

ANNEX 1 - SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT BILL WHITE PAPER

FEBRUARY 2013

Question 1 – What are your views on the proposals for a new duty to embed sustainable development as the central organising principle of selected organisations in Wales? [Chapter 2]

Strengthen the existing SD duty

WTW do not believe that the changes proposed in the White Paper sufficiently strengthen the current duty. To effectively strengthen the governance framework in Wales the new legislation must go further than the existing duty.

WTW believes that a **stronger, clearly worded, substantive SD duty should be included in the SD Bill**, which requires Welsh Government and public bodies to exercise their powers and functions to achieve sustainable development in Wales.

SD should be appropriately defined and the definition not be in question post-legislation; it should be stated within the legislation and not scattered throughout other Bills (e.g. SD relating to Planning be in the Planning Bill, SD as it relates to the Environment be in the Environment Bill etc).

Public bodies should also be required to use their corporate plans to demonstrate how they will deliver body-specific or local SD objectives, and be required to report on their progress against SD outcomes/indicators.

The new duty should contain more effective proposals for independent scrutiny of progress on SD.

Keep ‘living within environmental limits’ at the core of SD

WTW is concerned by the replacement of the recognised concept of ‘living within environmental limits’ with, the more woolly, environmental ‘wellbeing’ in the White Paper. Welsh Government proposes to define well-being’ later in other guidance or legislation – this is unacceptable. The importance of ‘environmental’ or ‘ecological limits’, as constraints on growth and development has been fundamental to the concept of SD and its policy from the start.

If the SD Bill fails to protect and enhance the natural environment, and ensure we live within environmental limits, it will fail to fully safeguard our wellbeing and will compromise future generations. The Royal Commission on Environmental Protection in Environmental Planning (2002) stated that *“Protecting and enhancing the environment must be firmly and unambiguously accepted as the foundation for sustainable development. The statements of priority objectives should be prepared on the basis that sustainable development is achievable only if the environment is safeguarded and enhanced.”*

Define clear outcomes to achieve SD

The Bill should have practical outcomes; however most of the White Paper is concerned with the process of decision making and factors to be considered, rather than with achieving key SD outcomes. Outcomes need to be explicitly developed to reflect the goal of a sustainable Wales.

The SD Bill should mandate statutory guidance for public bodies - setting of appropriate outcomes and associated performance indicators (as alluded to in para 2.22). This will enable public bodies to contribute at sufficient scale and pace to the development of a sustainable Wales. The current provisions (para 2.21) seem to allow public sector bodies to set their own

outcomes, with no explanation of how these will be evaluated for sufficiency and appropriateness

International commitments relating to climate change, water quality and biodiversity, for example, must be reflected in SD objectives/outcomes – they provide an important reference point as to whether environmental limits are being respected.

Equip decision makers with the tools to think with environmental limits in mind

WTW believe that Wales should use the UK's shared SD Strategy¹ rather than replace it with the concepts within para 2.12. The shared SD Strategy, set the twin goals of living within environmental limits and providing a just society, by means of good governance, responsible use of sound science and a sustainable economy.

WTW requests that the Bill provides some provision or power for the Commissioner to intervene when SD considerations have not been adhered e.g. M4 Option consultation where one highly unsustainable option as promoted for public consideration.

It is important that the SD Bill ensures not only that impacts (e.g. of policies, plans, or specific activities) are assessed, but that consideration is given to how to change, mitigate for, or prevent policies, plans or activities that are found to be unsustainable from taking effect. Where it is considered to be essential to allow an activity to take place that has a negative impact on the environment, this must be compensated for.

Legal tools already exist to support this kind of decision making such as the Habitats Regulations Assessments provides a good example of a sustainable development tool.

Include budgets in the scope of the duty

WTW believes that the SD duty should apply to all levels of decision-making necessary to secure sustainable outcomes: we consider this would include decisions on budgets and procurement. Welsh Government's proposal to exclude budgetary decisions from the duty is likely to seriously undermine progress towards a sustainable Wales and is a decision opposed by WTW.

We need legislation to be grounded in real world experience if we wish to exact change. The Welsh Audit Office recommended that Government should "*Embed sustainable development in the Assembly Government's governance procedures, financial planning, core business planning processes, change programmes and human resources processes*"²; a recommendation which WTW supports. This is something that the Scottish Government is already undertaking.

Procurement is a key way that the international /cross-border dimension should be implemented, as the supply chains which provide our catering products, clothing and ICT equipment can undermine established SD principles.

Question 2 – What are your views on the proposals for an independent sustainable development body? [Chapter 3]

SD Body should have the capacity to advise, monitor and challenge

WTW believes that the Commissioner should have an advisory role, and the Bill should ensure organisations must have a duty to take account of the Commissioner's advice. If they choose not to take this advice, the organisations should be required to explain why they have made this decision.

¹ Securing the Future, 2005, P16 <http://www.defra.gov.uk/publications/files/pb10589-securing-the-future-050307.pdf>

² WAO 2010, page 13

The body needs to evolve to that of challenging Government and public sector organisations on their performance against the terms of the SD Bill. We suggest that the Body is therefore established with both advisory and monitoring roles, and develops its monitoring role after the initial phase, whilst retaining its advisory role. WTW also believe that a duty to collaborate with auditing bodies (including Auditor General Wales (AGW)) and *vice versa* should be included in the SD Bill.

Appoint and remunerate appropriately qualified experts

WTW agrees that the Commissioner will need to appoint support staff who are skilled in a variety of disciplines. Rather than a voluntary advisory bodies, we believe a publicly appointed expert board should be set up. We also believe it is important for biodiversity expertise to be included in the new SD Body.

Ensure the SD Body's independence from Government

WTW believe the SD Body and Commissioner is a totally independent advisor to Government. Scrutiny and effectiveness would be strengthened if the SD Body was a wholly independent organisation where there could be no suggestion of Government exerting undue influence over its findings.

The independent Commissioner should seek outcomes which safeguard the sustainable development of Wales. To do this effectively, scrutiny should not simply be confined to public sector organisations; it must apply equally to Government.

Clarify powers and reporting arrangements

WTW believes that the Commissioner should also have the power to commission opinion from other expert bodies, such as the Committee on Climate Change.

The reporting arrangements should require the collaboration of the AGW, other audit bodies and statutory advisers, e.g. Natural Resources Wales. It is also important to clarify the different elements of assessment and reporting that will be required for example,

- Operational performance (e.g. changes in decision-making processes)
- Performance (e.g. meeting outcomes and targets).

The relationship of the SD Body and Commissioner to other Welsh Commissioners is very important. It is important that the Body is balanced in its representation of the composite elements of SD. However, we note that the existing Commissioners have roles predominantly focused on social justice, so equal participation from representatives of the other areas of interest would be needed (e.g. Biodiversity).

Question 3 – What are your views on the proposed phasing and implementation of the duty, including the timing of the establishment of the independent sustainable development body? [Chapter 4]

WTW agrees that it would seem sensible and appropriate to adopt a phased approach to implementation, as this would allow public bodies time to prepare, and for experience and good practice to be gathered and shared before they reach the phase where their progress is scrutinised.

Question 4 – What are your views on the proposals to improve the accountability framework for sustainable development in Wales? [Chapter 5]

WTW considers that the proposals outlined in Chapter 5 are inadequate for the purposes of ensuring the delivery of SD. Auditing public bodies does not in itself ensure that public bodies are compliant with the principles of SD or measure whether SD is being delivered.

There must be an assessment of the outcomes of SD processes. WTW recommend that the assessment of SD outcomes is included in the role and powers of the AGW, which would inquire into the performance of public bodies and ensure compliance in their duties. This would include audit against a full range of SD indicators designed to identify where there might be weaknesses or short comings. Public bodies would be required to provide information as directed by the SD Commissioner/Body.

If the SD Commissioner/Body is not afforded this power, and the AGW is also restricted from this purpose as currently proposed in para 5.8, then there is a real danger that the current Government of Wales Act SD duty will be seriously weakened by this process, rather than strengthened as the Welsh Government intends. The proposals for an accountability framework therefore falls short of what we would expect from a Government wishing to strengthen SD in Wales.

Question 5 – We have asked four specific questions. Do you have any related issues which we have not specifically addressed, for example with regards the implementation of the proposals? Please use the consultation response form to express your views.

WTW is in agreement with the stated political intentions of Welsh Government to “legislate to make sustainable development the central organising principle of Welsh Government and public bodies in Wales”³.

Opportunity to create world leading SD legislation

WTW supports the vision that Wales has the chance, and should aim, to lead the way with ground breaking legislation in SD. However, the current proposals are not ground breaking or world leading. The replacement of the internationally recognised language of SD by a much less understood concept of ‘wellbeing’ is a cause for much concern.

WTW believes that, to be truly ground breaking, the SD Bill must, as a minimum, meet the requirements below (set out more fully in WEL consultation response).

- **Proposed SD Duty must be strengthened**
- **SD must be clearly defined in legislation to provide continuity**
- **Recognised principles of SD must be used**
- **Independent, well-resourced SD Body and Commissioner free from politics**

We urge Welsh Government in the preparation of the SD Bill to ensure it corrects the deficiencies and omissions we have identified in our response. If it fails to do so, Welsh Government is unlikely to achieve its vision of a sustainable Wales and it will be unable to demonstrate its commitment to SD on the international stage.

Welsh Government now has the opportunity to create truly ground breaking SD legislation in Wales. WEL believes this can be achieved, and looks forward to working with Government to ensure that this legislation reaches its full potential.

³ Programme for Government, Chapter 11, P.43 <http://wales.gov.uk/docs/strategies/110929chap11en.pdf>

Christian Aid - Cymorth Cristnogol
Welsh Government Sustainable Development Bill – White Paper Consultation Response

Christian Aid in Wales welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Welsh Government's Sustainable Development Bill outlined in its White Paper. As outlined in our initial response to the consultation in July 2012, Christian Aid's mandate to eradicate poverty can only be achieved within the context of sustainable development. Inequality in access to and use of natural resources is driving both global poverty and environmental destruction. The wealthiest 20% of the world's population account for 80% of consumption of global resources. Our vision of achieving Poverty Over in a resource-constrained world will have dramatic implications for the lifestyles of the wealthyⁱ and will require a fair green development pathway, as outlined in our report 'Equity in a Constrained World'ⁱⁱ.

We recognise the important role that Wales has to play in implementing this vision of Poverty Over and welcome the Welsh Government's commitment to pursuing an alternative model for development which the Bill presents.

Initial comments on the duty and independent body

We welcome the Welsh Government's commitment to strengthened governance for SD in Wales, however we fear that the White paper in its current form presents a governance framework for SD which will not be wide or deep enough to impact on decisions that will achieve SD outcomes. We fear that the White paper's proposal that decisions are taken with 'consideration' of SD would weaken, not strengthen the duty. We are also concerned that the level of independence for the Commissioner is currently unclear. We ask that you consider the response by the International Development Wales HUB for further details around these comments.

Christian Aid in Wales welcomes references in the White paper to the global scope of the Bill, yet we are disappointed to see that many of the points made in our initial response to the Bill in July 2012 have not been reflected in the White paper. We ask that you consider the following points, as set out in our initial response in July 2012:

The duty

The new duty must be substantially stronger than the present dutyⁱⁱⁱ and needs to go beyond producing a scheme, "having regard to" something, or making sustainable development merely a "central organising principle".

The Bill should require Welsh Government Ministers and the devolved public sector (including local authorities and Welsh Government sponsored bodies) to exercise their (other) duties and powers in order to achieve sustainable development, **both within Wales, and with regard to the impacts internationally.**

The duty should:

- Be supplemented by a statutory strategy (or strategies) which would become the main mechanism for achieving sustainable development. We would expect the duty to lead to clear actions by the Welsh Government and devolved public sector in Wales, which would, amongst other things:
 - clearly drive down carbon and other greenhouse gas emissions
 - create and sustain ‘green jobs’
 - promote ethical, fair trade and sustainable procurement by the public sector
 - drive sustainable and ethical action by businesses that are supported by the Welsh Government in relation to their activities domestically and internationally
- Explicitly recognise and give regard to the **international impacts of Wales**, e.g.: the supply chains of the Welsh public and private sectors – both in terms of i.e. carbon intensity, food security etc.; the activities of Welsh businesses abroad; and the carbon emissions produced in Wales.

