

Ken Skates MS
Cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales

29 October 2024

Draft Budget scrutiny 2025-26

Dear Ken,

The Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee has started its preparations for scrutiny of the Welsh Government's draft Budget for 2025-26.

We understand the draft budget will be published on 10 December 2024, and the previous Cabinet Secretary for Finance committed that the Welsh Government would "provide the English versions of the evidence papers to Committees on the day after the Draft Budget is published". We anticipate holding a scrutiny session with you in January 2025 and the Committee's Clerking team will be in touch with your office in due course to arrange a suitable date for the session.

To assist the Committee in its preparations, I would be grateful if you would provide information to address the matters set out in Annex 1 in advance of the scrutiny session. Of course, you should not feel limited by our request and are welcome to address any other matters you believe will assist the Committee in its work.

Yours sincerely,



Llyr Gruffydd MS,
Chair, Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg. / We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.



General

- Details of your priorities and how they are reflected in budget allocations.
- A detailed explanation of how budgetary priorities were determined, particularly in light of inflationary pressures and fiscal constraints.
- A detailed explanation of how the draft budget reflect commitments made in prior financial years, with particular reference to the Committee's report on the 2024-25 draft budget.
- Information on the impact of UK Government policy decisions on budget allocations.

Legislation

- How the draft budget provides for delivery of newly enacted and planned Welsh Government legislation.

Climate Change

Detail of how the draft budget allocations support:

- Delivery of the policies and proposals in the Net Zero Wales plan which fall within your portfolio.

Transport

Detail of how the draft budget allocations support:

- Delivery of the rail franchise and the Welsh Government's rail infrastructure priorities.
- Delivery of the North East Wales, South West Wales and South East Wales Metros.
- The development of Transport for Wales, including its financial stability and the gap between operational costs and farebox revenues; also including a breakdown of TfW's full budget allocation for 2025-26, itemising its corporate budget alongside allocations for delivery of specific programmes as well as rail franchise commitments.
- Investment (both maintenance and improvement) in the trunk road and motorway network including the impact of any planned review of the roads policy statement.
- Maintenance of local highways.
- Delivery of active travel policy, including a summary of planned activity and a table detailing total and per capita allocations for active travel for 2025-26, compared with each of the

preceding three years. Revenue and capital allocations should be clear and broken down by individual funding stream.

- Support for bus and community transport services, including a summary of planned activity and a table detailing total and per capita allocations for 2025-26 compared with each of the preceding three years. Revenue and capital allocations should be clear and the table should be broken down by individual funding stream.
- Support for EV charging infrastructure provision and the strategy / action plan delivery, including a summary of planned activity and a table detailing total and per capita allocations for 2025-26 compared with each of the preceding three years. Revenue and capital allocations should be clear and the table should be broken down by individual funding stream.
- Support for local transport priorities, including delivery of Regional Transport Plans and support for CJs on transport.