

## **Written Response by the Welsh Government to the report of the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee entitled: Past and Present: Inquiry into the Historic Environment**

---

I would like to thank the Chair and members of the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee for its considered and comprehensive report and recommendations. I agree that it was an opportune time to stop and consider the impact of the implementation of some of the provisions of the Historic Environment (Wales) 2016 Act and associated guidance, although a more thorough investigation is proposed in “about five years” as noted.

On the whole I am pleased with how things are progressing with the Act and feel that our historic buildings and monuments are being afforded more protection and safeguarding than ever before. Cadw and its partners are making great strides in terms of collaboration, cross boundary working and working with assets in the private sector, especially through its fora and through the Historic Wales Strategic Partnership. However there is still a great deal to be done, especially in terms of what the various heritage bodies can learn from each other.

I am excited for the future and am looking forward to what Cadw can achieve as an internal agency within Welsh Government with greater flexibilities. We have also recently appointed a new head of Cadw and are in the process of appointing a Cadw Board, and I am looking forward to updating members on progress in due course.

Cadw’s Commercial performance, driven by major improvements to the visitor experience, has significantly improved and as you know, 2017-18 was the most successful year, generating just over £7.5m in income - this is to be applauded. I believe that increased autonomy for Cadw will help it be even more successful and achieve great things. Cadw has a committed and passionate workforce and I am convinced that Cadw will go from strength to strength.

I would also like to thank the Committee for its praise of Cadw’s performance in the report. Whilst Cadw has had its critics, I am pleased that the Committee has acknowledged its excellent relationship with its stakeholders - communication has been key and consultation and discussion with the people most involved with the historic environment sector has been vital and central to the progress which has been made.

**Detailed responses to the report’s recommendations are set out below:**

### **Recommendation 1**

The Committee recommends that Cadw should now prioritise the roll-out of Heritage Partnership Agreements.

**Response: Accept**

Heritage partnership agreements will bring owners, consenting authorities and other interested parties together to create long-term management plans for historic assets. The plans can include agreed programmes of works with the necessary scheduled monument and/or listed building consents. By eliminating the need for repeated applications for individual consents, these voluntary agreements will save time and resources for all involved.

Since these agreements are expected to last for several years, it is important to put in place a coherent and well-considered body of supporting regulations and guidance that will, from the outset, meet the diverse needs of interested parties and suit the particular circumstances in Wales. Cadw has recently shared its early proposals with historic environment sector partners including the National Trust, Glandŵr Cymru and local planning authorities. Their constructive responses have been indispensable in developing a robust structure for heritage partnership agreements in Wales. Draft documents will be released for full public consultation towards the end of 2018, with the aim of bringing heritage partnership agreements into force in 2019.

**Financial Implications** –None. Any additional costs will be drawn from existing programme budgets

**Recommendation 2**

The Committee recommends that in the coming year, Cadw should provide greater clarity on the future system of preservation notices.

**Response : Accept**

Listed buildings in disrepair pose significant challenges to local planning authorities. The reasons for their deterioration are frequently complex and it is rarely easy to bring them back into viable use. While authorities already have a range of statutory powers to deal with listed buildings at risk, they are, for a number of reasons, often reluctant to put them to use.

The Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016 gives the Welsh Ministers regulation-making powers for the creation of ‘preservation notices’. These notices are intended to provide local authorities with additional powers to secure the proper preservation of listed buildings that have fallen into disrepair.

Cadw commissioned research to inform the development of preservation notices and published the resulting report on its website (<http://cadw.gov.wales/historicenvironment/policy/historicenvironmentbill/provisions/furtherimplementation/?lang=en>). The research, which investigated various options for preservation notices, identified three basic tests to determine if it would be effective to serve a preservation notice:

- i. Is the building structurally capable of use or reuse?
- ii. Does the building have the potential for a viable economic future?
- iii. Is there a 'problem' ownership?

The report concluded that these tests would only be met in a very small number of cases (approximately 2–3% of the listed buildings at risk). It also highlighted the prospect of unintended consequences accompanying the introduction of preservation notices, not least the active discouragement of prospective purchasers of listed buildings at risk.

