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Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Welsh Government Consultation Document

Consultation on the draft Integrated Sustainability Appraisal Scoping
Report for the National Development Framework

Date of issue: 28 April 2017
Action required: Responses by 21 July 2017

Mae'r ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg.
This document is also available in Welsh.

Overview	This consultation seeks your views on the draft Integrated Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report for the National Development Framework. The draft Scoping Report is the first step of the Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) for the NDF. This is an important consultation which will help steer the development of the ISA, and the NDF, from its early stages.
How to respond	<p>The closing date for responses is 21 July 2017. You can respond in any of the following ways:</p> <p>email Please complete the consultation form and send it to: planconsultations-a@wales.gsi.gov.uk</p> <p>post Please complete the consultation response form and send it to:</p> <p>Draft Integrated Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report Consultation National Development Framework Team Planning Directorate Welsh Government Cathays Park Cardiff CF10 3NQ.</p>
Further information and related documents	<p>Large print, Braille and alternative language versions of this document are available on request.</p> <p>www.gov.wales/ndf</p>
Contact details	<p>For further information:</p> <p>Gemma Christian National Development Framework Team Planning Directorate Welsh Government Cathays Park Cardiff CF10 3NQ</p> <p>email: planconsultations-a@wales.gsi.gov.uk Tel: 03000256657</p>
Data protection	<p>How the views and information you give us will be used</p> <p>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.</p>

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 tell us this in writing when you send your response. 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.



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

INTEGRATED SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL OF THE NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

Scoping Report

APRIL 2017

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Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Definition
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
AQMA	Air Quality Management Area
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
CO ₂	Carbon Dioxide
CRIA	Children's Rights Impact Assessment
cSAC	Candidate Special Area of Conservation
DBEIS	Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
DNS	Developments of National Significance
EqIA	Equalities Impact Assessment
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GVA	Gross Value Added
HIA	Health Impact Assessment
HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment
ISA	Integrated Sustainability Appraisal
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
LSOA	Lower Super Output Area
LWS	Local Wildlife Site
NDF	National Development Framework
NNR	National Nature Reserve
NQF	National Qualifications Framework
pSPA	Potential Special Protection Area
SA	Sustainability Appraisal
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SoNaRR	State of Natural Resources Report

Abbreviation	Definition
SPA	Special Protection Area
SPP	Statement of Public Participation
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
UNCRC	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
WSP	Wales Spatial Plan

1 Background to the National Development Framework and Purpose of this Integrated Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report

1.1 Introduction

The Welsh Government is currently preparing a National Development Framework (NDF) to provide a spatial context for the delivery of development and national planning policy in Wales over the next 20 years. The NDF is an important part of the planning system in Wales. More information on the NDF and the planning system is available on the Welsh Government [website](#). The NDF will influence how communities develop over the next 20 years and it is important that we have a comprehensive understanding of the positive and adverse effects this can have as we develop the NDF. To do this we are developing an Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA). This integrated approach to the appraisal will ensure that we look at the contribution the NDF can make to Wales' seven national well-being goals, and embeds the principle of sustainable development at all stages, provided for by the *Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act (2015)*.

This assessment is a requirement of several pieces of legislation including the European Directive 2001/42/EC 'on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment' (The Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive)¹ which was transposed directly into Welsh law through the SEA Regulations². Section 3 of the Planning (Wales) Act 2015 amends Part 6 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and inserts new Section 60B (1) (b) s 60,60A, 60B and 60C. Section 60B (1) (b) specifically requires the Welsh Government to carry out an appraisal of the sustainability of the policies in the NDF and this must incorporate the requirements of the SEA Regulations and consideration of impacts on the Welsh language.

The Welsh Government has decided to integrate other assessments including health, Welsh language and equalities impact assessments into the SA/SEA process and will therefore be undertaking an ISA.

1.2 What is this consultation?

This Scoping Report is a statutory consultation document to help define the scope and level of detail of the emerging ISA. It will be consulted upon for twelve weeks and we would welcome your views. This is an important consultation which will help steer the development of the ISA and NDF from its early stages.

1.3 What is the National Development Framework?

The NDF will be a national land use plan and will be an important part of the land use planning system in Wales. It will set a spatial vision for the whole planning system, covering issues such as energy, transport, and infrastructure and will inform decisions made nationally, regionally and locally. It will provide the context for Strategic Development Plans (regional) and Local Development Plans (local) and support the determination of Developments of National Significance (DNS). It will be a high-level framework, sitting alongside Planning Policy Wales and will focus on supporting the delivery of national level objectives and Government policy. The NDF will be reviewed every 5 years.

Where the NDF identifies that new nationally important infrastructure is required, the planning system will play an important role in helping to support the delivery of this infrastructure. Importantly, the planning system ensures that infrastructure is delivered in an integrated manner and opportunities for benefits are maximised. Projects of a national scale are likely to be significant, either in terms of scale or their contribution to meeting national goals and inclusion in the NDF will provide a high level of certainty and help co-ordinate public and private investment.

¹ Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment

² Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulations (SI 2004/1656 (W/170)) and in England, the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (SI 2004/1633)

1.4 What is an Integrated Sustainability Appraisal?

1.4.1 Sustainability Appraisal (SA)/Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

We are committed to improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales now and over the long term. One of the key ways of achieving this is taking an integrated approach to what we do. This integrated approach allows us to take a holistic view of the potential impacts of the NDF and we will share information and links between different topics through a collaborative approach.

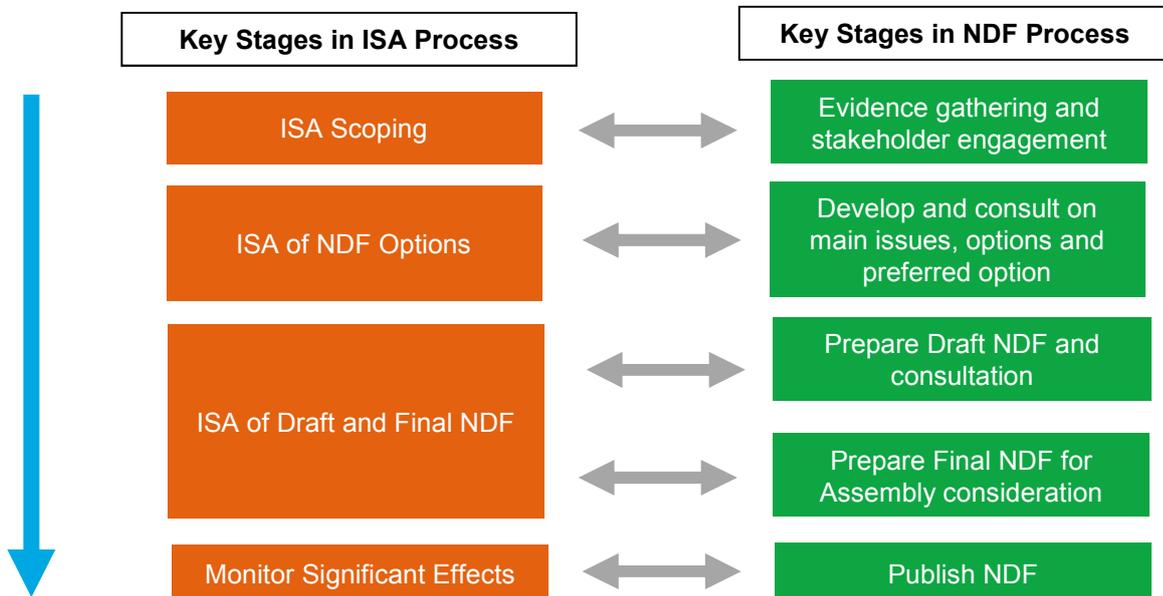
SA is a process for assessing the social, economic and environmental impacts of a plan and aims to ensure that sustainable development is at the heart of the plan-making process. It can also be used to capture cultural impacts which enable it to be consistent with four dimensions of sustainable development in Welsh law. SEA is incorporated within the ISA and is a systemic process for evaluating the environmental consequences of plans and programmes to ensure that environmental issues are integrated and assessed at the earliest opportunity in the decision-making process. Article 1 of the SEA Directive states that the aim is to:

‘provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development’.

Guidance produced by the UK Government (see also Section 2 of this Report) presents a series of prescribed stages for SEA. These same stages are adopted for this ISA albeit the coverage is broader than environmental issues. Nevertheless, the principles and legal requirements of the SEA Regulations must be upheld. This Scoping Report includes boxes which identify and explain the specific requirements of the SEA Directive that need to be fulfilled.

Figure 1-1 illustrates the main stages of the ISA as it fits with the NDF development process. A more detailed explanation is provided in Section 2 of this Scoping Report:

Figure 1-1 Outline of ISA and NDF Process



1.4.2 Why are we integrating other assessments?

One of the key ways of working that forms part of the sustainable development principle, is the need to take an integrated approach to what we do. Given the nature and scope of the NDF we have sought to integrate our approach to the SA and SEA with other statutory and non-statutory assessments. This allows us to take a more rounded view of the sustainability implications and opportunities arising from the NDF. As this is an Integrated SA, the following additional impact assessments have been incorporated into the ISA process:

- Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA);
- Welsh Language;
- Rural Proofing;
- Children’s Rights;
- Climate Change;
- Economic Development;
- Third Sector; and
- Health Impact Assessment (HIA).

Some of these are statutory impact assessments and some are required by Welsh Government as described further in Section 2 of this Report.

The integration of these other assessments ensures that a collaborative approach is undertaken on different issues, sharing knowledge and recognising links between topics in a consistent and transparent manner. This provides a robust and thorough mechanism for identifying issues and opportunities, assessing impacts including cumulative and indirect effects and undertaking monitoring in a holistic manner.

1.4.3 What is the Scoping Report stage of the ISA process?

This Scoping Report represents the initial stage of the ISA and sets the scope for the remainder of the process. It is an integrated approach which follows the methodology set out in the published guidance³ and seeks to:

- Set the scope and level of detail of the ISA;
- Identify relevant plans, policies, programmes and initiatives that will inform the ISA process and the NDF;
- Identify relevant information about existing social, economic, cultural and environmental conditions in Wales at a national scale;
- Identify key sustainability issues and opportunities; and
- Present a framework for the ISA, against which the NDF can be appraised.

1.5 How does the Integrated Sustainability Appraisal relate to the Well-being of Future Generations?

In March 2015, the National Assembly for Wales approved the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, helping place Wales on a more sustainable path towards achieving well-being. The Act is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales developed around the principle of sustainable development. It gives a legally-binding common purpose – the seven well-being goals – for national government, local government, local health boards and other specified public bodies. It details with the ways in which specified public bodies must work, and work together to improve the well-being of Wales.

