

Rebecca Evans AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Cyllid a Llywodraeth Leol
Minister for Finance and Local Government



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: RE/740/22

Peredur Owen Griffiths MS
Chair of Finance Committee
Welsh Parliament

20 July 2022

Dear Peredur,

As ever I am grateful for the contributions of the Finance Committee in the vital role of scrutiny of the Welsh Government's budgets. During the scrutiny of the draft Budget 2022-23, the Finance Committee proposed the following recommendation:

'Recommendation 17. The Committee recommends that the Welsh Government provides information regarding the remit and membership of the Welsh Government's Finance Committee, established as a result of the Co-operation Agreement, and provides further information about its role, including its terms of references, in the formulations and monitoring of the Welsh Government's Budget.'

The Welsh Government accepted this recommendation and I acknowledge the Finance Committee's interest in the role, membership, and remit of the Co-operation Agreement Finance Committee.

On the 1st December 2021, the Welsh Government published a document entitled '[The Co-operation Agreement: mechanisms](#)'. This document outlines how the Welsh Government and Plaid Cymru will work together during the Agreement, detailing the remit, membership, and frequency of Co-operation Agreement Committees. The information regarding the Co-operation Agreement Finance Committee can be found below.

The Co-operation Agreement

You will be aware that 'the Welsh Government and Plaid Cymru share a joint objective to deliver an agreed, shared programme of work through a Co-operation Agreement over a three-year period.' This agreement sets out the 46 policy areas that the two partners have agreed to work on including: free school meals, council tax reform, the future of social care and a net zero energy company among many other issues.

The mechanisms document presents how the Co-operation Agreement will function, noting 'Committees comprising Welsh Ministers and designated members of Plaid Cymru Senedd Group will be established and meet regularly and reach agreement by consensus on issues

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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.

covered by the Co-operation Agreement.'

The Co-operation Agreement Finance Committee: Remit

On the Co-operation Agreement Finance Committee's remit, the mechanisms document states that 'the Co-operation Agreement will be resourced as agreed and oversight of the delivery and budget allocations will be jointly monitored through a Finance Committee.... The Welsh Government has well established procedures for monitoring and reporting the use of funds allocated through the budget process. These procedures will apply equally to funds allocated under this agreement.'

The Co-operation Agreement Finance Committee: Frequency of Meetings

The mechanisms document notes that 'the frequency of meetings shall be determined but they will be regularly convened in the period leading up to the Senedd's Annual Budget procedure, and any discussions on Supplementary Budgets.'

The Co-operation Agreement Finance Committee: Membership

The Co-operation Agreement Finance Committee's 'membership shall include the Welsh Minister responsible for Finance and the relevant Plaid Cymru designated member' as detailed by the mechanisms document.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Evans". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rebecca Evans AS/MS

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