Independent sustainable development body

Christian Aid in Wales supports the principle of having a Commissioner for Sustainable Development. We suggest that the Commissioner should be a powerful champion for future generations and people in developing countries, as well as for those living in poverty in Wales.

We suggest that the Commissioner should:

- Be independent of the Welsh Government and able to hold the Government and public sector in Wales to account.
- Be both empowered and required to investigate and take action on failures by government to comply with the provisions of the Bill, and more widely.
- Be adequately resourced, with a staff able to support a significant programme of work including, research, policy development, support for the wider public sector in developing effective sustainable development schemes and investigative capacity to hold the devolved public sector to account.

Definition

The definition in One Wales One Planet^{iv}, with reference to *“using only our fair share of the earth’s resources”* is a good start. However, the definition must make it clear that the implications

of Welsh sustainable development policy **do not end in Wales, but rather extend globally**, and that the wellbeing of people in Wales is **an aim but not the sole aim** of the legislation.

The Bill must clearly define sustainable development, rather than leaving interpretation to further guidance, officials or the courts, and must be meaningful and accessible enough to drive and guide effective action.

ENDS.

Please contact Mari McNeill, Regional Coordinator for South East Wales, if you have any queries.
Christian Aid, 5 Station Road, Radyr, Cardiff, CF15 8AA mmcneill@christian-aid.org 02920
844 646

Christian Aid works globally for profound change that eradicates the causes of poverty, striving to achieve equality, dignity and freedom for all, regardless of faith or nationality. We are an agency of our churches in Britain and Ireland and are mandated to work on relief, development and advocacy for poverty eradication. We provide urgent, practical and effective assistance where need is greatest, in around 45 countries, tackling the effects of poverty as well as its root causes, and are part of a wider movement for social justice.

Christian Aid in Wales works with churches, communities, schools, youth organisations, individuals and politicians across Wales to fight international inequality and to expose the scandal of poverty.

Christian Aid is a registered charity in the UK (no. 1105851)

i 'Overconsumption, not population, is key to solving global environment crisis', Christian Aid press release, 23 April 2012
<http://www.christianaid.org.uk/pressoffice/pressreleases/april-2012/overconsumption-not-population-key-solving-global-environment-crisis-2304.aspx> "...a more sustainable future in which the world's wealthy and middle classes take up a smaller, fairer share of its precious resources [including water, forests, fish, minerals, fossil fuels and carbon space in our atmosphere] while the poorest take more. Such a transformation should

be led by high-income countries, which should take domestic action to reduce their environmental footprints and support poorer countries to pursue low-carbon, resource-efficient development. In addition, countries should ensure that whatever system succeeds the Millennium Development Goals has sustainability and equity at its heart”.

ii

‘The Rich, the Poor, and the Future of the World: Equity in a constrained world’,
Christian Aid Poverty Over report April 2012

<http://www.christianaid.org.uk/images/constrained-world.pdf>

iii (Sec 79, Government of Wales Act 2006) Welsh Ministers “*must make a scheme (“the sustainable development scheme”) setting out how they propose, in the exercise of their functions, to promote sustainable development.”*

iv Sustainable Development in Wales

In Wales, sustainable development means enhancing the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of people and communities, achieving a better quality of life for our own and future generations:

- In ways which promote social justice and equality of opportunity; and
- In ways which enhance the natural and cultural environment and respect its limits
- using only our fair share of the earth’s resources and sustaining our cultural legacy.

Sustainable development is the process by which we reach the goal of sustainability.

CONSULTATION FORM

Sustainable Development Bill White Paper

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Please submit your comments by 4 March 2012.

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3 December 2012 – 4 March 2013		
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Address	Weatheroak Llanhamlach Brecon LD3 7YB	
E-mail address	mervyn.bramley@blueyonder.co.uk	
Type <i>(please select one from the following)</i>	Businesses	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Local Authorities/Community & Town Councils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Government Agency/Other Public Sector	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Q1	What are your views on the proposals for a new duty to embed sustainable development as the central organising principle of selected organisations in Wales? [Chapter 2]
Please provide your views below:	
<p>In principle, I agree with the proposals as they seek to ensure that measurable outcomes are achieved. It's time to move to specific measurable outcomes from the many plans and reports and insufficient evidence of delivery that we've had to date.</p> <p>The 'outcomes', particularly in early years, must (a) not be too ambitious as to fail at the first hurdle, (b) be testable locally (see linked 2nd answer to Q4)</p> <p>I have some concerns about the extent to which it will be possible to make effective long term plans and implement these, given the state of the economy in particular the pressures on public sector finances.</p>	

Q2

What are your views on the proposals for an independent sustainable development body? [Chapter 3]

Please provide your views below:

Again, I agree in principle that there should be an independent sustainable development body. However, I suggest that the actual targets that it sets itself in early years are limited so as to be achievable. Otherwise, the new body could get entangled in activities that are very resource intensive in terms of staff time before it has had time to establish itself.

Q3

What are your views on the proposed phasing and implementation of the duty, including the timing of the establishment of the independent sustainable development body? [Chapter 4]

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in general I agree with the proposed phasing and implementation, but I feel that too many organisations are implementing in 2016. I suggest local authorities and education are held over until 2017 when more experience will have been built up from those implementing earlier. Local authorities will be the most complex to implement.

Q4

What are your views on the proposals to improve the accountability framework for sustainable development in Wales? [Chapter 5]

Please provide your views below:

This is the least convincing section of the White Paper. Two key points:

1. There should be a clearer link between the new Sustainable Development body and the audit body so as to share expertise.
2. The public must be more involved in the audit process to check the extent to which the the public organisations concerned actually deliver.

Q5

We have asked five specific questions. Do you have any related issues which we have not specifically addressed, for example with regards the implementation of the proposals? Please use the consultation response form to express your views.

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I believe there must be far more emphasis on public engagement in (a) understanding how they (the public) will benefit from the strengthened governance for sustainable development, and (b) the setting of targets and the checking of outcomes if the whole framework is to have public credibility.

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Sustainable Development Bill White Paper		
3 December 2012 – 4 March 2013		
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E-mail address	mervyn.bramley@blueyonder.co.uk	
Type <i>(please select one from the following)</i>	Businesses	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Local Authorities/Community & Town Councils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Government Agency/Other Public Sector	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Sustainable Development Bill White Paper		
3 December 2012 – 4 March 2013		
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Type <i>(please select one from the following)</i>	Businesses	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Local Authorities/Community & Town Councils	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Government Agency/Other Public Sector	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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<p>Please provide your views below:</p> <p>We fully support the Welsh Governments Sustainable agenda and this is supported by our policies, processes and procedures. We are pleased therefore that the White paper is proposing a supportive approach that will allow us to build on the work we have done to date within our own Organisation.</p> <p>We recognise the impact we can have on the SD agenda in Wales and have made good progress so far although we recognise there is much more to do.</p> <p>Whilst our own internal policies can clearly be influenced our Procurement processes, approaches and outcomes can only be successful if adopted and embraced by theHealth Organistiaons. To this end we see the independent body playing a key role in supporting us and Helth Organisations through a culture change which has been recognised as challenging (particularly in these current challenging times).</p> <p>We hope that the duty will provide the focus required to drive this agenda forward and recognise that it will be important for us to work with the NHS and other public sector organisations to take forward a co-ordianted approach to procurement and supply chain issues.</p>	

Q2

What are your views on the proposals for an independent sustainable development body? [Chapter 3]

Please provide your views below:

We support the establishment of the SD Body but recognise that the demands on this Team could be significant in the first few years as Organisations take on board the requirements of the Duty and move to embed the principles.

WE would be keen to ensure that the Body had sufficient capacity to meet the needs and demands placed upon them

Q3

What are your views on the proposed phasing and implementation of the duty, including the timing of the establishment of the independent sustainable development body? [Chapter 4]

Please provide your views below:

We note that implementation will be phased with the NHS scheduled for 2016.

We also note the importance of measuring progress and that the WG indicators will be reviewed in the near future.

We have found that not all issues can be easily quantified so reporting our progress will, in some areas require that we use case studies - a point we note you reference to.

target setting, measurement and reporting will require support in order to develop pragmatic approaches without creating industries of beaurcracy.

Q4

What are your views on the proposals to improve the accountability framework for sustainable development in Wales? [Chapter 5]

Please provide your views below:

We support the approach proposed around accountability and recognise the importance of this role

Q5

We have asked five specific questions. Do you have any related issues which we have not specifically addressed, for example with regards the implementation of the proposals? Please use the consultation response form to express your views.

Please provide your views below:

Confidentiality

Responses to consultations may be made public – on the internet or in a report. If you would prefer your response to be kept confidential please indicate here:

How to respond

Please submit your comments by 4 March 2013, in any of the following ways:

Email	Post
<p>Please complete the consultation form and send it to: SDBill@wales.gsi.gov.uk Please include 'WG17030' in the subject line.</p>	<p>Please complete the consultation form and send it to: Sustainable Development Bill Team Welsh Government Cathays Park Cardiff CF10 3NQ</p>

Additional information
<p>If you have any queries on this consultation, please contact us by email or telephone: Email: SDBill@wales.gsi.gov.uk Telephone: (02920 82) 1728 or 6541</p>

Sustainable Development Bill White Paper Consultation Powys Local Service Board's response

Powys Local Service Board (LSB) welcomes the proposals in the Sustainable Development Bill White Paper and the opportunity to comment on the consultation document.

Question 1

What are your views on the proposals for a new duty to embed sustainable development as the central organising principle of selected organisations in Wales?

Powys Local Service Board supports the aims of this Bill and feels that embedding sustainable development as the central organising principle for the future development of public services in Wales has the potential to deliver an infrastructure that has the capacity to support and deliver on the long-term wellbeing of Powys and Wales as a whole.

The move away from a collective approach to collaboration and integration provides a sound foundation on which to establish a whole system change in the way public services can be delivered at all levels but in particular at local community / neighbourhood level.

As outlined in 2.33 - defining and legislating for the role and responsibilities of the LSB and the Wellbeing Plan (Single Integrated Plan) to enable this to happen is a bold and important step in pursuing good quality leadership for wider public benefit – however we feel this issue needs to be more explicit in the Bill to ensure that there is no disputing the central function that the LSB will play in providing executive leadership and coherence to the development of wellbeing across all public services.

The recently received discussion paper from Carl Sargeant we think provides more clarity around some of these issues and makes for an unequivocal statement if the points he raises are adopted within the legislation.

We recognise that this will not be without difficulty and in itself must be seen as a long term sustainable option. It will rely on culture change and the building of capacity over time, (both within public services and within the wider community), to release the potential for more creative and radical delivery options that focus on outcomes and not service / agency requirements.

(i) Defining sustainable development

Powys LSB feels that a clear definition of sustainable development across the whole of the public sector in Wales will be necessary to help embed the notion of sustainability. What is unclear from the White Paper is which of the three definitions will be used. While the Brundtland definition is the most commonly

used, those in the Programme of Government and One Wales One Planet may have more resonance for Wales.

Whichever definition is used it must be consistently used throughout all WG legislation, policy and guidance to ensure coherence of understanding and clear accountability.

(ii) Delivering outcomes

The focus on outcomes is welcomed – however we feel an over-arching outcomes framework for wellbeing may need to be developed in order to pull together developments taking place elsewhere such as the Outcomes Framework for Social Care and the Mental Health Measure etc.

In addition further work is needed to develop a shared language about outcomes because even now we see mixed messages within different policy fields about what is defined as an outcome – the best definition for an outcome is '*an improved state of wellbeing for an individual or population*'.

The notion of legacy within the context of sustainability is welcomed – and whilst short term outcomes may provide quick wins the tracking and mapping of outcomes over time may present a very different story.

Again the tensions between sustainability outcomes and other legislative and reporting requirements needs to be addressed to ensure that sustainability does not become one of a range of underpinning but conflicting priorities.

(iii) Scope of the Duty

The LSB supports the proposal that the duty should apply to high level strategic decisions, and that the strategic decision making processes will be the focus for assessment together with evidence based outcomes rather than the means of delivery. However this needs to be reflected in the way that the regulators work with public bodies and adjust their approach accordingly.

