

10 Key Asks of Local Authorities and Councillors



- 1 Instigate procurement policies which encourage the creation of new companies and cooperatives in order to bring benefits to local employment.** As well as to shorten supply chains, support the high environmental and animal welfare standards Welsh farmers must adhere to, and bolster circular economies.
- 2 Retain and invest in County Council holdings to enable tenants and Local Authorities to become net zero by using complimentary initiatives.** With the correct support, County Council holdings can and will continue to contribute to local circular economies, rural communities and Wales' environmental, social and cultural assets.
- 3 Encourage the Welsh Government and Senedd to ensure the current review of the Water Resources (Control of Agricultural Pollution) (Wales) Regulations 2021 results in proportionate and affordable legislation.** Given the substantial costs involved in complying with the regulations, it is essential that Local Authorities and Councillors work closely with farmers and the industry to bring holdings up to required standards, and view County Council Holdings as assets that warrant investment.
- 4 Work together with the UK Government, Welsh Government, and other Local Authorities, regardless of political differences, to administer the EU replacement funding in efficient and effective ways to support our communities.** In particular to invest in agriculture and food supply chains in order to generate wealth and employment, grow circular economies, maximise environmental benefits, and help Wales meet its net-zero commitments.
- 5 Apply higher council tax premiums to second homes and ensure that the spending of such additional revenue is more transparent and ring fenced for alleviating the impacts of second homes and short-term holiday lets.** For example by encouraging the renovation and compulsory purchase of properties which are unoccupied for a prolonged period for the benefit of local people in rural areas.
- 6 Work closely with local police forces and the Welsh Government to ensure adequate rural policing, proportionate access legislation and improved education to promote the Countryside Code, particularly in designated areas and tourist hot-spots,** to avoid instances of dog attacks, litter, fires, trespassing, gates being left open, road blockages and 'fly-camping' on farmland.
- 7 Support moves that would allow the planning process and land use change rules to be updated, to ensure any large scale developments such as afforestation must meet objectives that benefit and are not detrimental to local economies, communities and culture, and do not significantly reduce food production or biodiversity.**
- 8 Ensure the focus across all levels of government is based on reducing carbon emissions first and foremost, as opposed to carbon offsetting,** ensuring that companies are not provided with a 'licence to pollute', and that rural and agricultural communities can continue to thrive and contribute to the climate and nature emergencies themselves.
- 9 Work with internet service providers to ensure that all premises within Local Authority areas have access to part or full fibre technology before the complete phasing out of analogue services by 2025.** No business should be at a disadvantage as a result of moves to further online services and paper alternatives should be made available where necessary.
- 10 Work with the WLGA and other Local Authorities to ensure a uniform approach to on-farm inspections which is efficient and effective.** The lack of any formalised consistency between on-farm inspections has led to variable on-farm experiences therefore, it is essential that the on-farm inspections are equitable and fair.