Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru

Y Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb, Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau

National Assembly for Wales

Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee

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Sophie Howe

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10 February 2017

Evidence session with the Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee - 2 February 2017

Dear Sophie

Thank you for attending the Committee's meeting on 2 February to give evidence on your role and remit. The Committee found it a very interesting and useful session.

Following the meeting, the Committee agreed that I should write to you on a number of issues that were not reached during the session and to request further information on some of the areas discussed.

Arising from the discussions in Committee, we are particularly interested in further information on:

- 1. The five areas you believe the Welsh Government should prioritise and demonstrate more leadership on;
- 2. When you intend to publish the framework for Public Service Boards;
- 3. Which Public Service Board is undertaking the estates mapping exercise;



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- 4. To what extent will you engage with local planning decisions and in particular any Local Development Plans which you believe could be contrary to the sustainable development principle; and
- 5. What actions do you feel need to be taken to move towards a more preventative way of working, in particular in relation to those sectors for whom this is a specific challenge, such as the health and social care sector.

The issues that we did not have time to discuss in our session, and would welcome further information on are:

- 1. Are you involved in the development of the Welsh Government's four cross-cutting strategies and have you made any assessment as to whether they are being developed in line with the sustainable development principles?
- 2. Have you received any feedback from public bodies, Public Services Boards or community councils on the usefulness of the statutory guidance in helping them fulfil their obligations under the Act;
- 3. How are public bodies progressing in developing their well-being objectives;
- 4. How are Public Services Boards progressing in: 1) undertaking their well-being assessments; 2) setting well-being objectives; and 3) developing local well-being plans;
- 5. In addition to the police service, have any other organisations which are not "public bodies" expressed an interest in applying the principles of the Act;
- 6. Could you provide further information on the "Embedding Children's Rights for Future Generations" programme of work with the Children's Commissioner;
- 7. Given that the Commissioner's office has a duty to advise on climate change, for details of the work they have conducted to date in this area with public bodies, PSBs and Welsh Government.
- 8. Could you provide any examples of how public bodies have improved engagement with citizens since the implementation of the Act;



- 9. Following on from the Economy, Infrastructure and Skills Committee recommendation, do you feel that the planned National Infrastructure Commission should be included as a public body under the Act;
- 10. When do you expect the Welsh Government to publish its milestones (to accompany the national indicators);
- 11.Is there evidence of change at the Welsh Government level as a result of the implementation of the Act, including any examples you could provide;
- 12. How do you view the role of the Assembly in tracking and scrutinising progress under the Act?

The Committee would like to invite you in for scrutiny on an annual basis so that we can continue to monitor the implementation of the Future Generations (Wales) Act. We are likely to link this in with your annual reporting cycle.

Yours sincerely

John Griffiths AM

Chair

