whether there are obstacles to maximising the supply chain opportunities for Wales from FLOW, linked to ports. The second stage will involve identifying how those gaps are being or might be filled by WG, including potential role(s) for the MEP

Tidal stream

The MEP has three strands of work for tidal stream. These are:

- helping to deliver appropriate support to Magallanes, the Spanish company which has been successful in attracting UK government support via CfD in Auction Round 4 to deliver tidal stream energy at Morlais
- helping developers succeed in future UKG Auction Rounds, and
- scoping the delivery of a further tidal stream zones in Wales

Wave

A discovery piece of work is underway to understand the barriers to the development of wave energy on a commercial basis in Welsh waters.

Planning and Regulation

13a. Planning

BEL description	Resource Budget £'000	Capital Budget £'000
BEL 2250 – Planning & Regulation expenditure	1,999	-
BEL 2256 – Planning and Environment Decisions Wales	2,997	-
Purpose of BEL		
<p>This BEL encapsulates the support for planning and regulation under a number of themes.</p> <p>Supporting the operation of the planning system</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning Inspectorate - WG contribution to the running costs of the Planning Inspectorate in Wales (PINS) for town and country planning and related legislation including work on Developments of National Significance (DNS) applications. • Planning Aid Wales - The budget supports Planning Aid Wales (PAW) to provide independent planning advice to enable communities (including town and community councils) and individuals to access the planning system. • Design Commission for Wales - This budget enables the Design Commission for Wales (DCfW) to support sustainable development and place making, including securing better-quality housing, industrial and commercial buildings and infrastructure schemes. • Regional Aggregates Working Parties (RAWPS) - The RAWPS for South and North Wales are technical groups which assist implementation of national planning policy on aggregates, providing a regional overview of aggregates supply, production and demand annually and monitor secondary/recycled materials. • Positive Planning - This budget supports change management including funding for Strategic Development Plans, specialist advice for DNS applications, Place Plans, and programme funded staff. • Government Legal Department - This is a demand led budget which funds Treasury Solicitors who defend the decisions of Welsh Ministers when they are challenged through the courts. • Online Planning Application Service - Online application platform underpinning the planning application system in Wales used by all LPAs and the development sector. <p>Accessible legislation and policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welsh Planning Policy Development Programme - Supports evaluation and development of policy including Planning Policy Wales, National Development Framework, Technical Advice Notes and practice guidance. • Codification and Consolidation of Planning Law in Wales - This budget supports the work of the Law Commissions to simplify and consolidate planning law in Wales. The Commission is currently drafting a consultation paper that will be issued after the autumn seeking views from stakeholders on their proposed approach. 		

Building Regulations - This budget supports technical and professional work to inform changes to the Building Regulations in Wales, including the current and future reviews of Part L and Part B (Fire Safety).

Homelessness Prevention

14. Homelessness Support & Prevention

BEL description	Resource Budget £'000	Capital Budget £'000
BEL 1120 – Homelessness Support & Prevention	214,910	-
BEL 1083 – Housing Support Grant	-	-
Purpose of BEL		
<p>This BEL brings together the Housing Support Grant and Homelessness Prevention BELs into a single fund with a common theme of preventing homelessness and complementing the statutory support provided by LAs in this regard. Bringing the BEL lines together supports our policy intention to support progression toward prevention and Rapid Rehousing. Specifically, the new BEL will support;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Support Grant – supports the delivery of front line housing support and homelessness services. It also helps people who are chronically affected by homelessness, such as rough sleepers, through for example outreach work.. • Funding for homelessness prevention and relief measures, such as Youth Homelessness Innovation Fund and Housing First projects • Funding for temporary accommodation as we transition to rapid rehousing • Restricting rent levels to LHA allowances for those at risk of homelessness through Leasing Scheme Wales <p>The Housing Support Grant, which has been maintained at the 2023/24 level, seeks to improve the outcomes of a range of individuals who are amongst the most vulnerable in society through the range of early intervention, prevention and support interventions. The grant's main purpose is to address the housing and housing related support needs of those individuals to prevent homelessness.</p> <p>.</p>		
Director	Emma Williams	
Deputy Director	Sarah Rhodes	
Key Contact	Sarah Rhodes	

