

Proofing Tool

This should enable you to consider the needs, desires of people, communities and businesses in rural Wales.

Policy/ Programme/Initiative to be rural proofed	Future demand-led fuel poverty scheme to succeed Welsh Government Warm Homes – Nest
Division/Department	Environment & Rural Affairs
Contact Name	Paul Moyle
Date of review (to be completed by Rural Proofing Team)	27/07/17, Gail Merriman, Rural Development Division

Questions	Comments
<p>Q1. Stakeholders What contact have you had with rural stakeholders? Please briefly describe any events targeted at rural stakeholders.</p>	<p>We have carried out a full public consultation on the new scheme to succeed Nest between 27 July 2016 and 19 October 2016.</p> <p>The consultation document was issued to a range of stakeholders and was published on the Welsh Government website. This included all Welsh Local Authorities, including those within rural areas.</p> <p>We also ran a stakeholder workshop as part of the consultation process which was attended by Local Authorities within rural areas as well as organisations such as National Energy Action and Citizens Advice Cymru who raised rural issues.</p>
<p>Q2. Access Will access be an issue for rural people? (Rural people may have to travel long distances to access services).</p> <p>Yes _____ how will you overcome barriers?</p> <p>No _____ go to Q3</p>	<p>No. The new scheme will be very similar to the current Nest scheme – it will be an-Wales demand-led scheme where households can contact the scheme for support.</p> <p>Access to the scheme can be made via a free call centre or online website.</p> <p>Advice will be provided via telephone and where eligible for free home energy efficiency measures, the scheme will visit the property.</p> <p>Marketing activity will include targeted activity at rural areas as rural properties are a target group for the scheme given their likelihood to be off-gas and/or hard to treat.</p>

<p>Q3. Needs of Rural People Has the policy taken account of rural needs, e.g. older population, lack of affordable housing, language requirements?</p> <p>Yes _____ please describe the needs and the mitigation action?</p> <p>No _____ What do you plan to do to take into account?</p>	<p>Yes - We have taken account of rural needs in the design of the new Nest scheme.</p> <p>The scheme is designed to improve the energy efficiency of properties making them more affordable to heat. Support is targeted at those householders most in need and living in the most energy inefficient homes.</p> <p>Inefficient homes are disproportionately found in rural areas, and thus people living in these areas have an increased likelihood of living in a cold home (National Energy Action, 2013a). Estimates by the Welsh Government suggest that 42 per cent of homes in rural areas are in fuel poverty, compared to just 22 per cent of those in urban areas (National Assembly for Wales, 2011).</p> <p>Fuel poor households in rural areas are therefore a target group of the new scheme.</p> <p>There are spending caps in place for the amount spent on individual properties. These have been set higher for off-gas properties (which are common in rural areas) in recognition of their hard to treat nature.</p> <p>In terms of language requirements, there is a 50/50 ratio of Welsh Speakers in the call centre within the current scheme; this will need to be carried under the new scheme. The scheme could also have a positive impact on the Welsh language through the improvement of homes in rural areas, where Welsh language is more frequently used.</p>
<p>Q4 (a) Impact on Services Will the policy lead to the creation of new services (positive impacts) or the closure of existing services (negative impacts)?</p> <p>Yes _____ please explain</p> <p>No _____ move to Q4(b)</p>	<p>The new scheme will be continuation of a service that is already in place through the existing Nest scheme, with certain beneficial changes.</p> <p>For instance, eligibility for free energy efficiency measures will be extended to low income homes with certain health conditions, as well as those in receipt of means-tested benefits. Recent research¹ has shown that the Nest scheme has a clear positive impact on health with a reduction in the use of the NHS.</p> <p>In home-advice will also be provided to those households eligible for free energy efficiency measures.</p>

¹ <http://gov.wales/docs/caecd/research/2017/170404-fuel-poverty-data-linking-project-findings-report-1-en.pdf>

<p>Q4 (b) How do you plan to overcome or mitigate any negative impacts?</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Q5. Rural Places-Land Does your policy require the purchase or use of land? Have you considered rural dimensions such as land value, availability or restrictive designation?</p> <p>Yes _____ how will you overcome barriers?</p> <p>No _____ Go to Q6.</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Q6. Terrain Will your policy work in areas of difficult terrain, e.g. narrow roads, steep mountains?</p> <p>Yes _____ please explain how?</p> <p>If no _____ how will you overcome barriers?</p>	<p>As the new scheme is pan-Wales there may be a need to work in areas of difficult terrain, but this should not prevent energy efficiency measures from being installed in rural households subject to the necessary health and safety requirements.</p>
<p>Q7. Rural Business Is your policy relevant to SMEs or Micro Businesses?</p> <p>Yes _____ how have you taken their situation into account?</p> <p>No _____ go to Q8.</p>	<p>Yes. Due to the labour-intensive and localised nature of most energy efficiency work, it is possible to create jobs locally. Jobs will be created in local installation and in manufacturing, and will also benefit the transport, energy, and service sectors.</p> <p>Direct employment will be created in the manufacturing of equipment and materials including insulation and heating systems, as well as in installation and project management. Auditing, monitoring of energy use, efficiency rating, marketing and consultancy also all offer employment opportunities.</p> <p>All energy efficiency improvements installed under the scheme will be delivered by Wales-based SMEs, as with the current Nest scheme.</p> <p>We are working with NPS to procure a Scheme Manager for the new scheme which will have specific community benefit KPIs which will include the use of</p>

	local contractors / suppliers to help boost the local economy.
<p>Q8. Access to Support Does your policy expect business to be able to access support? (This may be in the form of advice, training, finance etc.)</p> <p>Yes _____ What barriers will they face and how will they overcome them? No _____ go to Q9</p>	Although businesses will not be eligible for support from the scheme through advice or measures, they will benefit from business opportunities created by the scheme as discussed above.
<p>Q9. Infrastructure Does your policy depend on infrastructure such as good road/rail connections or fast broadband speeds?</p> <p>Yes _____ how have you made provision for businesses in more isolated rural areas? No _____ go to Q10</p>	No. Improved broadband infrastructure would have a positive effect on the use of the scheme's website for householders and the programmes run by our surveyors, however, there are alternative ways to contact the scheme. We have a call centre which householders can access and there are offline forms in place that surveyors can access if there are any problems with internet access.
<p>Q10. Other Issues Did any other issues come up as a result of the engagement with stakeholders mentioned in Q1 or any other consultation?</p> <p>Yes _____ What were they and how have you modified your policy to take them into account?</p> <p>No _____ go to Objectives.</p>	No.

Objectives

The proofing tool aims to help you consider rural realities and needs as part of the policy-making process. Now that you have completed the questionnaire, what are your main objectives to make your policy relevant and practical in a rural setting?

Please list up to five objectives:

1	To ensure that the measures we have already put into place on the current Nest scheme are built upon in the new scheme.
2	Improved targeting to capture eligible households in rural areas to achieve a good take up of support by these households. This should build upon the levels achieved in 2016/17 (34% rural).
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Official completing the Proofing Tool.

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Department:

Environment & Rural Affairs

Date:

July 2017

Signature:

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Head of Branch (sign off):

May 2018

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