

Agenda – Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee

Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 3 – Senedd

Meeting date: 16 October 2019

Meeting time: 09.15

For further information contact:

Marc Wyn Jones

Committee Clerk

0300 200 6363

SeneddCCERA@assembly.wales

Public 09.15 – 09.20

1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

2 Paper(s) to note

2.1 Correspondence to the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales – First Future Generations report

(Pages 1 – 5)

Attached Documents:

Letter

2.2 Correspondence from the Minister for Environment Energy and Rural Affairs, the Minister for Economy and Transport and the Minister for Education – Quadrilateral meeting with the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy

(Pages 6 – 7)

Attached Documents:

Letter



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2.3 Correspondence from the Chair of the Economy, Infrastructure and Skills Committee – National Development Framework

(Page 8)

Attached Documents:

Letter

2.4 Correspondence from the Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs – new Chair to the Board of Natural Resources Wales

(Pages 9 – 10)

Attached Documents:

Letter

3 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 (vi) to resolve to exclude the public for this meeting

Private 09.20 – 12.00

4 Introductory session on the Draft National Development Framework for Wales 2020 – 2040

(09.20– 09.30)

(Pages 11 – 13)

Graeme Purves, Expert Adviser to the Committee

Elfyn Henderson, Senior Researcher – National Assembly for Wales

Attached Documents:

Briefing paper

5 Briefing on the Welsh Government Draft National Development Framework 2020 – 2040 – session 1

(09:30–10:30)

Neil Hemington, Head of Planning - Welsh Government
Jon Fudge, Head of Planning Policy - Welsh Government

6 Briefing on the Welsh Government Draft National Development Framework 2020 – 2040 – session 2

(10.30 – 12.00)

(Pages 14 – 19)

Graeme Purves, Expert Adviser to the Committee

Attached Documents:

Paper

Sophie Howe

Future Generations Commissioner for Wales

10 October 2019

Dear Sophie

Future Generations Report

Thank you for your letter of 9 August 2019 inviting the Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee ('the Committee') to make suggestions as to reports, documents and recommendations that you may wish to consider when drafting your first Future Generations report.

I have outlined below work the Committee has completed, or is currently undertaking, which relates directly to your priority areas. I have also provided a flavour of the Committee's Brexit related work, which may be of interest to you.

Climate change and decarbonisation

Climate change is one of the greatest global challenges we face. With this in mind, at the start of the Fifth Assembly, the Committee agreed that climate change would be one of its priority areas for scrutiny.

In May 2018, the Committee published its first annual report on the Welsh Government's progress on climate change mitigation. The report was informed by the Committee's Expert Reference Group on Climate Change. The Committee



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concluded that the Welsh Government would not meet its targets for emissions reduction by 2020 (as set out in its Climate Change Strategy), and included recommendations across key policy areas, including housing and transport. It also set out the Committee's expectations about the process for developing carbon budgets under the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

In November 2018, the Committee published its *Report on The Climate Change (Wales) Regulations 2018*. In that report, we commended the Welsh Government for the comprehensive evidence included in the Regulatory Impact Assessment, which demonstrated how the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (the 2015 Act) informed its approach. The Committee recommended, among other things, that the Welsh Government review its 2050 target and report back to the Assembly before setting its third carbon budget.

The Committee also undertook a short piece of work to inform the development of the Welsh Government's first Low Carbon Delivery Plan and *wrote to the Welsh Government outlining its findings*. We will be incorporating scrutiny of the Welsh Government's progress against delivery of its Plan and 2020 target in our on-going work on climate change and decarbonisation.

Our second annual report on the Welsh Government's progress on climate change mitigation will be published later this term.

Housing

Improving energy efficiency is a key part of achieving the well-being goals set out in the 2015 Act. Several of the well-being goals refer specifically to climate change mitigation. One of the national indicators relates to energy efficiency and measures the percentage of dwellings with adequate energy performance.