Independent Living

15a. Housing Policy

BEL description	Resource Budget £'000	Capital Budget £'000
BEL 1100 – Housing Policy	1,368	-
Purpose of BEL		
<p>This BEL provides funding for a range of projects and activity to support delivery of Welsh Government housing related priorities, the support for implementation of new legislation, research and evaluation on-key policy priorities. These projects include Second homes, Leasehold Reform and implementing the Renting Homes Act.</p>		
Deputy Director	Sarah Rhodes	
Key Contact	Sarah Rhodes	

15b. Rapid Response to Independent Living

BEL description	Resource Budget £'000	Capital Budget £'000
BEL 1285 – Independent Living	5,103	19,500
Purpose of BEL		
<p>This BEL supports work to adapt homes to meet the needs of older and disabled people, helping them to live safely in their homes, avoiding hospital admission and supporting discharge from hospital.</p> <p>Front-line Care & Repair agencies are the priority for the Resource element of this budget. The role of Care and Repair agencies' is to provide services to help older people carry out improvements to their homes, thus allowing them to remain, and live independently, in their own properties. It is a cost-effective service, saving both the NHS and social care. The service provided is wide-ranging, including practical support with home improvements, management of building work, advice on suitable contractors and maximising benefit entitlements.</p> <p>The Capital element of this BEL supports the Rapid Response Adaptations Programme which enables people to live independently in their own homes for as long as possible by providing services and adaptations to their home in quick time. The project funding is currently allocated to 22 local authorities, 23 housing associations and 13 Care and Repair Agencies who deliver the services.</p>		

The funding supports people to maintain their independence and frees up bedspaces in the Health service to a financial benefit of £7.50 for every £1 invested under the programme.	
Budget Holder	Stuart Fitzgerald
Key Contact	Dan Jones

15c. Private Rented Sector

BEL description	Resource Budget £'000	Capital Budget £'000
1182 – Private Rented Sector	-	1,500
Purpose of BEL		
<p>The Programme for Government Commitment for this investment area is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a national scheme restricting rent to local housing allowance levels for families and young people who are homeless or who are at risk of homelessness. <p>Leasing Scheme Wales aims to lease properties in the PRS for use by local authorities to discharge their homelessness duties. The Scheme provides benefits for local authorities, tenants (who have access to longer term accommodation and the benefit of tenancy support akin to being a social tenant) and property owners. An intended consequence of the scheme is to also improve property standards within the PRS.</p> <p>It is intended that this scheme will be delivered in all Welsh local authorities. Each local authority will, provisionally, be set a target of 1% of their PRS to be leased through the scheme by year 5.</p> <p>To encourage property owners to lease their property through the scheme they are offered certain incentives, including capital incentives. These comprise incentives to improve the property either to the mandatory standards of the scheme or to improve the EPC rating of the property to at least a C.</p>		
Budget Holder	Sarah Rhodes	
Key Contact	James Hooker	

Housing & Care Fund

16. Housing & Care Fund

BEL description	Resource Budget £'000	Capital Budget £'000
BEL 0986 – Housing & Care Fund	-	60,500
Purpose of BEL		
<p>The Housing & Care Fund responds to the Programme for Government commitment to support innovative housing development to meet care needs and also supports the commitment to fund regional residential services for children with complex needs ensuring their needs are met as close to home as possible and in Wales wherever practicable.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The HCF has 3 objectives; To increase the existing stock of housing with care including Extra Care housing in larger scale developments for older people and people with dementia and smaller scale developments to provide supported living accommodation for adults with a learning disability and/or ASD and others. 2. To support delivery of new small scale residential accommodation for children with higher needs in order to bring children back from, or avoid, out of county/out of country placements, as well as intermediate care settings in the community e.g. step up/step down. This objective e. 3. To provide a small fixed element of discretionary funding to enable Regional Partnership Boards to support Objectives 1 and 2 by enabling associated small scale investment e.g. in digital care technologies, improving existing housing with care settings, top ups to the mandatory DFG limit of £36,000 to enable disabled children and adults in most need to remain in their home and avoid residential care. 		
Deputy Director	Stuart Fitzgerald	
Key Contact	Dan Jones	

