

ROCP 14, Coed Cadw - the Woodland Trust

Senedd Cymru | Welsh Parliament

Pwyllgor Newid Hinsawdd, yr Amgylchedd a Seilwaith | Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee

Adolygiad o flaenoriaethau'r Pwyllgor ar gyfer y Chweched Senedd | Review of the Committee's priorities for the Sixth Senedd

Ymateb gan Coed Cadw | Evidence from Woodland Trust in Wales

Your views

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

They are important and suitably broad themes.

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?

Still very relevant. Recent developments might increase focus on the impact on these priorities of austerity and the cost of living crisis. Climate change, unsustainable communities and environmental damage are fundamental drivers of the cost of living crisis.

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?)

Climate change - detailed priorities still very relevant, and urgency increasing, with increased public awareness of impact of extreme weather including extreme heat - how ready is Wales for that? How successful will the new sustainable farming scheme be in delivering climate goals?

Sustainable communities - welcome review of planning framework. Relationship between renewables, de-carbonising housing and cost of living issues? (as someone who has just installed heat pump and solar pv). Green space provision, tree equity, addressing urban heat island issue. Check your postcode: Is your

constituency vulnerable to extreme heat? <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-62243280>

Environment - all very relevant especially with legislation proposed. Role of pollution, and the failure to take responsibility for it, in driving the nature crisis.

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?

See above comment re cost of living crisis.

We also fear that there is an increasing governance gap in the UK which is allowing levelling down of environmental protection through centralised and unaccountable decision making. This risks undermining the effectiveness of civil society including charities.

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

No response.

6. Other information

We will shortly be publishing a policy document Trees and Woodland: at the Heart of Nature Recovery. We have invited the Minister to speak at a Senedd Event on 7th November (sponsor Delyth Jewell MS) . Part of the ask from a Welsh teenager, which provides the foreword for our document (and the basis for a possible Senedd Petition: "Don't let our future generations' connection with nature be severed and replaced by TikToks or YouTube videos of long-lost extinct wildlife").