The report identified a number of positive, non-legislative changes that could not only support current efforts to deal with listed buildings at risk, but also prepare the ground for the future enactment of preservation notices. These included:

- Further detailed guidance
- Sharing best practice and awareness raising
- Centralised/regional pools of specialist advice
- An enforcement loan fund and other mechanisms to support works on buildings at risk.

In light of the limited scope for the use of preservation notices at present and the significant potential for unintended negative consequences, Cadw's immediate priorities will focus on determining the feasibility of the non-legislative changes recommended in the report and, where practicable, implementing them.

**Financial Implications** – None at this stage. Any additional costs will be drawn from existing programme budgets.

### **Recommendation 3**

The Committee recommends that now that Cadw's future status has been determined, the Minister should implement those parts of the Historic Environment Act relating to an Advisory Panel for the Historic Environment or, if he does not agree with the need for a panel, he should propose changes to the current law.

### **Response : Accept in principle**

The Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016 places a duty upon the Welsh Ministers to establish the Advisory Panel for the Welsh Historic Environment. Its purpose is to 'provide the Welsh Ministers with advice on matters relating to the formulation, development, and implementation of policy and strategy in relation to the historic environment in Wales'.

However, the establishment of the Panel has been deferred while the arrangements for Cadw's future governance are being made. Those arrangements include a new operating board with external members that will support Cadw and the Welsh Ministers. Once the board has been established

and sufficient time has passed for its effectiveness to be evaluated, the role and scope of the Advisory Panel will be reassessed.

As the Committee has acknowledged in its report, the Welsh Ministers have discretion as to when to bring the duty to establish the Advisory Panel into force. The matter will therefore be kept under review.

**Financial Implications** – None. Any additional costs will be drawn from existing programme budgets.

#### **Recommendation 4**

The Committee recommends that the effectiveness of the statutory list of historic place names should be kept under review, with a view to introducing additional protections if the current list proves ineffective.

#### **Response : Accept in principle**

Under the provisions of the Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016, Wales became the first nation in the United Kingdom to establish a statutory list of historic place names. This reflected the widespread recognition of the importance of our rich legacy of place names. In the two years since the Act received Royal Assent, great strides have been made to raise the profile of historic place names.

The Welsh Ministers entrusted the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales with the responsibility for creating and maintaining the List of Historic Place Names of Wales (<https://historicplacenames.rcahmw.gov.uk/>). It was launched in May 2017 and is freely available online, through the Welsh historic environment records and as a dataset for local authorities and other public bodies.

The Royal Commission employs a full-time curator to enhance the list, deal with enquiries and raise awareness of the importance of our historic place names. By educating private individuals and public decision makers about the value of these crucial elements of the historic environment, the list will help to safeguard historic place names for the future by encouraging their continued use in daily life.

Statutory guidance requires local and National Park authorities and Natural Resources Wales to take account of the list when their functions involve naming or renaming places. This includes the naming or renaming of streets, properties and other places, either directly or by another party. The intention is that the operation of the list and the statutory guidance together will lead to a reduction in the number of formal changes to historic property names. It will also encourage the use of historic names for new developments.

During 2018, further best-practice guidance on historic place names in Wales will be developed. This will highlight the importance of place names in the cultural, social and linguistic history of our nation and provide further guidance

for owners, developers and local authorities on what the list of historic place names has to offer and how it can be used effectively.

The effectiveness of the List of Historic Place Names of Wales and the associated non-statutory measures in encouraging the retention of historic place names will be kept under review. It is expected that it will take a least four or five years to collect sufficient evidence to evaluate the impact of these measures.

**Financial Implications** –None at this stage. Any additional costs will be drawn from existing programme budgets.

### **Recommendation 5**

The Committee recommends that the Government should keep the Act under review and formally review its impact after it has been in operation for five years.

### **Response : Accept**

Evaluation is an essential component of the legislative process. The Welsh Government has put measures in place to collect information to support a formal review of the impact of the Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016 after it has been in force for 5 years. It is expected that a number of the Act's provisions will be used infrequently, with some, particularly those relating to enforcement, functioning primarily as deterrents; such an extended evaluation period will be essential for any meaningful assessment of their effectiveness.