³ ODPM (2005) *A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive Practical guidance on applying European Directive 2001/42/EC “on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment”*

The Act provided for better decision-making by ensuring that those public bodies take account of the long term, help to prevent problems occurring or getting worse, take an integrated and collaborative approach, and considers and involves people of all ages. Together, the seven well-being goals and five ways of working provided by the Act (Figure 1-2) are designed to support and deliver a public service that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Figure 1-2 Well-being goals & 5 Ways of Working



Each of these goals is described in detail within the legislation. The NDF will have an important role in contributing to the achievement of well-being goals over the 20-year period, and the approach to appraisal will help us understand where the NDF can maximise that contribution. They have been integral to the preparation of this draft Scoping Report and the ISA Framework (Section 5.2). The well-being goals have also been used to inform the review of the evidence, identify issues and structure the assessment framework.

The Planning (Wales) Act 2015 Section 2 sets out the definition of sustainable development for the planning system and refers to the definition of sustainable development in the Well-being of Future Generations Act.

1.6 Importance of Integrating the Seven Well-being Goals

The NDF will play an important part in contributing to the achievement of the well-being goals for Wales, and the objectives of the Welsh Government. It is important that the ISA Framework ensures NDF policies are tested and developed in a manner which looks to maximise the contribution it can make to the achievement of the well-being goals.

The first stage of developing the ISA Framework is to develop appraisal objectives with which the NDF can be assessed against. As such, we have used the initial set of well-being objectives published by the Welsh Government in 2016 as starting point, and through the work to identify the key sustainability issues have developed a suite of 17 ISA Objectives. Whilst there are similarities between the well-being objectives and the appraisal objectives for the NDF, they both serve different purposes.

Alongside the seven well-being goals, National Indicators for Wales were established in 2016 to measure, at a national level, what progress is being made towards these well-being goals. These will all be collected at the national level. These indicators have been established to measure Wales-level changes, and are not designed to measure the performance of a specific public body, a policy/strategy or a particular public service (e.g. planning).

The seven well-being goals are designed to be generational; the initial well-being objectives of the Government cover the period 2016-2021 but reflect the Government's aspirations for change over the long term. The Government is committed to reviewing these and this will need to be considered as the ISA and NDF develop.

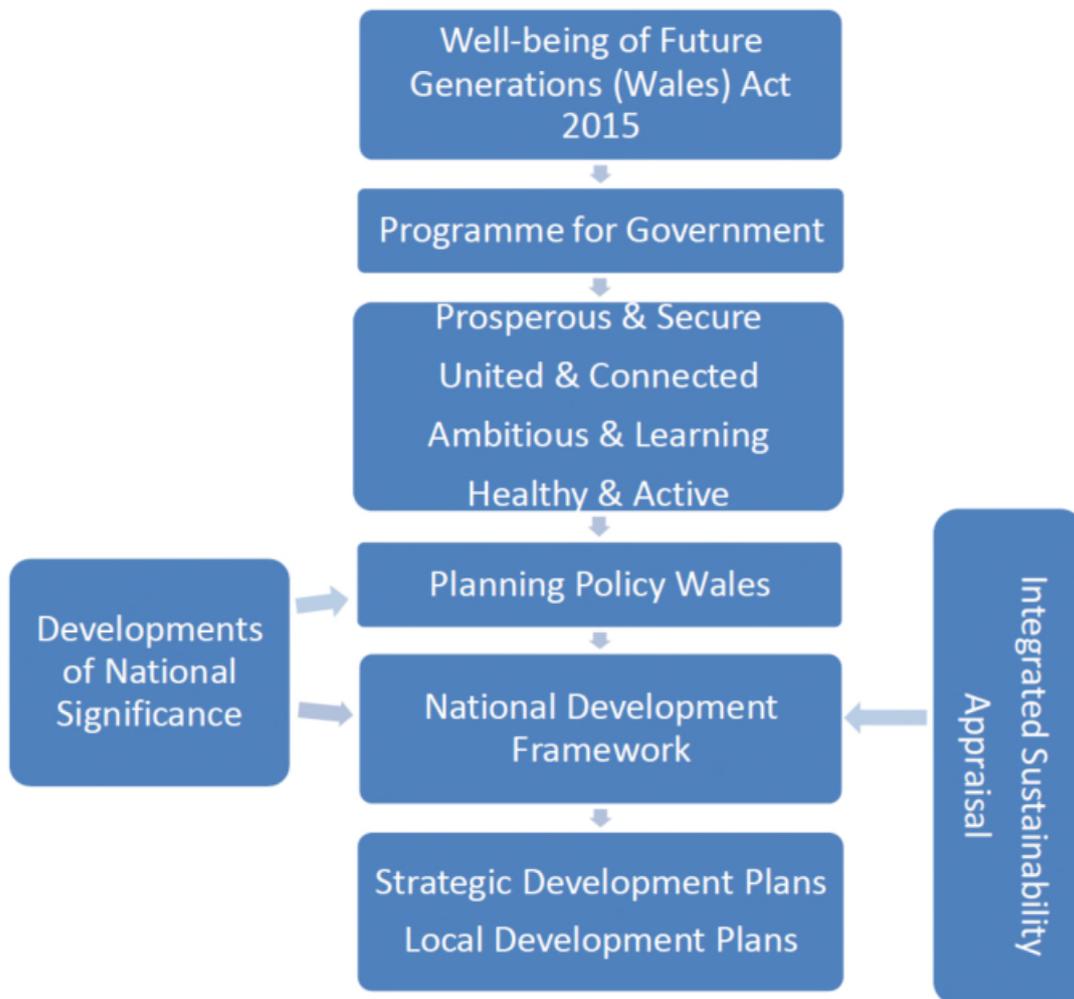
1.7 How does the National Development Framework relate to other Welsh Government strategies?

In addition to supporting the delivery of the well-being goals, the NDF will have an important role in supporting the delivery of key Government policy including a wide range of economic, social, cultural and environmental policies. This includes '*Taking Wales Forward*' which is a five-year plan to deliver more and better jobs through a stronger, fairer economy, improve and reform public services, and build a united, connected and sustainable Wales. Taking Wales Forward sets out how the organisation will work differently across traditional boundaries to deliver priorities. Through the development of the four cross-cutting strategies the Government will seize on the opportunity of the Future Generations Act to work differently and engage with others to develop innovative solutions to the challenges we face and help maximise the impact in these uncertain times. These are:

- Prosperous and Secure;
- Healthy and Active;
- Ambitious and Learning; and
- United and Connected.

Other key documents reviewed are summarised in Appendix A and Section 3 of this report. Figure 1-3 illustrates how the NDF interfaces with other elements of national policy and legislation.

Figure 1-3 Key Interrelationships between NDF and other key pieces of national policy and legislation



Further information on the process and timetable is available on the Welsh Government website: www.gov.wales/NDF.

1.8 Will a Habitats Regulations Assessment be undertaken?

The European Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of natural habitats and of wild flora and fauna (the ‘Habitats Directive’) requires that any plan or programme likely to have a significant impact upon a Natura 2000 site (Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSAC), Special Protection Areas (SPA), potential Special Protection Areas (pSPA) and Ramsar sites), which is not directly concerned with the management of the site for nature conservation, must be subject to an Appropriate Assessment. The Directive was transposed into Welsh law via the Habitats Regulations⁴. The overarching process is referred to as Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA).

A consideration of the likelihood of significant effects (also known as HRA screening) will be undertaken to determine if the NDF (either in isolation and/or in combination with other plans or projects) would generate an adverse impact upon the integrity of a Natura 2000 site, in terms of its conservation objectives and qualifying interests. The results of the HRA Screening Report, and any subsequent assessments, will be reflected and integrated, where necessary, into the ISA, as part of an iterative process. The designations of relevance to the HRA are presented in Figure 1 (Appendix B) Designated Nature Conservation Sites.

⁴ The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (SI 2010/490)

1.9 What consultation will be undertaken on the Scoping Report?

This draft Scoping Report for the ISA of the NDF is one of the first stages in engagement and collaboration for the NDF. It is an important consultation helping to steer the ISA and NDF from its early stages. This is part of the ongoing engagement with the public and other stakeholders throughout the production of the NDF, to capture a wide range of views and ensure a comprehensive assessment is undertaken. It will be made available on the Welsh Government's website during the consultation period.

Comments received will be taken forward to inform the ISA process and NDF. As part of this consultation a scoping workshop will be held in early May 2017, to discuss the content of this Scoping Report. Stakeholders will be invited who represent the range of assessment processes to be integrated into the ISA including those working in health, equalities, Welsh language, transport, environment, economic development, energy, and housing.

In accordance with regulations 12(5) and 12(6) of the SEA Regulations, this Scoping Report will be consulted upon with the prescribed statutory consultation bodies, regulation 12 (5) requires that they must respond to the consultation within the period of 5 weeks beginning with the date on which the consultation begins. The statutory consultation bodies are:

- Natural Resources Wales (NRW); and
- Cadw.

The Scoping Report will also be made publicly available for comment over a period of 12 weeks.

Consultation Questions

The following specific consultation questions have been set:

- a. Do you support the findings of the review of relevant plans, programmes and environmental protection objectives? Are there any additional plans, programmes or environmental protection objectives you would like to add? Are there any that you would like to remove from the review? (Section 3)
- b. Do you agree with the sustainability issues that we have identified? Are there additional issues that the ISA should consider? If so, what are they? (Section 4)
- c. Are there any particular topics or geographical areas of specific concern to you or your organisation? (Section 4)
- d. Are there any changes you consider should be made to the ISA Objectives or Questions? (Section 5)
- e. Do you have any comments regarding how reasonable alternatives should be developed?
- f. Do you have any further suggestions regarding the scope of the ISA and its proposed appraisal of the NDF?
- g. Do you support the approach to the integration of the impact assessments?
- h. Do you support the findings of the initial screening work for the impact assessments in Table 2-1?
- i. Are there additional pieces of baseline data or evidence that the ISA should consider with specific regard to the impact assessments in Table 2-1?
- j. Do you have any other comments?

2 The Sustainability Appraisal Process

2.1 Stages in the Sustainability Appraisal Process

The Practical Guide to the SEA Directive subdivides the SEA process into a series of stages. These stages are mirrored in this ISA with additional information provided to ensure each of the integrated assessments are incorporated. The intention is that the process is iterative. Figure 2-1 presents the key stages of the ISA, alongside the NDF key stages of development, and which assessments will be integrated as part of the ISA process. In summary, the ISA will comprise the following process:

Stage A: Setting the Context and Objectives, Establishing the Baseline and Deciding on Scope (This Stage)

This report provides a summary of the Scoping stage of the ISA process. This stage provides the basis on which the following stages of the ISA will be undertaken. The review of other relevant plans and programmes and environmental objectives, including other national and higher-tier policies and plans, establishes the context within which the NDF will sit. To accurately predict how the NDF proposals could affect environmental, social, cultural and economic factors, it is first important to understand the current state of these factors and then examine their likely evolution without the implementation of the Plan. This baseline is then analysed, to identify the key sustainability issues that will inform the emerging NDF and opportunities that the NDF could influence. Following on from this, the ISA Framework will be established, to determine a set of key objectives and questions, to be used to assess the emerging NDF and how it could improve these environmental, social, cultural and economic factors, within the context of the well-being goals.

