

# National Development Framework (NDF)

## A Background

### 1. What is the NDF?

The NDF will be a 20 year national land use plan covering 2020 to 2040. It will be published in September 2020.

### 2. What is the purpose of the NDF?

Prosperity for All: the National Strategy sets the foundation for long-term action and is the basis for what we will do as a Government. It requires us to work differently, to join up our approach to delivering Government priorities and avoid a proliferation of strategies and action plans. The purpose of the NDF is to support the delivery of Prosperity for All by developing a clear long term spatial direction for Government policy, action and investment and for others who the Government work with.

The NDF will achieve this by identifying key growth areas, the type and location of the infrastructure we need, by co-ordinating the delivery of housing, employment and connectivity infrastructure, and by working with key partners to help deliver the national spatial vision. Future policy development, investment decisions and the work of our key partners will be shaped by the NDF, allowing co-ordination and early focus on delivery rather than establishing separate spatial priorities.

### 3. What will the NDF do?

Prosperity for All sets out **what** the Welsh Government intends to achieve, key government plans set out **how** this will be achieved and the NDF **where**. It will also have the role of supporting and providing the context for Strategic Development Plans and Local Development Plans.

The NDF will help us plan and make decisions on national issues related to land use until 2040. We are not yet at the stage of determining the final content of the NDF and are keen to continue to work with people in developing this. It is likely that the NDF will:-

- Identify where the biggest national developments will take place.
- Set out how the population of Wales will grow nationally and regionally.
- Identify the areas where new growth and the infrastructure to support this growth will be.
- Identify how we'll generate energy in the future and where.
- Support different planning approaches for Wales's three regions - North Wales, Mid & South Wales and South East Wales.
- Protect and enhance our key natural resources.

### 4. How will the NDF support other Welsh Government work?

The NDF will have two key roles – it will both support delivery of individual policy areas and help co-ordinate the delivery of different policies to maximise positive

outcomes. These two roles will ensure the NDF supports the delivery of the Prosperity for All.

Areas of Government policy which impact upon places, can be supported by the NDF. Housing, transport, economic development, energy, environment, regeneration and so forth are all examples of policy areas which can involve physical development or are impacted by decisions on the use of land. The NDF will be shaped to support these key policies and ensure the planning system is aligned nationally, regionally and locally to help deliver them.

The NDF will also help co-ordinate and plan the delivery of different policy areas, ensuring that the decisions we take for example on areas of future housing and economic growth are co-ordinated with the delivery of energy, waste and transport infrastructure; that they support our objectives for Welsh Language; that social infrastructure such as health and education facilities are provided in the right places; and that the impact upon the environment and our natural resources are fully understood.

### **5. What is the relationship between the NDF and the Valleys Taskforce?**

As a long term, high-level strategic land-use plan, the NDF will not focus on planning for or delivering in the immediate short term. Nor will it seek to undertake actions that are better decided at the local or regional level. The NDF is intended to be a plan that can help us deliver long term, national change.

Many of the actions and milestones identified in the Our Valleys, Our Future Delivery Plan may be progressed before the NDF is published and/or can be supported by the planning system at the regional and local levels. However, it is important that in developing the NDF, all opportunities to support plans, programmes and projects are identified and taken and this includes short, medium and long term priorities. It is also important that delivering the priorities for the Valleys is identified in the national land use plan as being of national importance.

The key relationship between the NDF and the work of the Valleys Taskforce, could focus on how the three priorities – good quality jobs and the skills to do them; better public services; and my local community – and the actions required to deliver them, can shape long term strategic planning. The engagement, evidence and policies developed through the work of the Valleys Taskforce should inform the development of the NDF and be embedded in longer term strategic planning, to ensure that the legacy of the Valleys Taskforce is taken forward. The strong networks, stakeholder groups and the relationships the Taskforce has built with local communities can, it is hoped, be utilised to contribute to the development of the NDF and ensure communities are engaged in shaping decisions on how Wales will grow and change over the next 20 years.

