

## How will the planning system complement The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Bill?

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Bill proposes six well-being goals:

A prosperous Wales	A resilient Wales	A healthier Wales	A more equal Wales
A Wales of cohesive communities		A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language	

And five governance principles:

Long term	Integration	Collaboration	Prevention	Involvement
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Sustainable Development has been at the heart of the planning system, its policies and practices, since the introduction of Planning Policy Wales (PPW) in 2002. The six well-being goals and five governance principles are already delivered when plans are prepared and decisions on planning applications made. The Welsh Government remains committed to a plan led approach to development with planning decisions being made on a rational, consistent and fair basis with sustainable development at their heart.

This document provides an overview of the future relationship between the planning system and The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Bill. Further details on the relationship are provided by the two accompanying documents:

- Planning Policy Prospectus;
- Development Plan Prospectus.

## Our proposals

Our proposals include:

- A reinvigorated pan-Wales planning framework comprising of Planning Policy Wales (PPW) and the National Development Framework (NDF);
- Addressing strategic cross boundary issues through Strategic Development Plans (SDPs) in those areas of Wales where they are required;
- Strengthening the Local Development Plan (LDP) system;
- Supporting the delivery of Place Plans (PPs) through existing Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) procedures to add detail and support local community aspirations.

The six well-being goals will inform and provide structure to our programme of work going forward to revise PPW (for further details see the Planning Policy Prospectus). PPW and the NDF will provide the mechanism to translate the well-being goals into the proposed national planning framework and ensure SDPs and LDPs are shaped by them. Local Well-being Plans and the local well-being objectives that they contain, will inform SDPs. LDPs will help further embed well-being goals and objectives across the planning system. The preparation of all development plans (NDF, SDPs and LDPs) will require a Sustainability Appraisal to test the plan's policies against sustainability objectives. This will ensure that all planning decisions, including Ministerial decisions on Developments of National Significance (DNS), are taken in the context of sustainable development.

Overall, we do not want to see more plan making activity, rather we want to see better plan making with a redistribution of activities to the most appropriate tier of plan. We want to do this to maximise beneficial planning outcomes in terms of economic opportunities, housing provision, investment, community aspirations and making the best use of our natural resources. A summary of the existing and proposed development plan system and the linkages to the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Bill is set out in this document. Further detail is provided by the Development Plan Prospectus.

## The Development Plan Framework

	Aim	Lead	Date
<p><b>NDF</b>                      Purpose: To identify national scale areas of growth and new investment, setting out key Welsh Government land use policies                      Coverage: All Wales                      Period: 20 years                      Review Every 5 years</p>	To set out national spatial planning priorities and provide direction for SDPs and LDPs	Welsh Government	Approved National Assembly 2019
<p><b>SDP</b>                      Purpose: To provide strategic vision and allocations across a cohesive region                      Coverage: Areas with strategic issues covering a number of LPAs                      Period: 15-20 years                      Review: AMR. Full review every 4 years</p>	To address strategic planning issues and provide strategic direction for LDPs	Strategic Planning Panel	Adoption 2021
<p><b>LDP Light</b>                      Purpose: To set out local policies and allocations not considered by an SDP                      Coverage: LPAs covered by SDPs                      Period: 10 to 15 years                      Review: AMR. Full review every 4 years</p>	To meet local needs and provide a framework for LPA development management	Local planning authority	In parallel with the SDP. Adoption 2021
<p><b>LDP</b>                      Purpose: To set out local policies and allocations                      Coverage: LPAs not covered by SDPs                      Period: 10 to 15 years                      Review: AMR. Full review at least every 4 years</p>	To meet local needs and provide a framework for LPA development management	Local planning authority	Full LDP coverage 2018
<p><b>Place Plan</b>                      Purpose: To provide detailed thematic or site specific guidance to supplement the policies and proposals presented in a LDP                      Coverage: Community area                      Period: 10 to 15 years                      Review: At same time as LDP</p>	To reflect local distinctiveness and address local, specific community scale issues	Town and Community Councils with support from LPA	Post adoption of LDP

## What is the National Development Framework?

The NDF will be a national development plan for Wales. The NDF will identify the key locations for growth and new infrastructure and set out our key planning policies to provide clear direction to all levels of the development plan framework. The NDF will build on the first national land use plan – the Wales Spatial Plan – and take forward the lessons that have been learned over the last decade.