This consultation process will help us refine this work so that we have an ISA Framework that is effective in appraising the NDF.

Stages B1 and B2: Developing and refining alternatives and assessing effects (Next Stage)

Following the Scoping Consultation, the ISA will move to Stage B which will involve the appraisal of the alternative and preferred options for the NDF policies and proposals against the established ISA Framework. The assessment of the NDF options will enable the more and least sustainable options to be identified against the identified objectives. Recommendations can be made for improvements or alternatives, as appropriate. This will inform the options to be taken forward to the next stage of the NDF process and the identification of the preferred option.

We will publish at Stage B in an Interim ISA Report on the NDF Issues and Options.

Stages B3, B4, B5 and B6: Predicting and evaluating the effects of the Draft NDF, including alternatives

Following the development of the preferred option, this stage of the assessment is the evaluation of the predicted significant effects. The evaluation involves forming a judgement on whether or not the predicted effects would be environmentally significant. Stages B5 and B6 are an integral part of this process, and comprise the recommendations for an improvement in outcomes and potential monitoring of predicted significant effects (see Stage E).

Stages C and D: Draft ISA Report and Consultation

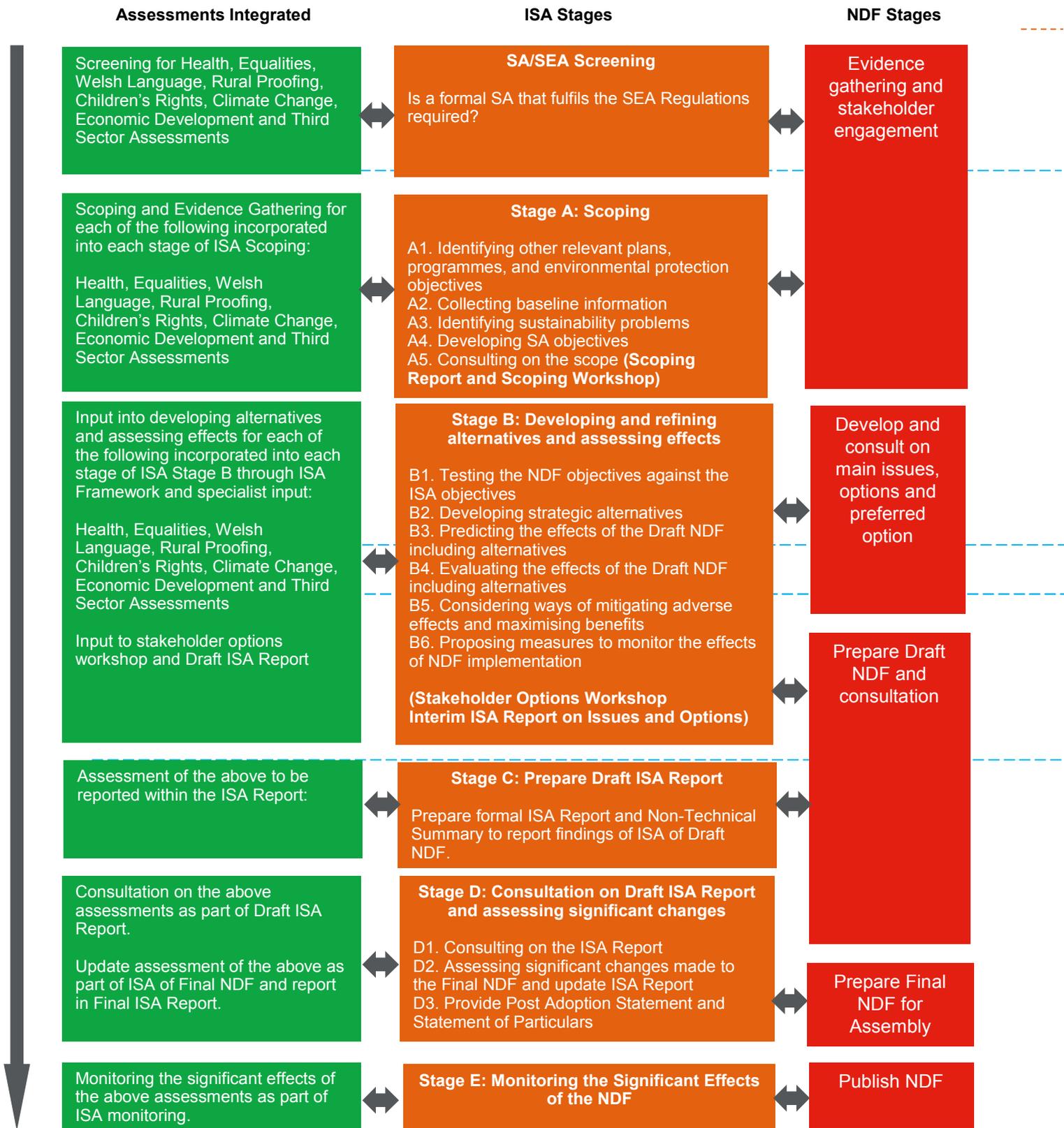
A Draft ISA Report will be published (Stage C) to accompany the Draft NDF consultation (Stage D).

Following the consultation on the Draft NDF the ISA will again be updated to reflect any significant changes in the NDF as a result of the consultation (continuation of Stage D). A Final ISA Report will then be produced to accompany the Final NDF.

Stage E: Monitoring the Significant Effects of the NDF

Stage E of the ISA process includes the finalisation of a monitoring framework that will be used to identify issues and significant effects of the NDF over time. Following the adoption of the NDF, a post-adoption ISA Statement may be prepared, alongside a Statement of Environmental Particulars, providing detail of how the ISA process has influenced the development of the NDF, the predicted significant effects, as well as the monitoring framework.

Figure 2-1: Stages in the ISA Process (adapted from ODPM 2005)



2.2 An integrated approach to assessing impact

Section 1 of this report identifies that the ISA will integrate a series of impact assessments, in addition to SA, SEA and HRA. The details of the approach to the impact assessments is set out in section 5.1.1; this recognises the wider determinants that overlap between the different impact assessments and enables a holistic view to be taken.

The ISA allows us to take a sustainable development approach enabling a holistic view to the assessment. As defined in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Section 2 and referred to in the Planning (Wales) Act 2015, sustainable development as defined as:

Box 1: Definition of Sustainable Development, Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

“sustainable development” means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle aimed at achieving the well-being goals

Some of the impact assessments are statutory impact assessments and some are required by Welsh Government as described below:

2.2.1 Statutory Impact assessments

The following impact assessments are a statutory requirement.

Equalities Impact Assessment - Under the equality duty (set out in Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010), many public authorities, including the Welsh Government must have ‘due regard’ to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation as well as to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

Welsh Language Impact Assessment - The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 and Standards require the following effects to be considered:

- what effect, if any, the NDF would have on the opportunities for other persons to use the Welsh language, or treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language;
- how the NDF could have positive effects or increased positive effects on opportunities for other persons to use the Welsh language, or treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language;
- how the NDF could be developed so that it doesn’t have or reduces any adverse effects which the policy decision would have on opportunities for other persons to use the Welsh language, or treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.

Children’s Rights Impact Assessment - The duty placed on Welsh Ministers is to have due regard to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) when exercising any of their functions. The children’s rights impact assessment is a tool that helps to demonstrate how the legal requirement is met by the Welsh Ministers.

2.2.2 Welsh Government Required Assessments

The following impact assessments are required by Welsh Government to ensure policies and plans have been assessed for their impact and from the earliest stages they are developed with a view to maximising economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being - not just now, but for the long-term. They will take account of coherence with other initiatives and will be the subject of engagement with the people and organisations who will be most affected by them.

- Health;
- Rural Proofing;

- Third Sector;
- Climate Change; and
- Economic Development.

This ISA ensures that a collaborative and integrated approach is undertaken on different issues, sharing knowledge and recognising links between topics, avoiding duplication of work. It provides a robust and thorough mechanism for identifying issues and opportunities, assessing impacts and undertaking monitoring in a holistic manner.

The impact assessments as identified above have each been screened to establish the potential impact the NDF may have. At this stage, all of the impact assessments have been screened in and are integrated into the ISA. A summary of the findings is set out in Table 2-1. This assessment work will be undertaken as part of an iterative process and will be kept up to date to reflect aspects such as the emerging detail of the NDF; further or updated evidence; and consultation responses.

Table 2-1 Summary of Impact Assessment Screening

Impact Assessment	Summary of Screening Results
Health	At this early stage, it has been concluded that the NDF will have a potential impact on health. The assessment of health will be based on the broad, participatory and inclusive methodology as advocated in Wales and described in ‘HIA: A Practical Guide’ (WHIASU, 2012) and it will use the wider determinants of health as a framework for discussion. The ISA Framework (which will be used to appraise the NDF) encompasses health objectives that reflect the Public Health Wales indicators.
Equalities	At this early stage, it has been concluded that the NDF will have a potential impact on equalities and human rights. The nine protected characteristic groups as identified in the Equalities Act 2010 have been screened and the following groups have been screened in for further consideration in the assessment process: race, age, pregnancy and maternity, disability and sex. These protected characteristics, will be incorporated in the objectives and questions within the ISA Framework. For those protected characteristic groups screened out (gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, religion and belief and sexual orientation) it was considered at this stage they would not be affected by the NDF. However, this will be kept under review throughout the production of the NDF.
Welsh Language	At this early stage, it has been concluded that the NDF will have a potential impact on the Welsh language. Objectives encompassing Welsh language have therefore been incorporated into the ISA Framework. This will ensure opportunities to promote the Welsh language; facilitate its use; to safeguard its future; and see the language thrive, are considered and identified where possible through this work.
Rural Proofing	At this early stage, it has been concluded that the NDF will have a potential impact on rural communities. Therefore, objectives encompassing aspects of rural life such as access to services; broadband coverage; and the economy have been incorporated into the ISA Framework.
Children’s Rights	At this early stage, it has been concluded that the NDF will have a potential impact on children’s rights. The Articles within the UNCRC have been reviewed and the following articles have been identified as the most relevant at this stage – 6, 12, 23, 24, 27, 28, 31, and 36 ⁵ . For these Articles and the 2016 recommendations made by the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child, the ISA Framework incorporates objectives covering these areas. The Statement of Public Participation (SPP) outlines the details of the consultation on the NDF and the approach to engagement. Children and young people will be engaged to ensure their voices are heard in the development of the NDF.

⁵ <http://www.childrensrights.wales/index.php/right>

Impact Assessment	Summary of Screening Results
Third Sector	At this early stage, it has been concluded that the NDF will have a potential impact on the third sector. Objectives encompassing the third sector have been incorporated into the ISA Framework.
Climate Change	At this early stage, it has been concluded that the NDF will have a potential impact on climate change. Objectives encompassing climate change have been incorporated into the ISA Framework to ensure the causes and consequences of climate change are considered and identified where possible through this work.
Economic Development	At this early stage, it has been concluded that the NDF will have a potential impact on the economy. Economic objectives have been incorporated into the ISA Framework to ensure issues and opportunities are considered and identified where possible through this work.

