

An opportunity to work with us

Specification: Support with monitoring Welsh Government budget process

Introduction

This specification is open to anyone interested in an opportunity to work with the office of the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales on supporting and monitoring how Welsh Government are embedding the Well-being of Future Generations Act into their strategic budget process.

We welcome applications from interested individuals or consortia on individual or all elements of the work.

Before submitting a proposal, we also advise interested providers to familiarise themselves with:

- The requirements of the [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act](#);
- The Act's associated statutory guidance: [Shared Purpose, Shared Future](#);
- The recommendations made by the Commissioner to Welsh Government in 2018: [Advice to Welsh Government on taking account of the Well-being of Future Generations Act in the budget process.](#)

Proposals should be sent to contactus@futuregenerations.wales 'FAO Cathy Madge' by 5pm on Monday 6th May. If you are shortlisted, you will be invited to present your ideas at a session during the week commencing 20th May with a view to beginning the work in June.

For further information, please contact Eurgain Powell - Eurgain.powell@futuregenerations.wales

Context

"We hope that what Wales is doing today the world will do tomorrow. Action, more than words, is the hope for our current and future generations." - Nikhil Seth, United Nations

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 ("the Act") is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The aim is to make public bodies think more about the long-term, work better with people, with communities and each other and seek to prevent problems occurring and tackle common issues by taking a more joined-up approach.

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

- 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
- A globally responsible Wales

The Act introduced a new Future Generations Commissioner for Wales ("the Commissioner") - the guardian for the interests of future generations in Wales. Her role is to support the 44 public bodies, including the Welsh Government, to work towards achieving the well-being goals and to monitor and report on their progress. You can find out more about the role of the Commissioner [here](#).

The Act puts in place a 'sustainable development principle' which tells organisations how to go about meeting their duty under the Act. Public bodies need to make sure that when making their decisions they take into account the impact they could have on people living their lives in Wales in the future. There are five things that public bodies need to think about to show that they have applied the sustainable development principle. Following these ways of working will help us work together better, avoid repeating past mistakes and tackle some of the long-term challenges we are facing.

Five ways of working

Long-term - The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long-term needs.

Prevention - How acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help public bodies meet their objectives.

Integration - Considering how the public body's well-being objectives may impact upon each of the well-being goals, on their other objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies.

Collaboration - Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the body itself) that could help the body to meet its well-being objectives.

Involvement - The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves.

The **Welsh Government budget strategy and decision-making processes** are a fundamental part of driving change across public services in Wales as they frame a significant proportion of decisions made by public bodies. The Commissioner has been providing advice and assistance to Welsh Government over the last few years on how they can better reflect the five ways of working in the budget process and ensure that spending decisions enable them to meet their well-being objectives.

Last year the Commissioner scrutinised the draft budget (2019-20), considering how the budget as a whole reflects the Act, and also with more detailed exploration of budget decisions related to mental health, decarbonisation and social care. She gave evidence to the National Assembly for Wales Finance Committee based on this scrutiny - the transcript is available at <http://record.assembly.wales/Committee/5140#A46804>

In December 2018 the Commissioner published advice to Welsh Government with 10 recommendations for how they should build on the progress they have made to take more ambitious and transformational steps from 2019 onwards. These recommendations relate to:

- A. Developing an approach to checking year-on-year progress to considering the Well-being of Future Generations Act in the budget process;
- B. Using the UK Government spending review as an opportunity to take further steps toward a long-term approach;
- C. Applying the definition of prevention across Government and public services;
- D. Understanding the desired balance of investment in preventative approaches across Government, and embedding preventative approaches accordingly;
- E. Ensuring that investment in decarbonisation reflects ambition.

A copy of this report and recommendations can be found here: <http://futuregenerations.wales/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/2018-11-29-FGC-Budget-Recommendations-ENG.pdf>

The purpose of this specification is to set out requirements for the next phase of budget scrutiny work and the areas the Commissioner wishes to focus on in 2019.

