

Future Wales
The National Plan 2040

**Statement to the Senedd following
scrutiny of Future Wales during Sept to
Nov 2020**

Julie James MS, Minister for Housing and
Local Government

24th February 2021

1 Introduction

Future Wales – The National Plan 2040

1.1 Our first national development framework is called ‘**Future Wales – The National Plan 2040**’. This name emerged during the consultation process in late 2019 following the views of many that a more forward looking name would help explain what the national development framework was. This Statement refers to earlier stages of the preparation process and legislation, and uses the name ‘national development framework’ and ‘NDF’ throughout. References to the national development framework and NDF in this statement mean Future Wales – The National Plan 2040.

Background

1.2 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by the Planning (Wales) Act 2015) requires Welsh Ministers to produce a National Development Framework (NDF) setting out the policies of the Welsh Government in relation to the development and use of land in Wales. The NDF is identified in the national strategy, Prosperity for All, as a key component of the Government’s commitment towards achieving sustainable development and combatting the climate emergency.

1.3 In 2016 preparation of the NDF commenced. A [Statement of Public Participation](#) was developed, consulted on and published. This established the 11 stage process, timetable and core participation principles for the NDF’s preparation. An Integrated Sustainability Assessment was developed to guide the preparation of the NDF and ensure that sustainability and a range of important assessments were at the heart of the plan making process. A Habitats Regulations Assessment has ensured that the effects on National Site Network sites and Ramsar sites from Future Wales have been considered across the preparation process.

1.4 The ways of working and goals established by the Well-being of Future Generations Act have shaped the process of preparing Future Wales and the policies it sets out.

A major milestone for Wales

1.5 The publication of Future Wales is a major achievement. Since devolution, Wales has gained a well-respected reputation for valuing its planning system and establishing at its heart, core values of sustainability, fairness and well-being. Wales is the first nation in the UK to publish a national development plan. Through Future Wales we will build on the excellent foundation laid by Planning Policy Wales and continue to work hard to deliver places both for our present and future generations that are fairer, greener, healthier, resilient and distinctive.

Looking Forward

1.6 Future Wales provides a framework for the actions we need to take now and over the next 20 years. It does not predict the future or attempt to decide what we will do in all circumstances. Rather it explains how we will take decisions, achieve the outcomes we want and describes the role of the regions, local authorities, stakeholders and communities in shaping the future.

Record of Thanks

1.7 I am the third Welsh Minister to have held responsibility for Future Wales and it is right to acknowledge the work of Carl Sargeant and Lesley Griffiths MS in driving and shaping the NDF in its early stages.

1.8 All sides of the Senedd have made a valuable contribution to the final version of Future Wales. Both the [draft NDF Consultation Report](#) and this Statement record in detail the recommendations of the Senedd and how these have directly changed Future Wales for the better.

1.9 A wide range of individuals, organisations, stakeholders, businesses, charities and interest groups have contributed to the development of Future Wales. Many people have given their time and expertise, attended events, responded to consultations, shared ideas and challenged the process when asked to do so.

1.10 I would like to thank everybody who has contributed to Future Wales. I look forward to the discussions and debates ahead as we work to deliver the future it aspires to.

Purpose of this Statement

1.11 In accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 60B (4) (a) & (b) and 60B (6) (as amended by the Planning (Wales) Act 2015) this statement explains how I have had regard to the resolutions and recommendations made by the Senedd during the 60 day Senedd consideration period which ran from 21st September to 26th November 2020.

2 Senedd Scrutiny

2.1 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by the Planning (Wales) Act 2015) requires Ministers to lay before the Senedd for a 60 day scrutiny period the draft NDF and a report summarising how the consultation responses on it were taken into account. These documents (along with accompanying documents) were laid in the Senedd on 21st September 2020. To support the scrutiny process, a version of Future Wales incorporating the proposed changes, and an outline of the proposed approach to monitoring were also published.