To illustrate areas where the NDF and the Valleys Taskforce can work together, the NDF Preferred Option (which is explained in more detail below) ensures that the NDF will focus on many areas that are identified in Our Valleys, Our Future. For example, the NDF Preferred Option identifies the importance of the

foundational economy (JS4), the circular economy (JS18), air quality (PS12), housing (PS15), local energy generation (VLP4) and green infrastructure (VLP10) for the long term well-being of Wales. As the NDF is developed over the next year, it is important that the potential to support the work of the Valleys Taskforce is identified and taken forward; and that the opportunity is taken to embed the longer term legacy of Our Valleys, Our Future across the planning system.

## **B Present Stage & Forthcoming Consultation**

### **6. What stage are we at in the preparation of the NDF?**

We have reached the stage where we will consult on the NDF Issues, Options and Preferred Option. This is a formal part of development plan making.

Future stages, and in particular the work to be undertaken preparing the draft NDF for consultation in summer 2019, will develop the detailed NDF policies. No final decisions have been made at this stage on the NDF and we are keen to continue to work with people as we move forward.

### **7. What will the consultation include?**

The primary focus of the consultation is the NDF Preferred Option, which is explained below.

The NDF issues, vision, objectives and alternative options provide an important context to the Preferred Option and full details will be included as part of the consultation.

### **8. What are the alternative options?**

In considering how the NDF can deliver its objectives, we considered 4 alternative approaches, examining what would happen if for the next 20 years, we focussed on:-

1. directing new development to the established urban areas only;
2. spreading new development equally across all parts of Wales;
3. managing all new development with the aim cutting the use of carbon in society; or
4. basing growth on Wales's natural resources.

We engaged with people across Wales during October-November 2017 to develop and seek their views on these alternatives and these views, together with the conclusions we drew from testing the potential outcomes of each approach, were used to develop a single focus for the NDF – which is called the Preferred Option.

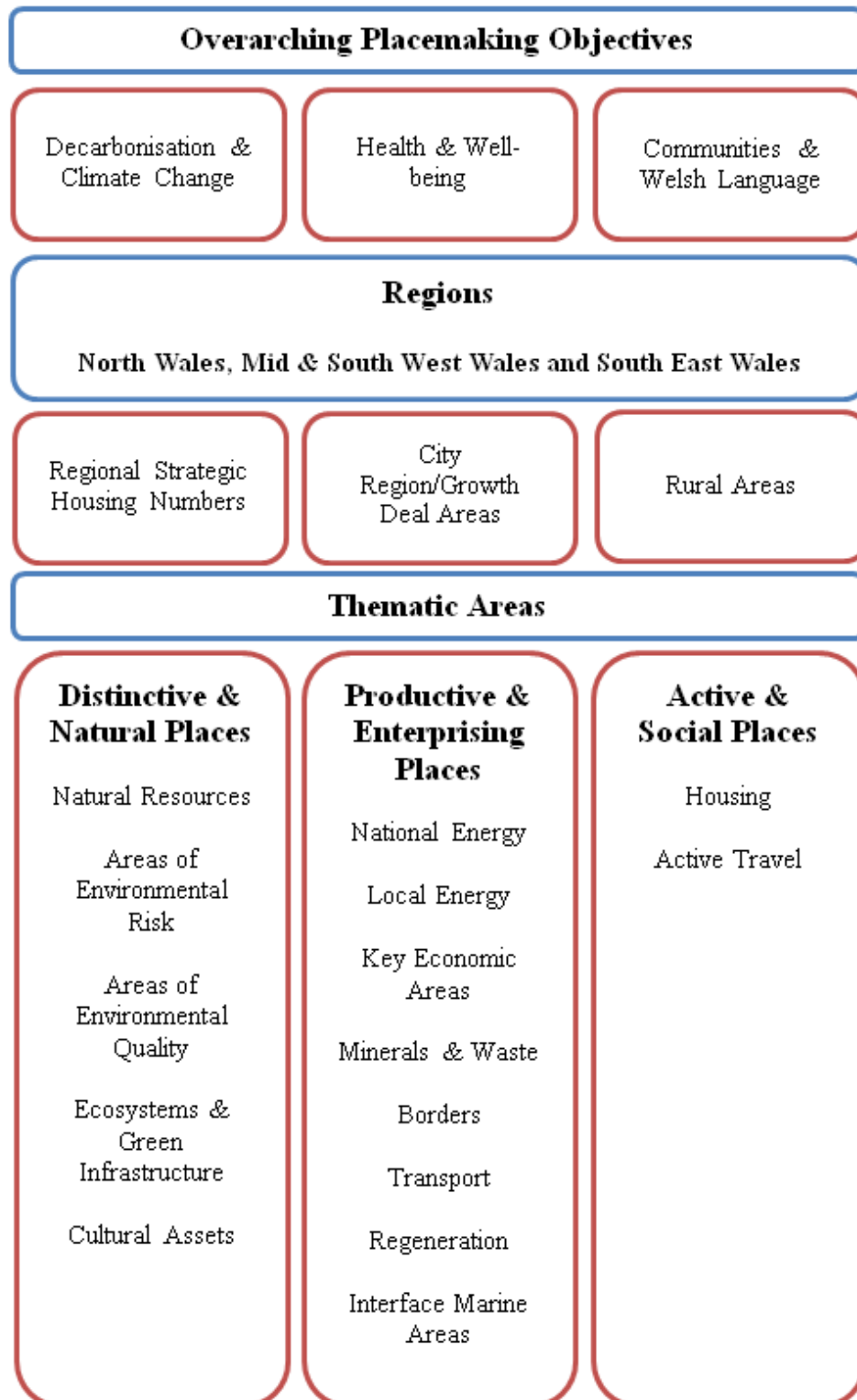
### **9. What is the Preferred Option?**