In August 2018, the Committee published its report, *Low Carbon Housing: the Challenge*. Our report includes a series of recommendations aimed at bringing existing homes up to zero carbon standards and building zero carbon homes for the next generation. It sets out how planning, building regulations, and an



effective inspection system can be used to deliver low carbon homes at scale. In our report, we called on the Welsh Government, among other things:

- to prepare and publish a ten-year low carbon housing strategy, which should include milestones and targets;
- to revise Part L of the building regulations to increase the required energy efficiency of new homes;
- to continue to invest in and expand its current retrofitting schemes.

We intend to follow up some of these issues as part of our inquiry into fuel poverty in Wales (see below).

The Committee is currently undertaking inquiries within two of your seven priority areas:

Planning – Inquiry into the Welsh Government’s draft National Development Framework

The Welsh Government published its draft National Development Framework (NDF) in August 2019. As you are aware, the National Development Framework (NDF) will set out a 20-year land-use framework for Wales. It is a key policy document, which will set national spatial policy, direct Strategic Development Plans and Local Development Plans, and inform Welsh Government decision-making on major planning applications.

The Committee is undertaking its inquiry ahead of the statutory Assembly consideration period (currently timetabled from April to June 2020) to influence the content of, and inform any future debate on, the draft NDF. The outcome of our work will be published in early 2020.

Housing – Fuel poverty in Wales

The Committee is in the process of gathering evidence to inform its [inquiry into fuel poverty in Wales](#). As part of the inquiry, we will consider why the Welsh Government failed to meet its statutory obligation to eradicate fuel poverty by



2018. However, we will also be looking forward at preventative measures to mitigate the risk of fuel poverty for future generations, in particular improving energy efficiency in current and new housing stock.

An invitation to submit written evidence to inform our inquiry was sent to your office at the end of the summer term 2019. The closing date for responses is Friday 1 November. We hope that you can engage in this work.

On a wider note, much of the Committee's work over the last 18 months has focussed on the challenges and opportunities arising from the UK's exit from the EU. For over 40 years, the EU has set the direction for policy and legislation within key areas of devolved responsibility that fall within the Committee's remit: agriculture, fisheries, and the environment. Brexit provides an opportunity for the Welsh Government and its partners to rethink its approach to these, and to develop future policies and legislation within these areas that support the well-being goals and deliver better outcomes for future generations.

The Committee has undertaken detailed work on post-Brexit land-use and fisheries management, as well as a new system for environmental governance in Wales. We intend to pursue these matters further with the Welsh Government over the coming months, and when the outcome of Brexit becomes clearer. Given the significance of these issues within the wider context of sustainable development, we hope that you will be keen to engage with our future work in these areas.

I trust that this information will be useful as you prepare your report.

Yours sincerely



Mike Hedges AM

Chair of Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee





Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref MA/P/KS/3306/19

Mike Hedges AC
Chair
Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee
National Assembly for Wales
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11 October 2019

Dear Mike,

We wish to provide advanced notice of a quadrilateral meeting with the Secretary of State (SoS) for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) on 17 October 2019.

Representation at the meeting is expected as follows:

- UK Government - Andrea Leadsom MP, Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.
- Scottish Government - Rosanna Cunningham MP, Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform.
- Northern Ireland – Unknown, official representation.

The meeting was due to take place on 07 October but was cancelled by the Secretary of State at short notice. We are deeply frustrated by this and will be writing to the Secretary of State to express our frustration.

At the meeting the Welsh Government will be represented by the Minister for Economy and Transport and the Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs. The Ministers will raise and cross-cutting issues relevant to the Education portfolio.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

It has been agreed that the draft agenda will include discussion on how we prepare business and citizens for Brexit, the role of the UK in tackling climate change and the Industrial Strategy, in particular the place-based approach. We will also be highlighting the need to strengthen and maintain Ministerial engagement with BEIS through more robust inter-governmental structures necessary to ensure the devolution settlement is protected and impacts on Welsh citizens and businesses is limited.

