



To: Heads of Planning

11/11/19

Dear Colleague

### **Legal Status of Draft National Development Framework**

The Welsh Government will publish the National Development Framework (NDF) in September 2020. On publication the NDF will replace the Wales Spatial Plan and will have the full legal weight of an adopted development plan.

The publication of the Draft NDF is an important milestone and sets out for the first time the Welsh Government's spatial planning policy as a development plan. It is important that Local Development Plans (LDPs) consider the outcomes, spatial strategy and policies set out in the Draft NDF. Whilst there is no legal requirement for LDPs to be in general conformity with the NDF until its publication, Local Planning Authorities will wish to consider how emerging LDPs fit with the Draft NDF.

This consideration should not cause any delay to plan preparation or Examination and should not be unduly onerous. The NDF and LDPs are being prepared in the context of Planning Policy Wales 10 and should already share common aims and objectives. Should there be an instance where there is a significantly different direction of travel between the NDF and an individual LDP, this will be an issue for Inspectors to consider at Examination. The NDF will form part of the development plan for your area on publication. Where development proposals, planning appeals and Developments of National Significance are anticipated and could be determined after the NDF's publication, you should advise developers and stakeholders of the potential for determination against both NDF and LDP policies. You should review the Draft NDF and consider what its draft policies may mean for these proposals. This will assist Inspectors in considering proposals submitted before publication of the NDF but likely to be determined after.

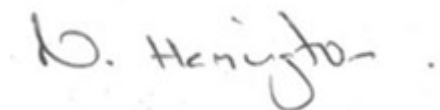
Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Welsh Government Offices  
Cathays Park  
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The consultation on the Draft NDF commenced on 7<sup>th</sup> August and will run until 15<sup>th</sup> November 2019. I encourage everyone to respond. Please get in touch with me directly if you would like to discuss any aspect of the NDF further.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "N. Hemington". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name.

**Neil Hemington**  
**Prif Gynllunydd, Y Gyfarwyddiaeth Gynllunio**  
**Chief Planner, Planning Directorate**