Nevertheless, the evidence collected to date shows that several of the 2016 Act's provisions have already had a positive impact on the management of the historic environment.

- The streamlined scheduled monument consent process has been used 11 times since it became available in May 2017. Although the simplified process is only appropriate for use in specific circumstances, this represents approximately ten percent of the total number of scheduled monument consent applications made in 2017–18. In every case, the simplified process has substantially reduced administrative burdens for owners and Cadw without exposing the monuments concerned to additional risks.
- Statutory consultation before the scheduling of a monument or the listing of a building was introduced in May 2017. Since then, 28 assets have been designated and no review requests have been made to the Welsh Ministers. With interim protection now in operation, there have been no instances of damage or unauthorised works to assets during the designation process.
- The statutory List of Historic Place Names of Wales was launched on 8 May 2017 with 350,000 entries. The list's full-time curator records information on its ongoing development, its usage and the enquiries

received. Since launch, the site has been visited by 44,266 individual users in 59,775 individual sessions. Over 4,000 new place names have been added to the site and the curator has dealt with over 100 comments and enquiries from members of the public and public bodies.

Cadw is liaising with local authority street naming and numbering officers to establish mechanisms for the regular collection of data on the use of the list in the naming and renaming of properties in accordance with the statutory guidance.

- The four Welsh archaeological trusts that compile and maintain the statutory historic environment records on behalf of the Welsh Ministers regularly report on their additions and enhancements to the records and the enquiries that they receive. These are summarised in the table below for the period from 1 June 2017 to late February 2018.

Archaeological Trust	New Bilingual Records		Enhanced Records	Enquiries	
	Core	Events		Commercial	Non-Commercial
Clwyd-Powys	232	243	4558	63	60
Dyfed	1613	117	5227	41	56
Glamorgan-Gwent	566	417	7179	78	109
Gwynedd	490	188	1359	12	61

The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales audits the historic environment records every five years to review data quality, monitor standards and service levels and identify needs for enhancement. The next audit is due to take place in 2020.

**Financial Implications** — Any additional costs will be drawn from existing programme budgets.

### **Recommendation 6**

The Committee recommends that Cadw should work with the National Trust and other partners to encourage the historic environment sector to emulate the National Trust's work to make management of the sector more environmentally friendly.

### **Response : Accept**

Cadw works closely with the National Trust (NT) on the issue of climate change, the current focus being on adaptation. NT is a key member of the HEG Climate Change sub group alongside Cadw. The sub group is currently developing a Historic Environment and Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan, which will be published later this year.

The next phase of work will be the development of an action plan. Actions already identified include the development and dissemination of good practice

to increase the resilience of the historic environment to manage the impacts of climate change. NT's experience in this area will be invaluable. For example, Cadw is an observer of the Fit for the Future Programme. Set up and hosted by NT, this is a UK wide network of organisations working together to become climate friendly, adaptive and resilient. The network offers practical support, events and workshops, and encourages its members to share good practice.

Within the network a climate change working group has been developed. A series of workshops are being facilitated to share members' approaches to adapt to climate change, and methods and tools for assessing impacts and adaptation responses at specific locations. Cadw has been invited to participate in one of these events at Tredegar House. NT has also been awarded KESS2 funding for a PhD student to undertake a climate impact assessment of their estate. Cadw has been invited by NT to help steer the brief.