2.2 I have given consideration to all the resolutions and recommendations of the Senedd and these are set out below.

Senedd Debates

2.3 Two debates on Future Wales were held by the Senedd.

Debate: The National Development Framework
29 September 2020
Proposer – Rebecca Evans (Gower)
Motion To propose that the Senedd: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Notes the National Development Framework, laid on 21 September 2020.2. Recognises the substantial engagement and consultation over the last four years which have contributed to the National Development Framework.3. Agrees that the framework for four regions and the policies in the National Development Framework provide leadership to planning authorities and others in shaping and making good places.4. Agrees the first National Development Framework provides a firm basis for positive strategic planning decisions which tackle climate change, encourage decarbonisation and promote well-being.

5. Agrees that publishing a National Development Framework will help support a strong recovery from Covid-19.

Resolution of Senedd

For	30
Abstain	0
Against	24
Total	54

Consideration of Resolution

I of course note the National Development Framework which I laid in the Senedd.

I welcome the Senedd's acknowledgement of the substantial engagement and consultation that has supported the development of our first national development framework. It is important to record thanks to all those involved and the opening section of this statement does that.

I welcome the Senedd's support for the 4 region footprint and the strong leadership provided by the National Development Framework. Accordingly, I will make no change to the number or make up of the regions in the final version of Future Wales.

I welcome the Senedd's agreement that the National Development Framework provides a firm basis for positive strategic planning decisions to help tackle the climate emergency, encourage decarbonisation and promote well-being. Accordingly, no specific change to the National Development Framework is required in light of this resolution.

I welcome the Senedd's agreement that the National Development Framework will help support a strong recovery from Covid-19. To further reinforce this support and also in response to the recommendations of the CCERA committee, I have strengthened Chapter 2 in the final version of Future Wales in regard to Covid-19. The table in appendix 1 sets out the detail of this change.

Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee Debate on the National Development Framework

25 November 2020

Proposer Mike Hedges (Swansea East)

Motion

To propose that the Senedd:

1. Notes the draft National Development Framework, laid on 21 September 2020.
2. Notes that, in accordance with Section 3 of the Planning (Wales) Act 2015, the 60-day Senedd consideration period began on the day on which the draft of the Framework was laid in the Senedd.
3. Notes that, in accordance with Section 3 of the Planning (Wales) Act 2015, the Welsh Ministers must have regard to any resolution passed by the Senedd and any recommendation made by a committee of the Senedd with regard to the draft during that 60-day period.

Resolution of Senedd

For	41
Abstain	3
Against	9
Total	53

Consideration of Resolution

I of course note the National Development Framework which I laid in the Senedd and the 60-day Senedd consideration period which began on the day on which the draft of the Framework was laid in the Senedd.

In accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 60B (4) (a) & (b) and 60B (6) (as amended by the Planning (Wales)), this Statement explains how I have had regard to the resolutions and recommendations made by the Senedd during the 60 day Senedd consideration period.

Senedd Committees

2.4 Two Senedd committees examined the NDF during the scrutiny period – the Climate Change Environment and Rural Affairs Committee (CCERA) and the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee (CWLC).

Climate Change Environment and Rural Affairs Committee

2.5 The CCERA Committee held sessions on the National Development Framework to support their scrutiny work.

2.6 On 15th October 2020, I attended a session accompanied by my officials.

2.7 On 5th November the committee took evidence from Dr Roisin Wilmott OBE, Director of Wales and Northern Ireland, Royal Town Planning Institute Cymru; Dr Neil Harris, Senior Lecturer, School of Geography and Planning, Cardiff University; Hêdd Roberts, Head of Customer Solutions, Electricity Transmission, National Grid; Eleri Davies, Head of Consents UK, Onshore Wind, RWE Renewables; and Rhys Wyn Jones, Director, Renewables UK Cymru.

2.8 The committee received [written submissions](#) from a range of stakeholders.

2.9 A [report](#) was sent to me setting out how the committee had examined the National Development Framework, the views and evidence they had received and 26 recommendations. I have reviewed and considered the report in full. Appendix 1 sets out in a table each recommendation, my consideration of it and the changes I have made to the final version of Future Wales as a result of this consideration.

Culture Welsh Language and Communications Committee

2.10 The CWLC Committee held a session on 5th November 2020 to support their scrutiny work. Evidence was taken from Dyfan Sion from the Welsh Language Commission; Dylan Foster-Evans from the Welsh Place-Names Society, and Robot Idris from Cymdeithas yr Iaith.

