

---

# BWLETIN POLISI CYTÛN

## CYTÛN POLICY BULLETIN



### JULY / GORFFENAF 2012

---

GERAINT HOPKINS,

SWYDDOG POLISI,

CYTÛN – EGLWYSI YNGHYD YNG NGHYMRU

## FIRST MINISTER SETS OUT SECOND YEAR LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

First Minister Carwyn Jones has set out Welsh Government's legislative priorities for its second year.

The First Minister made the announcement as he updated Assembly Members on the progress of the Welsh Government's five year legislative programme. During this second year of the Welsh Government's five year legislative programme, a further seven bills will be introduced:

- A new **Control of Dogs Bill** will be introduced next spring to protect the public by promoting responsible dog ownership. Responsible ownership will be fundamental to the changes and through the introduction of Dog Control Notices there will be a strong education and training requirement for both the dogs and their owners or keepers.
- The **Local Democracy Bill** will bring greater transparency around the local elections process and the activities of local representatives.
- The **Human Transplantation Bill** represents a major step forward in implementing a soft opt-out system of consent to donation in Wales. The Bill will be introduced by the end of this year with the view to a new soft opt-out system being implemented in 2015.
- A **Social Services (Wales) Bill** will provide, for the first time, a coherent legal framework for social services in Wales. The Bill will be introduced at the beginning of 2013. The Social Services (Wales) Bill will also combine measures which were to be part of a Children and Young Persons Bill to strengthen our approach to supporting looked after children, to establish a single adoption services for Wales, to review our position on safeguarding and set national standards and to consider the role and function of Local Safeguarding Children Boards.
- A **Regulation and Inspection Bill** will be introduced to cover the regulation and inspection of social care workforce, training and social care services in Wales.

- The **Active Travel Bill** will be introduced early next year which will help the people of Wales become healthier, more active and more environmentally aware we will be introducing;
- A **Public Service Workforce Bill** will be introduced next spring to put the workforce at the centre of public service improvement in Wales.

The First Minister also announced two Education Bills will be introduced which will help build a just, inclusive and fair society:

- **A Further and Higher Education Bill** will implement many of the recommendations of the Humphreys Report on the governance of Further Education Institutions in Wales. It will also make changes to the structure of the body responsible for Higher Education strategic planning and funding and other connected purposes.
- **The Education (Wales) Bill**, This Bill will provide for improved performance management in teaching, reform of the existing system of statements for children and young people with Special Educational Needs.

In addition to these eight bills the Welsh Government will be conducting the following White Paper consultations.

- **The Ending Violence Against Women and Domestic Abuse Bill** which will underpin our integrated strategy for tackling all forms of violence against women and domestic abuse.
- A consultation on the **Sustainable Development Bill** to develop and strengthen the approach to sustainable development in Wales.
- A consultation on the **Environment Bill** that will enable us to secure a more integrated approach to management of the environment.
- This will be followed by a White Paper on the proposed **Tenancy Reform Bill** to cover the reform of tenancies across the social and private housing sectors in Wales.

*You can find out more about the Welsh Government's five year legislative programme [here](#).*

## **WELSH GOVERNMENT WELCOMES RAIL ELECTRIFICATION ANNOUNCEMENT**

**Welsh First Minister, Carwyn Jones and the Minister with responsibility for Transport, Carl Sargeant, have welcomed the announcement that the Great Western Main Line to Swansea and the Valley Lines network will be electrified during the next railway investment period in 2014-19.**

Responding to the announcement, Carwyn Jones, said: "I am delighted that electrification of the Great Western Main Line to Swansea and the Valley Lines network has been included for delivery in the next railway investment period. Investing in our transport infrastructure is vital as we look to improve the economic competitiveness of Wales and the electrification of the Great Western Main Line from Cardiff to Swansea will provide a strengthened east-west economic corridor that will enhance Swansea's role as an economic hub. Today's

announcement supports our argument that Cardiff is not the end of the line or the end of our ambitions for economic prosperity in Wales.”

