



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Tueddiadau'r Dyfodol Future Trends



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

www.cymru.gov.uk

Future Trends Wales - Planning and Acting with the Future in Mind.....

Jonathan Price

Chief Economist, Welsh Government



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

www.cymru.gov.uk

Deddf Llesiant Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol (Cymru) 2015

Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Tueddiadau'r Dyfodol Future Trends



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

www.cymru.gov.uk

Future Trends Wales

Building a shared resource for better
long term decision making in Wales

Future Trends



Why should we make thinking about future trends / data a “daily habit”

- **Thinking for the long term doesn't come naturally** – but scientific evidence and data are on hand to help, if we have the good sense to pay attention to them...
- Social, environmental, economic & cultural trends interact with each other – so **we need to think laterally** about those interactions, as well as long term.
- Doing so will help **prevent** misguided investments and unintended consequences, **mitigate** risks and **realise** future opportunities.

The Future Trends Report was launched in May 2017



The Future Trends Report is a living document, and is updated as and when relevant data becomes available.

The launch has been followed by:

- general **awareness raising** and developmental engagement with public bodies and interested stakeholders across Wales and the UK;
- early development of **a shared online Future Trends Wales Resource**;
- **support for PSBs** on Well-being Plans;
- development of **an on-going programme**, with the strong involvement of academia, bringing futures research together with practitioners for a productive, two way conversation.
- Establishment of a Future Trends Wales Steering Group with Stakeholders including the WFG Commissioner's office and WLGA.

Future Trends

Throughout 2018 / 2019, the Future Trends Wales Programme, with the support of stakeholders will review the following 12 trends / work areas – based on priorities as set out within the PSB Wellbeing Plans and Assessments:

Research and comparisons:
Population
1) Changes in population size and age
2) Life expectancy
Health
3) Mental health in children
4) Dementia sufferers
Economy and Infrastructure
5) Employment sectors
6) Employment levels
Climate Change
7) CO ₂ emissions
8) Properties at risk of flooding
Land Use & Natural Resources
9) Tree/woodland cover
10) Ecological footprint
Society and Culture
11) Welsh speakers
12) Voter turnout

With the aim to:

- Compare how these trends differ across Wales, by LAs, by regions and by localities.
- Compare these trends with other similar European countries.
- Review our policies towards these trends / work areas, and hold workshops to discuss next steps, and what opportunities and risks they may present.

The Futures Toolkit



Tools for Futures Thinking and Foresight
across UK Government

Edition 1.0
November 2017



Support with your forecasting and Horizon Scanning work:

- If you / or your organisation are keen to conduct Horizon Scanning within your daily policy work, it doesn't always have to be difficult or time consuming.
- The Office For Go Science have created a simple toolkit to assist you with this (search UK Gov Futures toolkit)
- Welsh Government has been holding internal training sessions on this, and can also put you in contact with the training providers.

Future Trends



Big things that happen slowly are hard to think properly about:

For example.....

- **Climate change**
- **Soil degradation**
- **The decline in biodiversity**
- **Affluence?**

Future Trends



It's important to remember that environmental trends do not act in isolation. Other key social, economic and cultural trends interact with them:

- Wales' population could increase by 5% over next 20 years. Half of this increase from in-migration, although Brexit could affect this.
- Wales has an aging population – over 65s set to increase from 20% to 25% of population in next 20 years.

Future Trends



The 2017 Report – Some example trends

- Cases of dementia are expected to rise with an aging population. Mental illnesses are rising across all ages.
- A greater long term shift in Wales away from manufacturing and towards service sector than found elsewhere in developed countries (although all developed countries display this trend)

Future Trends



The 2017 Report – Some example trends

- House building not keeping up with demand for a growing number of smaller households.
- Poverty levels remaining stubborn, particularly for working age with wage growth tending to benefit middle-income households rather than lowest-income.

Future Trends



Building a conversation of interactions and impacts – some questions to ask ourselves

- Given the trends away from manufacturing, are there opportunities around the potential for green growth and low carbon energy generation?
- How will increasing flood risk and pressure on biodiversity impact on/interact with greater housing need?
- How can we take advantage of our green areas to help in the prevention of increasing mental and physical health issues?

Future Trends



Building together and using a shared Future Trends Resource for Wales

The more we all actively look at, consider and jointly develop Wales' *Future Trends Resource*, the more useful and easy to use it will become.

The growing community of stakeholders involved in this work are all keen to engage on some of **the big questions which must shape the policy directions we take in Wales as we all navigate the rough seas of Brexit!**

Wales: The Way Ahead (White Paper)1967

The challenges highlighted within the 1967 'Wales: The Way Ahead' paper may well sound very similar to some of you and similar to the ones we face today, highlighted below are some of the forewords and policy issues from 1967.:

- *“Wales is passing through a period of unusually rapid social and economic change: the age of sophisticated and automated in industry is pressing upon us.....The White Paper looks ahead as far as practicable, but does not claim to be able to predict the future.....The task of planning the development of Wales must now be carried further and the Welsh Economic Council will take a leading part in this work.”*
- Policy Issues
 - Not enough jobs, and too dependant on traditional industries.
 - Lack of skills, particularly those needed for new industries.
 - Environmental issues

Future Trends



Future Trends



Further information:

Future Trends Report 2017:

<http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/future-trends/?lang=en>

email:

FutureTrends@gov.wales

