Dear Colleague

In recent years funding to support Local Service Board development has been provided for local authorities via the European Social Fund project in Convergence areas and via the LSB grant in the non-Convergence areas.

Last year the Minister for Public Services agreed a final, additional year of transitional funding for each LSB for 2015-16 to enable continuity of support and maintain momentum whilst acting as a bridging arrangement in preparation for the changes the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act will bring. That funding has now come to an end.

Public Services Boards (PSBs) will be established on 1 April 2016. The first task for PSBs will be the preparation of a local well-being assessment. A robust assessment will be at the core of a successful PSB because it will provide the evidence from which the PSB's activity will be planned and prioritised. Clear feedback from the consultation on the guidance on the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act showed concern about having the capacity and capability to complete this work.

Therefore support from Welsh Government will be in the form of:

- Developing a common data set at a national level which all PSBs will be able to draw on, led by the Local Government Data Unit Wales;
- Facilitating the sharing of good practice, through regular networking meetings;
- Further nationally provided capability building activity, which will be commissioned nationally and available for PSBs to draw on;
- Ensuring appropriate analytical expertise is in place locally to undertake the assessments by making funding available regionally, specifically to support analytical capacity.

Further details of the arrangements for the each component of the above will follow, including the criteria and process by which funding to support the analytical work involved in the local well-being assessments can be accessed.
A copy of this letter has been sent to all Local Service Board Chairs, Local Authority Chief Executives and the WLGA.

Yours sincerely

Claire Bennett
Deputy Director, Local Government: Transformation and Partnerships