



Russell George AM  
Chair, Economy, Infrastructure & Skills Committee

[SeneddEIS@assembly.wales](mailto:SeneddEIS@assembly.wales)

31 July 2019

Dear Russell

Thank you for your letter dated 4 July following up on the scrutiny session on 9 May.

I welcome the fact the Economy, Infrastructure and Skills Committee have agreed to undertake further work on the Foundational Economy, beginning with a focus on procurement. I look forward to hearing about the Committee's work in these areas, particularly as placed based procurement forms an essential part of my broader approach to the Foundational Economy.

You have asked about our commitment to producing a Foundational Economy enabling plan and to timing of the same. My immediate focus and priority is not the production of an enabling plan, but delivery in three specific areas of activity, namely:

- Testing and trailing new innovative experiments through our Foundational Economy Challenge Fund.
- Nurturing grounded local firms and the 'missing middle'.
- Spreading and scaling best practice and mainstreaming the lessons of successful approaches to Local Wealth Building. With an initial focus on growing strong local supply chains in public procurement working with Public Service Boards.

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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.

These three areas, along with my Foundational Economy Advisory Board are laying the potential foundations for the development of an enabling plan. This could evolve and be informed by evidence and findings from these three areas of work and the community of practice that the Board and Fund are helping to establish. However, I am not placing a timescale on this, as I think the immediate priority is to deliver and test interventions in the areas identified above.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lee', is centered within a light gray rectangular box.

**Lee Waters AC/AM**

Dirprwy Weinidog yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth  
Deputy Minister for Economy and Transport