

ROCP 12, Arts Council of 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 Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru | Evidence from Arts Council of 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?

Arts Council of Wales welcomes the Committee's three strategic priorities around Climate Change, Sustainable Communities and Protecting and enhancing the natural environment.

Arts Council of Wales are centring our own work to tackle the climate and nature emergencies around climate justice and have designated climate justice as one of our six corporate priorities in our investment review of our multi-year funded companies and in our Strategic Plan for the next 10 years. Whilst some aspects relating to climate justice may be addressed under the Sustainable Communities priority, and a just transition approach is referenced in Net Zero Wales, we would question whether greater prominence could be given to climate justice within the work of the Committee, or if this is felt to sit within the remit of the Equality and Social Justice Committee, how the work of the two Committees might intersect.

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?

The Committee's three strategic priorities are still relevant and are in fact more urgent than ever as we are increasingly seeing the effects of climate change both in Wales and across the world, such as global temperature records broken and heatwaves bringing life-threatening disruption to much of Europe and North America.

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 Committee's detailed priorities for Years 3-5 are all important and relevant areas of work. However, we would like to note the following additions to the detailed priorities.

We recommend that the new Welsh Government Culture Strategy which is currently in development is also scrutinised by the Committee in relation to how it meets priorities around Climate Change, Sustainable Communities and Natural Environment and speaks to the existing strategies and policies referenced under the detailed priorities. This should include how the strategy will support the cultural sector to reduce carbon emissions, retrofit/adapt buildings, develop/access sustainable infrastructure, develop green skills capacity, adapt to climate change, restore biodiversity, collaborate with related sectors such as the creative industries and events sector, share resources, and adopt sustainable procurement mechanisms and sustainable ways of working (e.g. slow touring models), including how such support will be financed.

Many, if not all, of the detailed priorities for Years 3-5 have relevance to the cultural sector – and in particular, the cultural sector has an unique and powerful role to play in being able to imagine the future we want to see, to connect people and to inspire change. We would like to see a greater recognition of the role and potential power of the cultural sector in relation to behaviour change and public engagement with climate and environmental issues, as well as greater inclusion within public policy development.

In relation to the impact of climate change on the cultural well-being of Wales, the Committee should scrutinise the impact of climate change on Welsh language and culture. Currently, cultural sustainability does not appear prominently in the priorities of the Committee compared with economic, social and environmental sustainability.

In relation to understanding carbon emissions and supporting carbon reduction targets, we would like to see the Committee place a greater focus on a joined up approach across sectors and across Welsh Government departments, to facilitate the sharing of knowledge, data and resources in an efficient way. Many sectors are grappling with similar issues when it comes to carbon monitoring, reporting and reduction, and there is a risk of duplication and silo working.

As noted in our response to question 1 above, we would like to see the Committee place a greater focus on climate justice and ensuring a just transition – both for people in Wales and globally.

In relation to our own experience of working to achieve the Net Zero Public Sector 2030 target, we would like to see the focus of the Committee upon scrutinising barriers to policy delivery and outcomes, which we still feel are significant, particularly in relation to green skills, resources and procurement. Scrutiny of how Welsh Government is supporting the public sector to deliver on the 2030 target would be welcomed.

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?

The Committee’s detailed priorities/outline programme of work are still relevant but we would suggest consideration of the additional points outlined in our response to question 3 above.

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

No further comments.

6. Other information

No response.