2.11 A [letter](#) was sent to me setting out the issues the committee had discussed and took evidence on and 4 recommendations. I have reviewed and considered the letter in full. Appendix 2 sets out in a table each recommendation, my consideration of it and the changes I have made to the final version of Future Wales as a result of this consideration.

3 Other Changes

3.1 In addition to the changes set out in appendices 1 and 2 of this statement, I have made other changes to the final version of Future Wales. These are set out in Appendix 3.

4 Assessments

4.1 I have updated the Integrated Sustainability Appraisal and the Habitats Regulations Assessment to consider the changes set out in this statement. Both documents, a Non-Technical Summary of the Integrated Sustainability Appraisal and a Post Publication Statement have been published alongside Future Wales.

5 Next Steps

Work Ahead

5.1 It is important that the publication of Future Wales is not seen as the end of the process. From the day of publication, Future Wales will be part of the development plan for all of Wales and it will be relevant to the determination of all planning applications. Building the future and the places that Future Wales aspires to will involve a wide range of people.

5.2 For the Welsh Government, we will ensure that Future Wales' spatial strategy and objectives help shape our policy and spending decisions. We now have a national spatial strategy to help co-ordinate our actions, focus our investments and give a context to emerging strategies. Implementing Future Wales will be a key priority.

5.3 For local authorities, Future Wales empowers them to drive forward the regional tier of planning and continue the good work of local development plans across Wales.

5.4 For the private sector, Future Wales provides certainty on national and regional growth areas and the outcomes we require new development to deliver. They have a big role to play in shaping our places, delivering infrastructure, housing, services, jobs and energy.

5.5 For communities and individuals, Future Wales provides a clear vision of a fairer, more sustainable Wales that focuses on the well-being of all. I encourage everyone to get involved with the preparation of the regional and local development plans for their areas and make sure their voice is heard in planning the future.

A Living Plan

5.6 I do not intend for Future Wales to be a static plan.

5.7 It is a long term and strategic plan. It has emerged from a long process of assessment, analysis, engagement and consultation. As with all development plans, it is intended to provide a framework over the medium and long term, to give time and certainty for the major strategic decisions we will take. I am confident that the spatial strategy and outcomes within Future Wales are the right ones and will remain the right ones for this and future Senedd terms.

5.8 I am committed to understanding what impact Future Wales is having. I will ensure the plan is [monitored](#) appropriately and that we understand how its policies are being delivered and the impact they are having. Events and circumstances will always change and it is important that we regularly reflect on the social, environmental, cultural and economic conditions that impact on Wales.

5.9 Through monitoring and review and by understanding what they tell us, I will ensure we maintain a focus on Future Wales, its policies and its implementation and we take the steps necessary to drive its delivery.

Appendix 1 – Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee

Recommendation / Conclusion		Welsh Government Response	
		Accept / Reject	Change Made
1	Future Wales should explicitly state the need for a reciprocal and iterative relationship between Strategic Development Plans and growth deals over time.	<p>Accept</p> <p>The supporting text to policy 19 ‘Growth Deals & Regional Economic Frameworks’ covers the important relationship between growth deals, Regional Economic Frameworks and SDPs. The relationship between the three elements is important, particularly over time as plans are prepared and updated, and Future Wales will be amended to include this point.</p>	<p><i>Text under policy 19 under ‘Growth Deals & Regional Economic Frameworks’</i></p> <p>New final paragraph to be added to the section. New text in red:-</p> <p>‘Over time as growth deals are developed and delivered, Regional Economic Frameworks are prepared and updated and Strategic Development Plans adopted and reviewed, the relationship between all three will be reciprocal and iterative. It is important in the future that the three elements continue to be informed by and support each other to deliver a co-ordinated and effective approach.’</p>
2	Policy 6 should include residential properties in the list of facilities which must	<p>Accept</p> <p>The principle that town centres are an appropriate location for residential development is accepted. However, it is not</p>	<p><i>Text under Policy 6</i></p> <p>New text in red:-</p>

