

Welsh Parliament's Public Accounts Committee - Delivering for Future Generations: The story so far

Recommendation Overview – Recommendations 2, 4 and 10 are directed related to PSBs.

- **Recommendation 1.** The Welsh Government should carry out of a review of how it can provide longer-term financial security to the public bodies that are subject to this Act. This review should be completed in time to inform funding decisions in relation to the 2023-24 financial year
- **Recommendation 2.** The Welsh Government should carry out a review of how the work of Public Service Boards is funded. The review should begin no later than six months after the next Senedd election, with its conclusions implemented in time for them to inform funding allocations for the 2023-24 financial year. The review should be undertaken with the following principles in mind:
 - PSBs should be able to access pooled funds, drawn from the resources of their statutory members, which they could either hold as formal corporate entities, or via informal arrangements.
 - PSB budgets should be determined by clear, consistent guidelines set out by the Welsh Government.
 - PSB budgets should be informed by the role that the Welsh Government has set out for them.
 - The contributions that each organisation is required to make to finance PSBs should recognise wider commitments that they have to other partnerships (including to other PSBs).
- **Recommendation 3.** The Future Generations Commissioner and Welsh public bodies should ensure that they develop constructive relationships. The inconsistency in their relationships has limited the impact of the Commissioner's work.
- **Recommendation 4.** The Future Generations Commissioner should prioritise supporting public bodies and Public Services Boards to deliver this legislation.
- **Recommendation 5.** The Welsh Government must continue with plans to set and publish milestones as required by section 10 of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 no later than six months after the 2021 Senedd election.
- **Recommendation 6.** The Welsh Government must continue with plans to review and publish revised national well-being indicators no later than six months after the 2021 Senedd election. The review should recognise the challenges and opportunities presented by the Covid-19 pandemic and take into account the views of public bodies, the public, and key stakeholders of the private and voluntary sectors.

- **Recommendation 7.** The Welsh Government must carry out a review of the public bodies that are subject to the Act. The findings of that review should be implemented in sufficient time for any newly added public bodies to receive their funding allocations and associated remit letters for the 2022-23 financial year. The review should:
 - take into account the impact on the implementation of the Act at a national level that including/omitting any particular public body would have;
 - acknowledge that the inclusion of any additional public bodies will result in additional reporting, monitoring and auditing requirements that will inevitably have financial/resourcing implications;
 - clearly set out the expectations of public bodies that are not formally subject to the Act in relation to sustainable development, and how those expectations will be monitored and enforced; and
 - clearly set out the criteria against which inclusion/exclusion decisions were made and the process or timeframes by which future reviews will be initiated.

- **Recommendation 8.** The Welsh Government must continue with plans to frame remit letters around the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, following consultation with the Future Generations Commissioner. The new Delivering for future generations: the story so far 10 remit letters should be in use no later than in relation to the 2022-23 financial year.

- **Recommendation 9.** The Welsh Government must not create any new partnership or collaborative structures to fulfil any functions unless it has fully explored whether:
 - existing partnership structures could undertake those functions instead;
 - the new structure could replace existing ones;
 - the functions can be carried out by existing public bodies; and
 - after consultation with public bodies affected by the proposed changes, can demonstrate support for the new structures from a majority of public bodies affected by them.

- **Recommendation 10.** The Welsh Government must publish guidance no later than six months after the next Senedd election that sets out:
 - how the work of Regional Partnership Boards, Public Services Boards, Corporate Joint Committees, alongside other major partnership structures, interact with each other within the framework of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, with examples of good practice;
 - what flexibility partnerships have to make decisions to better and more efficiently organise themselves;

- where partnerships and organisations can take action to simplify or consolidate the governance and reporting structures to reduce repetition and duplication; and
 - the Welsh Government's view of the landscape of partnership structures over the next reporting period (2020-25), including any proposals to abolish or consolidate those structures.
- **Recommendation 11.** Public bodies subject to the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 must ensure that the five ways of working are Delivering for future generations: the story so far 11 embedded in their plans for recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic. We recommend that any gains they have made in their immediate response to the pandemic are not lost, and that they shift their focus from the day-to-day to long-term and prevention.
- **Recommendation 12.** As we enter the second reporting period, the Auditor General for Wales must raise his expectations of public bodies and not hesitate to highlight poor adoption of the sustainable development principle.
- **Recommendation 13.** The Business Committee of the Sixth Senedd should ensure that the Senedd's Committee structure facilitates effective scrutiny of legislation such as the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and other matters that cross policy areas and Ministerial portfolios.
- **Recommendation 14.** The Business Committee of the Sixth Senedd should give specific consideration to how post-legislative scrutiny of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 should be undertaken, and refer that body of work to an appropriate Committee or forum accordingly.