

## **Prosperity for All**

### **Purpose**

1. This paper summarises the key themes and priority areas in the national strategy *Prosperity for All*.

### **Background**

2. The Council for Economic Development has received previous updates about the development of *Prosperity for All*.

### **Key Themes & Priority Areas**

3. The strategy sets out that Prosperity for all is the mission of this government. This is about more than material wealth – it is about everyone having a good quality of life and living in strong, safe communities.
4. As the strategy sets out, our long-term aim is to build a Wales that is prosperous and secure, healthy and active, ambitious and learning, and united and connected. The strategy identifies five priority areas of early years, housing, social care, mental health and skills and employability. A whole-government approach will make the greatest contribution to prosperity and well-being. These are areas where it has been shown that early intervention and better integration will pay dividends, resulting in better longer-term outcomes for Wales.
5. The Programme for Government, *Taking Wales Forward*, sets out the headline commitments we will deliver between now and 2021. This strategy takes those key commitments, places them in a long-term context, and sets out how they fit with the work of the wider Welsh public service to lay the foundations for achieving prosperity for all.
6. We have set out our vision for each area, and the main objectives and steps we will need to take to deliver that. These draw on the actions in *Taking Wales Forward*, but also set out how other services and programmes will also contribute to the impact in these areas.
7. Focusing on the five priority areas will help us integrate services and programmes, and give clear direction to our partners. By identifying all the policies and activities that can support these priority areas and by coordinating our resources and effort we can maximise the effect on individuals and families; improving their prospects and, in many cases, preventing or minimising the need for further interventions. To deliver the greatest impact in these areas, we need to ensure the right services and level of support are available across Wales when they are needed.
8. More widely, we can draw on levers that we have as a government and use them to deliver our central goal of prosperity for all.

9. The strategy acknowledges that how we deliver is just as important as what we deliver, and in order to make a real difference to people's lives. We have produced this short, focused document to better direct the energy and resources of the whole public service.

### **Economic Action Plan**

10. To support *Prosperity for All: the national strategy* and provide further detail on how we will implement our commitments, we will publish an Economic Action Plan later this autumn.

11. We will deliver three key changes through the Plan:

- Economic Contract – to drive added value through business support.
- Reduce the number of National Sectors and also focus on Foundation Sectors – to support prosperity and maximise the opportunities in growth sectors whilst playing an active role in foundation sectors.
- Regionally Focused Economic Development – to help tailor our delivery to specific challenges and opportunities in different parts of Wales.

12. The Plan will be wide-ranging and draw on our levers across Government to grow our economy, spread opportunity, and promote well-being. It will take forward the actions within the Prosperous and Secure theme and actively contribute to the other themes and priority areas.

### **Discussion Points for Council Members**

- a) **What do Council Members see as the challenges in this approach and the main opportunities?**
- b) **What can Social Partners bring to this agenda?**

### **3. Statement: 'Prosperity for All: The National Strategy'<sup>1</sup>**

The First Minister:

Llywydd, yesterday of course we celebrated the twentieth anniversary of the 'yes' vote that brought devolution to Wales. It was an opportunity to look back and reflect on how far we have come since the days of the Welsh Office, a time when Wales was just another Government department. It is also an opportunity to look forward to the next 20 years.

The establishment of this Assembly and, of course, the establishment of this Government, has been a journey of political maturity and also a story of growing confidence and a firm determination on all sides of this Chamber to deliver for Wales. The next stage of that journey is marked today by the publication of the national strategy designed to bring together the efforts of the whole public sector towards this Government's central mission of delivering prosperity for all.

Dirprwy Lywydd, prosperity is about far more than material wealth and cannot be determined, or delivered, indeed, by economic growth alone. It's about every person in Wales enjoying a good quality of life, living in a strong, safe community, and sharing in the prosperity of Wales. It's a simple objective and one with which I'm sure no-one can argue. However, delivering it will require every part of the Government and the public service to combine their forces in pursuit of that aim.

This strategy is a first for Government, capturing in one place how the many strands of Government will work together towards a common aim, putting the needs of the people of Wales first. The simple ambition that we can all work together in the long-term interests of Wales is at the heart of the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, and this is an important step in realising our vision.