<p>be located within town and city centres.</p>	<p>possible for all housing to be located within town centres, particularly in rural areas.</p> <p>A key theme of Future Wales is that growth and regeneration should be directed to urban areas and, in particular, in and around town and city centres. This is the basis for the spatial strategy and a key theme underpinning many of the supporting policies.</p> <p>Policy 6 'Town Centre First' is focused on directing non-residential development to town and city centres. In particular, it is focused on commercial, retail, education, health, leisure and public service facilities that will serve a town, city or region-wide catchment. These are the facilities that should be located in the most accessible areas, where everyone can access them easily on foot, bike or public transport.</p> <p>The location of residential development is instead promoted in Policy 2 'Shaping Urban Growth and Regeneration – Strategic Placemaking'. This promotes focusing development around town centres, including locating homes within walking distance of local facilities and public transport. Future Wales will be amended to highlight the support for locating residential development in and around town centres.</p>	<p>The principle of 'Town Centre First' is well established in planning policy in relation to retail developments. However, good planning can help us re-think the future of town and city centres, which are moving away from their traditional retail roles. The impact of Covid-19 on the retail sector is a further driver towards making our town centres multi-functional places. Town centres remain important focal points of communities and are increasingly becoming places to live, centres of community and cultural activity, and the focus for public services such as health and education. They are more than the extent of designated retail areas.</p> <p>Town centres are the most accessible parts of our towns and should be the focus of growth and regeneration. As well as non-residential development, town centres are an appropriate location for new homes. Policy 2 provides the basis for local planning authorities to support intensification in and around town centres. This will support the future of our town centres and provide opportunities for small-scale development, including new housing and mixed-use development.</p> <p>Commercial, retail, education, health, leisure and public service facilities should be located within town and city centres. This policy applies to developments of a significant scale, which can broadly be defined as where the facility will serve a town, city or region-wide catchment. It is for planning authorities to determine whether a development is considered to</p>
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			<p>be of a significant scale. Planning Policy Wales sets out further requirements under ‘Town Centre First’ for retail developments.</p> <p>Planning authorities are encouraged to take a similar approach for smaller developments. It is important for local facilities and homes to be integrated within walkable, mixed use neighbourhoods, particularly in or adjacent to local centres in accordance with policy 2.</p>
3	<p>Future Wales should indicate how the strategy it sets out will further the objectives set out in Prosperity for All and the proposals in A Manufacturing Future for Wales.</p>	<p>Accept</p> <p>Future Wales references Prosperity for All: economic action plan, and reflects and supports its aims throughout the document. In order to best understand how Future Wales addresses the economy it should be read as a whole.</p> <p>However, it is agreed that the linkages between Future Wales and the economic action plan can be made more explicit and a new paragraph will be added to Future Wales to this effect.</p> <p>A Manufacturing Future for Wales is at present a closed consultation. Whilst Future Wales is considered to already reflect many of ‘A Manufacturing Future for Wales’ main aims, it has not been included in Future</p>	<p>Chapter 1 under heading ‘How does the NDF fit with wider Welsh Government policy?’</p> <p>New text in red:-</p> <p>A number of Welsh Government strategies and policies have informed and helped shape Future Wales, including the Welsh National Marine Plan, the Transport Strategy, Prosperity for All: Economic Action Plan, the National Natural Resources Policy and the Low Carbon Wales plan.</p> <p>Chapter 1 under heading ‘Future Wales and....’</p> <p>New text in red:-</p> <p>The Economic Action Plan supports the delivery of Prosperity for All – the national strategy for Wales. It sets out a vision for inclusive growth based on strong foundations, future industries and productive regions.</p>