The sustainability principles will need to permeate all levels of public service and citizen engagement and again we note Carl Sargeant's reference to Neighbourhood Management – a model which has already seen some positive results in Powys from a policing and environment perspective. As a result we are looking to pilot a more holistic model across all service areas with the strategic drives being provided by the LSB.

(iv) Reporting

The use of current report systems is welcomed. However as suggested earlier an overarching outcomes framework would provide consistency and help to establish the connections. An integrated inspection framework would also support efficiencies – particularly in reducing down the duplicate self assessment and reporting and regulatory processes.

Whilst the Bill has no clear penalties or sanctions detailed in the proposals we recognise that the driving imperative for organisations to embed sustainable development should come from the regulators as well as the ongoing pressure created by growing financial constraints and the delicate task of balancing the expectations of service users. However as stated earlier it will be essential to have everyone, including all WG departments and regulators aligned and on message.

As outlined in the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, LSB members will be required to subject themselves to scrutiny and give an account of themselves – significant capacity building will be needed to help ensure that scrutiny arrangements at a local level are fit for purpose and start to embed scrutiny as a way of working (good quality commissioning model) rather than just an external mechanism for holding people, departments, agencies and or the LSB to account.

Again the provision of supporting guidance as well as the sharing of good practice may help in the development of capacity and seek to establish creative, inclusive and citizen focused options.

(v) The Sustainable Development duty and collaborative working

As previously mentioned Powys LSB is supportive of a consistent Duty, and reporting framework, across the public sector.

Powys Council is taking its community leadership role seriously and together with key partners has recently taken steps to substantially strengthen the LSB's position. The Duty will further support the LA'S role and the invitation to collaborate, however with a number of notable exceptions such as the Police – however we note the fact that as the police are currently non-devolved, you will need to enter into appropriate discussions with the UK Government.

Sections 14 – 19 of the paper on membership seek views on whether CVCs should remain as core members of the LSB. We are assured that this is not intended to exclude CVCs or alter the status quo, but is a technical and legal issue in that you cannot lay statutory responsibilities on a voluntary organisation. However, whether or not the intention is benign, the consequence may lead to exclusion in some areas. Our recommendation would be to lay a duty on the LSB to invite the CVC to be a member of the LSB.

The LSB supports the proposal that the single integrated plans would be another central element of the Duty.

(vi) The organisations subject to the duty

The LSB broadly agrees with the organisations which have been identified as being subject to the Duty however we would suggest that Town and Community Councils will need substantial support to ensure that they have the capacity and influence to make the Duty appropriate to their communities.

Also the guidance should make it clear how organisations through their contracting arrangements would be expected to support the principles of the Duty in much the same way as there is for safeguarding and equality.

Section 28 proposes a list which does not include CVC or relevant third sector organisations but does include registered social landlords (which are of course a sub set of the third sector). We would thus suggest that CVCs and other relevant third sector organisations are added to the list.

(vii) Impact on the current sustainable development duty

The proposal that the new duty would replace the current requirement to have a sustainable development scheme is appropriate.

Question 2

What are your views on the proposals for an independent sustainable development body?

In principle the LSB agrees with the establishment of an independent sustainable development body to support the aims of this legislation.

(i) Role and functions

The body should be small and work collaboratively – drawing expertise or in deed commissioning expertise from a local level to support it and maintain a revolving door approach to embedding good practice.

There is a danger that if too much is expected of the body that it will either fail to provide suitable and adequate support or become large and unwieldy in an attempt to do everything.

In terms of challenge – the role of the independent body should be about building capacity for self evaluation and scrutiny at local level not providing the challenge itself.

We feel, as is intimated that the body should work collaboratively, and more specifically with LSB's to determine the best way to deliver these core functions in order not to duplicate efforts and or ensure work is complimentary to what is happening at a local level, for example around workforce development.

(ii) Supporting

As previously mentioned we are concerned about the size of the new body given the wide range of organisations it could have to support. There is

already a range of specialist support available and perhaps it would be better for the body to act as a hub or conduit for sharing best practice, expertise and relevant examples or hosting best practice forums.

The body also needs to have regard for the competing pressures put on local government from Welsh, UK and European Governments.

(iii) Policy development and advice

The new body should have a role in advising Welsh Government on sustainability matters when they are developing policies. This should be for all policy development to ensure that sustainability is embedded across Welsh Government.

Whilst the Body should have a role in working with the public sector throughout Wales, we feel that wherever possible this should be done at a local level and in conjunction with LSB's in order to reinforce the strategic roles of the LSB's and supporting the identification of barriers and solutions.

Some funding regimes seem to actively work against sustainability, in terms of requirements or timeframes. Again everyone will need to be on message.

(iv) Composition

The need to keep the size of the body in line with its function and the scope of its support has already been raised. However this could be done through the formation of an advisory body with representatives from those sectors subject to the Duty, minimising the staffing requirement as the expertise would be donated by the representative's organisation. These representatives should come from a range of service areas, not just sustainable development to ensure a breadth of perspective. This would also facilitate real time engagement and challenge ensuring that support and advice remains relevant.

(v) Independence

In order for the challenge and support roles to be effective the body needs to be independent.

(vi) Reporting arrangements and representation

The relationship between the new body and the AGW is vital for ensuring that all bodies subject to the Duty are aware of their obligations and are audited in a consistent way. Organisations will need to be clear about what is expected of them and how they will evidence it.

If an overarching outcomes framework were to be established together with fewer but more strategic suitable measures then reporting would be far more

efficient and reduce the current substantial duplication. This would also need to be supported by the afore mentioned integrated inspection framework.

Question 3

What are your views on the proposed phasing and implementation of the duty? Including the timing of the establishment of the independent sustainable development body?

(i) Phasing of the duty

Powys LSB welcomes the timing of this consultation - due to the fact that Powys was an early adopter of the SIP an initial risk assessment of some of the key messages has been completed to help ensure that the direction of travel is built in to its forthcoming plan refresh 2014-17.

We feel that a more flexible approach to adoption may be needed but never the less the timescales for all those authorities who are currently consulting on their plans is about right.

We also agree with the proposed cycle to link SIPs including the Joint Needs Assessment with the political election cycle. It will give as much consistency as can be expected from the process but that if we are really serious about sustainability longer term planning will become essential.

(ii) Establishing the new body

Powys LSB agrees with the timescales for establishing the new body.

(iii) Supporting the change

Powys LSB has nothing more to add that has not been said elsewhere in the response.

(iv) Measuring progress

Powys LSB would advocate a collaborative approach to developing measures and reporting systems as early as possible.

However we do feel that the document slips back in to the rhetoric it purports to be challenging with the examples of progress towards sustainability outlined in 4.8, it would be useful to illustrate other examples would be useful particularly in relation to social wellbeing.

Question 4

What are your views on the proposals to improve the accountability framework for sustainable development in Wales?

(i) The Role of the Auditor General for Wales

Powys LSB supports placing the auditing role with the AGW.

Powys LSB also welcomes the approach to improving the way decisions get made in pursuit of better long term options and to ensure a combined and efficient use of intelligence and resources to this end.

The LSB also welcomes the fact that that the most effective way to deliver clear accountability and robust scrutiny is to embed it within the frameworks that are already in place for public service organisations and this will help ensure that the democratisation of the process is assured and that local needs and priorities are identified and met.

(ii) Other accountability arrangements

Powys LSB agrees that there should be a consistent approach across all public bodies and that it will be essential to consider how these other agencies are scrutinised in relation to the duty.

Question 5

Do you have any related issues which have not been specifically addressed?

No.

Signed on behalf of Powys Local Service Board:



**County Councillor David R Jones
Executive Leader, Powys County Council
Chair Powys Local Service Board**

Dated: 04 March 2013

From: Turner, Ceri (ESH-CCWD)

Sent: 05 March 2013 10:28

To: SD Bill

Cc: Mortimer, Isabel (LGC - Fairer Futures)

Subject: FW: Sustainable Development Bill

Please see the email response to the White Paper consultation below.

Ceri

Ceri Turner

Sustainable Behaviours and Engagement Team/ **Tim Ymddygiadau Cynaliadwy ac Ymgysylltu**

Sustainable Places Division/ **Yr Is-adran Mannau Cynaliadwy**

Welsh Government/ **Llywodraeth Cymru**

Sarn Mynach, Llandudno Junction, LL31 9RZ

Sarn Mynach, Cyffordd Llandudno LL31 9RZ

Tel/**Ffon** 03000 62 5338

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Any of the statements or comments made above should be regarded as personal and not necessarily those of the National Assembly for Wales, any constituent part or connected body.

From: Bertin, Richard J (Cllr) [mailto:RJBertin@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk]

Sent: 04 March 2013 18:57
To: Sustainable Development
Subject: Sustainable Development Bill

Dear Sir or Madam,

I wish to respond to your consultation exercise.

Having considered the matter. I am concerned that the approach does not go far enough. I believe although we are going in the right direction the current proposals are still quite timid and need to be more radical.

I do however welcome the value for money study into the disposal of land assets.

Kind regards,

Richard Bertin
Elected Member
Democratic Services
Vale of Glamorgan Council / Cyngor Bro Morgannwg
tel / ffôn: 01446 736227
mob / sym: 07973153987
e-mail / e-bost: RJBertin@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Visit our Website at www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk
Ewch i'n gwefan yn www.bromorgannwg.gov.uk

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Mae'n bosibl bod y neges hon yn cynnwys deunydd sy'n freiniol, yn gyfrinachol neu wedi'i warchod gan hawlfraint. Gan hynny, nid oes hawl i chi ei defnyddio o gwbl onibai ei bod wedi'i bwriadu ar eich cyfer, neu eich bod yn gyfrifol am ei throsglwyddo i'r sawl y'i bwriadwyd ar ei gyfer. Byddech yn torri rheol petaech yn gwneud hynny, a gallai hefyd fod yn erbyn y gyfraith. A fyddech gystal felly, â dileu'r neges, a rhoi gwybod i'r sawl a'i hanfonodd drwy anfon ateb ato . Ni chewch fod yn hollol sicr na chaiff eich neges ei chodi gan rywun arall pan fyddwch yn cyfathrebu â neges e-bost arferol ar y rhyngwrdd. Gan hynny, byddem yn eich cynghori'n daer i beidio ag anfon unrhyw wybodaeth mewn neges e-bost a allai eich blino petai'n cael ei datgelu. Cymerir yn ganiataol nad oddi wrth y Cyngor nac â sêl ei fendith ychwaith y cafwyd unrhyw farn, casgliad na gwybodaeth arall yn y neges hon nad yw'n berthnasol i waith swyddogol Cyngor Bro Morgannwg.

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CONSULTATION FORM

Sustainable Development Bill White Paper

We want your views on our proposals for a Sustainable Development Bill.

Please submit your comments by 4 March 2012.

If you have any queries on this consultation, please email:
SDBill@wales.gsi.gov.uk or telephone: (02920 82) 1728 or 6541

Data Protection

Any response you send us will be seen in full by Welsh Government staff dealing with the issues which this consultation is about. It may also be seen by other Welsh Government staff to help them plan future consultations.

The Welsh Government intends to publish a summary of the responses to this document. We may also publish responses in full. Normally, the name and address (or part of the address) of the person or organisation who sent the response are published with the response. This helps to show that the consultation was carried out properly. If you do not want your name or address published, please tick the box below. We will then blank them out.

Names or addresses we blank out might still get published later, though we do not think this would happen very often. The Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 allow the public to ask to see information held by many public bodies, including the Welsh Government. This includes information which has not been published. However, the law also allows us to withhold information in some circumstances. If anyone asks to see information we have withheld, we will have to decide whether to release it or not. If someone has asked for their name and address not to be published, that is an important fact we would take into account. However, there might sometimes be important reasons why we would have to reveal someone's name and address, even though they have asked for them not to be published. We would get in touch with the person and ask their views before we finally decided to reveal the information.