Achieve Quality Housing

17a. Major Repairs Allowance and Dowry Funding

BEL description	Resource Budget £'000	Capital Budget £'000
BEL 1061 – Major Repairs Allowance and Dowry Gap Funding	-	108,000
Purpose of BEL		
<p>The budget supports the MRA capital grant, allocated to 11 local authorities (LHAs) who have retained their council housing stock and forms part of their overall housing capital resources. MRA provides a financial contribution to the cost of LHAs' overall WHQS programmes to ensure their housing stock maintains the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS).</p> <p>The budget also supports Dowry Gap funding, provided to 10 Large Scale Voluntary Transfer (LSVT) housing associations which were established to accept their Local Authorities council housing. The grant ensures promises made to tenants, including reaching and maintaining the WHQS standard at the time of transfer are fulfilled.</p>		
Budget Holder	Andrea Street	
Key Contact		

17b. Residential Decarbonisation & Quality

BEL description	Resource Budget £'000	Capital Budget £'000
BEL 1065 - Residential Decarbonisation & Quality	1,673	92,000
Purpose of BEL		
<p>This BEL supports a key PfG commitment to Decarbonise more homes through retrofit, delivering quality jobs, training and innovation using local supply chains</p> <p>The Optimised Retrofit Programme (ORP) is the test and learn pathway to support landlords to understand how to decarbonise Wales' existing housing stock in ways that are good for people and the planet. The learning from the programme has informed the revised Welsh Housing Quality Standards (WHQS) 2023 published in November 2023 which sets the standards for existing homes in Wales</p> <p>Distribution of ORP funding moved to a formula basis from April 2023 and will be reviewed over the coming year to agree a revised approach to supporting decarbonisation, delivery of WHQS and ongoing innovation.</p>		

The revenue funding supporting this programme is for staffing and to run a net zero decarbonisation hub in Wales. There is also £173k within this BEL to fund the team responsible for the Regulation of RSLs.

Budget Holder	Andrea Street
Key Contact	

Increasing the Supply and Choice of Affordable Housing

18a. Social Housing Grant (SHG)

BEL description	Resource Budget £'000	Capital Budget £'000
BEL 0982 – Social Housing Grants (SHG)	-	365,000
Purpose of BEL		
<p>This budget is broken down between £325 million for the main SHG Grant program and an additional £40 million of FTC Capital , £20 million of Development Loans for RSLs to supplement the main program and £20 million Help to Stay to provide struggling homeowners with a loan for up to 5 years to enable them to stay in their property</p> <p>Welsh Government has a Programme for Government commitment to build 20,000 low carbon social homes for rent t and a commitment to fundamentally reform homelessness services to focus on prevention and rapid rehousing.</p> <p>Social Housing Grant is the primarily source of grant funding to deliver the 20k commitment, increasing the stock of affordable homes is vital to our ambitions to make homelessness rare, brief and unrepeatd:</p> <p>The grant;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivers high-quality, warm secure and energy-efficient homes for people who need them most, helping meet housing need, reduce homelessness and fuel poverty. • Supports the foundational economy, construction industry and supply chain in Wales, delivering training and employment opportunities, including jobs and apprenticeships • Supports the transformational shift of homelessness services to a rapid rehousing approach, where those who experience homelessness are quickly supported back into a suitable permanent home. • Supports older people and those with additional care requirements to avoid dependence on residential or long-term care, reducing the call on the NHS. • Delivers good quality social housing which has a significant impact on people and communities, helping to achieve our long-term goal of ending homelessness, improving physical and mental health, ensuring those with complex needs receive the support they need 		
Budget Holder	Stuart Fitzgerald	
Key Contact	Sian Coggins	