		<p>Wales on this occasion because work on the final version is still ongoing.</p> <p>Future Wales supports a low carbon economy and the decarbonisation of industry. It supports the growth of sustainable and renewable energy to help achieve this goal. It recognises the importance of innovation, research and development supported by public/private and academic partnership to help develop new ideas.</p> <p>Future Wales supports the development of advanced manufacturing in all four regions citing examples of sectors where this is currently exemplified. It recognises that highly skilled and highly paid jobs lead to greater prosperity.</p> <p>Future Wales identifies and supports the new high tech sectors that will provide prosperity and wealth in the future such as artificial intelligence, digital tech, new modes of transport and fuels, automation and robotics, and renewable technologies.</p> <p>The foundational economy is also strongly supported and referred to throughout Future Wales.</p>	<p>It aims to build resilience and future proof the economy. The Plan focuses funding support on businesses which align with decarbonisation objectives, are innovative and entrepreneurial, seek to export and import, support skills development and high quality employment, and support automation, research and development and digitalisation. The Plan identifies national thematic sectors and foundational sectors. Thematic sectors include high value manufacturing, tradable services (e.g. sale of online services), and enablers (key competitiveness drivers e.g. digital or renewable sectors). Whilst foundation sectors include tourism, food, retail and care. The Plan also introduces a new regionally focused model of economic development.</p> <p>Future Wales supports and helps deliver the aims of the Economic Action Plan. Future Wales,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • supports a low carbon economy and the decarbonisation of industry, and the growth of sustainable and renewable energy. • supports the sustainable location of economic land uses • supports the growth of innovation, research and development, and better linkages between higher education and private industry • supports the development of advanced manufacturing in each region • recognises the importance of key future sectors such as advanced engineering,
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		<p>Future Wales recognises the importance of infrastructure development to meet the future needs of the economy and manufacturing industry and includes policies on digital communications, energy and transport.</p>	<p>renewable technologies, Artificial Intelligence, transport, automation and digital innovation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • supports the foundational economy and identifies a regional and sub- regional approach to economic development delivered through Strategic Development Plans and Local Development Plans. • supports infrastructure development, including transport, energy, and digital communications.
4	<p>Policies for National Growth Areas should identify the clusters and sectors important to each region.</p>	<p>Accept</p> <p>It is considered that the development of strategies on sectors and clusters is best taken forward collaboratively at the regional and local level through SDPs and LDPs, Regional Economic Forums and public/private partnership programmes.</p> <p>However, it is agreed that Future Wales text should be amended to clarify this this position.</p> <p>Future Wales does identify sectors which are important to each region and where there is opportunity for further growth. There is also strong elements of clustering taking place in different parts of Wales where certain sectors are strongly represented, for example in advanced manufacturing, energy</p>	<p>Text under policy 21</p> <p>New text in red:-</p> <p>The Strategic Development Plan should be informed by and facilitate the delivery of the North Wales Growth Deal and ensure support for a smart, resilient and connected region. It will provide a framework to take the strategic locational decisions that will support the long-term ambitions of the Growth Deal in relation to housing, economic growth, key services and essential infrastructure. The Strategic Development Plan should also consider the importance of key economic sectors across the region. It should also recognise opportunities for the development of economic clusters, where businesses choose to locate in close proximity for mutual benefit, and whether there is a need for further infrastructure investment to support this.</p>