CONSULTATION FORM

Sustainable Development Bill White Paper		
3 December 2012 – 4 March 2013		
Name	Professor John Morgan	
Organisation	UK National Commission for UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation)	
Address	UK National Commission for UNESCO, Suite 98, 3 Whitehall Court, London, SW1A 2EL	
E-mail address	jbridge@unesco.org.uk	
Type <i>(please select one from the following)</i>	Businesses	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Local Authorities/Community & Town Councils	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Government Agency/Other Public Sector	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Professional Bodies and Associations	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Third sector (community groups, volunteers, self help groups, co-operatives, enterprises, religious, not for profit organisations)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Academic bodies	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Member of the public	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Other (other groups not listed above)	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q1	<p>What are your views on the proposals for a new duty to embed sustainable development as the central organising principle of selected organisations in Wales? [Chapter 2]</p>
<p>Please provide your views below:</p> <p>The UK National Commission for UNESCO (UKNC) strongly welcomes the embedding of sustainable development behaviours in the cultures of organisations, particularly regarding high level decisions and corporate planning processes - as this significantly determines what will end up being put in place, measured and therefore outcomes.</p> <p>The focus on applying the measures where the organisations concerned have the greatest impact is a positive step.</p> <p>Sections 1:12 and 1:13 are pertinent for the UKNC, particularly exchanging knowledge, the sharing of best practice, benchmarking and working in partnership internationally. The UKNC's policy briefing on Education for Sustainable Development is attached to this response. The alignment with The Future We Want UN outcomes document is welcome, as is Wales playing a full part in taking forward the Sustainable Development Goals. The UKNC notes that UNESCO has been given special responsibility by the UN Secretary General for the Education and Science elements of the proposed goals.</p> <p>Wales' commitment to the two Declarations at Rio +20 demonstrates the leading role it can play (section 1:13).</p>	

Q2

What are your views on the proposals for an independent sustainable development body? [Chapter 3]

Please provide your views below:

The proposal for a Commissioner and secretariat staff is welcomed, as is the emphasis on enabling and support.

The UKNC is acknowledged as a provider of advice and expertise to government in areas of UNESCO competency, including Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and welcomes the opportunity as the appropriate cooperating body to exchange best practice. The UKNC's policy brief on ESD, which has a specific section on ESD in Wales is attached to this response and is referred to in Qu5.

Q3

What are your views on the proposed phasing and implementation of the duty, including the timing of the establishment of the independent sustainable development body? [Chapter 4]

Please provide your views below:

Q4

What are your views on the proposals to improve the accountability framework for sustainable development in Wales? [Chapter 5]

Please provide your views below:

The proposals are long term and are in line with the vision

Q5

We have asked five specific questions. Do you have any related issues which we have not specifically addressed, for example with regards the implementation of the proposals? Please use the consultation response form to express your views.

Please provide your views below:

Regarding Education for Sustainable Development (ESD policy briefing attached) - Key recommendations:

1: It is essential to develop an overarching UK Strategy for Sustainable Development which sets out a clear vision about the contribution learning can make to its Sustainable Development Goals. Wales has much to contribute to this.

2. ESD would benefit from an overall strategic framework which puts it firmly at the core of the education policy agenda in all of the jurisdictions in the UK. This would provide much needed coherence, direction and impetus to existing initiatives and scale-up and build on existing good practice. Importantly, at a time of austerity it could help prevent unnecessary duplication of effort and resources. As yet, there is no coherent view at policy or practice level about how ESD can most appropriately be experienced by learners, in a progressive sense, from, say ages 4 to 21 and beyond. A commission set up to examine and report on this question would help institutions plan effectively.

3. A pan-UK forum should be established for overseeing the promotion, implementation and evaluation of ESD across the UK, with a clear remit to work collaboratively with the UK Government and all three devolved administrations, whilst respecting their jurisdictional policy remits.

Confidentiality

Responses to consultations may be made public – on the internet or in a report. If you would prefer your response to be kept confidential please indicate here:

How to respond

Please submit your comments by 4 March 2013, in any of the following ways:

Email	Post
<p>Please complete the consultation form and send it to: SDBill@wales.gsi.gov.uk Please include 'WG17030' in the subject line.</p>	<p>Please complete the consultation form and send it to: Sustainable Development Bill Team Welsh Government Cathays Park Cardiff CF10 3NQ</p>

Additional information
<p>If you have any queries on this consultation, please contact us by email or telephone: Email: SDBill@wales.gsi.gov.uk Telephone: (02920 82) 1728 or 6541</p>

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CONSULTATION FORM

Sustainable Development Bill White Paper		
3 December 2012 – 4 March 2013		
Name	Andrew Gurney	
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Address	Llys Amaeth Plas Gogerddan Aberystwyth Ceredigion SY23 3BT	
E-mail address	andrew.gurney@fuw.org.uk	
Type <i>(please select one from the following)</i>	Businesses	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Local Authorities/Community & Town Councils	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Government Agency/Other Public Sector	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Professional Bodies and Associations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Third sector (community groups, volunteers, self help groups, co-operatives, enterprises, religious, not for profit organisations)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Academic bodies	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Member of the public	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Other (other groups not listed above)	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q1	What are your views on the proposals for a new duty to embed sustainable development as the central organising principle of selected organisations in Wales? [Chapter 2]
-----------	--

Please provide your views below:

The Farmers' Union of Wales (FUW) fully supports the concept of sustainable development and the associated Sustainable Development Bill which would require all public sector organisations to enshrine the three principles of sustainable development – economic, social and environment – into all of their functions. This will be particularly pertinent in rural areas to encourage the retention and development of businesses and services which, ultimately, results in thriving rural economies and vibrant rural communities.

As outlined in paragraph 2.4 of the consultation, it is imperative that the Outcomes and the decisions on how these Outcomes can be achieved are fully informed with due consideration of the three principles of sustainable development. As highlighted in its response to the previous consultation, Welsh Government should ensure that the three principles are given equal weighting in the decision-making process.

If the aspirations of the White Paper are to be achieved it is important to ensure that Welsh Government takes the lead in ensuring that its policies and guidance are interpreted effectively and uniformly across the public sector organisations they are applicable to, otherwise there will be little change in the delivery of the principles of a socially, economically and environmentally sustainable Wales.

The FUW welcomes the premise that the introduction of the sustainable development duty is not intended to create any additional bureaucracy or extra burdens on the organisations that it is applicable to. However, the Union has reservations, particularly with the proposed establishment of a Sustainable Development Body, whether this will actually be the case given that some organisations will inevitably 'go over the top' in the implementation of their duties.

In its response to last year's consultation, the Union highlighted the need for flexibility in the way the Sustainable Development Bill and the underlying Duty were applied to organisations. Whilst welcoming the fact that the need for flexibility has been recognised by the Welsh Government (paragraphs 2.20 and 2.21), in relation to the setting of the Outcomes by organisations, it would argue that this flexibility needs to be extended to ensure that the differing needs and demands of urban and rural areas can be adequately reflected

Q2

What are your views on the proposals for an independent sustainable development body? [Chapter 3]

Please provide your views below:

The FUW remains unconvinced of the need for an independent Sustainable Development Body for Wales. As highlighted in its response to the previous consultation, the Union believes that the current arrangements were sufficient and believes that the Commissioner for Sustainable Futures, and the associated delivery contract with Cynnal Cymru, should continue.

Whilst recognising that the introduction of a Sustainable Development Bill requires a number of additional functions which are not currently available under the existing arrangements, the Union believes that the current structures could be adapted to address the additional functions required by the new Bill.

The FUW supports the need for a review of “the progress being made in Wales to sustainable development” (paragraph 3.26). However, it believes that the review of progress may need to be undertaken more frequently during the early years, to ensure that the basic aims are being met.

Q3

What are your views on the proposed phasing and implementation of the duty, including the timing of the establishment of the independent sustainable development body? [Chapter 4]

Please provide your views below:

Notwithstanding the Union’s views on the creation of a Sustainable Development Body, as outlined above, it agrees that the Body, or any similar support mechanism put in place, needs to be in place to coincide with the phased implementation of the sustainable development duty and to provide support, advice and guidance to those organisations subject to the duty from the first day of the legislation being enacted.

The Union also supports a phased implementation of the sustainable development duty. However, the Union would suggest a number of amendments to the implementation plan (outlined in table 2) as a means of improving the visibility of sustainable development to the wider public of Wales.

Q4

What are your views on the proposals to improve the accountability framework for sustainable development in Wales? [Chapter 5]

Please provide your views below:

The FUW notes that no mention is made in the consultation on whether the Auditor General Wales will be provided with sufficient resources, not solely financial but resources covering staffing and time, to carry out an “examination of how organisations have embedded sustainable development as their central organising principle in relation to the duty” in addition to the functions already carried out in auditing the Welsh Government and other public sector organisations.

Whilst supporting the conclusions drawn by the Welsh Government, in paragraph 5.3, to use existing frameworks already in place for public sector organisations to deliver accountability and robust scrutiny, the Union believes that these organisations need to be transparent in reporting their achievements in meeting the Outcomes, which they set for themselves.

Q5

We have asked five specific questions. Do you have any related issues which we have not specifically addressed, for example with regards the implementation of the proposals? Please use the consultation response form to express your views.

Please provide your views below:

Farming by its very nature is responsible for the management of the landscape and the environment as well as the production of food for an ever increasing population. The Union believes that sustainable, locally produced food has an important role to play in meeting the Welsh Government’s sustainable development outcomes and that the public procurement of locally produced food needs to be specifically encouraged. It is therefore disappointing that there is no specific reference to food or food security in the consultation. The inclusion of food security and the importance of public bodies procuring local food products within the Sustainable Development Bill will also work towards attaining the direction set out in the *Food for Wales Food from Wales Strategy* for a “sustainable and resilient food system that encompasses a food sector composed of competitive and profitable businesses” and a “Welsh food industry that can grow in a sustainable and profitable manner”.

The Union is also disappointed that, despite acknowledging the representations received for the inclusion of an organisations’ procurement decisions in the sustainable development duty, as outlined in paragraph 2.2.6, the Welsh Government has concluded that the duty will only apply to the strategic process of developing an organisations’ procurement policy and not the procurement process.

Confidentiality

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How to respond

Please submit your comments by 4 March 2013, in any of the following ways:

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<p>Please complete the consultation form and send it to: SDBill@wales.gsi.gov.uk Please include 'WG17030' in the subject line.</p>	<p>Please complete the consultation form and send it to: Sustainable Development Bill Team Welsh Government Cathays Park Cardiff CF10 3NQ</p>

Additional information
<p>If you have any queries on this consultation, please contact us by email or telephone: Email: SDBill@wales.gsi.gov.uk Telephone: (02920 82) 1728 or 6541</p>

CONSULTATION FORM

Sustainable Development Bill White Paper

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CONSULTATION FORM

Sustainable Development Bill White Paper		
3 December 2012 – 4 March 2013		
Name	Iain Cox	
Organisation	Ecostudio	
Address	Unit 57, Seymour Street, Cardiff, CF24 2NS	
E-mail address	iain@ecostudio.org.uk	
Type <i>(please select one from the following)</i>	Businesses	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Local Authorities/Community & Town Councils	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Government Agency/Other Public Sector	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Professional Bodies and Associations	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Third sector (community groups, volunteers, self help groups, co-operatives, enterprises, religious, not for profit organisations)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Academic bodies	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Member of the public	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Other (other groups not listed above)	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q1	What are your views on the proposals for a new duty to embed sustainable development as the central organising principle of selected organisations in Wales? [Chapter 2]
Please provide your views below: It is difficult to disagree with any of this. It needs to start somewhere and in our experience through working with policymakers significant work is needed to ensure a consistent approach is adopted. This must start with a practical definition that is not a throw away or catch all term. I am concerned that it is for 'selected organisations' only because inclusivity is at the heart of SD and being selective smacks of exclusivity.	

Q2

What are your views on the proposals for an independent sustainable development body? [Chapter 3]

Please provide your views below:

Yes an independent body is needed.

I am encouraged by point 3.11 that recognises the role of third sector and private sector organisations that are leading the way in implementing and measuring sd. I feel this is critical to generating an understanding of how SD can be practically applied.

For Welsh trailblazers see the True Taste Contribution to Sustainable Development Category (ran from 2007-2012 to identifying leading food SMEs), The Community Food Co-ops Sustainable Performance indicators (third sector example), The RDP funded Sustainable Supply Chains initiative (identified as best practice in the food strategy for Wales) many others that we can provide when time is right.

Q3

What are your views on the proposed phasing and implementation of the duty, including the timing of the establishment of the independent sustainable development body? [Chapter 4]

Please provide your views below:

It makes perfect sense to align the SD body from the outset of the duty being phased in.