In terms of the Cadw Estate, officials have implemented many energy and carbon reducing initiatives. These include:

- replacement of high-energy floodlights at all floodlit monuments in care with low energy LED units. Developed, designed and implemented by Cadw this initiative has seen associated energy consumption and carbon emissions reduced by fifty percent. Historic Scotland has studied this initiative and propose the same project roll-out across its monuments in care; three years after Cadw;
- replacement interior lighting with low energy LED units delivering energy and carbon savings of around eighty percent. These lighting units also produce less heat and reduce the need for air conditioning, providing further savings;
- installation of smart meters at all Cadw monuments for the automatic recording of energy consumption. This permits improved scrutiny of energy consumption allowing corrective action to be taken at areas with greatest energy consumption;
- all new developments and visitor centres are designed and constructed with the principles of the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) and include on-site power generation wherever feasible. The new visitor centre at Denbigh Castle has a Ground Source Heat Pump, natural ventilation, photovoltaic panels and a Building Management System with a live data screen within the visitor area for 'real time' visitor viewing of energy consumed and produced. A similar system has more recently been installed during the full refurbishment of the visitor centre at Tintern Abbey where children on school trips can see and learn about how we care for our environment; and
- recent development works adjacent to Harlech Castle, a World Heritage Site, has provided a new visitor and interpretation centre within the former Castle Hotel. Adaptation and conservation of this Victorian building was core to this project; a significant quantity of carbon emissions, and finance, have been saved through the retention and reuse of existing buildings such as this. Air Source Heat Pumps

were installed for the heating and cooling of the new facility. Lighting and projected interpretation is now delivered using low energy LED equipment.

Cadw will continue to seek opportunities to

- explore alternative power solutions – air source, ground source, hydro and solar where possible
- embed the principles of sustainable transport into organisational culture
- continue to promote the positive benefits of waste recycling

Finally, Cadw's progress towards the Welsh Government's 2010 commitment for a 30% reduction in carbon emissions by 2020 is extremely positive. Validation of the 2017/18 energy consumption figures is currently underway and forecast that Cadw will have achieved a 38% reduction in its carbon emissions – two years ahead of the 2020 target. This is a significant achievement given that 2017/18 saw Cadw's most successful commercial trading period ever.

**Financial Implications** – None. Any additional costs will be drawn from existing programme budgets.

#### **Recommendation 7**

The Committee recommends that Cadw should publish its survey of heritage at risk at the earliest opportunity and in the most complete way compatible with data protection requirements.

#### **Response : Accept**

Surveys of the condition of listed buildings have been carried out in Wales for more than 15 years. Prior to 2012, the surveys were commissioned directly by local authorities with funding provided by Cadw. However, at the end of 2012, to ensure a consistent approach across Wales, Cadw appointed consultants,, to undertake an all-Wales condition review of listed buildings over a five-year rolling period, surveying approximately 20% of listed buildings stock in Wales per year. The programme of surveys ensures that the condition of all 30,000 listed buildings in Wales during this period are assessed using consistent methodology.

A new contract for the next phase of surveys is currently out for tender and a level of public access will be built into the new contract.

**Financial Implications** – None. Any additional costs will be drawn from existing programme budgets.

#### **Recommendation 8**

The Committee recommends that Cadw should restart its grant funding for owners of listed buildings and scheduled monuments at risk. This could have a particular focus on:

- Buildings/monuments at risk
- Making listed buildings environmentally-friendly

### **Response : Accept in Principle**

Cadw has recently reintroduced its grants programme for historic assets. During 2018-2019 the new scheme will be supporting the Welsh Government Strategy “Prosperity for All”, by offering grants as a contribution towards the cost of repairing and restoring historic community assets, such as Village and Community Halls, Institutes, Libraries etc. Places of Worship which are open for wider community use may also apply. The condition of a building, and whether it is at risk, will be a key factor in determining which applications to support.

Cadw grants will always be under review and as such their focus will inevitably change with new emerging priorities. As always the Committee’s observations are welcome and we will keep in mind its comments relating to making listed buildings more environmentally friendly. However Cadw also has to consider the needs of its own estate when prioritising its capital programme.

**Financial Implications** – There are no additional financial implications for the Welsh Government as a result of reintroducing the Historic Buildings Grant.

### **Recommendation 9**

The Committee recommends that Cadw should establish a “resilience programme” (along the lines of the Arts Council’s work in this area) to help owners of designated heritage assets to make them more financially sustainable.