3 Review of Relevant Plans, Programmes and Environmental Objectives (A1)

3.1 Introduction

The NDF may be influenced in various ways by other plans or programmes, or by external environmental (or sustainability) protection objectives such as those laid down in policies or legislation. Understanding these relationships can enable the Welsh Government to take advantage of potential synergies, identify opportunities and to deal with any inconsistencies and constraints. A large number of other plans and programmes have been reviewed with respect to relevant social, economic, environmental and cultural issues of importance to each of the integrated assessment strands.

It is important to remember that the NDF is a national-scale document so the other plans and programmes of relevance will primarily be national, UK or international-scale documents. The NDF will, in-turn, seek to influence sub-national level planning in Wales. Of particular importance are the following national documents which the NDF will work with and share common aims and objectives:

- Taking Wales Forward 2016-2021;
- The Natural Resources Policy for Wales;
- SoNaRR⁶; and
- The emerging Welsh National Marine Plan⁷.

The SEA Directive specifically requires relevant plans and programmes to be considered. The box below stipulates the SEA Directive requirements for this stage of the process.

Box 2: SEA Directive Requirements for the Review of Plans Programmes and Environmental Protection Objectives

'...an outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan or programme and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes' (Annex 1 (a)).

'the environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation' (Annex 1 (e))

A review of other plans and programmes that may affect the preparation of the NDF was undertaken in order to contribute to the development of both the ISA and the NDF. This included:

- Identification of any social, environmental, cultural or economic objectives that should be reflected in the ISA process.
- Identification of any baseline data relevant to the ISA.
- Identification of any factors that might influence the preparation of the document, for example sustainability issues.
- Identification of any objectives or aims that would contribute positively to the development of the NDF.
- Determining whether there are clear potential conflicts or challenges between other identified plans, programmes or environmental objectives and the emerging NDF.

The review included documents prepared at international, UK-wide and national scale. A brief summary of the documents reviewed and the main findings are summarised in Table 3-1 and Section 3.2. Further details are presented in Appendix A.

⁶ <http://www.naturalresources.wales/sonarr?lang=en>

⁷ <http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/marineandfisheries/marine-planning/?lang=en>

Table 3-1 Summary of the document types reviewed

Level	Summary
International and European Plans and Programmes	<p>A review was undertaken of key International Conventions and European Directives that could potentially influence the development of the NDF and the ISA. European Directives are transposed into national legislation in each individual Member State and, therefore, there should be a trickle-down effect of the key principles and an application to the relevant national planning documents.</p>
UK-wide Plans and Programmes	<p>HM Government establishes a number of Acts and Regulations for a variety of different topics including, for example, the Energy Act 2008 and the Equality Act 2010.</p> <p>A review was also undertaken of relevant publications from organisations including, for example, the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (DBEIS) and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra). These publications outline the action plans and strategies across a breadth of topic areas for example The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and the UK National Energy Efficiency Action Plan. The objectives of these plans, as well as some of the challenges they raise need to be taken on board as appropriate.</p>
Wales Plans and Programmes	<p>A review was undertaken of plans produced at the Wales national level. Many of these are produced by Welsh Government and specifically address strategic issues such as the economy; health; safety; sustainable communities; housing; employment; and environmental protection. Documents include, for example, The Welsh Government's programme – <i>Taking Wales Forward 2016-2021</i>, the emerging Welsh National Marine Plan, which is currently being drafted and will set out how sustainable development in the Welsh marine area will be achieved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act (2015) identifies seven well-being goals for Wales. In November 2016, the Welsh Government published its initial well-being objectives, designed to maximise its contribution to the seven well-being goals. Other specified public bodies have also set out their well-being objectives for contributing to the well-being goals. The contribution between the Welsh Government's well-being objectives and the seven national goals is summarised in table 3-2 below. ● The Natural Resources Wales 2016 SoNaRR, together with the Natural Resource Policy (NRP) have also been included. Each has a focus on Welsh natural resources, with SoNaRR providing an assessment of the sustainable management of natural resources and the NRP seeking to set out the national priorities in relation to the sustainable management of natural resources in Wales. These documents, in particular, are key national documents that the NDF will draw from. They contain common goals and a range of evidence is shared between them. These plans should include the main influences of international and UK level plans through the 'trickle-down effect'. They should also provide a strategic Wales focus. It is, through identifying these themes and incorporating them into the NDF that synergies can be achieved with other relevant documents.

Table 3-2 Relationship between well-being goals and objectives

Welsh Government's initial Well-being Objectives ⁹	Well-being goals ⁸						
	A prosperous Wales	A resilient Wales	A healthier Wales	A more equal Wales	A Wales of cohesive communities	A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language	A globally responsible Wales
1. Create conditions to give every child the best start in life.							
2. Improve education outcomes for all and reduce the gap in outcomes for different groups.							
3. Help people live healthy and independent lives and support a healthy workforce.							
4. Improve prosperity for all across Wales, helping people into employment and sustaining jobs.							
5. Create the conditions for people to learn and use the Welsh language with their families, in their communities and in the workplace.							
6. Support the transition to a low carbon and climate resilient society.							
7. Connect communities through sustainable and resilient infrastructure.							
8. Support safe, cohesive and resilient communities.							
9. Improve access to secure, safe, efficient and affordable homes.							
10. Foster conditions for sustainable economic development and employment, whilst stimulating innovation and growth for a modern low carbon economy.							
11. Promote and enhance the culture and heritage of Wales.							
12. Manage, use and enhance Wales' natural resources to support long-term well-being.							
13. Facilitate high quality, responsive and better integrated public services, to those that need them most, enabling citizens to be an equal partner.							
14. Position Wales as an internationally focused, ambitious country engaged and connected to the wider world.							

⁸ <http://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/people/future-generations-act>

⁹ <http://gov.wales/about/programme-for-government>

3.2 Key Themes Resulting from the Review

There were many common themes identified in the review of plans, programmes and environmental protection objectives. Whilst specific results are presented in Appendix A, Table 3-3 provides a summary of the main themes identified. These themes were also considered against the seven well-being goals and where they could make a contribution to the achievement of that goal.

Table 3-3 Key Themes Resulting from the Review

Key Themes from the Review	National Well-being goals (where the themes may make a contribution)
Maintain and enhance biodiversity, habitats and species with healthy functioning and resilient ecosystems, to make a more resilient Wales and maintain the ability to adapt to climate change	A prosperous Wales A resilient Wales A healthier Wales A Wales of cohesive communities A globally responsible Wales
Reduce air pollution and ensure improvements in air quality contributing to a healthier Wales	A resilient Wales A healthier Wales A globally responsible Wales
Reduce the risk of flooding and/or coastal erosion by assessing developments against the precautionary principle, and promote protection of floodplains or areas of managed realignment from inappropriate development	A resilient Wales A healthier Wales A globally responsible Wales
Improve the connectivity of communities, and sustainable patterns of movement	A prosperous Wales A resilient Wales A healthier Wales A more equal Wales A Wales of cohesive communities A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language A globally responsible Wales
Sustainably manage natural resources and tackle the causes of climate change	A prosperous Wales A resilient Wales A healthier Wales A more equal Wales A Wales of cohesive communities A globally responsible Wales
Protect and improve the quality of water resources	A resilient Wales A healthier Wales A globally responsible Wales
Minimise waste generation and increase levels of reuse and recycling to achieve more sustainable waste management and reduce landfill	A resilient Wales A globally responsible Wales
Relieve pressure on natural resources by increasing energy efficiency and promoting the use of national renewable energy resources	A prosperous Wales A resilient Wales A healthier Wales A Wales of cohesive communities A globally responsible Wales

Key Themes from the Review	National Well-being goals (where the themes may make a contribution)
To conserve soil resources, control soil erosion and maintain their quality	A resilient Wales A globally responsible Wales
Protect and enhance the distinctiveness of our landscapes and the historic environment and its setting	A prosperous Wales A more equal Wales A Wales of cohesive communities A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language A globally responsible Wales
Improve access to good quality affordable housing to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent affordable home	A prosperous Wales A resilient Wales A healthier Wales A more equal Wales A Wales of cohesive communities A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language A globally responsible Wales
Improve the health and well-being of the population and reduce health inequalities to create a healthier Wales	A prosperous Wales A resilient Wales A healthier Wales A more equal Wales A Wales of cohesive communities A globally responsible Wales
Promote and protect the Welsh language, culture and heritage	A prosperous Wales A resilient Wales A more equal Wales A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language A globally responsible Wales
Raise educational attainment to help improve opportunities for life	A prosperous Wales A resilient Wales A healthier Wales A more equal Wales A Wales of cohesive communities A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language
Create safe, sustainable, balanced and cohesive communities, including in both rural and urban areas	A prosperous Wales A resilient Wales A healthier Wales A more equal Wales A Wales of cohesive communities A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language
Promote quality employment opportunities and economic activity	A prosperous Wales A resilient Wales A more equal Wales A Wales of cohesive communities A globally responsible Wales
Promote sustainable economic growth, diversity and business competitiveness	A prosperous Wales A resilient Wales A more equal Wales A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language A globally responsible Wales
Establish a strong tourist economy, sensitively capitalising on environmental, heritage, and leisure assets	A prosperous Wales A resilient Wales A Wales of cohesive communities A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language

4 Baseline Information and Identification of Key Sustainability Issues and Opportunities (A2 and A3)

4.1 Introduction

Baseline information (social, economic, environmental and cultural) provides the basis for predicting and monitoring environmental effects and helps to identify environmental issues and alternative ways of dealing with them. As the NDF is a national-scale document, baseline evidence gathering has been focussed on national-scale data with some additional sub-national spatial data where appropriate.

The SEA Directive specifically requires this to be considered. The box below stipulates the SEA Directive requirements for this stage of the process.

Box 3: SEA Regulation Requirements for baseline and the identification of key sustainability issues

The SEA Regulations require that the SEA covers:

'relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme' and, 'the environmental characteristics of the areas likely to be significantly affected' (Schedule 2-2 and 2-3)

'any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds(a) and the Habitats Directive' (Schedule 2-4)

Understanding the characteristics of Wales economic, social, cultural and environmental well-being is essential in being able to understand the effects of the NDF. Characterising the environmental and sustainability baseline, issues and context is an important activity in defining the Framework for the ISA. It involves the following elements:

- Characterising the current state of the environmental social, cultural and economic well-being of Wales;
- Understanding the future trends based on current trends and future projections that may impact on Wales' economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being; and
- Using this information to identify existing problems and opportunities which could be influenced by the NDF.

4.2 Methodology

The environmental, social, economic and cultural baseline was characterised through the following methods:

- Review of relevant international, UK and national (Wales) plans, strategies and programmes;
- Data research based around a series of baseline datasets developed from the Welsh Government, guidance, previous consultation recommendations from similar SAs and the data available for Wales; and
- The National Indicators for Wales¹⁰, which provide national-scale data across 44 indicators of progress against the seven well-being goals.