18b. Housing Finance Grant

BEL description	Resource Budget £'000	Capital Budget £'000
BEL 0984 – Housing Finance Grant	4,100	-
Purpose of BEL		
<p>This funding, set up pre 2017/18 represents the legal commitment made by the Welsh Government to assist with the repayment of a 30-year bond private placement which has allowed RSLs to borrow around £120million of private finance to fund the development of additional affordable homes, costing £4.1m per annum. Phase 2 of the Housing Finance Grant was also completed with an allocation of £9million per annum of Resource Budget from reserves for a 30-year period. It was extended to include local housing authorities from 2018-19 onwards, known as the Affordable Housing Grant.</p>		
Budget Holder	Stuart Fitzgerald	
Key Contact	Carrie Satherley	

18b. Land for Housing – Repayment

BEL description	Resource Budget £'000	Capital Budget £'000 (inc FTC)
BEL 0989 – Land for Housing	-	-3,000
Purpose of BEL		
<p>This is a loan scheme open to Registered Social Landlords to secure land in order to accelerate the development of housing schemes (including affordable housing which accounts for 78% of activity within the scheme.</p> <p>The scheme has reached maturity and is now in its repayment phase with a net £3 million to be returned to UK Treasury. Within this figure there will be an estimated repayment of £25 million of loans enabling £22 million of new loans to be given out</p> <p>Note: capital budget is FTC.</p>		
Budget Holder	Stuart Fitzgerald	
Key Contact	Becky Olney	

Building Safety

19. Building Safety

BEL description	Resource Budget £'000	Capital Budget £'000
BEL 2255 – Building Safety	4,500	127,670
Purpose of BEL		
<p>This BEL supports a key PfG commitment to Improve building safety so that people feel safe and secure in their homes</p> <p>The Welsh Building Safety Fund (WBSF) will address fire safety issues in high, and medium rise, housing. The fund supports survey work to identify fire safety issues such as non-compliant cladding, compartmentation and the installation of suppression and evacuation alert systems and then offers routes to remediation for all multi occupation residential buildings over 11 meters. The BEL also supports the Leaseholder Support Scheme which is established to support a small number of leaseholders that find themselves in significant financial hardship as a result of potential fire safety issues.</p> <p>The BEL also supports work to implement a new building safety regime that puts the safety and wellbeing of residents at its heart to ensure people feel safe in their homes and applies throughout design, construction and occupation of affected buildings.</p> <p>The overall Building Safety Capital programme has been subject to a change of budget profile to reflect more closely when payments will become due</p>		
Deputy Director	Andrea Street	
Key Contact	Jo Larnier	

Increasing the Supply and Choice of Market Housing

20a. Market Housing and Other Schemes

BEL description	Resource Budget £'000	Capital Budget £'000 (inc. FTC)
BEL 0987 – Market Housing and Other Schemes	-	72,000
BEL 0987 – Market Housing - Repayment	-	-2,830
Purpose of BEL		
<p>The current budget allocation is for an Empty Homes Grant scheme (EHG) which provides grant funding to bring long-term empty properties back into use as homes. Long-term empty properties are those that have been empty for more than 1 year. Up to £25,000 is available to owner-occupiers (or potential owner-occupiers) to contribute to the cost of remedial works identified to make a property habitable. The funding is conditional upon the applicant living in the property for a minimum of 5 years.</p> <p>In addition to this funding the BEL also operates the Help to Buy Scheme in Wales. The scheme aims to provide homeowners with support to purchase their own home. The majority of purchasers are first time buyers and the scheme can only be used for new build houses.</p> <p>Financial Transaction capital totals Allocation of £47m and repayment -£2.830m</p>		
Budget Holder	Stuart Fitzgerald	
Budget Holder	Rebecca Olney	

20b. Homebuy

BEL description	Resource Budget £'000	Capital Budget £'000
980 – Home buy	-	4,000
Purpose of BEL		
<p>Homebuy is a shared equity home ownership support scheme, which is available on existing homes. The scheme is popular in rural areas, where new build homes are not readily available. Through the scheme an equity stake of 30 – 50% of the purchase price is funded by Welsh Government (WG), which is repaid on the sale of the home. No interest payments</p>		

are made on the equity stake. The scheme is managed by local authorities and Registered Social Landlords (RSLs).

