



Ein cyf/Our ref WQ87271 - WQ87272

Paul Davies MS
Welsh Parliament
paul.davies@senedd.wales

16 February 2023

Dear Paul,

I write in response to WQ87271 and WQ87272.

WQ87271: Will the Minister provide an update on the work of the Ministerial advisory board task and finish group on the foundational economy?

WQ87272: Will the Minister confirm how many projects have received funding from the foundational economy challenge fund?

The work of the Ministerial advisory board task and finish group culminated in a [delivery plan published](#) under the previous administration on 7 April 2021:

The Delivery Plan has helped shape ongoing foundational economy activity, focusing on strategic priorities covering decarbonisation, food, social care and procurement, including:

- Grant funding issued to residential care homes to support investment in low carbon, energy efficient equipment;
- Funding of hygiene accreditation costs for food producers and suppliers;
- Projects to assist the social care sector to test approaches to address the recruitment and capacity crisis across the sector; and
- Supporting NHS Wales to embed social value within their procurement process, opening up more opportunities for local businesses to win public contracts.

The Foundational Economy Challenge Fund was launched in 2019 and fifty-two projects were supported within a budget of £4.5m. The projects closed in March 2021.

The outputs from these projects have informed further funded foundational economy activity in the areas related to decarbonisation, food, social care and procurement.

Yours sincerely,

Vaughan Gething AS/MS
Gweinidog yr Economi
Minister for Economy

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We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.