

Budget Tour 2015 - Investing in the Wales We Want



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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Despite the financial challenges we have faced in recent years as a result of the UK Government's austerity plans, we have remained resolute in our commitment to protect the services that matter most to the people of Wales and boost the economy.

Over the last five years, we have seen unprecedented reductions to the Welsh budget, with over £1.4 billion (8% in real terms) less to spend in Wales now than in 2010-11. The UK Government will not set out its detailed plans for 2016-17 and beyond until the Spending Review in the Autumn but all of the indications are that we are likely to see further real reductions to the Welsh Budget for much of the rest of the decade. It is against this backdrop that we need to prepare for the impact of further cuts and ensure that our future investment decisions provide the bedrock for building the Wales we want, providing better outcomes for ourselves and for future generations.

We have done everything we can to maximise the resources available in Wales to support our priorities. We are pressing ahead with new innovative ways of investing in our infrastructure – in health, education, housing, transport and Broadband. We have already generated £2.4 billion, which will be invested in the priorities set out in the Wales Infrastructure Investment Plan. We have always said that investment in infrastructure is crucial to growth and jobs and, as the economy recovers, now is the time to invest further, supporting businesses and helping them grow.

We are also continuing to maximise the opportunities presented through the European Union Structural Fund programmes. Building on the £3.7 billion secured over the period 2007-2013, nearly £2 billion is available until the end of the decade. This funding supports growth and jobs through research and innovation, business finance, ICT and transport connectivity, energy and tackling poverty through sustainable employment, skills and youth employment and attainment.

Our approach over this period has been underpinned by our commitment to social justice and fairness and doing everything we can to address inequalities. With the prospect of the UK Government reducing public spending further and cutting welfare spending again, these principles will remain at the heart of our decision-making.

Our budget plans in the Autumn will also be an important step in preparing for the full implementation of the Well-being of Future Generations Act, which comes into force next April. The Act has been shaped by a year-long conversation on the 'Wales We Want' – a sustainable Wales. Preventative spending has been central to managing our reduced budget. Early investment is key to ensuring the best outcomes for people in Wales and to relieving pressures on budgets in the long term. Effective integration and collaboration is also integral to this agenda.

To support our budget decisions, we must draw on all the evidence available to understand what is working well and to share learning and best practice. In my Budget Tour, I want to hear your views on these important issues, helping to ensure that we collectively meet these challenges, Investing in the Wales We Want.

Jane Hutt

Minister for Finance
June 2015



Well-being Goals

The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015, which comes into force next April, is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. It will make the public bodies listed in the Act think more about the long-term, work better with people and each other, look to prevent problems and take a more-joined-up approach. This will help us create a Wales that we all want to live in, now and in the future.

To make sure we are all working towards the same vision, the Act puts in place seven well-being goals:

- **A Globally Responsible Wales**
- **A Prosperous Wales**
- **A Resilient Wales**
- **A Healthier Wales**
- **A More Equal Wales**
- **A Wales of Cohesive Communities**
- **A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language**

We want you to consider which of the Well-being goals the service you provide contributes to and tell us:

- **Which services really matter to you?**
- **Are our priorities the right ones?**
- **How can we improve services with less money?**
- **What challenges do you face on a daily basis to deliver the services you provide?**
- **Are there areas where there are opportunities for doing things differently, working more collaboratively?**
- **Are there areas where you think we should be delivering more or less?**
- **Are there things you think we should stop doing?**
- **Where can we make savings?**
- **What one big idea do you have which would transform public services?**

To find out more about the Welsh Government budget and the Wales Infrastructure Investment Plan visit: www.gov.wales/funding/?lang=en

To find out more about the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act visit: www.gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/people/future-generations-bill/?lang=en