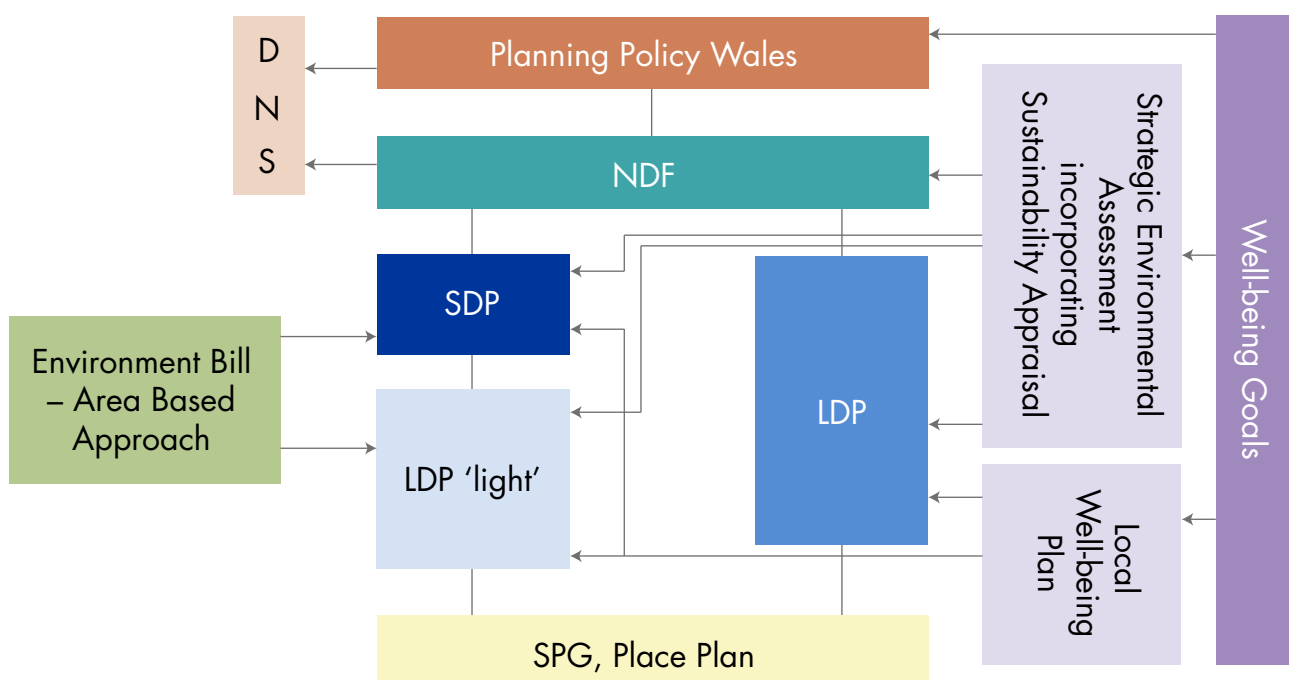
The NDF will reflect the well-being goals, the five governance principles and PPW ensuring that the principles of sustainable development continue to be at the heart of the planning system. It will draw on national policies covering areas such as natural resources and transport and will help to maximise the potential benefits from funding streams, support the delivery of infrastructure plans and provide a context for Ministers’ decisions on DNS.

## How will issues be dealt with by different plans?

We do not want each plan to cover all planning issues. For example, issues such as design and local distinctiveness are best considered at the local level (LDP and Place Plan) whilst others such as economic development or housing, could be considered at each level. This joined up approach will support the delivery of the best planning outcomes. The following table gives an example of how an issue will be considered at each tier:

Economic Development & the Planning Framework	
NDF	Identify key national growth areas, growth sectors and infrastructure to support their growth.
SDP	Identify strategic employment sites across region to support growth areas and key sectors.
LDP	Identify local employment sites.
Place Plan	Set out design & layout principles for sites at neighbourhood level.

Future relationship between Plans



## Key Questions

### Can the proposals in the Planning (Wales) Bill accommodate local government reform?

The proposals are 'future proofed' and can complement local authority reorganisation. It is recognised that fewer, but better resourced LPAs may result in a reduced need for SDPs.

### Why are SDPs not proposed across the whole of Wales?

SDPs are only necessary for those areas subject to significant cross boundary issues where planning outcomes such as jobs and homes can be improved by the proposed approach. Examples where this may come forward are Cardiff, Swansea and the A55 Corridor.

### How can local communities and stakeholders engage in the development plan process?

The NDF process will include public consultation and involvement.

The SDP process and procedures will mirror the current LDP process, requiring the publication of a Community Involvement Scheme setting out who will be engaged and at what stage they will be consulted. This will ensure that communities and businesses have significant opportunities to engage in the development of the SDP.

Place Plans will ensure that local communities have a key role in shaping their area.

### Will SDPs dictate matters best left to local authorities?

SDPs will build upon existing LDPs. Locally elected members on the strategic planning panels will ensure the views of their local communities are taken into account.

### Will the introduction of SDPs delay LDP production?

The preparation of an SDP will not prevent the production of an LDP. The SDP does not introduce additional requirements to plan but rather redistributes the consideration of planning issues to the most appropriate tier. Full LDP coverage is anticipated prior to the adoption of an SDP.

### What are the implications for an adopted LDP when either a new SDP or NDF is published?

Local planning authorities should review their LDP as soon as possible following the publication either an SDP or NDF to ensure it is in general conformity, particularly where new policy or issues have arisen. If the LDP is not in general conformity it will need to be revised.