

## Statement from Food Policy Alliance Cymru: Food (Wales) Bill

The [Food \(Wales\) Bill](#) failed to progress to Stage 2 following Wednesday's debate and vote in the Senedd (Wednesday, May 24<sup>th</sup>). This is disappointing, especially given the strong support for a Food Bill in Wales across political parties and a range of key stakeholders, as well as an appetite to see legislation that would deliver comprehensive, long-term food system change, making food policy more efficient and accountable.

Our food system is facing unprecedented challenges in terms of scale and urgency and we believe that this Bill had the potential to build a Welsh vision for a food system that would have benefited the people of Wales now, as well as future generations.

However, during the Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales and Trefnydd's contribution to the debate, she committed to:

- Publish and update periodically a cross-portfolio document for stakeholders that would summarise its wide range of food policies, and how they join up across policy areas and the well-being goals
- Form a cross-Government forum chaired by the First Minister to ensure the efforts they make within Government are subject to appropriate oversight, allowing for better policy join up to be achieved and communicated, reporting back to the Senedd
- Look at what can be developed from a cross-Government forum and "see what we can do in relation to a strategy".

In addition, Lesley Griffiths MS, Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd, assured the Senedd that even without the Bill, she would build on the momentum that it had generated, and acknowledged that it merited further attention from Government, as well as the many different players in our local and global food systems.

We were also pleased to note that the Minister supported the broad aims of the Bill, stating how they're consistent with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. It was heartening that the Minister remarked that she would pursue to confront the challenges across food systems, with the urgency that they require, using not only the powers available to Government, but working with public bodies, communities, food producers and other businesses.

The [Food \(Wales\) Bill](#) was a Senedd Member Bill, introduced by Peter Fox MS, and during the last 18 months, stakeholders from across the food system have supported the progression of the Bill, submitting both oral and written evidence to the relevant committees. FPAC also prepared a [briefing paper](#) for Senedd Members ahead of the debate highlighting the need for legislation.

We now look forward to continuing to work with the Welsh Government, Senedd Members and others on commitments made, with the urgency required, to help build on the momentum generated by the Food (Wales) Bill to help develop a fairer, sustainable and economically viable food system for Wales that's fit for future generations.

**ENDS**