Following the meeting, we will produce a Written Statement which will provide members with a summary of the issues discussed and an outline of the positions advanced by the Welsh Government.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Skates', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

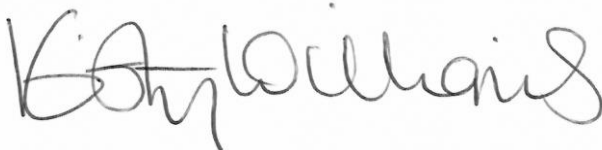
Ken Skates AC/AM

Gweinidog yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth
Minister for Economy and Transport

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lesley Griffiths', with a large, stylized 'L' and 'G'.

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM

Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd a Materion Gwledig
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kirsty Williams', with a large, stylized 'K' and 'W'.

Kirsty Williams AC/AM

Y Gweinidog Addysg
Minister for Education

Agenda Item 2.3

Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs
Committee | Y Pwyllgor Newid Hinsawdd,
Amgylchedd a Materion Gwledig
<SeneddCCERA@Assembly.Wales>

07 October 2019

Dear Mike,

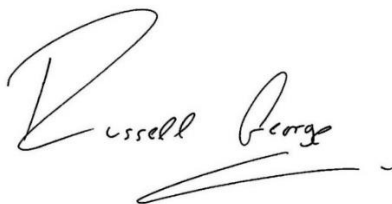
I am aware that the Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee is undertaking a wide-ranging enquiry into the draft National Development Framework.

As you know the NDF covers a wide variety of subjects and so spreads across several committee remits. As the Framework will be a key document with a long life span the Economy, Infrastructure and Skills committee would also like examine it.

We intend to hold a session on the NDF in towards the end of November. In this session we will look at transport and city deals. I understand your review will be much wider reaching and in depth however I wanted to write you a quick note to make sure you, and your committee, were aware of our plans and so we can minimise duplication of effort.

Yours sincerely,

Russell George



Russell George AM
Chair
Economy, Infrastructure and Skills Committee



Lesley Griffiths AM/AC
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion Gwledig
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs

Agenda Item 2.4



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: MA – P/LG/3491/19

Mike Hedges,
Chair
Climate Change, Energy and Rural Affairs Committee
SeneddCCERA@Assembly.Wales

8

October 2019

Dear Mike

I wish to thank you and members of the Climate Change, Energy and Rural Affairs Committee for considering Sir David Henshaw's suitability for the role of Chair to the Board of Natural Resources Wales on Thursday 26 September 2019.

I have fully considered the report prepared by the Committee and accept the Committee's conclusion in finding Sir David Henshaw to be a suitable candidate for the role of Chair to the Board of Natural Resources Wales.

I have therefore decided to appoint Sir David Henshaw as Chair of Natural Resources Wales. The appointment will commence on 1 November 2019, for a period of 4 years ending on 31 October 2023. I should be obliged if you would keep this offer in the strictest of confidence until the announcement has been made.

I very much appreciate the invaluable contribution of Committee members in this recruitment process. I believe that the undertaking of a pre-appointment hearing adds an extra layer of scrutiny and rigour to the assessment process, which can ultimately only add value to our public services in Wales. I also wish to thank the Committee for working closely with my officials in order to ensure the smooth operation of the pre-appointment hearing process.

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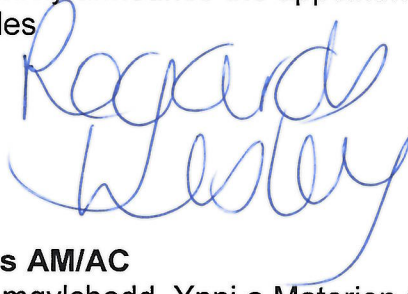
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Pack Page 9

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.

I will shortly publicly announce the appointment of Sir David to the role as chair of Natural Resources Wales



Lesley Griffiths AM/AC

Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion Gwledig
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs

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Agenda Item 6

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

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