

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?

Disagree

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

Agree with all of them

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

I am writing from mid wales where we are just starting to see tourism start to positively impact on our economy. Due to the advance in technology people are also coming to live here to work from home bringing money to the local economy. This is due to the beauty and tranquility of the country side. So the welsh government then decides that we should decimate these areas with wind farms. I am sure you are aware of the Hendy wind farm debacle where 7 turbines have been introduced which can apparently provide electricity to 9800 homes. This exceeds the amount of homes in Llandrindod Wells which leaves the question, Why decimate these areas with wind farms? Is it to support energy needs of homes in Cardiff, Swansea and other built up areas. If this is the case, have these turbines near these areas where the people live who benefit from them. It is an absolute disgrace to brutalise an area that should be turned into a national park as opposed to a large power station for the city. The assembly was meant to localise power but it seems Cardiff does as it likes. Shame on you. There is also a reference to a proposed national forest. Given the low population in Mid wales this is where the national forest should be. It will also benefit air quality for all of wales given its central location. Interesting research has been carried out on Nuclear fusion which will enable in small scale nuclear plants that are completely carbon free to be built in actual cities. This is the future but instead the welsh government seems obsessed with the modern equivalent of windmills. Are we still in the 16th century? It is pretty common knowledge that wind farms are far from a reliable source of energy and some never even appear to turn. Their existence is mainly due to free money for the energy firms from grants. You need to revisit these ludicrous plans as the fall in tourism and the legacy of ruin will be a scar on the welsh assembly for many years to come.

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:

There is no doubt that further homes are needed in rural areas and small towns such as Llandrindod but consideration of the considerable amount of empty homes and brownfield sites should be undertaken. I certainly see no reason to encroach on much more countryside given the already available opportunities to build on. Schools and other facilities need to also be considered as I have moved from the Southeast of England and the shortsighted planning of adding new homes with little or no supporting infrastructure has resulted in a marked decrease in quality of life for all concerned. Please look and learn from the mistakes of others.

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?

Don't know

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

What is affordable housing. This is never defined so it is hard to comment on. What I will say is that your draft plan states that we need approx 2000 new homes in the mid and south west Wales by 2024. As previously mentioned, around 500 could surely be utilized by refurbishing existing property. This plan has to work for the community and not the bank balance of developers. It may be more profitable to start from scratch on a greenfield site but not everything should be driven by profit. I look at the buildings such as the old motor palace building in Llandrindod. This could easily be converted into apartments/homes with retail on the ground floor which would regenerate this corner of town. Although I appreciate that it is designated as a retail unit it has been empty for a good few years and surely we need to be creative to prevent the urban sprawl.

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?

It is needed but please balance the need with the need to protect landscapes.

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?

Although I encourage the roll out it needs to be noted that electric cars are extremely expensive and not affordable to most. Lower income drivers should never be disadvantaged as they are in London.

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					
		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?

I have already wrote regarding this and will repeat my previous statement below. My initial reaction to the statement that landscape change is accepted is who do you think you are?? How dare you decide that an area away from where you live is to have its landscape changed to benefit another area. This should be a local planning issue. My jaw is still dropping from the arrogance of your proposals on these matters. Every development will be fought just as the Hendy Wind farm was. Despite numerous planning officials advising it was not suitable, Lesley Griffiths the all seeing eye decided she knew best. She is an absolute disgrace along with any other official who decided they knew better. Larger scale developments will not even be subject to local planning which will of course result in only large scale plans being put forward to avoid local scrutiny!! Please see my previous comments below and please see sense and change these proposals and allow local people to make local decisions. Just do the right thing for Wales and not for the pockets of the energy companies.

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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?

Agree

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.

I have only commented on Mid Wales as this is the area I reside in. I would not have the audacity to speak on behalf of another region with regard to their future development. This is a position that everyone should take including the Welsh Government particularly on the renewable energy debacle that you are about to create.

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.

I find it a little confusing that the preserving of the Welsh language seems more important than preserving your landscape.

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?

The area around mid wales is just as spectacular as the national park areas yet you seem intent on destroying it making your HRA process nothing more than a token gesture.

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?

The policy of teaching Welsh in schools is probably enough to reach the target of a million Welsh speakers. The current policies seem to be sufficient. In this climate obsessed world I do often ponder what the carbon footprint is from effectively duplicating every piece of literature.

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.

I think existing policies should remain.

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?

I am sure that it is quite obvious that my biggest concerns centre around the renewable energy proposals. This is not a case of "not in my back yard". Wind farms are inefficient and are a waste of space wherever they are situated unless off shore. We live in an island surrounded by water and should be utilizing this as an energy source or using clean carbon free nuclear fusion. Ruining an area that is a hidden gem and will bring a huge financial benefit to wales in years to come, especially if a national forest is situated within, is not a plan that any sane minded individual could endorse.

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 Paul Williams

Organisation (if applicable) -

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.

No Response