A key source of information is the SoNaRR produced by Natural Resources Wales in 2016. Other sources include, for example, the Office of National Statistics and Stats Wales. The Wales Marine Plan Evidence Report (October 2015)¹¹ has also been reviewed and, in many cases this, together with SoNaRR and the NRP draw upon the same national evidence base. Baseline datasets have been developed and are presented in Appendix B.

¹⁰ <http://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/people/future-generations-act/national-indicators>

¹¹ <http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/marineandfisheries/marine-planning/other-supporting-evidence/wales-marine-evidence-report/?lang=en>

This also enabled the identification of sustainability issues and opportunities that affect Wales. These are summarised in Section 4.3. The full baseline data including issues, opportunities and data gaps is presented in Appendix B. Appendix B also contains key figures showing Wales as a whole, with key features and designations as follows:

- Figure 1 Designated Nature Conservation Sites;
- Figure 2 Landscape Features;
- Figure 3 Heritage Features; and
- Figure 4 Transportation Network.

The baseline data has been divided according to the seven Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 goals and then subdivided by topics. There are many overlaps between the baseline sets and topics. Each of the baseline topics identified in the SEA Regulations are represented.

The SEA Regulations also require ‘material assets’ to be considered within the SA/SEA. Material assets refer to the stock of valuable assets within a study area and can include many things from valuable landscapes, natural and cultural heritage through to housing stock, schools, hospitals, energy, utilities infrastructure and quality agricultural land. For the purposes of the ISA material assets of Wales are appropriately covered in the following baseline sections, and are not included in their own designated topic:

- Biodiversity, flora and fauna;
- Soil and land quality;
- Cultural heritage;
- Landscape;
- Housing; and
- Transportation.

It is important to note that baseline data, issues and opportunities for each of the integrated assessment strands has been collated and included as part of this process and is presented under the relevant Well-being goals.

4.3 Key Sustainability Issues and Opportunities

Table 4-1 presents the key sustainability issues and opportunities for Wales identified across the seven Well-being goals and ISA topic subheadings which stem from the baseline data (Appendix B). These will be refined and updated alongside the emerging NDF when further details of the content of the NDF are known.

Table 4-1 Key Sustainability Issues and Opportunities

Well-Being goals	Summary of Key Issues	Opportunities for the NDF to address
<p>1. A prosperous Wales</p>	<p>The economy of Wales is closely aligned with that of the rest of the UK. There has been a move towards service sector employment and a decline in heavy industry; Wales still has a diverse manufacturing sector.</p> <p>Economic productivity per head is below the UK average.</p> <p>Relatively low employment rates and low earnings compared to other parts of the UK although these have been increasing.</p> <p>There are clear geographical differences in employment activity in Wales with pockets of higher than average deprivation in the South Wales valleys and in some North Wales coastal towns.</p> <p>Key reasons for this relatively poor economic performance include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relatively low skills levels and poor educational attainment levels (although improving), particularly in the more deprived parts of the country. • The largely rural nature of the country results in relatively small urban areas which would otherwise be more strongly associated with agglomeration effects. • There is a relatively high proportion of older people who are retirement age. 	<p>The NDF has a role to play in the promotion and diversification of economic growth through guiding the planning system. This can be through the promotion of appropriate employment development and supporting infrastructure in areas to maximise their benefits including connective infrastructure. It can also provide a framework that is more responsive to the needs of the economy and able to support new, emerging sectors and support transition of existing ones. Furthermore, it can also help to guide the creation of an environment that is attractive to inward investment and encourages sustainable access to jobs. As part of this, it should seek to address the geographical differences within the country. Similarly, the NDF can help guide improvements to educational provision and access and in particular seek to address geographical disparities.</p> <p>Other sector-specific opportunities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities for the development of the rural economy could be supported through the NDF alongside programmes geared specifically towards rural areas such as the <i>Rural Development Programme 2014-2020</i>. Furthermore, opportunities could be sought through the NDF to support the growth of the rural economy through new micro and small enterprises. • Access to high speed internet can be a particular issue in rural communities and for those with low incomes. The NDF could help to address digital exclusion by seeking to support the delivery of high speed connections. • There are opportunities for tourism to grow in a sustainable way and to make an increasing contribution to the economic, social, cultural and environmental well-being of Wales. <p>Overall, the NDF must help to achieve the important balance of economic and social improvement that is also sustainable and respects the country's valuable natural and cultural environment.</p>

Well-Being goals	Summary of Key Issues	Opportunities for the NDF to address
<p>2. A resilient Wales</p>	<p>Air Quality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air quality in Wales is generally very good, reflective of its largely rural nature and high quality natural environment. However, targets are being breached for a number of key pollutants which pose a risk to human health and the natural environment. These notably occur in urban areas and adjacent to busy roads. • 90% of semi-natural nitrogen sensitive Welsh habitats are subject to nitrogen deposition in excess of critical load limits. <p>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wales has a rich and varied natural environment including a wide representation of important habitats and species. However, the condition of species features in European designated sites in Wales and the condition of priority habitats in Wales remains mostly unfavourable. • Terrestrial and marine biodiversity is under threat from development, pollution and climate change. <p>Climate and Flood Risk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The effects of climate change are increasing and adaptation and resilience to its effects is an increasing necessity. Notably, flood risk is a significant issue in Wales including coastal, fluvial and surface water flooding. This is exacerbated by an increase in extreme weather events and this means that properties and businesses are increasingly becoming at risk. <p>Geology and Soils</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the future, geological hazards may change as a response to climate change. For example, coastal erosion, landslides and pollution from former mine sites. This poses risks to the human and natural environment. • The soils of best quality and most productive agricultural land are a scarce and finite resource in Wales and soil quality has deteriorated over time across all habitats. Only 30% of the Welsh peat soil area is considered to be in 	<p>Air Quality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The planning system can benefit air quality and its effects through helping to guide decisions through the planning process relating to the location of polluting sources relative to sensitive receptors such as residential, schools, hospitals and sensitive habitats and by helping to minimise pollution from transport through minimising the distance travelled and encouraging more sustainable modes of transport. Sustainable design and landscaping policies could help to provide opportunities for absorbing some pollutants. <p>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NDF can both benefit and enhance biodiversity through guiding the location and manner in which new development occurs. It provides opportunities to ensure biodiversity is protected and enhanced through the planning system, not just in terms of protected sites but also in terms of biodiversity and connectivity in general. • Opportunities can be sought to maximise benefits to ecosystems through sustainable design and management. The services provided by ecosystems and green infrastructure are a significant opportunity and could enable species to adapt to the changing climate. <p>Climate and Flood Risk</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NDF has a significant role to play in terms of climate change adaptation and resilience. Flooding and coastal erosion are key areas in which the effects of climate change are felt locally and the NDF can help provide guidance on the location and design of development to help minimise this risk. It is also an opportunity to further work with partners such as NRW in developing flood management and protection schemes as part of encouraging sustainable land and ecosystem management.

Well-Being goals	Summary of Key Issues	Opportunities for the NDF to address
	<p>'good condition'. This is important for biodiversity, landscape character, tourism, agricultural productivity and climate change resilience. Topsoil, in particular peaty soils in Wales are a major carbon sink which needs protection.</p> <p>Water Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The quality of Wales' water bodies is still not up to Water Framework Directive requirements with only 42% being of good ecological status in 2014. Land management and development practices are a key contributor to poor water quality. In many Welsh rivers flows are particularly vulnerable to climate change because they tend to rise and fall quickly in response to rainfall. Increased flows during winter may also increase pressure upon sewerage and drainage systems and diffuse pollution. Whilst Wales is perceived to be water-rich, it is already facing challenges in terms of supply and water resources can become relatively scarce during prolonged warm, dry weather. <p>Minerals and Waste</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The country still has substantial resources if required. However, such extraction can be very damaging to the natural and human environment and as such sustainable management of this is a key issue for any ongoing or future activity. Minerals safeguarding can sometimes also conflict with other forms of development. Wales has made good progress on the 2050 Zero Waste Ambition and continues to reduce the proportion of waste sent to landfill. However, future development needs will continue to put pressure on this aim. 	<p>Geology and Soils</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NDF has an opportunity to guide the sustainable use of Wales' geology and soils. In particular, valuable soils and geodiversity should be protected from inappropriate land-uses whether this is directly or indirectly as they can have an important function in terms of biodiversity, the economy and climate change. The NDF should also help to avoid future risks by managing or avoiding geological hazards through the planning system. Exploration for conventional and unconventional sources of oil and gas also remains a possibility in Wales and its consideration will form a part of the emerging Welsh Government Energy Strategy. The NDF will be used to implement the outcomes of the overarching Energy Policy <p>Water Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NDF can help to guide new development and land management practices in a manner that seeks to avoid pollution of water bodies. It should also be cognisant of the potential limitations of water supply and should promote measures to reduce water use in developments. The NDF should also consider the impact of climate change on water quality and supply in the future and how this can be accommodated through the planning system. <p>Minerals and Waste</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NDF has an important role to play with regard to minerals demand (through economic aspirations), planning and management. It can help to guide the sustainable use of such resources through its policy and strategic development proposals. There is also opportunity for the NDF to help consider waste volumes and recycling alongside its ambitions for new development.

Well-Being goals	Summary of Key Issues	Opportunities for the NDF to address
<p>3. A healthier Wales</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall health statistics for Wales are improving with life expectancy increasing and fewer people with reported poor health over the past decade however health gains are not distributed equally across the country and in particular access to services is varied, being good in more urban areas, notably the south, but relatively poor across much of rural Wales. Although the health of those living in rural communities is generally good compared to those of urban environments. Factors specific to a rural environment compared to those of urban environments that can impact on health more significantly and lead to inequalities and poorer health, such as distance from public services and support, availability of transport, housing standards and the ageing population. Access to healthcare can be limited in many parts of rural Wales. Whilst people are living longer and the rates of some diseases is decreasing, challenges such as living environment and modern lifestyles can contribute towards increasing levels of chronic diseases such as diabetes, joint problems, heart disease and some cancers which in turn can lead to disability and increased demand on health services. In addition, poor mental health can also be an underpinning factor in a number of physical diseases and unhealthy lifestyles. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall, the NDF must help to achieve the important balance of economic and social improvement that is also sustainable and respects the country's valuable natural and cultural environment. The NDF should recognise the potential for national green spaces as places for health and recreation, connecting habitats and supporting community interaction. Improving the quality and access to green and open spaces can greatly encourage healthier lifestyles and a healthier population could enable people (including children) to achieve their potential and to make Wales a more equal society. The NDF has an important contribution to make towards ensuring that health challenges are addressed in order to improve health and well-being and reduce inequalities.
<p>4. A more equal Wales</p>	<p>Levels of community cohesion could be impacted through a projected increase in net-migration mainly from within the UK and with urban areas projected to see greatest increase. However, it is noted that over 70% of people agree that people from different backgrounds within their area get on well.</p> <p>Increasing levels of those aged 65 and over could present pressures across the country (dependent on whether healthy life expectancy i.e. the number of years you live a healthy life, continues to track overall life expectancy) including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pressure on health services to provide adequate care; Availability of residential homes to meet the needs of the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall, the NDF can help to address issues surrounding the aging population through facilitating the provision of accessible services supported by connective infrastructure to meet local population growth needs. Third sector/volunteering could improve cohesion within a community by increasing levels of employment and contributing to the well-being of the residents from a social perspective. An equal Wales can enable people to reach their full potential whilst addressing social, economic, cultural and environmental inequality. The NDF could provide an opportunity to reduce isolation and encourage the

