

[A week to go – have your say on post-Brexit farming support in Wales](#)

The UK will leave the common Agricultural Policy next year and the Brexit and our Land consultation, launched in July, proposes a new Land Management Programme in Wales to support farmers post-Brexit.

The new Land Management Programme consists of two large, flexible schemes – the Economic Resilience Scheme and the Public Goods Scheme. Farmers will be able to participate in both schemes.

The consultation is open until 30 October.

Cabinet Secretary said:

“There is now a week to go until our consultation ‘Brexit and our Land’ closes – one of the most important consultations for the farming sector in generations.

“That is why I launched the consultation ahead of the Royal Welsh Show and made it the longest consultation I’ve held so we could have a genuine debate on our proposals.

“Brexit brings with it unprecedented challenges and means we will have to do things in a different way. We have always been clear maintaining the status quo is not an option and the UK will leave the Common Agricultural Policy next year. So we need to design the best system for farm support in Wales and that is what we are currently consulting on.

“Our proposals aim to keep farmers farming. However, the proposals are just that – proposals. All consultation responses will be carefully considered and we will consult further in the Spring.

“My message to farmers and anyone with an interest in land management is simple – there has never been such an important time to get involved and help us shape the future of farming in Wales. Have your say by 30 October.”

[New measures to build on Wales’](#)

recycling success

The Minister will announce more than £50m capital funding over the next three years will be provided to support service changes and provide new infrastructure in Wales.

A new £500,000 behaviour change and enforcement campaign to raise public awareness of what households should recycle will get underway, working in partnership with Local Authorities and WRAP. Recent studies have shown more than half of waste put into black bins in Wales could be recycled.

The Minister will confirm that local authorities' recycling grants will not be cut to fund other council services, while an extra £15.5m will be used to improve collections in the Vale of Glamorgan, Pembrokeshire and Denbighshire.

The Welsh Government also plans to consult on new statutory guidance for local authorities. New regulations are also planned to require businesses to separate their waste in the way households already do.

The Welsh Government and the UK government will consult on a Deposit Return Scheme and Extended Producer Responsibility before Christmas. Welsh Ministers are also in discussions with the UK Government on possible taxation measures to tackle plastic waste, including a potential tax on single-use plastics.

The latest annual figures showed that Wales' municipal recycling rate is now 63%, against a national target of 58%. Wales is also first in the UK, second in Europe and third in the world for household recycling.

Hannah Blythyn said:

“Recycling is a Welsh success story and something we should be proud of. People in Wales have embraced the need to recycle and the Welsh Government and our partners have supported this through innovative policies, financial support and education campaigns.

“But we want to do more. Improving recycling rates again will require further support and more concerted and intensive interventions. That is why I am today announcing new measures to build on our success to date. Over the next three years we are providing more than £50m of capital to provide new infrastructure and ultimately help realise our ambition. We're also working with local government to increase their ability to recycle items like mattresses, nappies, wood and textiles.

“Wales leads the way on recycling in the UK, but we are not complacent. We want to continue working with our partners, and the people of Wales, to go from first in the United Kingdom, to first in the world.”

Ministers confirm £180m to deliver seamless health and social care in Wales

Health and Social Services Secretary, Vaughan Gething and Minister for Children, Older People and Social Care, Huw Irranca-Davies today set out their spending priorities for 2019-20.

Earlier this year, the Welsh Government published A Healthier Wales, the long-term plan for health and social care in Wales.

As part of the process of transforming the health and social care system, the Welsh Government wants everyone to have access to a single integrated package of health and social care when they need it. This may be delivered by several different services, according to people's needs.

Health and Social Services Secretary Vaughan Gething said:

“In Wales, we've set out a clear vision to transform the health and care system. People will receive a single integrated package of support for health and social care tailored to their needs and preferences.

“The £180m package of investment we're confirming today for health and social care in Wales represents a significant additional investment next year. It will be targeted across the health and social care system, to reflect the integrated approach we are promoting towards the development of seamless models of care.”