The work

For 2019 the budget work will have three areas of focus - all areas include initial work to be part of the Commissioner's advice and support to Welsh Government, followed by a focus on monitoring implementation. We welcome interest from those able to support individual areas or all three.

1. Working with Welsh Government to co-produce a "Journey" to illustrate the steps they should be taking under the Well-being of Future Generations Act, from simple changes to leading the way; monitoring the budget against this framework.

Further information about the Commissioners work on Journeys in relation to the well-being goals is available at <https://futuregenerations.wales/news/we-want-your-views-on-the-journey-to-the-wales-of-the-possible%e2%80%af/>.

Initial discussions have taken place with Governments in other countries about this work; and there is particular interest from the New Zealand Government who have pioneered an approach to well-being budgeting. There may be opportunities to work jointly to share learning and develop thinking and practice in this field.



2. Using the definition of prevention agreed by Welsh Government last year, focusing on how Welsh Government's budget process is prioritising investment in prevention; and monitor this.
3. Following the publication of 'Prosperity for All: A Low Carbon Wales' and the focus on decarbonisation, further work to assess the level of investment needed to support decarbonisation priorities; and to monitor this.

'Prosperity for All: A Low Carbon Wales' is available at <https://gweddiill.gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/climatechange/emissions/prosperity-for-all-a-low-carbon-wales/?lang=en>

The work will be phased; indicative timescales as follows:

June- July	Co-produce Journey to be published mid/late July
August - September	A. Develop indicative estimates for investment needed to support priorities within Low Carbon Wales. B. Scope opportunities for prioritising investment in prevention.
October - November	Analyse draft budget with a focus on preventative spend and decarbonisation.

The Commissioner will establish a working group of experts to act as a 'sounding board' and advise her on the work.

This provider/s will need to:

- A) Work with the Commissioner's office to agree a project plan within the timescales for delivery (June - November 2019).
- B) Agree an approach to the project in a way that uses the five ways of working within the Act (see above).
- C) Have a willingness to work collaboratively, in partnership with others.
- D) Build on previous recommendations and expectations issued by the Commissioner; as well as looking at best practice from elsewhere.
- E) Collate evidence gathered into a series of outputs (for both internal and external use), written in Plain English and easily accessible.
- F) Provide any raw data and analysis to the Commissioner for the internal use of the office.

Our indicative budget to complete this work is £20,000.

The provider/s will work with the Commissioner between June and November 2019, with a view to publishing recommendations in November/December 2019.

A contract detailing the terms and conditions of the work will be agreed between the provider/s and the Commissioner prior to the start of work.

The requirements

The following requirements are mandatory:

- Experience of analysing large amounts of information to form broader conclusions;
- Some familiarity with the Welsh Government budget process;
- Comprehensive understanding of what the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act is aiming to achieve, both through legal requirements and its broader intentions;
- Demonstrable commitment to working in new ways that support implementation of the Act, maximising opportunities for learning and relationship building with the Commissioner's office and contributing to other areas of work in development.

In addition, it would be helpful if you have experience of working in fields related to:

- Prevention and preventative spend
- Decarbonisation

Your proposal

Your proposal should include:

1. The approaches you would take to deliver the work detailed above.
2. How you would meet the requirements outlined above deliver the work in a manner which supports the Commissioner's emphasis on collaboration, partnership working and maximising learning.
3. Ideas for undertaking this work in an innovative and inclusive way with particular reference to how the Commissioner and public bodies can use the analysis to further the aims of the Act.
4. A full breakdown of costs against outputs.

Timescales

Please send your proposals to contactus@futuregenerations.wales 'FAO Cathy Madge' by 5pm on Monday 6th May. If you are shortlisted, you will be invited to present your ideas at a session during the week commencing Monday 20th May with a view to beginning the work in June.

A contract will then need to be agreed between the provider/s and the Commissioner.