Carl Sargeant added: “Electrification of the Valley Lines offers the opportunity for a step change in mobility and connectivity to employment centres for our Valleys communities, as well as a larger employment catchment area for businesses looking to invest in the region. The decision to invest in these projects represents the first step towards achieving my vision for a modernised rail infrastructure across the whole of Wales. We can build on this announcement by moving to the next stage in planning a truly integrated transport system for the south-east region.”

The Valley Lines comprise: the Vale of Glamorgan Line (including the Barry and Penarth lines); the Maesteg Line; the Treherbert, Aberdare and Merthyr Tydfil Lines; the Rhymney Line; the Ebbw Vale Line; and the City Line (including the Cardiff Bay and Coryton Lines).

## **REVIEW INTO EUROPEAN PROGRAMMES IN WALES**

**Welsh Deputy Minister for European Programmes, Alun Davies, has announced an independent review of the way Wales manages its European programmes to support continuous improvement and ensure any future programmes achieve the greatest impact in supporting growth and jobs for Wales.**

The review will focus on further simplifying access to funds, the use of procurement in project delivery, and maximising the role of the private sector. It will also address how best to integrate European funding programmes, including the use of a single e-business platform for customers to manage their funding, common eligibility rules, and inspection, financial monitoring and payment systems.

Split into two parts, the review will aim to deliver initial recommendations by end November 2012 and by end February 2013 and will coincide with a full public consultation on the new programmes later this year before formal negotiations begin with European Commission in mid-2013.

The independent review will support the post-2013 development work already underway with Welsh partners – including through the recent Reflection Exercise, European Programmes Partnership Forum and Workstreams.

## **GRANTS TO PROMOTE THE WELSH LANGUAGE**

**The Welsh Government is inviting organisations to apply for grants under its 2013/14 programme to promote the Welsh language.**

The grants will support the objectives of the Welsh Government’s five-year Welsh Language Strategy *A living language: a language for living*. The main focus of the grants will be to support activities that:

- Encourage and support the use of the Welsh language within families.

- Increase the provision of Welsh medium activities for children and young people and to increase their awareness of the value of the language.
- Strengthen the position of the Welsh language in the community.

Applications will also be considered under the other areas of the strategy, which are:

- To increase opportunities for people to use Welsh in the workplace.
- To improve Welsh language services to citizens.
- To strengthen the infrastructure, including technology and media, for the language.

Applications for grants will be accepted from organisations from the third and private sector and from public bodies for activities not covered by their language schemes.

***The closing date for applications is 14 September 2012. Information on how to apply can be found [here](#).***

## **NEW COURSE TO HELP FAMILIES LEARN WELSH TOGETHER**

**A new course to help parents and families learn Welsh with their children has been launched.**

The specially tailored Welsh for Families course will be run by Welsh for Adults Centres and its development was funded by the Welsh Government. The course is aimed at parents and extended family who want to learn Welsh so they can interact with their children who are receiving Welsh-medium education or who are learning Welsh as a second language at school or nursery, with the emphasis firmly on fun and enjoyment.

Supporting materials for the course include a board game, homework book and a CD so parents can learn Welsh with their children through playing, singing and helping with homework. The 120-hour course is suitable for those who have no or very little Welsh and would usually be taught for two hours a week over two years but a more intensive version is available. The course will be popular at schools and teachers or school governors should contact their local Welsh for Adults Centre if they are interested in running a course for parents at their school.

***The Welsh Government provided funding of £99,374 to develop the course. Further information about the Welsh for Families course is available [here](#).***

## **FIRST MINISTER'S MESSAGE FOR RAMADAN**

**First Minister of Wales Carwyn Jones has sent his best wishes to all Muslim communities at the start of the month of Ramadan.**

The First Minister said: "At this time of Ramadan I would like to send my warmest wishes to Muslims in Wales and around the world. Charity, compassion and thinking of others are central to Ramadan and they are values all of us share.

"It is a time for Muslim communities to come together for prayer and reflection, a time for them to share meals and support those less fortunate. I wish all those observing Ramadan a blessed month and peace and happiness throughout the year."

## **FIRST MINISTER SETS OUT HIS VISION OF A 'NEW' UNITED KINGDOM**

**Welsh First Minister, Carwyn Jones has set out his vision of a 'new' United Kingdom during an address last month at Westminster.**

In his first major speech on the issue outside of Wales, the First Minister asked how the different territories of the UK should be governed, and how their governments and legislatures should relate to each other within the UK.

