



Wales Safer Communities Network response to: Climate Committee: Review of the Committee's priorities for the Sixth Senedd

Closed 15 September 2023

Response submitted via the online survey.

Questions:

1. What are your views on the Committee's three strategic priorities: Climate Change; Sustainable Communities; and Protecting and enhancing the natural environment?

In principle, we agree with all three strategic priorities. We agree that as broad headings they have not yet been delivered upon and as such appear to remain relevant.

2. To what extent are the Committee's three strategic priorities still relevant, reflecting on social, economic and environmental developments since they were set at the start of the Sixth Senedd?

The three are still relevant, however the impact of the cost of living may have an impact on the speed of delivery and may need to be reviewed. For example, if Council's have to reduce the frequency of waste collections or charge for garden waste the targets or aims may not be delivered and could result in increases in fly tipping, littering, uncontrolled or planned controlled fires.

The cost of living could also impact on the ability of the population of Wales to afford to make changes that would enable the committee's aims. This may mean the need to adjust the timelines or to identify alternatives or ways to assist the affordability. There is news of a reduction in bus services which will likely to have an impact on the possibility of people being able to use the bus as an alternative sustainable form of transport.

3. What are your view on the Committee's detailed priorities/outline programme of work for Years 3 to 5 of the Sixth Senedd (set out in its report, Priorities for the Sixth Senedd)?

We agree with delivering on Prosperity for All: A Climate Conscious Wales but think that it may need to be reviewed how this will be achieved in the light of the cost of living and the increasing rates of poverty and debt and how this could be



achieved alongside other relevant strategies such as the Child Poverty Strategy (draft consultation ended on 11 September 2023).

The review of the National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management in Wales should be completed taking into account the impact on possible community safety and community cohesion, and linking in with water safety.

Reviewing the planning framework as proposed we would suggest should include building in community wellbeing but also planning and building to prevent anti-social behaviour or criminal activity. The inclusion of health and community safety as part of the engagement for all planning may help prevent future problems due to poor design.

Protecting and enhancing the natural environment we think may be worth considering an action in regard to the prevention of uncontrolled fires and to reducing fly tipping and littering all of which has a detrimental impact on the natural environment.

4. To what extent are the Committee's detailed priorities/outline programme of work still relevant, reflecting on social, economic and environmental developments since they were set at the start of the Sixth Senedd?

In our opinion the priorities remain relevant.

5. Are there any other matters related to the Committee's priorities/work programme/ways of working that you would like to comment on?

We have no additional comments.