A package of £130m funding in 2019-20 will help to deliver the single integrated package of support and will be available to health and social care regional partnerships throughout Wales. The funding will be allocated across three main areas:

- £50m of revenue funding for the Integrated Care Fund, which aims to reduce pressure on the hospital and social care system by helping to prevent unnecessary hospital admissions, inappropriate admissions to residential care, and delayed hospital discharges
- £30m to be allocated through the regional partnership boards – these are shared decision-making bodies between health boards and local authorities. Regional partnership boards will play a leading role in the delivery of A Healthier Wales
- £50m for the Transformation Fund, which will be allocated to programmes endorsed by regional partnership boards, to take forward the development

and implementation of new models of care.

Ministers have also confirmed local authority social care services will receive £50m next year – £20m will be provided as part of the local government revenue support grant and a further £30m as a specific grant from the health and social services budget.

Minister for Children, Older People and Social Care, Huw Irranca-Davies added:

“The £50m additional investment we’re making in social care will help services meet the growing demand for services and the needs of individuals in communities’ right across Wales.

“This wider package of investment demonstrates our commitment to the development of a truly seamless health and social care system in Wales.”

The announcement comes as the Welsh Government will today publish stage two of the draft Budget 2019-20 – the detailed spending proposals set out how the funding to each government portfolio will be allocated to individual programmes and grants.

Consultation launch – Action on Disability: the Right to Independent Living

Replacing the 2013 ‘Framework for Action on Independent Living’, the new approach focuses on key issues identified by disabled people including transport, employment, housing and access to buildings and places.

Disabled people have been consulted throughout the framework’s review, which was overseen by a Steering Group led by Disability Wales.

Contributions to the consultation have come through workshops run across the country, including people with expertise and experience of a wide range of disabilities; through hundreds of emails, letters and phone calls and through conversations in homes, workplaces, schools and communities.

One of the key messages to come out of the engagement process was that, while Welsh Government legislation, policies and programmes are in place to support equality for disabled people, there are often problems with local implementation.

The new framework and accompanying action plan set out how Welsh Government is fulfilling its obligations in relation to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and also highlights the role of key legislation, including the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and Welsh Government's national strategy: Prosperity for All.

Underlying the whole framework is the "Social Model of Disability" which recognises the need for societal change – removing barriers so that disabled people are able to participate fully.

There are 75,000 disabled people in Wales who are either actively seeking work or would like to work. They are often being held back by barriers beyond their control, such as organisational systems and other people's attitudes as well as physical and environmental barriers.

Just 45% of working age disabled people in Wales are currently in employment, compared to 80% of those not disabled. This is a shocking 35% "disability employment gap".

Julie James, Leader of the House and Chief Whip, said:

"The Welsh Government is committed to helping disabled people to fulfil their potential, achieve their ambitions and realise their dreams. Disabled people tell us time and again there are many barriers which frustrate them – it is imperative we break these down.

"Tackling these challenges, whether they be physical obstacles such as inaccessible buildings or something more entrenched like people's attitudes, will require real partnership working to create real change. We'll achieve the best results by working with disabled people so we understand the issues properly and find the right solutions.

"I commend this framework for encouraging action with and for disabled people across the whole of Wales. I would urge everyone to respond to the consultation."

Rhian Davies, Chief Executive of Disability Wales, said:

"The Right to Independent Living and being included in the community is fundamental to the draft Framework for Action on Disability. This doesn't mean doing everything for yourself but having appropriate support and access to the necessary resources where needed, as well as action by government and wider society in tackling longstanding barriers in education, employment, housing and transport.

"The aspiration behind the draft Framework is nothing less than the creation of an inclusive nation where all disabled people enjoy

their rights on the same basis as others.”

The consultation is open from Monday 22nd October and will close on Friday 18th January 2019.

[Welsh food and drinks businesses take centre stage at international trade event](#)

Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs Lesley Griffiths will join a Food and Drink Wales delegation of thirteen leading companies from across the sector at the biennial Salon International de 'Alimentation (SIAL).

The Cabinet Secretary will meet exhibitors and customers to discuss export opportunities and will attend a Meat Promotion Wales / Hybu Cig Cymru reception to highlight the importance of the food and drink and the red meat sectors in Wales.

