

Draft National Development Framework

1. NDF Outcomes (chapter 3)

Q1. The NDF has proposed 11 Outcomes as an ambition of where we want to be in 20 years' time. Overall, to what extent do you agree or disagree the 11 Outcomes are a realistic vision for the NDF?

Agree

Q2. To what extent do you agree with the 11 Outcomes as ambitions for the NDF?

Agree with most of them

If you disagree with any of the 11 Outcomes, please tell us why:

Aims are desirable but there is no evidence that they are achievable. The aims for the Urban areas and the Countryside are contradictory

2. Spatial Strategy (policies 1 - 4)

Q3. The NDF spatial strategy is a guiding framework for where large-scale change and nationally important developments will be focused over the next 20 years. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the spatial strategy and key principles for development in...

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	No opinion
Urban areas (Policies 1, 2 & 3)			X				
Rural areas (Policy 4)			X				

Q4. If you have any comments on the spatial strategy or key principles for development in urban and rural areas, please tell us:

The Rural Area policy is very vague and contradicts the Urban Policy - If funding is concentrated in Urban Areas how can we persuade young people to remain in the Countryside where funding is less (no jobs, poor infrastructure, limited housing)

3. Affordable Housing (policy 5)

Q5. The NDF sets out the approach for providing affordable housing, encouraging local authorities, social landlords, and small and medium-sized construction and building enterprises to build more homes. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the approach to increasing affordable housing?

Agree

Q6. If you disagree, in what other ways can the NDF approach the delivery of affordable housing?

However, What is affordable? There needs to be some correlation with the income levels of the area. Land prices are usually an issue, the Welsh Assembly should consider compulsory purchase of land. Perhaps the Welsh Assembly could look to replacing coniferous forests close to Urban or coastal areas with deciduous forests in the Centre of Wales, thereby releasing land for social housing close to the centres of employment.

4. Mobile Action Zones (policy 6)

Q7. To what extent do you agree or disagree the identification of mobile action zones will be effective in encouraging better mobile coverage?

Agree

Q8. If you disagree, in what other ways can the NDF improve mobile phone coverage in the areas which currently have limited access?

No Response

5. Low Emission Vehicles (policy 7)

Q9. To what extent do you agree or disagree that policy 7 will enable and encourage the roll-out of charging infrastructure for ultra-low emission vehicles?

Agree

Q10. If you disagree, in what other ways can the NDF enable and encourage the roll-out of charging infrastructure for ultra-low emission vehicles?

Reliable and accessible public transport should be a fundamental (low emission buses etc) Electric cars are at present only suitable for flat or Urban areas and not for the mountainous terrain throughout the rest of Wales

6. Green Infrastructure (policies 8 & 9)

Q11. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the approach to maintaining and enhancing biodiversity and ecological networks?

Agree

7. Renewable Energy and District Heat Networks (policies 10-15)

Q12. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the NDF's policies to lower carbon emissions in Wales using...

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	No opinion
Large scale wind and solar developments		X					
District heat networks		X					

Q13. If you disagree with the NDF's approaches to green infrastructure, renewable energy or district heat networks, what alternative approaches should we consider to help Wales to enhance its biodiversity and transition to a low carbon economy?

District Heat Networks are useful for Urban living on flat land and not for valleys and upland areas.
Wave /Tidal and Water power should be investigated

8. The Regions (policy 16)

Q14. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the principle of developing Strategic Development Plans prepared at a regional scale?The NDF identifies three overall regions of Wales, each with their own distinct opportunities and challenges. These are North Wales, Mid and South West Wales, and South East Wales.

Agree

9. North Wales (policies 17-22)

Q15. We have identified Wrexham and Deeside as the main focus of development in North Wales. A new green belt will be created to manage the form of growth. A number of coastal towns are identified as having key regional roles, while we support growth and development at Holyhead Port. We will support improved transport infrastructure in the region, including a North Wales Metro, and support better connectivity with England. North West Wales is recognised as having potential to supply low-carbon energy on a strategic scale.To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposed policies and approach for the North Region?

