

Council for Economic Renewal

Discussion on Programme for Government

Introduction

On 20th September Taking Wales Forward was published, setting out the programme for Government for the next five years.

As a Government, we want a stronger, fairer economy, improved and reformed public services, and a united, connected, and sustainable Wales.

Taking Wales Forward

Taking Wales Forward sets out the Government's high level priorities in a five year plan. These key priorities are aimed at making a positive difference for everyone, at every stage in their lives and supporting them when help is needed most.

We have set out where the Welsh Government has the levers to maximise its impact and how our key commitments will contribute to our shared goals. These areas are in relation to:

- Prosperous and Secure;
- Healthy and active;
- Ambitious and learning; and
- United and connected

Our agenda for this Government will not become fixed with the publication of Taking Wales Forward. Its publication marks the beginning of a phase where we will consider in greater detail how we can work together and change services to deliver our priorities. This will require a fresh start to delivery through a new way of working. The First Minister has been clear that this Government will work differently from others.

Taking Wales Forward reflects our commitment to working collaboratively with a wide range of interested partners and embedding preventative thinking and long term approaches in our policy making. We want to work creatively with all partners across Wales to find solutions to the challenges that we all acknowledge face us and help us to maximise our impact in these uncertain times.

The four areas set out in Taking Wales Forward will form the basis for the development of four cross cutting and intertwined strategies which will allow us to consider how we can use the levers available to us to have the greatest impact.

Working Together for Wales

A critical five years lie ahead. We know that our work must be guided by financial responsibility and realism. Austerity imposed by the UK Government continues, and objective analysis of the potential impact of Brexit says we should be prepared for a shrinking economy.

However, this Government is committed to not let these uncertainties dictate the terms of this Government. 'Taking Wales Forward' is our statement of intent, and includes our aspiration of a united, connected and sustainable country. Our Draft Budget, published on the 18th October, aligns resources to our priorities. Our four strategies will consider how we can maximise the impact of everything that we do.

Among our four strategies, the Prosperous and Secure strategy will encompass our approach to sustainable growth and ensuring better jobs closer to home, providing secure housing for all, reducing barriers to people gaining and sustaining employment.

The Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure's open invitation for views on economic priorities to ensure "a fairer, more prosperous and more secure Wales" this summer will help steer our work in delivering more growth and better jobs. With this in mind, we are keen to engage with you all on the economic development principles which will influence all four strategies and also to bring fresh thinking to our interventions ensuring they are interconnected, cross-cutting and provide positive outcomes in all aspects of the Government's programme.

Today presents a valuable opportunity to collectively consider the ways in which we can work together to deliver on all of the ambitions and commitments contained within our programme for Government.

Points for discussion:

- What do members see as the challenges in delivering Taking Wales Forward?
- How can we work together to maximise delivery of the aspirations set out in Taking Wales Forward?"