The Preferred Option:-

- provides the structure for preparing the NDF;

- sets out the three overarching objectives – Decarbonisation & Climate Change, Health & Well-being, Cohesive Communities & Welsh Language – that all aspects of the NDF must support;
- identifies the geographical issues the NDF will focus on; and
- provides direction for the policies we will develop for the NDF.

### Summary of Preferred Option



## C Next Steps & Timetable

We will be seeking people's views on the NDF issues, vision, objectives and Preferred Option in the near future. We publish an NDF newsletter at key stages. The best way to stay in touch is to receive these. Please send your contact details including your email address to [NDF@gov.wales](mailto:NDF@gov.wales) and we will add you to the mailing list.

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|----------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| <b>Stage 1 - completed</b> | Prepare Statement of Public Participation  | Jan 2016                 |
| <b>Stage 2 - completed</b> | Publish and consult on the Statement of Public Participation (12 weeks)  | Feb – April 2016         |
| <b>Stage 3 - completed</b> | Consider responses to the Statement of Public Participation consultation and prepare a consultation report                             | May – Sept 2016          |
| <b>Stage 4 – completed</b> | Gather evidence, develop the vision, objectives and options / Undertake engagement / Call for Evidence & Projects                      | Oct 2016 – March 2018    |
| <b>Stage 5</b>             | <b>Publish and consult on main issues, options and preferred option, supported by environmental reports and assessments (12 weeks)</b> | <b>April – July 2018</b> |
| <b>Stage 6</b>             | Consider responses to the main issues, options and preferred option consultation and prepare a consultation report                     | July – Oct 2018          |
| <b>Stage 7</b>             | Prepare draft NDF / Undertake engagement   | Oct 2018 – June 2019     |
| <b>Stage 8</b>             | Consult on draft NDF (12 weeks)  | July – Sept 2019         |
| <b>Stage 9</b>             | Consider responses to the draft NDF and prepare a consultation report  | Oct 2019 – March 2020    |
| <b>Stage 10</b>            | Assembly consideration of the draft NDF (60 'sitting' days)  | April – June 2020        |
| <b>Stage 11</b>            | Publish NDF  | Sept 2020                |