

By email

1st of February 2024

Dear Chief Executive,

I am writing to you about our joint role in delivering the Well-being of Future Generations Act and how we must consider the interests of future generations in the challenging budget setting circumstances we face. Please share this letter with your directors of finance.

The budget constraints come at a difficult time, in a period of polycrisis, including climate change, biodiversity loss, pandemics, the rising cost of living, and conflicts, which together are having a significant, immediate, and detrimental impact on the lives of the people in Wales.

In this time of budget challenges, it is important we avoid short-term, sticking plaster solutions as we know this will only serve to store up problems for the future. Instead, we must continue to follow the direction of the Well-being of Future Generations Act.

We must continue to take forward our commitments to current and future generations to remedy the root causes of problems, not just the symptoms, for a better future for everyone.

I recently gave evidence to the Finance Committee on their 2023-2024 budget where I challenged Welsh Government's use of the Well-being of Future Generations Act in setting their draft budget. I also urged Welsh Government to do more to support public bodies and PSBs (Public Services Boards) to implement their well-being objectives and to involve public bodies further in their budget decision-making process.

I would like to re-emphasise the importance of ensuring that the spending of public funds is aligned with the well-being goals, the five ways of working, and the corporate areas of change.

More than ever, it is important to build resilience wherever we can and protect preventative action, so we do not face greater challenges in future.

The Corporate Areas of Change (i.e. corporate planning, financial planning, workforce planning, procurement, assets, risk management and performance management), outlined in the Well-being of Future Generations Act's Statutory Guidance, ask that public bodies clearly demonstrate how they are considering the legislation in their financial, risk, and asset planning.

I would be interested to learn more about how you are considering the interests of future generations when you are setting your budget this year.

Please share with me information about your approach so I can share examples of good practice with other Welsh public bodies.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate my commitment to supporting you and your team as we navigate this difficult period.

Over the next twelve months, I will increase the support my office provides you to apply the Well-being of Future Generations Act to inform budget making decisions.

Yours sincerely



Derek Walker

Comisiynydd Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol Cymru

Future Generations Commissioner for Wales