		<p>research and development, and compound semiconductor development.</p> <p>PPW recognises the importance of clustering and states that development plan policies should identify potential networks and clusters. Development plans should also recognise and plan for the associated transport, environmental and telecommunications infrastructure links needed to support these networks and clusters.</p>	<p><i>Text under policy 26</i></p> <p>New text in red:-</p> <p>A strengthened regional approach to planning should be informed by and seek to facilitate the delivery of the Mid Wales Growth Deal. A Strategic Development Plan should provide a framework to take the strategic locational decisions that will support the long-term ambitions of the Growth Deal in relation to housing, economic growth, key services and essential infrastructure. It should also consider how traditional and new economic sectors can be supported across Mid Wales and be open to exploring the role of both existing and new types of employment areas. It should also recognise opportunities for the development of economic clusters, where businesses choose to locate in close proximity for mutual benefit, and whether there is a need for further infrastructure investment to support this. A Strategic Development Plan should consider the potential for the expansion and growth of key regional sectors, including defence and security, animal health and veterinary science, bio-technology and agri-tech. An understanding of the types of sites and infrastructure these sectors will require in the future is important and should harness the potential of key regional assets such as the Aberystwyth Innovation and Enterprise Campus.</p>
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			<p><i>Text under policy 29</i></p> <p>New text in red:-</p> <p>The Regional Economic Framework, prepared in partnership with local authorities, communities, businesses and key stakeholders, will set out the priorities for future regional economic development. The planning system, through its Strategic and Local Development Plans and the decisions it takes, has a major role to play in shaping the places that support and strengthen the regional economy. The Strategic Development Plan should be informed by the Swansea Bay City Region City Deal and Economic Regeneration Strategy and should ensure that key locational decisions on housing and employment sites, key services and essential infrastructure are planned to support and benefit from the investment and projects across the region. The Strategic Development Plan should also consider how traditional and new economic sectors can be supported and be open to exploring the role of both existing and new types of employment areas. It should also recognise opportunities for the development of economic clusters, where businesses choose to locate in close proximity for mutual benefit, and whether there is a need for further infrastructure investment to support this.</p>
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			<p><i>Text under policy 33</i></p> <p>New text in red:-</p> <p>The South East region accounts for 51% of the total economic output of the Welsh economy. The Regional Economic Framework to be prepared by the Welsh Government in partnership with local authorities, communities, business and key stakeholders, will set out the priorities for future regional economic development. The planning system, through Strategic and Local Development Plans and the decisions it takes, will have a major role to play in shaping the places that support and strengthen the regional economy. The Cardiff Capital Region City Deal has made progress in developing and strengthening a regional approach. The Strategic Development Plan should be informed by the Cardiff Capital City Region City Deal and should ensure that key locational decisions on housing and employment sites, key services and essential infrastructure are planned to support and benefit from the investment and projects across the region. The Strategic Development Plan should also consider how traditional and new economic sectors can be supported and be open to exploring the role of both existing and new types of employment areas. It should also recognise opportunities for the development of economic clusters, where businesses choose to locate in close proximity for mutual benefit, and whether there is a need for further infrastructure investment to support this.</p>
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5	<p>Future Wales should be amended to include further locational guidance on addressing rural depopulation.</p>	<p>Reject</p> <p>Depopulation is an important issue in parts of Wales. It is a result of a wide range of societal and economic factors and is not an issue that can be tackled by the planning system alone.</p> <p>The long term evidence driven approach of development plans has an important role to play in identifying and considering the needs of communities experiencing depopulation; and providing a framework for how these communities should change in response to depopulation.</p> <p>Policy 4 – Supporting Rural Communities requires SDPs and LDPs to determine the needs of their rural communities, including responding to the issue of depopulation. Policy 5 - Supporting the Rural Economy requires SDPs and LDPs to plan positively for the needs of their rural economies.</p> <p>This issue of depopulation is best addressed at the regional and local scale, where local knowledge, local engagement and local communities are best placed to shape the development plan response. Policy 4</p>	<p>No change required.</p>

		<p>empowers LPAs and supports them in tackling this issue.</p> <p>The issue of depopulation is also potentially dynamic, particularly at the local level over time. Population patterns may begin to change in response, for example, to issues like the Covid pandemic and an increased desire by people to live in rural areas. Again, regional and local plans are best placed to understand and plan for these issues.</p> <p>Future Wales' role is to ensure that the most appropriate planning tiers do identify and address the issue. It is not considered appropriate or necessary for Future Wales to pre-empt this more detailed and effective approach.</p> <p>An updated version of PPW is being published on the same day as Future Wales. This will be amended to require LPAs to consider how the policy decisions they make can help develop more age balanced rural communities by both retaining and attracting younger people.</p>	
6	Policy 19 should identify the implications of flood risk and climate	<p>Accept</p> <p>Flooding and sea level rise are intrinsic considerations in Policy 19. National</p>	No change required.

	change for settlement strategy and coastal adaptation as a matter to be addressed in Strategic Development Plans.	<p>planning policy and guidance will ensure flooding will feed into the application of the 1st, 2nd, 6th, 7th, and 9th bullet points within the policy.</p> <p>The text to each region confirms the importance of recognising flooding and climate change when shaping the growth strategies of Strategic Development Plans.</p>	
7	Future Wales should address the potential tension between the Future Wales growth strategy and areas of flood risk, particularly in South-East Wales. Future Wales should give greater weight to the need to prevent development in areas that are at risk of flooding.	<p>Accept</p> <p>The text in support of Policy 8 addresses the tension between flood risk and growth in the three National Growth Areas. The regional chapter acknowledges that growth areas in each region include areas at risk of flooding, with the text highlighting how Policy 8 can help identify sustainable locations for development. For the South East, this is set out in the text under policy 33.</p> <p>The policy approach to flooding established in PPW, and supplemented by TAN 15, which is currently under ongoing review, applies in all circumstances.</p>	No change required.
8	Future Wales should include a commitment to more proactive	Accept	<p><i>Chapter 2 under heading ‘Prosperity’</i></p> <p>New text in red:-</p>