Budget Holder	Stuart Fitzgerald
Key Contact	Becky Olney

Housing Revenue Fund

21. Housing Programme Revenue Fund

BEL description	Resource Budget £'000	Capital Budget £'000
BEL 1181 – Housing Programme Revenue Funding	173	-
Purpose of BEL		
<p>Supporting this BEL will be approximately £750,000 of Revenue in the form of Interest from Land for Housing loans which will enable expenditure of £923,000.</p> <p>This budget funds research and evaluation and supports the delivery of the significant capital manifesto commitment of delivering 20,000 new affordable homes during this term of government. It also supports interventions such as Rural Housing Enablers, Co-operative housing, work to deliver Welsh Government land and evaluations into the condition of the housing stock in Wales.</p>		
Budget Holder	Stuart Fitzgerald	
Key Contact	Sian Coggins	

Land Division

22. Land Release Fund

BEL description	Resource Budget £'000	Capital Budget £'000
6410 - Land Release Fund	-1,550	25,000
6410 - Land Release Fund – Repayment		-9,361
Purpose of BEL		
<p>Supporting the expenditure in this BEL is Income of £3.8 million enabling expenditure of £2,250. This is broken down between 2 main areas £1,250 for the Land Policy Team and £1 million for UNNOS.</p> <p>This BEL supports the delivery of a key PfG to deliver 20,000 affordable low carbon homes. The fund is split into 2 areas, <u>Land and Buildings Development Fund</u></p> <p>The Land and Buildings Development Fund (LBDF) complements the ambitions of other interventions delivered across Welsh Government and wider public sector with the aim of unlocking the potential for developing public land for public good, particularly to meet the demands for social and affordable housing. The scheme is primarily intended to support the ambition for small scale, energy efficient, low carbon developments. The fund is particularly interested in applications seeking to unlock schemes that will utilise modern methods of construction, innovative technologies and deliver solutions at pace.</p> <p>LBDF is a targeted capital driven programme that concentrates on freeing up public land where development has stalled. It is intended to enable public bodies and public sector partners to overcome barriers to development i.e., bridge the “viability gap” and advance change.</p> <p>The initial years of the fund has demonstrated there is a significant amount of land in public ownership ready to be unlocked for development subject to the availability of funding. It also presents the opportunity to deliver much needed affordable housing to communities across Wales.</p> <p><u>Exemplar Sites budget</u></p> <p>will concentrate on bringing forward Welsh Government land holdings and acquiring new land for development. This provides a unique opportunity to contribute to the commitment set out in Programme for Government and ensure our land holdings are utilised in a way that contributes to securing the aims set out in the PfG and Well-being of Future Generations Act.</p>		
Budget Holder	Richard Baker	
Key Contact	Geraint Williams	

Regeneration

23a. Regeneration

BEL description	Resource Budget £'000	Capital Budget £'000 (inc. FTC)
BEL 4151 – Regeneration	-13,329	50,000
Purpose of BEL		
<p>Included within the Resource budget total is Income of £14 million relating to the estimated surplus from winding up RIFW (Regeneration Investment Fund Wales). This brings the total expenditure to £671,000.</p> <p>The regeneration capital budget supports the Transforming Towns programme. The focus of the program is sustainable growth of town and city centers through interventions that include improved biodiversity and green infrastructure; reuse of derelict buildings; increasing the variety of services on offer in towns with an emphasis on flexible working and living space; and access to services and leisure. The work to transform towns collaborates across Government to enhance existing investments such as public transport improvements and enhanced active travel routes.</p> <p>In addition, there is FTC Capital available for interest free loans to support the Transforming Towns program.</p> <p>The Resource Budget supports the grant funding commitments to the Coalfields Regeneration Trust and Groundworks Wales/North Wales. It also provides some support to the Transforming Towns capital programme by funding early project development costs, town plans and other consultancy work associated with the planning and reconfiguration of town centres.</p> <p>Capital budget includes £10m FTC.</p>		
Budget Holder	Stuart Fitzgerald	
Key Contacts	Nick Williams	