### **Response : Accept in principle**

Cadw is already working with partners to increase the resilience of the heritage sector, particularly those small organisations which help look after our important historic assets. For example, Cadw funds the Architectural Heritage Fund (AHF) to provide early stage grants to charities and social enterprises intending to take ownership of and/or bring back into use neglected buildings in their communities, helping to establish the viability of project proposals.

Cadw also works closely with the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) who administer Resilient Heritage grants which can help to strengthen organisations, and build the capacity of staff and volunteers to better manage heritage in the long term.

**Financial Implications** –None.

### **Recommendation 10**

The Committee recommends that the Minister should provide more detailed targets, a clear timeline for progress and measurable milestones for the development of the Historic Wales partnership. We expect to receive regular reports on progress in this area from the Minister in future.

### **Response : Reject**

The Historic Wales Partnership is a partnership and, as such, I think it is appropriate that the partnership as a whole sets targets for itself and be accountable for them, rather than targets being set by Ministers. This is in line with my previously stated approach to arms length bodies, in that they should make their own decisions. However, I will bring your recommendation to the attention of the Strategic Partnership and ask them to consider it. I will be expecting regular reports from the Chairs of the partnership.

**Financial Implications** – None. Any additional costs will be drawn from existing programme budgets.

### **Recommendation 11**

The Committee recommends that the Minister should set out a plan of how he will encourage and support local authority collaboration and cross boundary working.

### **Response : Accept**

There are four fora already in place which supports and encourages local authority collaboration and cross boundary working. The Built Heritage Forum (BHF) was established in 1997 and has been a successful means of liaison between local authorities' conservation officers and Cadw. Attendance has now grown to include the four Welsh Archaeological Trusts and other conservation organisations such as the Victorian Society, the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW).

The primary purpose of the Built Heritage Forum is:

- To act as a forum for the exchange of views on subjects/issues and to agree future actions for partners;
- Imparting examples of good practice;
- Updating partners with information on relevant changes to legislation and guidance;
- Opportunity for all members to present and attend presentations from other bodies/organisations on chosen topics.

The BHF currently meets once a year and north, south and mid Wales sub-groups meet twice-yearly. The next full BHF meeting is in Builth Wells on 6 July 2018.

Furthermore, the North Wales Planning Authorities and Cadw jointly commissioned a project designed to help improve built heritage services across the region. The project identified a series of opportunities for improvement through greater collaboration, and nine separate workstreams were set up to examine these in detail, and a series of recommendations has been made to the N Wales Planning Officers' group.

Further work is required to take these recommendations forward, and the commissioning bodies will be reviewing the outstanding actions. The ideas and recommendations identified in north Wales have also been presented to the Planning Officers Society Wales, giving an opportunity to discuss roll out of proposed changes across Wales.

**Financial Implications** – None. Any additional costs will be drawn from existing programme budgets.

### **Recommendation 12**

The Committee recommends that Cadw should improve its promotion of non-Cadw sites at its sites, and other custodians of historic sites and buildings, particularly the National Trust and local authorities should reciprocate.

### **Response : Reject**

Cadw is already doing a great deal to promote non-Cadw sites. However, it should be given the freedom to determine its own ongoing marketing priorities. Also Cadw is not in a position to dictate to others how they prioritise their promotion programmes. This is an area that is being considered by the Historic Wales partnership (which links to recommendation 10) and more broadly by the Historic Environment sector through fora such as the Historic Environment Group. However, Cadw will continue to encourage and help facilitate such collaboration.

A good example of how the sector has cross-promoted its sites in recent years has been the pan-Wales Heritage Interpretation Plan launched in 2011. This focuses on 13 key strands such as “Wales: Industrial Nation”, “Owain Glyndŵr and his Uprising” and “Origins and Prehistory of Wales”. These have always been story specific – and not just about interpreting monuments in the care of Cadw. An essential part of the plan is the cross referral of sites through the ‘Follow the story’ initiative which encourages visitors to visit other sites linked to the stories at the site they are currently visiting. All new Cadw interpretation does this, and partners such as National Trust and Brecon Beacons National Park have used the “Follow the Story” logos in interpretation funded through the Heritage Tourism Project.