Well-Being goals	Summary of Key Issues	Opportunities for the NDF to address
	<p>whole population, including but not limited to, the elderly and adults with a learning disability; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of appropriate services for an older generation (e.g. transport). 	<p>development of integrated and liveable communities.</p>
<p>5. A Wales of cohesive communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surveys suggest that in 2014, 70% agreed with the statement ‘my local area is well maintained’, 77% agreed that their local area was free from graffiti and vandalism. These figures are highest in rural areas such as Powys and Pembrokeshire and lowest in Blaenau Gwent and Merthyr Tydfil. • In 2014, 64% of people considered it safe to allow their children to play outside, whereas 25% did not therefore there are issues around the level of perceived safety within neighbourhoods. The Isle of Anglesey was perceived as the safest place and Blaenau Gwent the least safe place. • Levels of housing deprivation are relatively high in pockets of the urban centres in the South and in the more rural areas of the North West and between 2008-09 to 2014-2015, 23% of people in Wales were living in households experiencing income poverty (after housing costs) – this meant that Wales experienced the highest % in household poverty compared to the other parts of the UK • Levels of noise pollution around key roads within Wales are high. Noise can have multi-ranging effects, including on landscape receptors, ecological resources and human health. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NDF should support the provision for a range of housing that meet the needs of the population and promotes safe and sustainable communities. This could be through methods such as identifying strategic housing locations and/or developing national housing targets. • The creation of safe and well-maintained communities, where there is a sense of cohesion, should be a priority. • The NDF should also plan for reducing the need to travel, and provide opportunities to access new and existing development and services by a range of sustainable travel modes and or improvements to digital connectivity. • The NDF should consider strategic transport proposals in terms of the opportunities they present to encourage regional equality as well as improving human health, landscape and nature conservation from a reduction in noise and light pollution.
<p>6. A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language</p>	<p>Welsh Language</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been an upward trend since the 1990s in the number of people using the Welsh language, noting large regional variations; there are opportunities to increase levels of fluency. <p>Landscape and Townscape Character</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wales is renowned for its high-quality landscapes with over 50% of the land area being nationally valued for its scenic quality and character. This has implications for new development within these areas with a key challenge for 	<p>Welsh Language</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NDF has an opportunity to protect and promote the use of the Welsh language through the planning system. <p>Landscape and Townscape Character</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The planning system has a major role to play in how future development affects landscape, townscape, seascape and sense of place in general. Appropriate guidance could be developed to assist the protection and enhancement of this resource as part of the planning system.

Well-Being goals	Summary of Key Issues	Opportunities for the NDF to address
	<p>sustainable management being to enable appropriate levels of growth whilst retaining the distinctiveness of places and landscapes. This must also recognise that the natural and historic components of landscape are important to both place and the cultural value of landscape.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape character and tranquillity is already under pressure from development with around 1,500 km² of tranquil landscapes were lost between 1997 and 2009. • In addition, there are non-anthropogenic risks to landscapes from pests, pathogens and invasive species and from changes in frequency and/or magnitude of extreme weather and wildfire events. <p>Cultural Heritage and Assets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wales has a wealth of historic and cultural assets which are important components of national cultural identity. Many such assets are at risk from, for example, decay, climatic factors, neglect and inappropriate development. As with other environmental factors, recognising and protecting cultural heritage assets is a key challenge for sustainable planning and management. 	<p>Cultural Heritage and Assets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As with landscape, the NDF has a major role to play in the protection and enhancement of cultural heritage through guidance to the planning system. This should include the recognition that non-designated heritage assets are also an important part of the make-up of cultural identity and sense of place and that indirect effects on the setting of assets are also important considerations. • Opportunities also exist for the NDF to promote awareness of cultural heritage and encourage the enhancement of cultural education centres.
<p>7. A globally responsible Wales</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greenhouse gas emissions have been steadily falling in Wales, there is still a long way to go to meet the emissions targets. • This reduction is partly as a result of a gradual shift in energy generation to renewable and cleaner fuels together with technological and efficiency improvements in industry. However, again there are challenges to maintain these positive trends. • The estimated global footprint of Wales is high compared with other developed countries. There is a challenge to reduce this whilst also accommodating new development and economic growth. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NDF has an opportunity to help promote low carbon fuels and improved standards of energy efficiency in industry and residential development. • There is an opportunity for the NDF to provide a national Framework against which the generation of energy from low and zero carbon sources can be delivered.

5 The Appraisal Process and Integrated Sustainability Appraisal Framework (A4)

5.1 Appraisal Process

Section 2 of this Report describes the stages in the ISA Process with Stage B corresponding to the appraisal of the potential effects of the NDF. At this stage, the precise content or structure of the NDF has not yet been developed although it is anticipated that it may include a series of policies and/or spatial strategy which will provide the context for the delivery of development and national policy.

The approach to appraising the elements of the NDF will, therefore, need to retain an element of flexibility until the actual content is developed in more detail. However, it is possible to outline the basic principles of the approach, including the ISA Framework that will be used. The following principles underpin the appraisal approach:

- It will be primarily a qualitative appraisal (SEA Practical Guide paragraph 5.B.10 and 5.B.11).
- It will be undertaken by professional SA practitioners, supported by officials within Welsh Government on the integrated impact assessments (SEA Practical Guide paragraph 5.B.10 and 5.B.11).
- The appraisal will follow an integrated and iterative assessment approach (SEA Practical Guide Figure 6 and paragraphs 2.26-2.28).
- Engagement on the ISA on the NDF including a series of workshops will also be held to enable other specialist stakeholders (alongside the statutory consultees) to contribute to the appraisal (SEA Practical Guide chapter 3).
- The ISA Framework of appraisal objectives (Table 5-3) will be the primary appraisal tool (SEA Practical Guide paragraphs 5.1.12 and 5.1.13).
- The appraisal will be evidence-based (using qualitative and quantitative data sets) and will consider the likely effects of the NDF on the sustainability (social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being) baseline of Wales (SEA Practical Guide paragraphs 5.A.5-9).
- The appraisal will include coverage of the spatial effects of the plan and will draw upon evidence of physical, social and economic constraints, sensitives and opportunities (SEA Practical Guide paragraphs 5.A.5 and 5.A.6).
- The appraisal will utilise matrices to help describe the potential effects of the NDF against the ISA Framework (SEA Practical Guide Appendices 6 and 7).
- As required by the SEA Regulations, the appraisal will consider direct/indirect effects; secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects (see Table 5-1); effects over space and time (long, medium and short-term); the reversibility of effects; transboundary effects and the level of confidence in the appraisal (SEA Practical Guide Appendices 7 and 8).
- The appraisal will be iterative and will include feedback of recommendations to the NDF team to identify measures to mitigate for any negative effects identified or to further enhance any positive effects (SEA Practical Guide Appendix 7).
- Both preferred options for NDF elements and their reasonable alternative options will be appraised (SEA Practical Guide Appendix 6).

It is noted that the following approach is reflective of the requirements of the SEA Regulations. Where relevant, the appropriate part of 'A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive'¹² has been included in brackets in the above list. Table 5-4 demonstrates how the requirements of the SEA Directive have been included within the ISA Framework of objectives to be used to appraise the NDF.

¹² ODPM, Scottish Executive, Welsh Assembly Government and Department of the Environment NI 2005

Table 5-1 Definitions of Secondary, Cumulative and Synergistic Effects

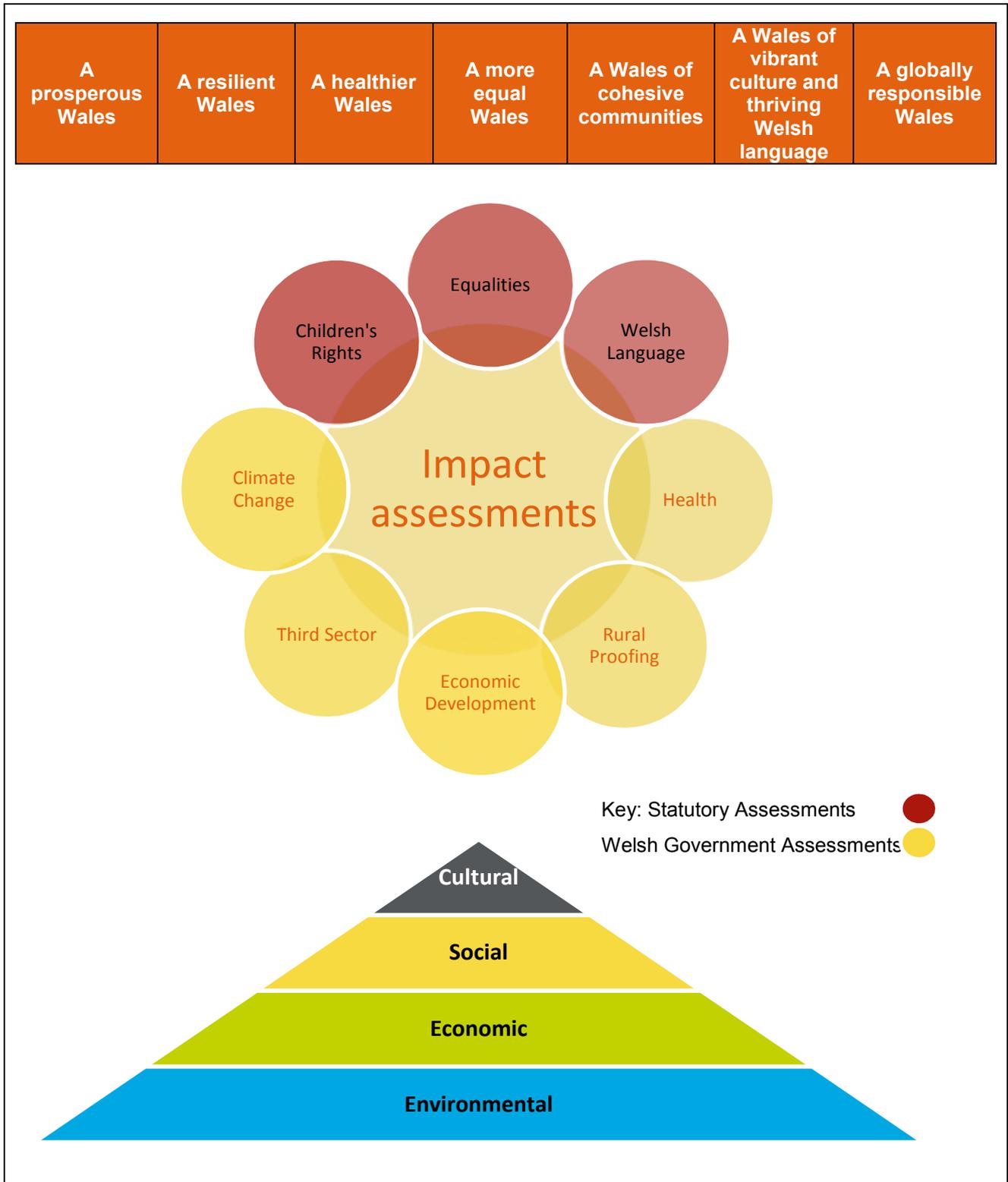
Type of Effect	Definition
Secondary (or indirect)	Effects that are not a direct result of the plan (NDF), but occur away from the original effect or as a result of a complex pathway.
Cumulative	Effects arise, for instance, where several developments each have insignificant effects but together have a significant effect; or where several individual effects of the plan (e.g. noise, dust and visual) have a combined effect.
Synergistic	Effects interact to produce a total effect greater than the sum of the individual effects.