23b. Cardiff Harbour Authority

BEL description	Resource Budget £'000	Capital Budget £'000
BEL 4162 – Cardiff Harbour Authority	5,400	-
Purpose of BEL		
<p>Cardiff Council assumed the role of Cardiff Harbour Authority (CHA) on 1 April 2000. The functions and responsibilities of CHA are detailed in an Agreement made between the Welsh Ministers and Cardiff Council under Section 165 of the Local Government Planning and Land Act 1980. The Section 165 Agreement obliges the Welsh Ministers to pay Cardiff County Council the amounts necessary to discharge its statutory functions. This budget provides the funding required by CHA to discharge these obligations and any additional duties relating to the Cardiff Bay Barrage Act 1993. This funding and any income generated through operating the CHA are ring fenced by Cardiff Council.</p> <p>The functions and responsibilities of CHA include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Environmental & conservation management ○ Groundwater Monitoring & Management ○ Community & Events Liaison ○ Barrage operation & maintenance, including emergency planning & security ○ Harbour master duties & marine operations ○ Byelaw enforcement ○ Navigational safety security & emergency planning ○ Operation of Cardiff Bay Water Activity Centre Cardiff Sailing Centre and Cardiff International White Water 		
Budget Holder	Stuart Fitzgerald	
Key Contact		

Lee Waters AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Deputy Minister for Climate Change

Agenda Item 4.1

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Huw Irranca-Davies MS
Chair
Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee
Senedd Cymru

SeneddLJC@senedd.wales

15 January 2024

Inter-Institutional Relations Agreement: Transport Inter-Ministerial Standing Committee

Further to my letter of 6 September ahead of the Transport Inter-Ministerial Standing Committee on 13 September, a joint communique has now been issued summarising the discussions on the Zero-emission vehicle mandate, rail reform and minimum service levels for rail at the meeting. It has been published at: [Interministerial Group for Transport Matters Communiqué: 13 September 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/communique/interministerial-group-for-transport-matters-communique-13-september-2023).

I am also copying this letter to Mick Antoniw MS, the Counsel General and Minister for the Constitution; the Rt Hon Elin Jones MS, the Llywydd; the Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee.



Lee Waters AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Deputy Minister for Climate Change

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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.

Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee

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Llyr Gruffydd MS

Chair, Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee

18 January 2024

Dear Llyr,

You will be aware that the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee is responsible for monitoring the implementation of non-trade international agreements in the Sixth Senedd.

During our meeting on 4 December 2023, we considered the Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction ("BBNJ treaty"). The BBNJ Treaty provides for the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction through effective implementation of the relevant provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and international cooperation.

Although foreign affairs and international relations are reserved matters, observing and implementing international agreements in devolved areas is not reserved. The Treaty also relates to fisheries, marine, and environmental policy, which are matters devolved to Wales.

The Explanatory Memorandum details the intergovernmental engagement which took place in relation to the agreement, including updating and consulting the devolved governments on the agreement's development.

During our consideration of the agreement, we agreed to draw it to your Committee's attention, for information. We also intend to write to Welsh Government to request:

- its view of the process of updating and consulting the devolved governments on the agreement's development;
- an update on legislation required to implement the agreement; and

- information on any intergovernmental work taking place, or due to take place, to implement the agreement, as well as confirmation of which existing intergovernmental structures are being utilised.

Our latest report is available [here](#).

Yours sincerely,

Huw Irranca-Davies

Huw Irranca-Davies
Chair