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Subject: Draft National Development Framework Consultation November 2019
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Attachments: [Wales NDF.docx](#)

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Please see attached my commentary on the above document which highlights key issues.

Alan Fay

Draft National Development Framework

Commentary

The format suggests a reform of the system rather a **transformation** of the way government addresses a strategy. This strategy could have been written a decade or so ago, except for the additional major issues of **climate change and energy** which should be held up as the most important current considerations. It does not suggest a **complete understanding of the situation** we are in today and this is reflected in the lack of the **human/people focus** in key spheres of the sustainable model. Policies need to link to each other to provide a holistic strategy.

An abundance of research that suggests we can only just meet current needs including the mix of renewables which on their own will not meet future demand. There is also scientific evidence, a **mix of the many available sources of energy** will be required. There are also major health risks attached to the wind turbines and 5G roll out. For example, the rush to deliver renewable energy in uncoordinated approach lacks any policy approach to the delivery of essential energy. I consider appropriate **energy provision the key to delivering a future strategy**. It will help power employment opportunities, drive the economy, bring social benefits and can be delivered working with the environment.

The document clearly identifies broad land use policies allowing little scope for movement at the regional and local level. The Regional Structure suggests more of the same with little recognition of the need to move away from the current administrative boundaries and to align Regions in terms of water catchment/river management areas which lend themselves to holistic planning units helping to address cultural, natural resources and living landscapes all key aspects for a future for Wales.

Tourism is now the leading industry especially in rural areas which is given little value recognition in the strategy. A key component will be to enhance the existing natural environment which will not destroy the valuable landscape with unreliable and costly features of renewable energy that at best are a short-term response to a long-term need. **A very limited area of inland wind farms combined with large off-shore wind farms** could be part of the solution although there will be **future energy options** available once we able to find **better means to capture energy from the sun**.

There is plenty of evidence **to suggest solutions are already available including an energy mix, more sustainable methods of working and delivering projects using existing research, funding and innovative ideas** all able to provide employment, the green economy and enhance well-being of the nation.

Evidence suggests we are losing biodiversity at an alarming rate. This includes tree cover. But both need to support each other. A policy which recognises the need to encourage habitat across the country including regeneration of trees and hedgerows as well as new planting without defined boundaries so that the edge effect encourages wildlife. The demand being placed on current timber supplies will not meet the outputs required in a range of sectors.

What is required is **long term thinking, ways of working together through co-operation and collaboration and solutions not problems**.