

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:

I think the 2nd aim, regarding access from rural places to homes, jobs and services is sensible, but across Monmouthshire in general, and the ward I represent (Llanfoist Fawr), there has been no meaningful improvement to public transport, either bus or rail, which continues to disenfranchise older residents and those without a car. In particular the funding for the rural bus network seems to be almost constantly under threat. Walking routes to services within Abergavenny for example are not attractive ones, in the absence of a safe River crossing, and at Llanellen, as the Welsh Government is aware, there is no continuous footpath from the village towards Abergavenny and pedestrians are required to walk in the carriageway of a busy trunk road. So whilst the aim is admirable much of the new development has been and will continue to be car reliant.

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 difficulty with Policy 4 is how it will be interpreted by planning authorities and specifically what is 'appropriate proportionate growth', and I hope there will be sufficient direction from the Welsh Government in this regard.

As an example I would highlight Monmouthshire's consideration of 111 dwellings, outside the settlement boundary of Raglan as an example. I strongly agree with the outcome of the call-in and refusal of consent but it is of concern that the LPA promoted this as appropriate and proportionate development when it clearly wasn't -and in an unsustainable location with very limited and local bus services.

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?

No Response

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?

No Response

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?

No Response

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?

Strongly 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?

No Response

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.

Strongly 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?

No opinion

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?

Strongly agree

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.

I strongly support policies 30 and 31 in particular and that it is recognised that growth should be focussed around public transport and existing centres, and that our valuable rural landscape should be protected with a long overdue green belt.

One of the reasons for this is that I have a concern in respect of the spatial growth options identified by Monmouthshire, that are being used to direct the strategy of its replacement LDP. My view is that to seek high levels of housing growth, on the basis that this will trigger employment opportunities is unsound and fanciful, and does not reflect that the location of people's homes and places of work, together with commuting patterns etc are disparate and complex.

This approach may have been relevant 100 years ago when workers lived in communities very close to their places of work, but the days of 'falling out of bed onto the factory floor' are long gone. I hope therefore that policies 30 and 31 will therefore prevent high growth in unsustainable locations and congratulate the Welsh Government on its approach.

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.

No Response

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?

I don't feel qualified to be able to answer this and the following question meaningfully

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 Response

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?

No, but I would like to highlight that the 'official' consultation response from Monmouthshire CC was that of the a decision taken by an individual cabinet member. The NDF has not been debated by the Council or any of its Committees and cannot, therefore, represent the full range of views of members.

16. Are you...?

Q24. Are you:

Providing your own personal response

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	Giles Howard (County Councillor for the Llanfoist Fawr ward)
Organisation (if applicable)	Monmouthshire County 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

[REDACTED]

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

No Response