No opinion

10. Mid and South West Wales (policies 23-26)

Q16. Swansea Bay and Llanelli is the main urban area within the region and is our preferred location for growth. We also identify a number of rural and market towns, and the four Haven Towns in Pembrokeshire, as being regionally important. The haven Waterway is nationally important and its development is supported. We support proposals for a Swansea Bay Metro.To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposed policies and approach for the Mid and South West Region?

Disagree

11. South East Wales (policies 27-33)

Q17. In South East Wales we are proposing to enhance Cardiff's role as the capital and secure more sustainable growth in Newport and the Valleys. A green belt around Newport and eastern parts of the region will support the spatial strategy and focus development on existing cities and towns. Transport Orientated Development, using locations benefitting from mainline railway and Metro stations, will shape the approach to development across the region. There is support for the growth and development of Cardiff Airport. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the proposed policies and approach for the South East Region?

No opinion

Q18. If you have any comments about the NDF's approach or policies to the three regions, please tell us. If you have any alternatives, please explain them and tell us why you think they would be better.

The Regions need to be linked to the current Health Boards and Council Boundaries. There is no effective link between North and South Wales.
The Mid and South West Wales area is too large and diverse with upland rural central Wales included with lowland farming areas, the Pembrokeshire docklands and former industrialised Swansea and Neath Valleys that currently act as affordable commuter belts for the M4 Corridor and Swansea Bay, all amalgamated together. It will be very difficult to create effective policies for such a vast diverse area

12. Integrated Sustainability Appraisal

Q19. As part of the consultation process, an Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) was conducted to assess the social, economic and environmental impacts of a plan. The report identified a number of monitoring indicators, including health, equalities, Welsh language, the impact on rural communities, children's rights, climate change and economic development. Do you have any comments on the findings of the Integrated Sustainability Appraisal Report? Please outline any further alternative monitoring indicators you consider would strengthen the ISA.

We feel there needs to be more emphasis on education especially as it relates to citizenship, awareness of Welsh History and our place in the World, together with the naturalisation of people moving into Wales.
The divisions exposed by the Brexit vote needs addressing and the most vulnerable in our society need protection. Education is one of the primary vehicles for social cohesion and tolerance of others

13. Habitats Regulations Assessment

Q20. As part of the development of the NDF, a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) was undertaken. The purpose of the HRA process is to identify, assess and address any 'significant effects' of the plan on sites such as Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas for birds. Do you have any comments on the Habitats Regulations Assessment report?

No Response

14. Welsh Language

Q21. We would like to know your views on the effects that the NDF would have on the Welsh language, specifically on opportunities for people to use Welsh and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English. What effects do you think there would be? How could positive effects be increased, or negative effects be mitigated?

No Additional Comment

Q22. Please also explain how you believe the proposed NDF could be formulated or changed so as to have: positive effects or increased positive effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language, and no adverse effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.

No Additional Comment

15. Further comments

Q23. Are there any further comments that you would like to make on the NDF, or any alternative proposals you feel we should consider?

It seems that the proposed future of Wales will create two distinct Urban Settlements where most of the housing and employment will be based. These seem to be coastal North Wales with port links from Ireland and good road links to Deeside and Coastal South East Wales which will also include Cardiff, Newport, the M4 Corridor to Swansea Bay and Llanelli with the Rhondda, Neath and Swansea Valleys acting as affordable commuter belts for these Urban Areas.

The Centre of Wales together with coastal Wales which will include the majority of Powys would be designated 'Countryside' which would include low level farmland, the National Forest and large wind and solar farm developments. The high level plan seems sound however there is no indication of an effective link between North and South Wales or how it is envisaged that young people could be encouraged not to relocate from Rural to Urban areas

16. Are you...?

Q24. Are you:

Submitting a response on behalf of an organisation

Submit your response

Q25. You are about to submit your response. Please ensure you are satisfied with the answers you have provided before sending.

Name

[REDACTED]

Organisation (if applicable)

Pontardawe Town Council

Preferred contact details (email/phone/post) Email

Q26. If you want to receive a receipt of your response, please provide an email address.
Email address

pontardawetc@aol.co.uk

Q27. Responses to consultations may be made public. To keep your response anonymous (including email addresses) tick the box.

Keep my response anonymous