Source: A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive, ODPM

5.1.1 Approach to Impact Assessments

Our integrated approach to assessing the impact of the NDF brings together key assessments into a single appraisal framework. Set in the context of the seven well-being goals, the various areas for consideration cover the social, economic, environmental and cultural aspects of Wales now, and in the future. Figure 5-1 gives an illustration of how these elements fit together.

Figure 5-1 Impact assessments to be integrated alongside SA/SEA and their status



Guidance on the impact assessments, where available, sets out the approaches to be undertaken for each of the impact assessments; they broadly contain the following stages:

- Screening/ scoping.
- Assessment – identifying both positive and negative impacts and opportunities for promotion including equalities, children’s rights and Welsh Language.
- Reporting and recommendations – ensuring transparency of the process that has been used and setting out the details of the decisions taken including what avoidance and mitigation measures are proposed.
- Review, monitoring and evaluation.

This approach follows the equivalent structure to that proposed for the ISA which enables them to be integrated effectively. Further details are set out in section 2 of this report. Table 5-5 demonstrates how the requirements of the impact assessments have been included within the ISA Framework of objectives to be used to appraise the NDF.

5.1.2 Geographical Scope of the ISA

The geographical scope of the ISA will be driven by the geographical scope of the NDF i.e. the whole of Wales. The geographical scale of particular baseline issues means that they will relate closely to neighbouring England and potentially Ireland. For example, employment migration and commuting, service provision and education can all result in flows of people across borders. This also means that both terrestrial and marine effects are possible and will need to be considered.

5.1.3 Temporal Scope of the ISA

The NDF is intended to apply until 2040 following publication in 2020. This timescale will be reflected in the ISA. If there are likely to be any sustainability effects of the NDF that would last longer than this, these would also be considered.

5.1.4 Assessment of Alternatives

It is a requirement of the SEA Directive that reasonable alternatives are assessed and, therefore, alternative options will be assessed using the ISA Framework. At this stage, the type and range of reasonable alternative options is not known although it is assumed that they may include, for example, options for strategic spatial priorities of different policy approaches.

The appraisal will determine the relative positive and adverse effects of each option using the ISA Framework such that this information can be used by Welsh Government to inform their decision to select the preferred options. Scope for mitigation will be considered and it will be important for Welsh Government to justify their choice of alternative and reasons for selecting the preferred approaches.

5.2 The Integrated Sustainability Appraisal Framework

To test the performance of the NDF we have established an ISA Framework contain 17 ISA objectives (covering social, economic, environmental and cultural issues)

The ISA Objectives are separate from the NDF Objectives and the Government’s wider well-being objectives, although there may be some overlaps between them.

Table 5-2 Explanation of Objectives

ISA Appraisal Objectives	Used to test the performance of the NDF to enable social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being to be fully considered.
Welsh Government’s well-being objectives	The Welsh Government has published well-being objectives which set out it we will use the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 to help deliver our programme for government and maximise our contribution to the seven shared national well-being goals.
National Development Framework objectives	The NDF objectives will be national level objectives set by the well-being goals & objectives, the Programme for Government, the 4 Cross-Cutting Strategies and other key Government policies such as the Natural

	Resources Policy, the Transport Strategy, the Economic Strategy and so forth. The objectives will cover social, economic, environmental and cultural issues.
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To help measure the performance of the NDF components against the ISA Objectives, these are supported by a series of questions. Baseline data at the national and sub-national scale has been collated (see Appendix B), as this provides a means of determining current performance across Wales and gauging how much intervention or the extent of work needed to ensure a positive direction in the achievement of more sustainable development. The Draft ISA Framework is presented in Table 5-3 below.

5.2.1 Development of the ISA Objectives

The ISA Objectives have been developed using the following:

- Review of relevant plans, programmes and environmental (sustainability) objectives, including, for example the national well-being goals, and the Welsh Government’s well-being objectives. It is noted that the NRP and the National Marine Plan are still being developed. When these documents are published, the appraisal will be reviewed as part of the iterative ISA process. This review will then feed into the further development of the ISA Objectives, which may be refined as a result.
- Review of baseline information, issues and opportunities.
- Input from the other appraisal strands identified in Section 1 of this report, notably: Health, Equalities, Welsh Language, Rural Proofing, Children’s Rights, Climate Change, Economic Development and Third Sector.
- Experience of developing other SA Objectives in Wales and beyond.
- The Framework will be added to and adapted following stakeholder consultation including specifically the formal Scoping Consultation.

The ISA Objectives have been assessed for their internal compatibility and a compatibility matrix has been included in Appendix C. The purpose of this exercise is to highlight any potential for incompatibilities at an early stage in order for any potential issues to be balanced within the Framework. The matrix shows that the relationships between the ISA Objectives are predominantly neutral i.e. no clear impact or compatible. Some uncertain compatibilities have also been identified, these are set out in further detail in Appendix C. ISA Objectives are often likely to have some degree of conflict or uncertainty when implementing specific schemes. The appraisal process necessarily seeks to identify the trade-offs between any such conflicts and uncertainty.

Table 5-3 presents the proposed ISA Objectives and questions that will be used. The corresponding well-being goals are identified in the table.

The ISA Objectives have been developed through the review of plans, policies and environmental protection objectives in Appendix A, and an analysis of the baseline data in Appendix B and the identification of the key issues and options in Table 4-1. This work resulted in the identification of key themes as set out in Table 3-3 which form the basis of the ISA Framework. Each of the ISA Objectives is supported by a series of questions to add further clarity and to assist the assessment process.

Table 5-3 ISA Objectives and questions

ISA Framework for the assessment of the NDF		
ISA Objectives	Questions Will the NDF....?	Well-being goal
1. To encourage and support improvements in educational attainment for all age groups and all sectors of society to help to improve opportunities for life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage and support an increase in levels of participation and attainment in education for all members of society? • Encourage and support an improvement in access to lifelong learning opportunities? • Encourage and support an improvement in the provision of education and training facilities through land use planning initiatives? 	A prosperous Wales A resilient Wales A healthier Wales A more equal Wales A Wales of cohesive communities A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language
2. To contribute to an improvement in physical and mental health and well-being for all and contribute towards a reduction in health inequalities across	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute towards an improvement in access to health and social care services especially in isolated/rural areas? • Contribute towards a reduction in health inequalities amongst different groups in the community including specifically children and older people? • Promote healthy lifestyles through land use planning initiatives? • Contribute towards a reduction in levels of child poverty and fuel poverty? • Contribute towards improving access to open space including opportunities for play? 	A prosperous Wales A resilient Wales A healthier Wales A more equal Wales A Wales of cohesive communities
3. To create opportunities for an increase in employment across the country and promote economic inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage and support opportunities to increase employment? • Support an improvement in physical access to jobs through land use planning initiatives? • Create opportunities for an increase in the number of people who are satisfied with their job? • Encourage new investment and a growth in the number of skilled workers? 	A prosperous Wales A resilient Wales A more equal Wales A Wales of cohesive communities A globally responsible Wales
4. To promote sustainable economic growth, diversity and business competitiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage economic growth? • Encourage diversification within the economy and encourage new business formation and inward investment? 	A prosperous Wales A resilient Wales A more equal Wales A Wales of vibrant

ISA Framework for the assessment of the NDF		
ISA Objectives	Questions Will the NDF....?	Well-being goal
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage businesses who are innovation-active¹³? • Encourage and promote sustainable tourism, sensitively capitalising on environmental, culture, heritage and leisure assets? • Support enhancements to the rural economy and rural diversification (including agriculture, SMEs, micro businesses and the development of digital connectivity)? • Maintain and encourage third sector activities? 	culture and thriving Welsh Language A globally responsible Wales
5. To encourage the protection and promotion of the Welsh Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage an increase in the number of Welsh language speakers across Wales? • Encourage an increase in the proportion of Welsh language speakers who are fluent across Wales? • Encourage an increase in the number of people who speak Welsh daily and who can speak more than just a few words of Welsh? 	A prosperous Wales A resilient Wales A more equal Wales A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language A globally responsible Wales
6. To create the conditions within which greenhouse gas emissions can be limited and encourage energy efficient and sustainable design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from existing development? • Encourage a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from new development? • Contribute to a reduction in CO₂ emissions from the transport sector? • Encourage a reduction in the negative effects of power generation, heavy industries and transport on local air quality? • Encourage cleaner technology for power generation, heavy industry and transport? • Create the conditions whereby sustainable design is required to be an integral part of new development? • Encourage a reduction in the demand for energy and increase energy efficiency? 	A prosperous Wales A resilient Wales A healthier Wales A more equal Wales A Wales of cohesive communities A globally responsible Wales

¹³ As defined in the DBEIS community innovation survey

ISA Framework for the assessment of the NDF		
ISA Objectives	Questions Will the NDF....?	Well-being goal
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the potential for the use of low carbon or zero energy sources? 	
7. To encourage climate change resilience, including contributing to the reduction and management of flood risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to the reduction and management of flood risk? • Encourage all new development to be climate change resilient? • Promote the benefits of flood risk management? 	A resilient Wales A healthier Wales A globally responsible Wales
8. To encourage the protection and improvement of air quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create the conditions within which air quality can be protected and improved where necessary? • Reduce the likelihood of new Air Quality Management Areas being required through land use planning initiatives? • Create the conditions within which potential emissions from traffic and industry may be reduced? • As far as is possible through land use planning, ensure that the most vulnerable communities are not disproportionately affected by poor air quality? 	A resilient Wales A healthier Wales A globally responsible Wales
9. To contribute to the protection and enhancement of the quality of water features and resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to the protection and enhancement of ground and surface water quality? • Contribute to the protection and enhancement of coastal waters? • Encourage the sustainable use of water resources in both domestic and industrial settings? 	A resilient Wales A healthier Wales A globally responsible Wales
10. To improve the connectivity of communities and sustainable access to basic goods, services and amenities for all groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage the provision of public transport services that meet people’s needs through land use planning initiatives? • Plan for highways infrastructure that meets people’s needs (including walking and cycling routes)? • Promote the use of sustainable travel modes and encourage a reduction in dependence on the private car? • Encourage an improvement in access to cultural and recreational facilities? • Support the provision of new and improvement of existing digital connective infrastructure? 	A prosperous Wales A resilient Wales A healthier Wales A more equal Wales A Wales of cohesive communities A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language A globally responsible Wales