The indicators for sustainable development need to be practical - previous versions have simply been too complex to have any meaning. Again looking towards examples from the third and private sectors about how they are measuring progress is key. We have worked with a number of organisations on this exact issue so can share this knowledge when appropriate.

Q4

What are your views on the proposals to improve the accountability framework for sustainable development in Wales? [Chapter 5]

Please provide your views below:

This is outside our scope of knowledge and experience so no comment on this section.

Q5

We have asked five specific questions. Do you have any related issues which we have not specifically addressed, for example with regards the implementation of the proposals? Please use the consultation response form to express your views.

Please provide your views below:

As a private organisation that works with policy makers, third sector and SMEs in Wales to help build capacity to implement sustainable development I have frequently felt excluded from the WG's plans for SD. This is in part due to the focus on public services only - where we believe it should apply to all. However I am encouraged to see that examples from private and third sector organisations will be sought because I feel very strongly about the practical examples that exist right here in Wales that get ignored. I would like to find out more about how these examples are to be identified in the future - an award scheme could be one way - or simply providing organisations like ourselves with ways to communicate good practice examples (and be acknowledged) through a mechanism provided by WG.

I am also encouraged to hear that a defining SD is seen as a critical part of the implementation process - our experience in working with policymakers across food, rural development and waste is that the understanding is not always consistent with SD policy and this creates real barriers to innovation.

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CONSULTATION FORM

Sustainable Development Bill White Paper		
3 December 2012 – 4 March 2013		
Name	Professor Andrea Ross	
Organisation	University of Dundee	
Address	School of Law University of Dundee Dundee DD1 4HN	
E-mail address	a.p.ross@dundee.ac.uk	
Type <i>(please select one from the following)</i>	Businesses	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Local Authorities/Community & Town Councils	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Government Agency/Other Public Sector	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Professional Bodies and Associations	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Third sector (community groups, volunteers, self help groups, co-operatives, enterprises, religious, not for profit organisations)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Academic bodies	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Member of the public	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Other (other groups not listed above)	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q1	What are your views on the proposals for a new duty to embed sustainable development as the central organising principle of selected organisations in Wales? [Chapter 2]
<p>Please provide your views below:</p> <p>Experience worldwide shows that duties over time will be watered down to their weakest form. The duty should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -be placed on the wider public sector as proposed; -cover both principles and outcomes as proposed; -include consideration of those outside Wales as proposed; -allow public involvement be addressed outside the Bill as proposed; -be worded strongly as the primary duty with no qualifiers - at a minimum 'contribute to the achievement of sustainable development; -cover budgetary and strategic processes -if a definition is offered it should go beyond the very wide parameters of Brundtland which continues to perpetuate and legitimise weak, business as usual interpretations of SD and specifically refer to the Earth's limits and the long term impacts -outcomes and reporting should be included in the duty but details left to regulations or guidance as proposed; <p>On para 2.38 I strongly believe that the reason Wales is a leader in SD in the UK and worldwide is due to the procedural obligation to produce, report on and review in Scheme for SD in the Government of Wales Acts. To remove this procedural duty would be a huge mistake and a step backwards. Procedures are easily monitored and enforced. Substantive duties are less obvious and much harder to enforce and need procedures for support.</p>	

Q2

What are your views on the proposals for an independent sustainable development body? [Chapter 3]

Please provide your views below:

The proposals are very welcome and all seem sensible. Of particular importance are:

3.26 the new body should have an obligation to assess progress on a regular basis

3.28 the incorporation of sustainable development with the existing audit arrangements and that the body should have the ability to collaborate with the AGW and other audit bodies and

Q3

What are your views on the proposed phasing and implementation of the duty, including the timing of the establishment of the independent sustainable development body? [Chapter 4]

Please provide your views below:

The phased approach is sensible. The timing seems suitable.

Meaningful indicators linked to outcomes should be included in the legislation but the detail left to policy as proposed

Q4

What are your views on the proposals to improve the accountability framework for sustainable development in Wales? [Chapter 5]

Please provide your views below:

5.6 the new duty for AGW is welcomed

It is very important that the NAW continue to scrutinise government in a specialist cross cutting committee as well as in plenary. The NAW and indeed, the UK Parliament are leaders in this respect.

Q5

We have asked five specific questions. Do you have any related issues which we have not specifically addressed, for example with regards the implementation of the proposals? Please use the consultation response form to express your views.

Please provide your views below:

The value of the existing procedural obligation to produce, report on and review the sustainable development strategy should not be underestimated. Many jurisdictions have substantive duties yet have made little real progress towards sustainable development. Substantive duties are highly symbolic yet need procedures to make them effective. If the duty to produce the strategy is removed, it should be replaced by an explicit obligation to produce an overall Programme for Government which has sustainable development as its central organising principle.

Also, there is no guarantee that a court will interpret the word 'sustainable' to mean ecologically sustainable even if that is the legislative intent. UK courts often still take the literal meaning of words. To use an example from Scotland - a duty to 'increase sustainable economic growth' could be interpreted as ensuring the economy grows steadily with no dramatic rises or falls.

Andrea Ross is author of Sustainable Development law in the UK - from Rhetoric to Reality (Earthscan/Routledge, 2012)

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Additional information
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From: deborah.hill [deborah.hill17@ntlworld.com]

Sent: 06 March 2013 08:49

To: SD Bill

Subject: Fw: A Sustainable Wales- Better Choices for a Better Future - Consultation response

Dear SD Bill team, further to our earlier telephone conversation , please find attached a few brief comments in response to the above consultation (I would appreciate it if you do not publish my name and address in the consultation response):

- Firstly, the key proposals set out in the White paper to make sustainable development the central organising principle for Welsh Government and Welsh public service organisations in Wales, and to establish an Independent Sustainable Development Body for Wales are very much welcomed and supported .This, however, is subject to clarification of how Sustainable Development is defined within the Bill.
- In order for the Bill to effectively achieve its aims of embedding Sustainable Development as a central organising principle within governance and decision making, and to ensure there is clear understanding and consistent application, it is fundamental that the Bill includes a clear definition of Sustainable Development.
- Although paragraph 2.16 on page 7 of the white paper states that 'Welsh Government recognises the need, stressed by stakeholders in response to the initial consultation for clarity in relation to what is meant' by Sustainable Development, the wording that follows is far from clear. It is uncertain whether it is the intention to use the definition in One Wales One planet , or the Bruntland definition or something else. It is not clear what is meant by 'Welsh Government proposes to follow practice elsewhere where the overarching aspects of Sustainable development are set out on the face of legislation' .
- Welsh Government needs to provide a clear and unambiguous definition of Sustainable Development within the new Bill.
- To effectively embed SD within decision making ,there will clearly be a need for training , awareness raising and capacity building in terms of the knowledge and expertise needed to support this process across the range of public services affected. Consideration needs to be given to how this support will be provided?

Regards
Deb Hill
Chair of Swansea Environmental Forum Executive Committee



Sustainable Development Bill White Paper Consultation Response

The Equality and Human Rights Commission is the independent advocate for equality, human rights and good relations in Britain. We are an independent statutory body established under the Equality Act 2006. We are a modern regulator charged with upholding fair treatment and tackling inequality. We are here to ensure everyone is treated with dignity and respect. We believe that the damaging effects of discrimination and prejudice have no place in a modern, open society.

The Commission is an 'A' status National Human Rights Institution with responsibility for monitoring both National and Devolved Governments compliance with international treaty obligations.

Parliament has set us the tasks of promoting equality, enforcing the law, protecting the human rights of and bringing people together to build stronger communities. These are ambitious aims that can only be achieved in partnership with others and with the support of the public.

To fulfil these aims we have unique powers. We can take legal cases on behalf of individuals to test and extend the right to equality and human rights; set up inquiries to investigate the behaviour of institutions; promote and enforce the public sector duties; and use our influence to lead new debates based on the evidence we collect and publish.

Key points:

1. There needs to be explicit recognition of equality as a key component of Sustainable Development in the Bill / supporting statutory framework.
2. The Commission welcomes an approach to policy making that emphasises prevention. EHRC has evidence indicating that the greatest inequalities and human rights abuses in Wales are costly in terms of ruined lives, missed opportunities and public expenditure.
3. There are notable alignments of the proposed sustainable development duty with the Public Sector Equality Duty, both in terms of approach and outcomes, and these issues could usefully be explored as the Bill takes shape or in supporting guidance.

These 3 points are amplified in the sections that follow.

1. Equality, Social Justice and Sustainable Development

There are clear commonalities between the outcomes sought by the agendas for equality and human rights and for sustainable development.

It should be understood, as indicated in the initial consultative document, that a key longer term outcome of the sustainable development duty should be a “sustainable society”, which includes “safer, fairer and more cohesive communities, with lower levels of poverty, and greater equality of opportunity for all, where people can achieve their full potential ...”

The 5 headline indicators of sustainable development include economic progress, social progress, and the wellbeing of Wales. Wellbeing criteria identified in the consultation include “.. participation in society; positive physical, social and mental state – inclusive communities, good health, security.” The planks of wellbeing - health, education, work, political voice and governance, security - align closely with the key challenges identified in research published by the Commission in our periodic report ***How Fair is Wales?***

Life and health - Reduce health inequalities between socio-economic groups - especially those affecting older and younger men.

Education and skills - Close the gap in attainment between different socio-economic groups - including that of boys, black, Bangladeshi and Pakistani pupils and disabled children.

Reduce the incidence of young people who are not in education, employment or training.

Employment - Increase employment rates for all people, especially disabled people and older people.

Close gender, ethnic and disability pay gaps faster and further

Legal and physical security - Reduce the incidence of domestic and sexual violence and reduce homophobic, transphobic, disability-related and religiously motivated bullying and hate crime.

Power and voice - Increase participation of protected groups in decision-making and make Wales's public, private and third sector bodies representative of the people they serve.

In addition to the strong commitment to social justice and equality of opportunity as part of sustainable development, the Commission welcomes the explicit recognition of the need for distribution of wellbeing within society as critical to sustainable development.

The Commission's ***An anatomy of economic inequality in Wales*** report explores economic inequality in Wales through the lens of people's characteristics - such as gender, ethnicity, age and disability - and shows the impact of family background on life chances.

The report highlights serious and entrenched inequalities. We know that feelings of being valued, respected and trusted are lower in societies with a big gap between the rich and the poor. Unhappiness, crime and violence are often higher. Good relations between people in society can be seriously damaged. Tackling corrosive, persistent inequalities is vital to people's wellbeing and a sustainable Wales.

2. Importance of prevention

There is strong cost-benefit evidence to favour prevention and early intervention as the sustainable approach across large areas of public sector work. The Commission welcomes the White Paper's emphasis on prevention and recognition that early signs of harm or additional need should trigger collective action by public service organisations.

Domestic Abuse

The Commission has actively promoted the adoption of workplace policies to address domestic abuse.

Domestic abuse has a devastating impact on individuals and their families. In 2008/09 domestic abuse accounted for 68% of female homicides and 15% of male homicides.

Domestic abuse can cause employees to be distracted at work, arrive late, leave early, or miss work. Supporting staff experiencing domestic abuse makes business sense. In England and Wales £2.7 billion a year is lost through economic output due to decreased productivity, administrative difficulties from unplanned time off, lost wages and sick pay.

With the statistic that 1 in 4 women will experience domestic abuse at some point in their life, it is likely that all workplaces have staff that have or are experiencing domestic abuse as well as those who are perpetrators of abuse.

Mental Health

The Commission has actively promoted the adoption of workplace policies to address mental health (Source: Mental Health is your business)

Mental health conditions are the second largest category of occupational ill health. An effective mental health policy for staff means that mental ill health can be managed more effectively benefiting both employer and staff member. Effective practice can reduce sickness absence, improve productivity and decrease recovery time.

Mental ill health has significant implications for employers as research shows that 91 million days are lost each year due to mental health conditions. The combined costs of sickness absence, non-employment, effects on unpaid work and output losses in the UK is £26 billion a year. This can be averaged out at a cost of around £1,035 per employee. This implies that a small organisation employing 50 people will typically incur costs of around £50,000 a year because of mental ill health among its employees. Recent research from Wales estimates the total cost to the Welsh economy to be £7.2 billion, larger than the total amount of public spending in Wales on health and social care for all health conditions combined.