Details of this can be accessed through the Cadw website:  
[http://cadw.gov.wales/docs/cadw/publications/Pan\\_Wales\\_OverviewENGLISH.pdf](http://cadw.gov.wales/docs/cadw/publications/Pan_Wales_OverviewENGLISH.pdf) , and:

[http://cadw.gov.wales/docs/cadw/publications/Followthestorybrandingguidelines\\_EN.pdf](http://cadw.gov.wales/docs/cadw/publications/Followthestorybrandingguidelines_EN.pdf)

There are many other examples of where good partnership working is already in progress. For example, Cadw has been working in partnership with the National Library of Wales (NLW), Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales, RCAHMW, the relevant regional Archaeological Trust, and the People's Collection Wales, along with various local societies on the 'Lle Hanes' - 'The History Place' project at the National Eisteddfod for the last two years.

Cadw and Amgueddfa Cymru collaborated on a Dragons vs Dinosaur project over the peak summer season, to promote both Cadw's Dragons tour, and National Museum Wales, Cardiff's dinosaur exhibition.

**Financial Implications** – All the cross promotion is costed within interpretation schemes – there are no additional financial implications for the Welsh Government.

### **Recommendation 13**

The Committee recommends that Cadw should work (within the Historic Environment partnership) with the National Trust to see how the National Trust's considerable knowledge of the market can be used to:

- Increase revenues across the historic environment sector; and
- Improve digital interpretation across historic sites in Wales

### **Response : Accept in Principle**

I think it is worth saying again that Cadw's Commercial performance, driven by major improvements to the visitor experience, has significantly improved and 2017-18 was the most successful year in Cadw's history, generating just over £7.5m in income. In fact, 2015-16 – 2017-18 were its three most successful years ever. Whilst there are always lessons to be learned, others could also benefit from Cadw's experience.

Cadw has previously worked closely with the National Trust on a number of initiatives, including participating in collaborative marketing campaigns to cross promote sites; joint research e.g. to evaluate the effectiveness of printed literature; events, including the Open Doors programme; educational projects; membership; volunteering and community outreach schemes.

Additionally, the Chair of the National Trust in Wales was one of a panel of experts appointed to sit on a Ministerial Steering Group in 2015 tasked with reviewing, advising and recommending improvements to Cadw's commercial activities, in an aim to improve Cadw's commercial performance.

Cadw colleagues have recently presented on the advances in digital interpretation at its sites at numerous events, including a meeting with devolved nations specifically on digital initiatives, and a recent Digital Past conference aimed at industry experts.

Cadw would be eager to continue to build on the relationship with the National Trust, including sharing best practices on digital and gain advice and expertise in areas including membership, catering and retail, in future.

**Financial Implications** – There should be no additional financial implications for the Welsh Government. Should any arise, additional costs will be drawn from existing programme budgets.

#### **Recommendation 14**

The Committee recommends that the Welsh Government should make sure that funding continues to be made available for the historic environment in whatever regional and agricultural funding programmes follow the UK's departure from the EU.

#### **Response : Accept in principle**

Research undertaken by the Historic Environment Group indicated that the historic environment sector received a minimum of £74m in EU funding during 2007-16 as its share of grants from European Structural & Investment Funds, including the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, the European Regional Development Fund and the European Social Fund

From these figures it is clear that the failure to replace lost funding from EU sources will have a serious impact on the substantial and wide-ranging contribution that heritage makes to the Welsh economy, employment and regeneration and to action in areas such as well-being, health, place-making and social inclusion.

Welsh Government will continue to argue for responsibility for any relevant replacement funding programmes that are proposed by the Westminster Government. The historic environment sector should be able to continue to make its case for support for worthwhile projects from any such replacement funding programmes.

Similarly, the historic environment of Wales has benefitted from rural land management schemes developed through CAP - such as Tir Gofal and Glastir. The Welsh Government will continue to consider the case for providing funding in these areas.

**Financial Implications** – Costs unknown at present. Any additional costs will be drawn from existing programme budgets.