ISA Framework for the assessment of the NDF		
ISA Objectives	Questions Will the NDF....?	Well-being goal
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage the maintenance and improvement of access to essential services and facilities, particularly in rural areas? • Encourage an improvement in access to open space? • Encourage an increase in opportunities for the public to access the countryside and coastal areas? 	
11. To create the conditions within which an improvement in social cohesion and equality can be achieved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create the conditions within which social cohesion and equality can be improved? • Create the conditions within which equalities based on background or circumstances can be improved? • Create the conditions within which gender inequality may be reduced? • Create the conditions within which age inequality may be reduced? • Create the conditions within which inequalities based on disability can be improved? • Ensure children who have any kind of disability can lead full and independent lives? • Ensure children can develop healthily, and have access to good quality health care, clean water, nutritious food and a clean environment? • Ensure children can live to a standard that is good enough to meet their physical and mental needs? • Ensure children have access to an education? • Ensure children can relax and play, and join in a wide range of activities? • Encourage the development of strong, cohesive communities? • Create conditions to reduce levels of crime and the fear of crime? • Create the conditions within which an improvement in satisfaction of people with their neighbourhoods as a place to live can be achieved? 	<p>A prosperous Wales A resilient Wales A healthier Wales A more equal Wales A Wales of cohesive communities A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language</p>
12. To encourage the provision of good quality, safe, affordable housing that meets identified needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage the provision of sufficient housing to meet identified needs in all areas? • Create the conditions within which all housing should meet acceptable 	<p>A prosperous Wales A resilient Wales A healthier Wales</p>

ISA Framework for the assessment of the NDF		
ISA Objectives	Questions Will the NDF....?	Well-being goal
	<p>standards?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create the conditions within which the availability of affordable housing should increase? • Create the conditions within which rural housing needs can be met? • Create the conditions within which levels of homelessness are reduced? • Create the conditions within which there is a reduction in the number of households in income poverty? 	<p>A more equal Wales A Wales of cohesive communities A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language A globally responsible Wales</p>
13.To encourage the protection and enhancement of the local distinctiveness of our landscapes and townscapes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage the protection and enhancement of areas of landscape and seascape character, distinctiveness, diversity and quality? • Encourage the protection and enhancement of townscape character and quality? • Promote sensitive design in development? • Encourage a reduction in noise and light pollution? • Encourage the maintenance of areas of tranquillity? 	<p>A prosperous Wales A more equal Wales A Wales of cohesive communities A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language A globally responsible Wales</p>
14.To encourage the conservation and enhancement of heritage assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage the conservation and enhancement of heritage assets and their settings? • Encourage the conservation and enhancement of the historic landscape? 	<p>A prosperous Wales A more equal Wales A Wales of cohesive communities A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language A globally responsible Wales</p>
15.To encourage the protection and promotion of Welsh culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create the conditions within which Welsh culture can thrive, through land use planning initiatives? • Promote access to Wales’ cultural and heritage assets and activities? 	<p>A prosperous Wales A more equal Wales A Wales of cohesive communities A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language</p>

ISA Framework for the assessment of the NDF		
ISA Objectives	Questions Will the NDF....?	Well-being goal
		A globally responsible Wales
16.To encourage the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity and geodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the establishment of more coherent and resilient ecological networks on land that safeguard ecosystem services for the benefit of wildlife and people? • Encourage the conservation and enhancement of designated nature conservation sites, habitats and species? • Encourage the conservation and enhancement of non-designated habitats and species? • Provide an improvement in opportunities for people to access wildlife and open green spaces? • Encourage the conservation and enhancement of marine ecosystems? • Encourage the conservation and enhancement of the quality of greenspaces? • Protect geodiversity? 	A prosperous Wales A resilient Wales A healthier Wales A Wales of cohesive communities A globally responsible Wales
17.To encourage the sustainable use of natural resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage a reduction in the demand for raw materials? • Promote the use of recycled and secondary materials in construction? • Encourage the remediation of contaminated sites and prevention of further contamination? • Encourage the reduction of hazardous waste? • Provide the conditions within which soil quality can be maintained and/or enhanced? • Encourage the protection of peatland? • Encourage development of brownfield land where appropriate? • Encourage an increase in the proportion of waste recycling and re-use? • Encourage a reduction in the proportion of waste sent to landfill? 	A prosperous Wales A resilient Wales A healthier Wales A Wales of cohesive communities A globally responsible Wales

5.2.2 Coverage of the SEA Directive Topics by ISA Objective

Table 5-4 SEA Directive topics and main ISA objectives of relevance

SEA Directive Topic	Main ISA Objective(s)	Screened in?
Biodiversity	7, 9, 16 and 17	Yes
Population	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12 and 15	Yes
Human Health	1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16 and 17	Yes
Fauna	7, 9 and 16	Yes
Flora	7, 9 and 16	Yes
Soil	7, 9, 13, 16 and 17	Yes
Water	6, 7, 9, 16 and 17	Yes
Air	6, 8 and 10	Yes
Climatic Factors	6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 16 and 17	Yes
Material Assets	3, 4, 6, 9, 12, 13, 14, 16 and 17	Yes
Cultural Heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage	5, 13, 14 and 15	Yes
Landscape	7, 13 and 17	Yes

5.2.3 Coverage of the other integrated impact assessments by ISA Objective

Table 5-5 Integrated impact assessments and main ISA objectives of relevance

SEA Directive Topic	Main ISA Objective(s)	Screened in?
Health	1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16 and 17	Yes
Equalities	1, 2, 3, 4, 10, 11 and 12	Yes
Welsh Language	5	Yes
Rural Proofing	2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16 and 17	Yes
Children's Rights	1, 2, 10, 11 and 12	Yes
Third Sector	2, 3, 4, 11 and 15	Yes
Climate Change	3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 16 and 17	Yes
Economic Development	1, 3, 4, 6 and 17	Yes

6 Next Steps

6.1 General

This Scoping Report has outlined how it is intended to undertake the ISA of the NDF. This report will now be published for a twelve-week consultation with the SEA 'consultation bodies'. Following consultation, consultee comments will be collated and tabulated. These will then be considered as an integral part of the ISA process, and changes will be made to the relevant aspects of the ISA scoping stage as necessary. Responses to the consultee comments, and how they have shaped the ISA, will be recorded and presented within the Final Scoping Report and within a summary of consultation report that will be published by the Welsh Government.

The next stage for the NDF is the Issues, Options and Preferred Option. An Interim ISA Report will be undertaken and consulted upon alongside this. The ISA interim report will:

- Demonstrate how the ISA has shaped the development of the NDF;
- Set out the methodology for the appraisal;
- Set out the options that were considered, how they were identified and any mitigation measures proposed
- Set out the social, economic, cultural and environmental effects of the Issues and Options and Preferred Option;
- Describe the proposals for monitoring.

Further information about future stages of the ISA process can be found in Section 2.1 of this report.

6.2 Contact Details

Responses to this consultation should be sent to:

Post: Gemma Christian, Welsh Government, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NQ

Email: planconsultations-a@wales.gsi.gov.uk

APPENDIX A

Review of Relevant Plans, Programmes and Environmental Protection Objectives

APPENDIX B

Baseline Data, Key Issues and Opportunities

APPENDIX C

Internal Compatibility of ISA Objectives

The 17 ISA Objectives have been tested for their compatibility with each other. The internal compatibility of the ISA Objectives was generally assessed as neutral i.e. no clear impact or as positive as they all seek to improve the quality of the environment and sustainability within Wales. However, the compatibility of some ISA Objectives was assessed as uncertain. These uncertainties are outlined in the paragraphs below. Uncertainty was scored against SA Objective 6 ‘To create the conditions within which greenhouse gas emissions can be limited and encourage energy efficient and sustainable design’ and SA Objective 13 ‘To encourage the protection and enhancement of the local distinctiveness of our landscapes and townscapes’ because the provision of renewable energy infrastructure such as wind turbines has the potential to affect landscape character and quality.

The compatibility was also assessed as uncertain between SA Objective 12 ‘To encourage the provision of good quality, safe, affordable housing that meets identified needs’ and the following objectives:

- 13 To encourage the protection and enhancement of the local distinctiveness of our landscapes and townscapes;
- 14 To encourage the conservation and enhancement of heritage assets;
- 16 To encourage the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity and geodiversity; and
- 17 To encourage the sustainable use of natural resources.

Scoring was assessed as uncertain because new residential development has the potential to adversely affect biodiversity resources through direct land take; landscape distinctiveness and heritage assets through inappropriate siting and natural resources through increased demand for raw materials.

Internal Compatibility of ISA Objectives

ISA Objective	1																	
	2																	
	3	+																
	4	+		+														
	5	+																
	6																	
	7		+				+											
	8		+				+	+										
	9		+					+										
	10	+	+		+		+	+	+									
	11		+	+				+			+							
	12		+					+			+	+						
	13		+				?	+		+	+		?					
	14					+					+		?	+				
	15		+			+								+	+			
	16		+				+	+	+	+	+		?	+				
	17		+		+		+	+		+			?	+				
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
	ISA Objective																	

Objectives are compatible = +

Mutually incompatible = -

Compatibility unknown = ?

No clear impact on each other = (left blank)

The 17 ISA Objectives are listed below:

1. To encourage and support improvements in educational attainment for all age groups and all sectors of society to help improve opportunities for life	7. To encourage climate change resilience, including contributing to the reduction and management of flood risk	13. To encourage the protection and enhancement of the local distinctiveness of our landscapes and townscapes
2. To contribute to an improvement in physical and mental health and well-being for all and contribute towards a reduction in health inequalities across Wales	8. To encourage the protection and improvement of air quality	14. To encourage the conservation and enhancement of heritage assets
3. To create opportunities for an increase in employment across the country and promote economic inclusion	9. To contribute to the protection and enhancement of the quality of water features and resources	15. To encourage the protection and promotion of Welsh culture
4. To promote sustainable economic growth, diversity and business competitiveness	10. To improve the connectivity of communities and sustainable access to basic goods, services and amenities for all groups	16. To encourage the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity and geodiversity
5. To encourage the protection and promotion of the Welsh language	11. To create the conditions within which an improvement in social cohesion and equality can be achieved	17. To encourage the sustainable use of natural resources
6. To create the conditions within which greenhouse gas emissions can be limited and encourage energy efficient and sustainable design	12. To encourage the provision of good quality, safe, affordable housing that meets identified needs	