According to the Shaw Trust, Welsh employers could be losing £292 million a year to mental health conditions. However, research shows that mental health management programmes offer good returns on the money invested. According to the Sainsbury Centre for Mental Health “British Telecom has reported that its mental wellbeing strategy has led to a reduction of 30 per cent in mental health-related sickness absence and a return to work rate of 75 per cent for people absent for more than six months with mental health problems If all employers could achieve the

same reduction...it can be calculated that the overall savings would come to over £300 a year for every employee in the workforce.”

Human Rights

The rights-respecting schools model demonstrates the benefits a human rights approach. The Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA) recognises achievement in putting the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child at the heart of a school’s planning, policies, practice and ethos. A rights-respecting school not only teaches about children’s rights but also models rights and respect in all its relationships: between teachers / adults and pupils, between adults and between pupils. Main areas of impact include:

- Improved self-esteem and well-being
- Improved relationships and behaviour (reductions in bullying and exclusions and improved attendance)
- Improved engagement in learning
- Positive attitudes towards diversity in society and the reduction of prejudice
- Children and young people become more involved in decision-making in schools

Other examples of improved public service delivery through an emphasis on human rights-based approach include:

- managing nutrition and hydration in hospital wards (Betsi Cadwaladr University Local Health Board)
- meeting the needs of Gypsy and Traveller children through the innovative approach at Monkton Priory Primary school in Pembrokeshire, with the result of increased numbers securing employment and apprenticeships.

3. Public Sector Equality Duty.

Sustainable development behaviours align well with aspects of the Public Sector Equality Duty, such as engagement and involvement to inform decision making and provide underpinning evidence.

The Public Sector Equality Duty frames the requirement to address the needs of people from protected groups under the Equality Act 2010. Although socio-economic circumstance is not a protected characteristic, there are strong correlations between having a protected characteristic and lacking key resources (poverty, exclusion, poor health etc). This is true, for example, of disabled people, older people, carers, people from certain ethnic backgrounds.

If sustainable development becomes the central organising principle driving public policy and practice, it should enable authorities to align their consideration of equality and social justice / socio-economic factors.

Success of the proposed sustainable development duty will require clear indicators of progress towards becoming a sustainable nation. It would be useful to explore how the range key public sector strategies and drivers in Wales – including duties and objectives in relation to planning and integration, equality, social justice and sustainable development – may operate to inform and add value to one another.

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CONSULTATION FORM

Sustainable Development Bill White Paper		
3 December 2012 – 4 March 2013		
Name	Conwy and Denbighshire LSB	
Organisation	Conwy County Council and Denbighshire County Council	
Address	Denbighshire County Council County Council Offices Wynnstay Road Ruthin Denbighshire Conwy County Council Bodlondeb Conwy	
E-mail address	Alan.smith@denbighshire.gov.uk	
Type <i>(please select one from the following)</i>	Businesses	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Local Authorities/Community & Town Councils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Government Agency/Other Public Sector	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Professional Bodies and Associations	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Third sector (community groups, volunteers, self help groups, co-operatives, enterprises, religious, not for profit organisations)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Academic bodies	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Member of the public	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Other (other groups not listed above)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Q1

What are your views on the proposals for a new duty to embed sustainable development as the central organising principle of selected organisations in Wales? [Chapter 2]

Please provide your views below:

It was noted that WG has not included the Police as one of the “selected organisations” subject to the duty for sustainable development. That said, they are part of the LSB where the North Wales Police have sustainable development as part of their organisations’ general principles (with their Director of Finance and Resources leading on ‘green’ / environmental issues).

From the responses received it was felt that the new duty was supported in principle but that there is a need for clarity in relation to its purpose. It was felt that through the provision of a clear purpose this would assist LSB partner organisations to understand the concept of placing SD as the central organising principle of their services. It was felt that a clear understanding of the principle at the on-set is critical in order for LSB organisations to be able to apply the principle consistently in their decision-making processes.

It was also felt that it should be acknowledged that different LSB partner organisations will have:

- Different citizen-focused outcomes based around basic needs
- Different weightings in relation to economic, social and environmental considerations

These differences will produce different organisational "outcomes" to the roles and functions performed.

Therefore it was felt that clear guidance is required to ensure consistency and future scrutiny.

Whilst it was understood that the principle should be applied at the strategic level it was felt that there should be some encouragement to cascade the duty to other decision making levels otherwise there was a risk that "coal face" decisions could become unsustainable or remote. The production of guidance in relation to this should avoid adding additional bureaucracy.

Q2

What are your views on the proposals for an independent sustainable development body? [Chapter 3]

Please provide your views below:

In general it was felt that the principle of this body (in providing an advisory and support role) was supported but that there needs to be clarity as to how the independent body will interact with the LSB organisations.

Whilst it states that the independent body will facilitate joint working and collaboration there is concern that this will not always be possible if the strategic objectives or functioning purposes of organisations are not compatible. It was felt that an amalgamated decision making approach could have negative implications in that it would not be locally accountable, relevant or even sustainable for smaller communities.

However, it was acknowledged that strategic thinking extends beyond the “here and now” and that the future consequences of any proposed development are a fundamental consideration.

The independent body should support and facilitate best practise approaches where the provision of evidence will be crucial to deliver meaningful SD delivery at ground level. On this basis it was felt that the independent body must facilitate and coordinate the evidence base on a strategic, regional and national basis (to include a significant focus on research and intelligence gathering to support the implementation of the duty and to support the [re]direction of government priorities whether historic, current, or future).

Q3

What are your views on the proposed phasing and implementation of the duty, including the timing of the establishment of the independent sustainable development body? [Chapter 4]

Please provide your views below:

The general view is that the phased approach and timing of implementation of the duty is not considered to be an issue as most organisations are already applying the principles of SD in their statutory functions. Another expressed view was that the phased approach is sensible providing it compliments existing planning processes otherwise it will be counter-productive.

Q4

What are your views on the proposals to improve the accountability framework for sustainable development in Wales? [Chapter 5]

Please provide your views below:

It was agreed that the responsibility for scrutiny should fall on the Auditor General for Wales (AGW), and build upon existing scrutiny arrangements and governance frameworks.

A concern was expressed about the financial cost in relation to this as the generation of legislation which needs a whole infrastructure at Local Government level (to maintain support, scrutiny and compliance) will have significant (and on-going) capital and revenue costs. The counter argument to this is that the financial cost would be offset against the value and benefits of sustainable development for the future, would support further collaborative working and compliment the Single Integrated Plans.

It was felt that clarity was needed regarding how accountability will work where decisions have long term impacts.

Q5

We have asked five specific questions. Do you have any related issues which we have not specifically addressed, for example with regards the implementation of the proposals? Please use the consultation response form to express your views.

Please provide your views below:

- There is a need for clarity in relation to the purpose of the bill and the clear interpretation and understanding of what is meant by SD.
- It was felt that implementation of the proposals places another requirement upon the selected organisations without any clarity on as to whether additional funding will be available to support them.
- The involvement of the Welsh Audit Office should not dampen opportunity to take risks as the approach to Sustainable Development can provide opportunities for innovative developments (local government can sometimes be viewed as being 'risk-averse').
- It was felt that the scrutiny and accountability framework should be supportive in respect of organisations being encouraged to try new and innovative ways of working.
- It was noted that there is no reference to sanctions for poor performance nor rewards for success. It is hoped that the driving force behind this being one of support and assistance rather than punishment. Sustainable development is about changing culture.
- It is imperative that SD should focus on practical outcomes empowering organisations to drive positive change.
- Selected public sector organisations are only one small part of an effective SD programme. It is not clear

Confidentiality

Responses to consultations may be made public – on the internet or in a report. If you would prefer your response to be kept confidential please indicate here:

How to respond

Please submit your comments by 4 March 2013, in any of the following ways:

Email	Post
<p>Please complete the consultation form and send it to:</p> <p>SDBill@wales.gsi.gov.uk</p> <p>Please include 'WG17030' in the subject line.</p>	<p>Please complete the consultation form and send it to:</p> <p>Sustainable Development Bill Team Welsh Government Cathays Park Cardiff CF10 3NQ</p>

Additional information
<p>If you have any queries on this consultation, please contact us by email or telephone:</p> <p>Email: SDBill@wales.gsi.gov.uk</p> <p>Telephone: (02920 82) 1728 or 6541</p>

CONSULTATION FORM

Sustainable Development Bill White Paper

We want your views on our proposals for a Sustainable Development Bill.

Please submit your comments by 4 March 2012.

If you have any queries on this consultation, please email:
SDBill@wales.gsi.gov.uk or telephone: (02920 82) 1728 or 6541

Data Protection

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The Welsh Government intends to publish a summary of the responses to this document. We may also publish responses in full. Normally, the name and address (or part of the address) of the person or organisation who sent the response are published with the response. This helps to show that the consultation was carried out properly. If you do not want your name or address published, please tick the box below. We will then blank them out.

Names or addresses we blank out might still get published later, though we do not think this would happen very often. The Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 allow the public to ask to see information held by many public bodies, including the Welsh Government. This includes information which has not been published. However, the law also allows us to withhold information in some circumstances. If anyone asks to see information we have withheld, we will have to decide whether to release it or not. If someone has asked for their name and address not to be published, that is an important fact we would take into account. However, there might sometimes be important reasons why we would have to reveal someone's name and address, even though they have asked for them not to be published. We would get in touch with the person and ask their views before we finally decided to reveal the information.

CONSULTATION FORM

Sustainable Development Bill White Paper		
3 December 2012 – 4 March 2013		
Name	Professor John Morgan	
Organisation	UK National Commission for UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation)	
Address	UK National Commission for UNESCO, Suite 98, 3 Whitehall Court, London, SW1A 2EL	
E-mail address	jbridge@unesco.org.uk	
Type <i>(please select one from the following)</i>	Businesses	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Local Authorities/Community & Town Councils	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Government Agency/Other Public Sector	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Professional Bodies and Associations	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Third sector (community groups, volunteers, self help groups, co-operatives, enterprises, religious, not for profit organisations)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Academic bodies	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Member of the public	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Other (other groups not listed above)	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q1	What are your views on the proposals for a new duty to embed sustainable development as the central organising principle of selected organisations in Wales? [Chapter 2]
<p>Please provide your views below:</p> <p>The UK National Commission for UNESCO (UKNC) strongly welcomes the embedding of sustainable development behaviours in the cultures of organisations, particularly regarding high level decisions and corporate planning processes - as this significantly determines what will end up being put in place, measured and therefore outcomes.</p> <p>The focus on applying the measures where the organisations concerned have the greatest impact is a positive step.</p> <p>Sections 1:12 and 1:13 are pertinent for the UKNC, particularly exchanging knowledge, the sharing of best practice, benchmarking and working in partnership internationally. The UKNC's policy briefing on Education for Sustainable Development is attached to this response. The alignment with The Future We Want UN outcomes document is welcome, as is Wales playing a full part in taking forward the Sustainable Development Goals. The UKNC notes that UNESCO has been given special responsibility by the UN Secretary General for the Education and Science elements of the proposed goals.</p> <p>Wales' commitment to the two Declarations at Rio +20 demonstrates the leading role it can play (section 1:13).</p>	

Q2

What are your views on the proposals for an independent sustainable development body? [Chapter 3]

Please provide your views below:

The proposal for a Commissioner and secretariat staff is welcomed, as is the emphasis on an enabling and support focussed approach.

The UKNC is acknowledged as a provider of advice and expertise to government in areas of UNESCO competency, including Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and welcomes the opportunity as the appropriate cooperating body to exchange best practice. The UKNC's policy brief on ESD, which has a specific section on ESD in Wales is attached to this response and is referred to in Q5.

Q3

What are your views on the proposed phasing and implementation of the duty, including the timing of the establishment of the independent sustainable development body? [Chapter 4]

Please provide your views below:

Q4

What are your views on the proposals to improve the accountability framework for sustainable development in Wales? [Chapter 5]

Please provide your views below:

The proposals are long term and are in line with the vision

Q5

We have asked five specific questions. Do you have any related issues which we have not specifically addressed, for example with regards the implementation of the proposals? Please use the consultation response form to express your views.

Please provide your views below:

Regarding Education for Sustainable Development (ESD policy briefing attached) - Key recommendations:

1: It is essential to develop an overarching UK Strategy for Sustainable Development which sets out a clear vision about the contribution learning can make to its Sustainable Development Goals. Wales has much to contribute to this.