This strategy takes our commitments in 'Taking Wales Forward', places them in a long-term context, and sets out how they will be delivered in a smarter, more joined-up way that cuts across traditional boundaries, both inside and outside Government. It recognises that the fundamental challenges we face as a nation can only be properly addressed by putting people before systems and structures and getting more from every pound the public sector spends. It's a bold vision for delivering our ambitions for Wales. Our ambition is for a Wales that is prosperous and secure, healthy and active, ambitious and learning, and united and connected.

Beginning with the first of those ambitions, 'prosperous and secure', our aim is to drive a Welsh economy that spreads opportunity and tackles inequality, delivering individual and national prosperity. We will enable people to fulfil their ambitions and enhance their well-being through secure and sustainable employment.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.assembly.wales/en/bus-home/pages/rop.aspx?meetingid=4483&assembly=5&c=Record%20of%20Proceedings#C492795>

Turning to the second ambition, 'healthy and active', we want to improve health and well-being in Wales for individuals, families and communities, helping us to achieve our ambition of prosperity for all, and taking significant steps to shift our approach from treatment to prevention.

Thirdly, we want a country that is based on the concept of being ambitious and learning. We want to instil in everyone a passion to learn throughout their lives, inspiring them with the ambition to be the best they possibly can be. A prosperous Wales needs creative, highly skilled and adaptable people, so quality education from the earliest age will be the foundation for a lifetime of learning and achievement.

Finally, a united and connected Wales. We will build a nation where people take pride in their communities, in the Welsh identity and language, and our place in the world. We are building the vital links that make it easier for people to come together, for the economy to grow, and to become a confident nation at ease with itself.

It is only by making progress across all of these that we will realise our ambition of prosperity for all. However, there were issues that came up over and over again: times or situations in people's lives when taking the right early action, often co-ordinated across services, could fundamentally alter an individual's prospects. We have identified five priority areas—early years, housing, social care, mental health, and skills and employability—where we can have the greatest potential contribution to our long-term prosperity and well-being.

Dirprwy Lywydd, an individual's experiences during their early years play a significant part in shaping their future, and are critical to their chances of going on to lead a healthy, prosperous and fulfilling life. The bedrock of living well is a good-quality, affordable home, which brings a wide range of benefits to health, learning and prosperity. Compassionate, dignified care plays a critical part in strong communities, ensures that people can be healthy and independent for longer, and is a significant economic sector in its own right. One in four people in Wales will experience mental ill health at some point in their lives, so getting the right treatment at an early stage, coupled with greater awareness of conditions, can in many cases prevent long-term adverse effects.

Dirprwy Lywydd, the better people's skills, the better their chances of getting fair, secure and rewarding employment. And the stronger the skills base in Wales, the more chance we have of attracting new businesses and growing existing ones to improve prosperity.

We will be working with our partners to deliver better, more seamless services for everyone in these areas. Joining up services has long been the holy grail of government. While we've had some notable successes, in Wales we have the opportunity to go much further, and identifying this small number of areas will allow us to focus our and others' energies on driving big improvements.

What matters now is making this happen. We will put 'Prosperity for All' at the heart of Government and it will shape all of our decisions. We'll finalise a series of plans over the coming weeks and months, setting out in detail how we will deliver our ambitions. This will include a comprehensive economic action plan, led by the Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure, marshalling the resources of the whole Government towards sustainable, inclusive economic growth and infrastructure, in line with the strategy.

Health will remain a key priority for this Government, and we will publish an action plan for health next year. This plan will respond, of course, to the parliamentary review, but will also set out how we can deliver our wider public health ambitions and how we can use all the opportunities of Government to move away from treating people when they're sick to helping people to enjoy better health. And in education, the Cabinet Secretary for Education will next week announce a new action plan for schools, ensuring that all our children and young people can reach their potential.

Dirprwy Lywydd, our programme for government, 'Taking Wales Forward', sets out what we will deliver for the people of Wales during this term. This national strategy, 'Prosperity for All', sets out how we will deliver this in a smarter, more focused way, driving delivery during this term, but setting the longer term foundations for a more prosperous Wales. We have an ambitious vision for the future of Wales and we are taking concrete steps to deliver it.