#### **Recommendation 15**

The Committee recommends that the Minister should initiate a review of the implementation to date of the recommendations in Baroness Andrews' culture and poverty report to learn what good practice can be shared, what lessons learned and what further action is needed to implement the recommendations.

#### **Response : Accept**

MALD, which leads on the *Fusion: Creating Opportunities through Culture* programme within the Welsh Government, welcomes the Committee's interest in the programme and the recommendation above. It should be noted that the Committee in coming to its conclusion considered views from bodies linked to the Historic Environment; the Fusion programme is working across a significantly broader sector that includes the arts, museums, archives and libraries, and the community, employability, voluntary and education sectors. Other organisations such as housing associations are also supporting Fusion.

The cultural sector has responded to the recommendations with energy and great commitment. It has welcomed the opportunity to collaborate on a strategic national programme with focussed objectives around tackling poverty.

The recommendations in the Andrews report formed a framework to guide the Fusion programme. Progress against the 33 Andrews recommendations, and the Fusion programme, has been overseen by the Cultural Inclusion Board (CIB), itself established as one of the recommendations.

The CIB has agreed that 11 of the Andrews recommendations have now been completed, 3 superseded by other policy developments and 19 ongoing, with significant progress made in most of these. It should be noted that a number of the recommendations are aspirational in nature and progress towards completion is subjective and difficult to monitor. ***A summary of the recommendations and current progress is at Annex 1.***

The CIB has also taken the view that since 2013/14, when the report was written, the policy landscape has moved on significantly, not just within the cultural sector but also in the community and education sectors. A number of recommendations make explicit reference, for example, to collaboration with the Communities First (CF) programme; these were taken forward in the pilot phase of Fusion but the CF programme has now ceased. Other recommendations around mainstreaming cultural provision within the formal curriculum have been superseded by, and absorbed into, the Welsh Government's Creative Learning through the Arts programme. With this in mind, the ongoing programme needs to take a flexible approach to implementing the Andrews recommendations.

Extensive evaluation has been undertaken on the Fusion programme in its pilot phase; this has helped shape and adapt the programme. We published an [evaluation report](#) on the 2015-16 programme that showed:

- what activity is most effective in supporting people in the most deprived communities in Wales
- what local and national support is needed to enable this
- where best to target funding and other support such as training

We also published an [evaluation report](#) on the second year of the Fusion pilot phase in 2016-17. This focused on the impact of the programme for the cultural sector, and key findings included:

- cultural organisations were targeting activities more effectively at people experiencing poverty
- organisations were collaborating more effectively to deliver within disadvantaged communities
- individuals experiencing poverty in their communities were accessing cultural activities more as a result of the Fusion programme .

Further evaluation will be carried out in 2018-19, looking at the impact and effectiveness of Welsh Government funding. This ongoing learning will inform any future phases of the programme.

The CIB is currently contributing to a consultation and review exercise on how to progress the programme beyond the current budget planning horizon of 2018-19. This will include considering good practice and lessons learned from the current review and our ongoing evaluation, as well as future delivery and funding options. The Minister will be considering the outcomes of this exercise in the coming months with an expectation that he will be able to outline the future direction of the programme later in 2018.

**Financial Implications** – Any additional costs of carrying out the review itself will be drawn from existing programme budgets.

#### **Recommendation 16**

The Committee recommends that the Welsh Government should set out in more detail the precise nature of the “greater flexibility” that Cadw will be given in future, particularly where this differs from the arrangements proposed in the business case drawn up in October 2017.

#### **Response : Accept in principle**

The published business case which identified the best option for the future of Cadw contained a table outlining ten key business improvements which were suggested should Cadw remain in Government. The items in the this table are still very current and will allow the greater flexibility deemed necessary for Cadw to operate more effectively within Government – please see Annex 2.

Work is well underway on the establishment of a Framework Document for Cadw which will set out the arrangements for the internal operating board, the formal system internal freedoms and delegations, and budget and business planning. This will be published in due course.

**Financial Implications** –None. Any additional costs will be drawn from existing programme budgets.

**Lord Dafydd Elis-Thomas AM**  
**Minister for Culture, Tourism and Sport**