

**From:** [Sue Essex](#)  
**To:** [NDE](#)  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Consultation response on the draft NFL  
**Date:** 14 November 2019 21:35:50

---

Thank you for giving an opportunity to comment on the draft NFL

I have the following comments

General

I agree with RTPI Cymru in their submission that much more attention needs to be given to the consequences of climate change including the impacts and our responses particularly in terms of green infrastructure priorities, woodland cover and biodiversity. These impacts and our responses will all have spatial implications and these should be integrated into the Framework at a national and regional level.

Welsh Government has declared both climate change and ecological emergencies. These have major implications for coastal, estuarine, open land and built up areas and will inevitably impact on future development choices. In the revision to this draft you may wish to consider delineating river catchment areas, strategic areas for woodland growth and biodiversity protection and enhancement

Affordable housing

I support the ambitions for affordable housing and the idea of giving regional underpinning to new housing development areas. However I think there should be a fundamental recognition that this housing must be set within the framework of cohesive and sustainable communities. A settlement hierarchy approach at the strategic planning stage may be sensible but within parts of Wales an integrated cluster of communities approach may be more appropriate to the social geography

South East Wales

I am pleased that the Framework is including a green belt in the south of the area as I have long advocated this for Cardiff. However the area map needs to be amended as the belt as shown on the map does not extend sufficiently west enough to truly give the protection to the landscape that is needed. The green belt should follow the natural ridge line around north Cardiff across the Taff Valley to extend across Garth mountain area and west Cardiff. This ridge feature gives a natural definition to Cardiff which is an extremely distinctive setting to the City and this should be an essential part of the green belt delineation.

South East Map

I have reservations about the style and content of this map. For example the green belt designation and natural growth area coincide in one area. I think it omits key elements and doubt whether it would provide an adequate spatial context for a subsequent strategic development plan in its current form especially in the light of my previous comments on the impact of climate change and green infrastructure and biodiversity imperatives. I hope you will rethink the content, style and rationale of these regional maps for the final version of the Framework.

Also whilst I welcome the regional approach, it should be stressed these regional areas are interrelated and suggest that these boundaries are indicative and should not be hard and fast.

Finally I would like to stress that it is also important that the Framework aims to give greater integration and coherence to Wales as a whole country. Something that is at the heart of devolution

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment

Yours

Sue Essex

Sent from my iPad