2. ESD would benefit from an overall strategic framework which puts it firmly at the core of the education policy agenda in all of the jurisdictions in the UK. This would provide much needed coherence, direction and impetus to existing initiatives and scale-up and build on existing good practice. Importantly, at a time of austerity it could help prevent unnecessary duplication of effort and resources. As yet, there is no coherent view at policy or practice level about how ESD can most appropriately be experienced by learners, in a progressive sense, from, say ages 4 to 21 and beyond. A commission set up to examine and report on this question would help institutions plan effectively.

3. A pan-UK forum should be established for overseeing the promotion, implementation and evaluation of ESD across the UK, with a clear remit to work collaboratively with the UK Government and all three devolved administrations, whilst respecting their jurisdictional policy remits.

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Additional information
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Auditor General for Wales’ response to Welsh Government consultation on proposals for a sustainable development Bill as set out in the white paper: “A sustainable Wales: better choices for a better future”.

Question 1. What are your views on the proposals for a new duty to embed sustainable development as the central organising principle of selected organisations in Wales?

1. The AGW supports the proposals. Given robust and proportionate implementation, the proposed governance framework for sustainable development has the potential to deliver better quality strategic decision making in the public sector in Wales. The focus on strategic decision making will help in the Welsh Government’s aim of targeting those decisions that have the greatest influence on behaviour, whilst avoiding the creation of additional bureaucracy.
2. The dual focus on ‘what’ outcomes and ‘how’ they are delivered could deliver real added value if it is used as an approach to transforming public sector delivery. This will require time and thought to be invested in identifying meaningful outcomes at the level of both communities and service users. Our work shows that much of the ‘outcome’ focus in the public sector is in fact focused on outputs or service provision. Economy, efficiency and effectiveness is most likely to be ensured by establishing clear outcomes and then working back from these ‘ends’, to establish the ‘means’ of delivering them. This approach can provide a valuable challenge to ‘business as usual’ by highlighting aspects of current public sector activity which are not directly focused on the ‘outcomes’.
3. To ensure that a ‘clear focus’ on outcomes will complement the Welsh Government’s commitment to make SD the central organising principle, it will be important to ensure that the SD principles are applied to the strategic decision making that determines the outcomes. This will, for example, ensure that the process, which has led to the agreed outcomes, has been fully informed by ‘consideration of the effect on the economic, social, environmental and long term wellbeing’. It will also ensure that the process of agreeing the outcomes is inclusive. Ensuring that the analysis underpinning the outcome focus is shared by a broad range of stakeholders is key and will help when difficult decisions have to be made. These points might be usefully addressed by Welsh Government guidance.
4. It would be appropriate for the Welsh Government to guard against the risk that a proliferation and layering of the duties and requirements placed on public bodies can promote a focus on process and activity and increase bureaucracy. Such a focus would run counter to the Welsh Government’s stated intention. This risk could be mitigated by identifying how the SD Bill could be used to rationalise and streamline existing duties and requirements. For example, the Local Government Measure (Wales) 2009 places sustainability as one of seven “aspects of improvement” and in effect establishes sustainable development as one of seven potentially competing priorities. This is clearly

incompatible with the Welsh Government's stated intention to make sustainable development the central organising principle. (We consider this example further under question 4.)

5. We would also emphasise the importance of clarity and consistency in the use of language in ensuring the successful implementation of the proposed duty. In particular, the use of the term "wellbeing" has the potential to be a source of confusion. The White Paper refers to '...the joined up consideration of economic, social and environmental wellbeing, together with that of future generations'. However, across the public sector in Wales (and beyond), wellbeing is generally used to describe the physical, social and mental state of people. The potential for confusion and ambiguity is illustrated by key Welsh Government documents on health and social care, where the term phrase health and wellbeing is used regularly. There is nothing to suggest that current understanding of health and wellbeing, amongst policy makers and service providers in the area of health and social care, includes living within environmental limits. In addition, relatively recent documents produced by the Welsh Government and by Local Health Boards use the term 'sustainable' when referring to only one element of sustainable development, that of financial viability.
6. A more disciplined use of language, across all levels of the public sector, will be key to improving understanding and underpinning delivery of the Welsh Government's ambition in relation to sustainable development. Guidance will also need to make clear and explicit that the 'environment' is integral to 'wellbeing' as defined in the proposed duty. What this means in practical terms for the strategic decision making of public bodies will also need to be made specific. For instance, public bodies are currently focused on how to deliver services within ever tighter financial constraints. Under the duty they will need to consider the effect of their strategic decisions on future generations, living within environmental limits, and wider society, as well as the financial viability of the organisation.

Question 2. What are your views on the proposals for an independent sustainable development body?

7. The proposals to establish an independent body should be helpful in supporting the implementation of the SD duty. The proposed functions of providing a source of expertise, including access to international expertise and experience, will be important in supporting the public sector in Wales (including the AGW) to embed SD.
8. There is significant potential for the work of the independent body to inform the work of the AGW, and vice versa. The proposal that the SD body should have the ability to collaborate with the AGW is therefore welcome. This should be matched by ensuring that the AGW has the ability to collaborate with the SD body.
9. The proposals to embed SD in the existing accountability and scrutiny frameworks (see question 4) complement the approach proposed for the new SD body.

10. In addition to the AGW, the new SD body could also play a role in advising and informing National Assembly Scrutiny Committees.

Question 3. What are your views on the proposed phasing and implementation of the duty, including the timing of the independent sustainable development body?

11. The phased approach will enable the AGW focus effort on working with stakeholders to develop a robust and proportionate framework for accountability and external scrutiny. Given the pressures on the public sector, capacity will be an issue which will be helped by a phased implementation.
12. The AGW supports the early establishment of the SD Body as this will enable collaboration between the two organisations and facilitate preparations for the implementation of the duty.
13. In our response to Question 1, we note a number of issues in relation to the use of the term ‘wellbeing’ and ‘sustainability’. We also highlight the importance of ensuring that all public bodies understand the practical implications of undertaking an integrated consideration of the economic, social and environmental effects of their strategic decisions. The new body should be established as soon as possible, so as to help public bodies equip themselves with the knowledge, skills and tools needed.

Question 4. What are your views on the proposals to improve the accountability framework for sustainable development in Wales?

14. Overall, the proposals seem practical and conducive to ensuring that SD does in fact become the central organising principle in decision-making. As the White Paper notes, the responsibility for external scrutiny for most of the organisations that are to be covered by the SD duty falls to the AGW. The AGW therefore already examines key governance documentation at the bodies concerned, so placing a duty on the AGW to review¹ how organisations have embedded SD as the central organising principle in their strategic decision-making is an efficient approach. This is important, as any arrangements to improve the accountability framework for SD is likely to incur additional cost, but making maximum use of existing mechanisms should minimise such costs.
15. The AGW will endeavour to ensure that the duty placed on him does not lead to an unduly narrow focus, which results in ‘tick box’ exercises within public bodies. The AGW intends to promote a focus on how strategic decision-making has applied SD principles in agreeing outcomes, and in deciding how they should be delivered. The AGW will therefore seek to complement the annual consideration of compliance with the SD duty with consideration of the need for more in-depth related work using his existing

¹ Para 5.6 of the White Paper refers to “an examination”. For clarity it may helpful to use a term such as “review” rather than examination as the latter may be confused with certain other existing functions.

examination and improvement study powers, including those found in section 145A of the Government of Wales Act 2006, which applies to the Welsh Government and related bodies, including the NHS, and sections 41 and 42 of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004, which apply to local government bodies. (To ensure that such an integrated approach with studies and examinations continues, it might be helpful if the Welsh Government included specific provision for consideration of the use of such existing powers alongside the annual review of how organisations have embedded SD as the central organising principle. The White Paper's reference to the AGW's Code of Audit Practice is appropriate. It is in keeping with the concept of mainstreaming SD as the central organising principle for the AGW to set out, in the Code of Audit Practice, how the review of the SD duty is to be done. To ensure inclusion of SD in the Code it would be appropriate to make such inclusion a duty on the AGW.

16. Consideration needs to be given to how compliance with the SD duty is reviewed at bodies that are to be covered by the duty but are not audited by the AGW, such as universities. One approach would be to require the AGW to review compliance with the SD duty at bodies that he does not audit in other respects. This would ensure consistency, but it may not be the most efficient approach. Another option would be to put the same review duty that applies to the AGW on the auditors that such bodies appoint. That may, however, raise issues of legislative competence in relation to the Companies Act 2006 (and perhaps some aspects of charity legislation). It would also risk inconsistency in approaches across the Welsh public sector, though that might be addressed by requiring auditors to adhere to the AGW's Code of Audit Practice in respect of reviewing the SD duty.
17. A further option would be for the AGW to examine university and college compliance with the SD duty through studies under the Government of Wales Acts 1998 and 2006 of the arrangements made by funding bodies (HEFCW and the Welsh Government) to secure such compliance. This would, however, be a rather indirect route, and, as the studies under the 1998 and 2006 Acts are discretionary, there is no guarantee that they would be done. In the case of Registered Social Landlords, a more direct approach could be achieved by the Welsh Government and the AGW agreeing programmes of studies of compliance with the SD duty under section 145C of the 1998 Act. Again, however, the agreement of such programmes is discretionary, so there would be no guarantee that they would take place.
18. In our July 2012 response to the Welsh Government's previous consultation on the SD Bill, we outlined the following approach to external scrutiny, based on the Welsh Government's proposals to focus on strategic decision making. In certain places, we refer to the "auditor". For most public bodies, this will mean the AGW, but where bodies are still permitted to appoint their own auditors, to ensure consistent external scrutiny, we suggest that the duties referred to apply to such auditors.
19. As we understand it, the Government proposes that the SD Bill will put the auditor of a body subject to the sustainable development duty under a duty to undertake a high

level review of whether the sustainable development duty has been applied in higher-level decisions. Such decisions will include in particular its setting of long-term strategy, annual plan, annual corporate budget and key policies that govern how it is to deliver services or otherwise use public resources. Such a review would entail examination of the documents themselves, supplemented where necessary by examination of supporting records, such as records of public engagement, and interview (or survey) of relevant staff, users and stakeholders.

20. We consider that it would be appropriate from the point of view of effective external scrutiny arrangements for the Bill to put the auditor under a duty to provide a report on the review (a sustainable development compliance report) alongside his/her certificate/report on the accounts. We also consider that the sustainable development compliance report should be subject to the same publication and consideration requirements as the certificate/report on the accounts, and accordingly it would be appropriate for the SD Bill to put such requirements in place. This would mean, for example, for the Welsh Government and related bodies, including the NHS, that the sustainable development compliance report would be laid before the National Assembly. Such requirements would ensure sustainable development compliance reports are available for consideration by relevant Assembly committees, including PAC, councils and their scrutiny committees and the general public.
21. We also consider that the SD Bill should put the auditor under a duty of considering whether the review raises concerns about the body's compliance with the sustainable development duty that merit further examination. Such further examination could be pursued under the AGW's existing vfm examination and study functions (as mentioned in para 15 above), or the new legislation could provide specific sustainable development examination duties. The AGW's existing vfm examination and study functions do not, unfortunately, currently extend to individual further and higher education institutions, except by agreement or through examination of arrangements by the Welsh Government and HEFCW in relation to their funding of the institutions. A sustainable development Bill might therefore usefully address that gap.
22. The AGW would also endeavour from time to time to undertake cross-cutting studies of sustainable development issues informed by work under paras 19 to 21 above, using existing examination and study powers. To ensure that this takes place, the SD Bill could usefully place a duty on the AGW to consider whether cross-cutting studies of SD should be undertaken. We envisage such studies might include periodic studies to summarise the results of all sustainable development review and examination work across all sectors.
23. We consider that auditors should be under a duty to make available all their sustainable development reports to the new sustainable development body for information. Such a duty would make the new body's task of tracking reports much easier and would therefore save time and expense. (This would not strictly be necessary if the SD Bill were

to require SD compliance reports to be published alongside the certified accounts of public bodies.)

