



Ein cyf/Our ref WAQ79054

Huw Irranca-Davies AM
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18 December 2019

Dear Huw,

Thank you for your Written Assembly Question of 31 October requesting an update on the recommendations made by the Commission for Co-operatives and Mutuals, which was published in 2014 and reviewed in 2015.

I have commissioned a review of the progress in delivering the recommendations and I attach an update. As you will see there have been significant progress in a number of areas, including:

- Introduction of a dedicated business support service for the sector;
- EU funds approved to support a new Social Business Wales Start-up programme;
- Funding to support the establishment of Social Enterprise Academy Wales;
- Over £4.5 million allocated to the Foundational Challenge Fund to support experimental projects, supporting 52 projects across Wales, 20 of which have a third sector lead, that includes a variety of different types of organisations including Social Enterprise, Charities and voluntary bodies;
- Social Service and Well Being Act and the Well-Being of Future Generations Act legislation used to promote social outcomes in procurement,
- Better Jobs Closer to Home pilot project has three pilots underway with social businesses in the South Wales Valleys, seeking to use public procurement regulations allowing direct award to community enterprises.

However, some areas have not progressed as recommended by the report and clearly more work is needed, especially for social enterprise to realise its potential. I would welcome an open conversation with the sector on next steps.

Yours sincerely

Lee Waters AC/AM
Dirprwy Weinidog yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth
Deputy Minister for Economy and Transport

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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.