Speaking during the SIAL event, which will see more than 7,000 companies from 109 countries networking and exhibiting their produce, the Cabinet Secretary said it was more important than ever that Welsh businesses forged links with partners across Europe and seize every opportunity to export their goods further afield.

The Cabinet Secretary said Welsh food and drink businesses must grab the opportunity to meet with potential trade partners ahead of the uncertainty of Brexit and showcase their world renowned produce. The Welsh food and drinks industry has shown growth in recent years, with the value of exports for 2017 of £527.4million, representing a rise of 21.1%, and up £91.8million from 2016.

With the value of exports of food and drink from Wales to the European Community also increasing by £47.6million between 2016 and 2017, representing a 13.2% rise, Lesley Griffiths has urged Welsh businesses to use opportunities like SIAL to build relationships and showcase their produce to wider markets.

The Welsh Government provides a comprehensive range of programmes to support Welsh food and drink producers to increase their exports. This support ranges from bespoke one to one advice about export strategies and market selection, to exhibiting at key events like SIAL.

The Welsh Government Food and Drink Wales presence at SIAL is a vital

exhibition to showcase the variety and quality of food and drink products from Wales to develop new business contacts, enhance their profile and maximise their potential market sales.

Lesley Griffiths said:

“SIAL is a fantastic opportunity for Welsh businesses to showcase the high quality food and drink they produce, as they strive to build relationships with others and their markets.

“Our efforts in raising our profile are making a real difference. Over the past year alone, our food and drink exports have increased by 20% and passed the £500m milestone for the first time.

“However, in these challenging times with Brexit now just a few months away, it is more important than ever that Welsh companies raise their international profile and proactively sell their produce to the world.

“Meat and meat products remain the top Welsh food and drink exports to the European Community, making up more than a quarter of the value of all exports in this category, and we need businesses from this sector to strengthen these ties and build even more partnerships to guarantee their future sustainability.”

Kevin Roberts, Chairman of Hybu Cig Cymru, said:

“Exports are vital for the red meat sector, and contribute over £180m a year to the Welsh economy. Contacts made at SIAL Paris and similar trade events lead directly to new business. We’re pleased that five meat exporters are attending this year as part of a strong Welsh food and drink contingent.

“Since the Cabinet Secretary announced the £1.5 million in financial support for HCC to boost export development this time last year, we have redoubled our efforts to build on business with existing clients, as well as expanding the reach of PGI Welsh Lamb and PGI Welsh Beef into even more countries where it is highly sought-after and respected.”

Wales’ largest and oldest dairy co-operative South Caernarfon Creameries (SCC) will be attending SIAL and showcasing cheeses in their Dragon range, produced on the Llyn Peninsula using 100% Welsh milk from farms across North and Mid Wales.

Alan Wyn Jones, Managing Director of South Caernarfon Creameries, said:

“The event is a massive benefit to South Caernarfon Creameries

because it provides us with a shop window to reach out and extend our markets.

“These are exciting times for SCC and following a £13m investment in our cheesemaking and packing plant at Chwillog, increasing exports from 5% to 15% of our sales is an important goal in our ongoing growth strategy over the next few years.

“We’re looking forward to reinforcing lots of our connections in the industry having significantly increased exports since attending SIAL last year, as well as making new contacts in the global marketplace.”

John Cullen, sales director at GRH Food Company Ltd, which has previously attended the SIAL conference as a visitor and will be exhibiting for the first time this year, said that it had been invaluable for the development of the Gwynedd-based cheese businesses.

In the last two years the company has increasingly exported to Europe, North America and the Middle East, as well as across the UK. It has also moved to a new 43,500 sq ft facility at Snowdonia Business Park, Minffordd near Porthmadog, after securing a £1.7million grant from the Welsh Government’s Rural Communities – Rural Development Programme 2014-2020, as part of a £6.5million investment.

“It’s important for Welsh food and drink businesses to get more involved with conferences like these while the opportunity is still there,” said John Cullen.

“It’s a very important stage for networking and helps put Welsh food and drink businesses on the map. You have to be there in one way or another, as a visitor or exhibitor, to make those connections. International backers will take you more seriously if you are at these exhibitions.”

SIAL is held in Paris, France, from 21-25 October 2018.