24. A further consideration is that the Government's proposals for a duty on the AGW to examine how organisations have embedded SD as the central organising principle may provide scope for significantly streamlining some external review activities in local government. Part 1 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009 places extensive improvement planning and reporting duties on county and county borough councils, national park authorities and fire and rescue authorities. It also places duties on the AGW to audit and assess compliance with those duties. The focus of the 2009 Measure is on the process of improvement planning and public accountability through reporting. If the Welsh Government introduces a duty on the AGW to examine the extent that sustainable development principles are embedded in decision-making, it could render the requirements placed on the AGW by the 2009 Measure superfluous in that the AGW, through the new SD duty, could be required to focus on strategic decision-making and planning more broadly. The new duty would not restrict the AGW to examinations of single organisations as the principles of sustainable development are more wide-ranging. Removing the requirements placed on the AGW by the Measure and replacing them with requirements under the SD Bill would mean that the AGW could appropriately focus on the strategic collaborative space and community outcomes, rather than single organisation matters of process.
25. The AGW will work with a range of stakeholders in the period prior to commencement to seek to engage with a range of experience and expertise, in shaping a framework for accountability and external scrutiny, which is both proportionate and fit for purpose. Reporting is a key element of accountability and external scrutiny. Our engagement with a range of professional bodies has suggested that a number of initiatives currently being developed offer potential to both rationalise and improve the effectiveness of reporting. These include Accounting for Sustainability's Connected Reporting, the Global Reporting Initiative and the work of the Integrated International Reporting Committee.

Question 5. We have asked four specific questions. Do you have any related issues which we have not specifically addressed, for example with regards the implementation of proposals? Please use the consultation response form to express your views.

26. Proposals for using the SD Bill to place single integrated planning on a statutory basis, is a practical example of seeking to integrate and streamline. It strengthens the role of single integrated planning as a delivery mechanism for sustainable development. However, the current single integrated planning proposals do not reference the need to live within environmental limits. Current Single Integrated Plans have yet to develop into effective mechanisms which are able to: support the 'consideration of the effect on the

economic, social *and* environmental wellbeing of Wales...so that decisions are informed by an appreciation of the likely effects on each and the integration between them’.

27. To deliver on the commitment to the National Principles of Public Engagement in the White Paper, the proposals for Single Integrated Planning will need to consider how to improve the quality of engagement between public bodies, the public, communities and the third sector. A number of the principles for public engagement relate to encouraging those affected to be involved, working with relevant partner organisations and enabling people to take part effectively. In addition, the need to be inclusive and empower people and their communities is an internationally recognised underpinning principle of SD. It is not clear how the current proposals for Single Integrated Planning reflect this commitment to inclusivity.
28. These are some examples of how the framework for public sector policy making and service delivery will need to be reshaped to support effective governance for sustainable development. Using the SD Bill to provide a statutory basis for Single Integrated Planning provides an opportunity to address these and similar issues.
29. These examples also highlight the importance for public bodies of using the time prior to the commencement of the SD duty to improve their knowledge and skills in relation to public engagement. Given the challenges facing public sector, consensus building and conflict resolution will need to be a key focus of this work.
30. There is a need to clarify what is meant by long term thinking. Single Integrated Planning has a time frame of three to five years, which can be appropriate for service focused delivery, but is not an appropriate timescale for tackling some of the key social and environmental challenges facing Wales. Typically community planning has a twenty year planning horizon.
31. Given the central role that budget setting and procurement play in the delivery of public sector policy, services and functions, the duty would be more effective in supporting the Welsh Government’s intention to make SD the central organising principle if these key areas are referred to specifically.

4 March 2013

Sustainable Development Bill Team
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

Dear Sir,

A Sustainable Wales

Better Choices for a Better Future

Consultation on proposals for a Sustainable Development Bill

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the consultation dated 3 December 2012

RICS Wales is the principal body representing professionals employed in the land, property and construction sector and represents some 4000 members divided into 17 professional groups. As part of our Royal Charter we have a commitment to provide advice to the Government of the day and in doing so we have an obligation to bear in mind the public interest as well as the interest of our members

Our detailed response to the Consultation is as follows:

Consultation Questions Question 1 (Chapter 2)

What are your views on the proposals for a new duty to embed sustainable development as the central organising principle of selected organisations in Wales?

Agreed – However we do have concerns about increased costs affecting the viability of much needed commercial and residential development and the potential of increased delays in obtaining planning consent which already pass through a number of challenging hoops. We would suggest that any guidelines issued allow for interpretation to be responsive to particular circumstances and other social goals in addition to the environment.

Question 2 (Chapter 3)

What are your views on the proposals for an independent sustainable development body?

Agreed – there will be a need to establish a central source of expert advice and guidance, rather than have every organisation trying to do so within themselves. However there is a risk that the body could duplicate the role of the existing planning process. We would suggest further consultation on its exact role and powers. Further specific points that we feel need greater clarity include funding, and what powers it will have for enforcement and whether its remit should perhaps fall under the Auditor General for Wales. We also feel organisations with a public mandate like RICS should be drawn upon by the new organisation for guidance and support.

Question 3 (Chapter 4)

What are your views on the proposed phasing and implementation of the duty, including the timing of the establishment of the independent sustainable development body?

Agreed.

Question 4 (Chapter 5)

What are your views on the proposals to improve the accountability framework for sustainable development in Wales?

Agreed – this is the best way to ensure a change in the way of thinking of sustainable development as part of the mainstream. RICS Wales considered considers that robust and understandable measures are crucial. The existing measures are valuable but the publicity and circulation is erratic and they fail to concentrate on key sustainability Indicators which are easy to understand and compare.

Question 5

We have asked four specific questions. Do you have any related issues which we have not specifically addressed, for example with regards the implementation of the proposals?

We feel implementation needs greater clarity. In particular how is this body going to influence better planning decisions and is it going to have a say. We would suggest further workshops this year to provide for more private sector input. We would also like to highlight RICS Viability in planning guidance on which we would be pleased to engage directly with Welsh Government to offer it as a support to their work.

If you have any queries in respect of this response please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

David Morgan
Policy Manager

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dmorgan@rics.org

CONSULTATION FORM

Sustainable Development Bill White Paper

We want your views on our proposals for a Sustainable Development Bill.

Please submit your comments by 4 March 2012.

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CONSULTATION FORM

Sustainable Development Bill White Paper		
3 December 2012 – 4 March 2013		
Name	Andrew Gurney	
Organisation	Farmers' Union of Wales	
Address	Llys Amaeth Plas Gogerddan Aberystwyth Ceredigion SY23 3BT	
E-mail address	Andrew.gurney@fuw.org.uk	
Type <i>(please select one from the following)</i>	Businesses	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Local Authorities/Community & Town Councils	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Government Agency/Other Public Sector	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Professional Bodies and Associations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Third sector (community groups, volunteers, self help groups, co-operatives, enterprises, religious, not for profit organisations)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Academic bodies	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Member of the public	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Other (other groups not listed above)	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q1	What are your views on the proposals for a new duty to embed sustainable development as the central organising principle of selected organisations in Wales? [Chapter 2]
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Please provide your views below:

The Farmers' Union of Wales (FUW) fully supports the concept of sustainable development and the associated Sustainable Development Bill which would require all public sector organisations to enshrine the three principles of sustainable development – economic, social and environment – into all of their functions. This will be particularly pertinent in rural areas to encourage the retention and development of businesses and services which, ultimately, results in thriving rural economies and vibrant rural communities.

As outlined in paragraph 2.4 of the consultation, it is imperative that the Outcomes and the decisions on how these Outcomes can be achieved are fully informed with due consideration of the three principles of sustainable development. As highlighted in its response to the previous consultation, Welsh Government should ensure that the three principles are given equal weighting in the decision-making process.

If the aspirations of the White Paper are to be achieved it is important to ensure that Welsh Government takes the lead in ensuring that its policies and guidance are interpreted effectively and uniformly across the public sector organisations they are applicable to, otherwise there will be little change in the delivery of the principles of a socially, economically and environmentally sustainable Wales.

The FUW welcomes the premise that the introduction of the sustainable development duty is not intended to create any additional bureaucracy or extra burdens on the organisations that it is applicable to. However, the Union has reservations, particularly with the proposed establishment of a Sustainable Development Body, whether this will actually be the case given that some organisations will inevitably 'go over the top' in the implementation of their duties.

In its response to last year's consultation, the Union highlighted the need for flexibility in the way the Sustainable Development Bill and the underlying Duty were applied to organisations. Whilst welcoming the fact that the need for flexibility has been recognised by the Welsh Government (paragraphs 2.20 and 2.21), in relation to the setting of the Outcomes by organisations, it would argue that this flexibility needs to be extended to ensure that the differing needs and demands of urban and rural areas can be adequately reflected

Q2

What are your views on the proposals for an independent sustainable development body? [Chapter 3]

Please provide your views below:

The FUW remains unconvinced of the need for an independent Sustainable Development Body for Wales. As highlighted in its response to the previous consultation, the Union believes that the current arrangements were sufficient and believes that the Commissioner for Sustainable Futures, and the associated delivery contract with Cynnal Cymru, should continue.

Whilst recognising that the introduction of a Sustainable Development Bill requires a number of additional functions which are not currently available under the existing arrangements, the Union believes that the current structures could be adapted to address the additional functions required by the new Bill.

The FUW supports the need for a review of “the progress being made in Wales to sustainable development” (paragraph 3.26). However, it believes that the review of progress may need to be undertaken more frequently during the early years, to ensure that the basic aims are being met.

Q3

What are your views on the proposed phasing and implementation of the duty, including the timing of the establishment of the independent sustainable development body? [Chapter 4]

Please provide your views below:

Notwithstanding the Union’s views on the creation of a Sustainable Development Body, as outlined above, it agrees that the Body, or any similar support mechanism put in place, needs to be in place to coincide with the phased implementation of the sustainable development duty and to provide support, advice and guidance to those organisations subject to the duty from the first day of the legislation being enacted.

The Union also supports a phased implementation of the sustainable development duty. However, the Union would suggest a number of amendments to the implementation plan (outlined in table 2) as a means of improving the visibility of sustainable development to the wider public of Wales.

Q4

What are your views on the proposals to improve the accountability framework for sustainable development in Wales? [Chapter 5]

Please provide your views below:

The FUW notes that no mention is made in the consultation on whether the Auditor General Wales will be provided with sufficient resources, not solely financial but resources covering staffing and time, to carry out an “examination of how organisations have embedded sustainable development as their central organising principle in relation to the duty” in addition to the functions already carried out in auditing the Welsh Government and other public sector organisations.

Whilst supporting the conclusions drawn by the Welsh Government, in paragraph 5.3, to use existing frameworks already in place for public sector organisations to deliver accountability and robust scrutiny, the Union believes that these organisations need to be transparent in reporting their achievements in meeting the Outcomes, which they set for themselves.

Q5

We have asked five specific questions. Do you have any related issues which we have not specifically addressed, for example with regards the implementation of the proposals? Please use the consultation response form to express your views.

Please provide your views below:

Farming by its very nature is responsible for the management of the landscape and the environment as well as the production of food for an ever increasing population. The Union believes that sustainable, locally produced food has an important role to play in meeting the Welsh Government’s sustainable development outcomes and that the public procurement of locally produced food needs to be specifically encouraged. It is therefore disappointing that there is no specific reference to food or food security in the consultation. The inclusion of food security and the importance of public bodies procuring local food products within the Sustainable Development Bill will also work towards attaining the direction set out in the *Food for Wales Food from Wales Strategy* for a “sustainable and resilient food system that encompasses a food sector composed of competitive and profitable businesses” and a “Welsh food industry that can grow in a sustainable and profitable manner”.

The Union is also disappointed that, despite acknowledging the representations received for the inclusion of an organisations’ procurement decisions in the sustainable development duty, as outlined in paragraph 2.2.6, the Welsh Government has concluded that the duty will only apply to the strategic process of developing an organisations’ procurement policy and not the procurement process.

Confidentiality

Responses to consultations may be made public – on the internet or in a report. If you would prefer your response to be kept confidential please indicate here:

How to respond

Please submit your comments by 4 March 2013, in any of the following ways:

Email	Post
<p>Please complete the consultation form and send it to: SDBill@wales.gsi.gov.uk Please include 'WG17030' in the subject line.</p>	<p>Please complete the consultation form and send it to: Sustainable Development Bill Team Welsh Government Cathays Park Cardiff CF10 3NQ</p>

Additional information
<p>If you have any queries on this consultation, please contact us by email or telephone: Email: SDBill@wales.gsi.gov.uk Telephone: (02920 82) 1728 or 6541</p>