Dear Colleague,


The focus on Sustainable Development is welcomed by the Cardiff Partnership. The White Paper featured as an agenda item at the December meeting of the Cardiff Partnership Board. The clear consensus amongst Board members that sustainable development should be a central organising principle of the Welsh Government and Welsh public service organisations is shared by all of the Partnership.

The new duty requires sustainable development to be embedded within strategic decision making processes and organisations to clearly identify the outcomes that they are working towards. We will reflect on the most appropriate mechanism for demonstrating this in due course, however Cardiff has already taken the progressive step of integrating four previously separate statutory strategies under seven shared outcomes.

The seven outcomes clearly represent long term aspirations relating to economic, social and environmental well-being. The new approach to collaboration in Cardiff also provides clear governance arrangements for partnership working. It allows for a consistent approach to performance management designed to demonstrate how individual projects and interventions impact the broader outcomes.

In this way, the Cardiff Partnership has pre-empted many of the requirements of the Bill. We have strengthened our partnership governance framework in relation to sustainable development and secured better decision making to improve the wellbeing of the city.

The Partnership therefore welcomes the recognition within the Bill that public service providers are required to work together at both local and regional levels in order to achieve shared outcomes. This level of collaboration is essential to achieving the outcomes that matter most to citizens.

It is therefore important that local collaboration is enshrined in statute. This is particularly relevant as there is a real concern that- given budgetary
pressures- individual organisations may retrench from the level of collaboration needed to achieve meaningful change in priority areas.

The Cardiff Partnership would therefore encourage the Welsh Government to legislate, through the Sustainable Development Bill, and put the Local Service Board on a statutory footing.

This is also important as there is a clear need to establish an appropriate mechanism for coordinating a number of funding streams previously administered by the separate statutory partnerships.

The Locals Service Boards across Wales could ensure that, as partnerships are integrated, different funding streams are coordinated effectively to achieve shared outcomes. This would also ensure that all key local service providers have the opportunity to influence how spending is allocated with due regard given to sustainable development.

Looking forward, the challenge for all partners invested in achieving a genuinely sustainable future is about more than simply demonstrating sustainable development as a guiding principle. It is about collaborating effectively at all levels of government to exploit opportunities that promote the well-being of our communities.

This will require a progressive approach across a range of policy areas, covering such issues as early intervention, localising energy generation and coordinated investment in key strategic projects.

We trust you will find this response useful and we look forward to taking this important agenda forward, together.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Heather Joyce
Leader, Cardiff Council and
Chair of the Cardiff Partnership Leadership Group