He rejected independence for Wales by setting out his vision of a United Kingdom which he saw as politically diverse, looser, and combining several centres of democratic accountability. He also said the relationship between the devolved nations and the UK Government needs to be reset. He called for the creation of a Constitutional Convention to agree a new constitutional settlement for the UK.

## **WALES RECYCLED ALMOST HALF ITS WASTE DURING 2011/12**

**A new report shows that during 2011/12, 48 per cent of municipal waste was recycled or composted in Wales, a 4 per cent increase on 2010/11's figure of 44 per cent.**

The figures put Wales firmly on track to reach its 2012-2013 statutory target of 52 per cent. Recycling in Wales has increased significantly in recent years including a series of waste milestones including:

- Wales is the only country in the UK to introduce statutory recycling targets for municipal waste
- Wales is the only country in the UK in which all local authorities operate a separate food or food and green waste collection
- Wales is the first country in the UK to introduce the Landfill Allowances Scheme
- Wales is the first country in the UK to introduce charges for single-use carrier bags

The Welsh Government has a set of challenging targets of 70% recycling by 2025 and zero waste by 2050.

*The figures are available [here](#).*

## **FUNDING TO LESSEN IMPACT OF POVERTY ON FAMILIES**

**Welsh Government funding worth nearly £42 million a year to support Wales' most vulnerable and disadvantaged families was announced this month by Gwenda Thomas, Deputy Minister for Children and Social Services.**

The funding for the Families First programme includes £3 million for projects with a focus on disability. Families First is delivered by local authorities in response to locally identified needs, with services and projects targeting families threatened or affected by poverty.

The Welsh Government's Families First programme aims to:

- Help working age people in low income families gain, and progress within employment.
- Encourage children, young people and families, in or at risk of poverty, to achieve their potential.
- Ensure children, young people and families are healthy and safe.

The Welsh Government has said that it will continue to focus on the early years through programmes like Flying Start and the Foundation Phase. Flying Start has received a significant increase in funding. The key difference is that Families First extends support to all age groups.

*You can find out more about Families First [here](#).*

## **NEW LEARNING DIFFICULTIES PROGRAMME TO ASSIST ALL AGE GROUPS**

**Welsh Deputy Minister for Skills, Jeff Cuthbert, has announced a new programme of actions to help people with specific learning difficulties, including dyslexia, at all ages and at all stages of life.**

The Welsh Government has set out how it will develop a framework for specific learning difficulties. The aim of the framework would be to provide guidance for people of all ages as well as parents and carers, education establishments, employers, public employees and the general public. The framework would take account of current provision for specific learning difficulties available in each local authority and tools that have already been developed for individual specific learning needs, including dyslexia.

The framework will also seek to engage with all education establishments to ensure that all learners who have specific learning difficulties are supported.

To take this work further, the Deputy Minister has also announced the establishment of a Task Group to assess existing resources, develop new resources for Dyslexia in English and Welsh as required and also ensure that links are made with policy across Welsh Government Departments. These will focus specifically on:

- Identifying appropriate actions within the national literacy programme.
- Employability policies and support.

- Refining data collection for specific learning difficulties to enable better comparative data for all ages and stages.

## **OLYMPIC TEAMS WELCOMED BY FIRST MINISTER**

**Welsh First Minister Carwyn Jones held a special reception for representatives from the national Olympic teams who have been based in Wales ahead of the London 2012 Games.**

At the event in Cardiff Bay he welcomed members of the teams who have used locations across Wales to prepare for the biggest international sporting event in the world. The Olympic teams who have been based in Wales are Russia, Botswana, Hong Kong, New Zealand, Trinidad and Tobago, Lesotho and the Amateur International Boxing Association.

The Legacy Trust 'Follow the Flame' exhibition will be on show during the reception. The exhibition uses the 2012 Games as the impetus to explore and celebrate the inspiring history of often-forgotten Welsh men and women who attended the Games. The First Minister used the reception as an opportunity to promote Wales as a training destination ahead of the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.

**GERAINT HOPKINS  
POLICY OFFICER, CYTÛN**