

ROCP 05, Amgueddfa Cymru / National Museum Wales

Senedd Cymru | Welsh Parliament

Pwyllgor Newid Hinsawdd, yr Amgylchedd a Seilwaith | Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee

Adolygiad o flaenoriaethau'r Pwyllgor ar gyfer y Chweched Senedd | Review of the Committee's priorities for the Sixth Senedd

Ymateb gan Amgueddfa Cymru | Evidence from National Museum Wales

Your views

1. What are your views on the Committee's three strategic priorities: Climate Change; Sustainable Communities; and Protecting and enhancing the natural environment?

We remain in agreement with these three main strategic priorities.

Decarbonisation is a key focus for the museum which is covered in Climate change. The other two priorities also contain key areas of focus for us – particularly in terms of sustainable ways of working and circular economy and land management.

2. To what extent are the Committee's three strategic priorities still relevant, reflecting on social, economic and environmental developments since they were set at the start of the Sixth Senedd?

They remain very relevant. We believe that there is a need to reflect the whole of the public sector across these three areas in a more proportional and fairer way. What would be beneficial to see is a focus on the impacts of decisions made by lead organisations such as WG, Local Authorities on public transport infrastructure, access to expertise and funding have on smaller areas of the public sector – such as culture – and how to approach more holistically rather than via silos/departmental lines so there is more opportunity to access funding or work in partnership.

3. What are your view on the Committee's detailed priorities/outline programme of work for Years 3 to 5 of the Sixth Senedd (set out in its report, Priorities for the Sixth Senedd?)

The detailed priorities in the outline programme remain relevant and important for the public sector and our ability to respond to climate change – however there

needs to be detailed scrutiny on how the change is financed to monitor how that reaches all areas of public sector. This is currently patchy and appears unconnected with funding being apparently focused on local government with funding removed from other areas of public sector. In addition, decisions made at national/Regional level e.g. on funding for public transport can have significant negative impacts on sustainable tourism or organisations supporting active travel etc which need to be assessed and understood..

4. To what extent are the Committee’s detailed priorities/outline programme of work still relevant, reflecting on social, economic and environmental developments since they were set at the start of the Sixth Senedd?

There are areas of detailed priorities that are now even more relevant with recent cost of living pressures – e.g. loss of funding towards public transport and squeeze on local sector budgets is significantly hampering our ability to respond effectively to the net carbon zero targets. For example, we have recently had to make significant ‘in year’ savings to fund additional payments to help staff through the current pressures. We are also experiencing loss of infrastructure and services to city and rural located museums as a result of the cuts to public transport being implemented by Local Authorities. Recent cuts in funding of capital to support decarbonisation has limited funding available for non – LA public sector bodies such as ourselves.

5. Are there any other matters related to the Committee’s priorities/work programme/ways of working that you would like to comment on?

We have established a very good relationship with the WGES. We have secured some funding to aid decarbonisation – this is both from grants and funding from our sponsored body but have been denied more significant funding to help decarbonisation as the funds have been prioritised elsewhere. Culture feels like an afterthought but our estate is significant and heritage and will require significant investment to help us become more sustainable. In addition, we play an important role in public engagement and understanding of climate change and positive actions to respond as well as being significant contributors to research, as an independent research organisation.

6. Other information

(insert response).
