

# 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:**

Decarbonisation is desirable but we must be careful not to ruin some existing and socially useful activities. There is still a small demand for Welsh steam coal. If used correctly, it does not produce smoke.

## 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          |
|                                 |                |       |                            |          |                   |            | X          |

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

We should not engage in urban sprawl over historic landscapes. Means of public transport should be built into all new developments - adequate room for buses, use of electric buses, railways where appropriate - there are quite lot of disused railways that could supply new developments.

## 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?

On no account should we tolerate the poverty that makes people live in the street, as is only too common in England.

#### 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?

No opinion

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?

Don't know

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?

The manufacture of large batteries for cars may cause as much environmental damage (e.g. mining for rare metals) as is saved in Wales. This needs further study

#### 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?

Don't know

#### 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?

Experience with district heating plans in Russia shows that when the power station closes down, everyone loses their hot water for a fortnight. We would need back-up arrangements which may be expensive.  
But it seems a shame to lose all that heat from power stations when it could be piped into peoples' houses or places of work.

## 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?

Agree

## 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?

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.

There may be a place for a few more railways. I was impressed, talking to academics at Lampeter, how much they say they would like a railway from Swansea to Aberystwyth, to the other local universities.

A line from Aberystwyth to Lampeter along the derelict Manchester & Milford line is possible, but going thence to Caerfyrddin / Carmarthen is the wrong direction. Note that powers were taken in 1859 for a railway from Lampeter to Llandeilo (thence directly to Swansea), but there was a slump and one of the main contractors went bust, so it was never built.

## 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.

The slowing or reversal of rural depopulation would be a consummation devoutly to be wished. So many places have practically nobody living there, and derelict houses litter the landscape. With global warming, some of those places might be useful or productive again.

## 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?

Strongly approve. For years we have kept quiet about nests of rare birds, but fortunately egg-collecting is almost defunct. Indeed, in some places, the rare birds are no longer rare - red kites for example. Nor are we much troubled by keepers shooting hen harriers etc. to grow grouse instead. But we must keep an eye on this.

It would be wonderful to have back the Eryr Eryri, the white-tailed eagle of legend. There are some in the Mountains of Mourne and two observers apparently saw one on the same day at two places in Llŷn. The other problem is sheep. Unless excluded, they reduce a forest to bare pasture - in olden times, the Owl of Cwm Cowlyd was one of the three oldest creatures in Wales, but now, there is not a tree for an owl to perch. Yet trees take in water and release it slowly, so we do not have the alternation of dry rocky river beds and violent floods.

There is not one mention of sheep in the Mabinogion - I have discussions with archaeological friends who find sheep bones in ancient sites - but I argue that it is all but impossible to tell sheep and goat bones apart. My guess is that sheep were brought by the Romans; in many places abroad - the Holy Land for example - one finds mixed flocks of sheep and goats. Anyway there are too many.

Neither is there nowadays the demand for wool - mind you, that is something we might push....much more ecological than plastics.

## 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?

My grandfather was a first-language Welsh speaker, but he would not have me learn Welsh because, he said, 'you have to learn English to get on in the world.' For the period, he may have been right - my Welsh-speaking friends at University would come to me and say, 'let us go over that again....' and we did OK. It may have started my teaching tendencies.

It impaired not at all my studies into the history, geography and economics of Wales. But I still regret not having a proper command of the language.

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.

See above. I fear that keeping English as a second language may handicap some people; on the other hand many people, being bilingual from an early age, take up yet other languages with ease and enthusiasm. The Welsh element in the Civil Service goes back to the Middle Ages. Good translations are essential - for example the recent translation of the Llyfr Taliesin into English - superb! - and my cousin translates English textbooks into Welsh. A niece writes novels in Welsh and English; she has a pretty line of writing in the cracks between them.

Bilingual signage is essential - I was happy in being able to insist on this on one of our better tourist railways.

Bilingual signs improve my Welsh vocabulary!

## 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?

We must avoid any suggestion of superiority of either language over the other - equality is sometimes difficult to maintain.

But we need to encourage people from abroad to come and add to our skills, yet to integrate with our society.

An example where things went wrong was when the Flemings came here to Pembroke because their homeland was flooded. Alas, they lived apart for centuries, so it is only now that their children learn Welsh.

## 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

[REDACTED]

Organisation (if applicable)

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Preferred contact details  
(email/phone/post)

[REDACTED]

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.

Keep my response anonymous