	engagement with universities, identifying them as active partners in national and regional development	Future Wales highlights the important role of universities and asks Strategic and Local Development Plans to consider how they can play a bigger role in supporting regional economies, innovation and their communities. Text will be added to drive proactive engagement with universities.	Our universities can play an important role both nationally and regionally, leading innovation and research and providing opportunities for students of all ages to grow and develop. They play a key role in their local communities, attracting students from all around the world to different parts of Wales and supporting local economies and businesses. Planning Authorities should proactively engage with universities to maximise the role they can play in supporting national and regional development.
9	Future Wales should recognise the public rights of way network and access to common land as national assets.	Accept The Welsh Government recognises the importance of the public rights of way network and access to common land. They play an important environmental and recreational role, which is recognised in Planning Policy Wales, and we expect planning authorities to reflect this at the local level. Text will be added to Future Wales to acknowledge this point.	Text under Policy 9 New text in red:- As the population of Wales becomes increasingly urban, the opportunity to optimise well-being benefits from green infrastructure will be greatest in and around these areas. Innovative use of nature-based solutions and integrating green infrastructure in and around urban areas can help restore natural features and processes into cities and landscapes. Providing locally accessible, high quality green spaces and corridors helps to maintain and enhance the strategic functioning of our natural resources and ecological networks and address physical and mental well-being. Local green infrastructure assets such as public rights of way, common land, parks, village greens and allotments can all make a cumulative contribution towards wider national scale ecological

			<p>connectivity. The real-life importance of urban green spaces was demonstrated when people were restricted to taking exercise in immediately local green spaces during the Covid-19 lockdown.</p>
10	<p>Future Wales should include a clear statement to reflect the lessons learned from COVID-19 and explains how the framework will help to further post-COVID-19 recovery. It should recognise the potential contributions of investments in infrastructure, housing, connectivity, heat networks and natural capital, and increasing capacity in the foundation economy.</p>	<p>Accept</p> <p>The recognition of the impact of Covid-19 in Chapter 2 under the heading ‘Covid-19’ will be updated to reflect the latest understanding of the immediate and longer-term impact of Covid-19 on our society.</p>	<p><i>Text under Chapter 2 heading ‘Covid-19’</i></p> <p>New text in red:-</p> <p>The quality and accessibility of our local areas was hugely important for people’s health and their well-being during the toughest stages of the pandemic. There was a collective appreciation of the value of parks and green spaces, walking and cycling routes, local shops and amenities, and the cleaner air that emerged during the lockdown. The essential nature of good broadband and telecommunications connections to enable people to work from home, access services, and to stay in touch with one another has also been highlighted during this period. Good digital communications can have a positive effect on well-being. Among the many important challenges in the recovery period will be ensuring all communities enjoy access to these fundamentally important things.</p> <p>Many of the urgent actions and changes in behaviour that were introduced in response to the pandemic are emerging as permanent features of life. The Welsh Government has published <i>COVID-19 Reconstruction: Challenges and Priorities</i> which</p>

			<p>outlines the issues our response to the pandemic must address. These have implications for the planning system as people are using places differently, travelling less and spending more time working from home. The planning system must respond to these changes and contribute to a sustainable recovery, shaping places around a vision for healthy and resilient places. Planning Policy Wales is the primary source of detail on how the planning system will support reconstruction efforts.</p>
11	<p>The Welsh Government should work with the National Grid, the electricity distribution companies and the renewable energy industry to develop a shared understanding of the strategic improvements which need to be made to electricity transmission and distribution infrastructure, including any new infrastructure required in mid Wales. The first iteration of Future</p>	<p>Accept</p> <p>Future Wales already commits the Welsh Government to using its policy levers to assist in the delivery of renewable energy projects by coordinating strategic action to build the case for new or reinforced grid infrastructure where necessary (text under policies 17 and 18).</p> <p>Regular liaison between the Welsh Government, DNOs, National Grid and renewable energy developers is helping to understand the issues and improvements needed.</p> <p>Future Wales does not set out the Welsh Government's energy policy but the Minister for Energy, Environment and Rural Affairs is</p>	<p><i>Text under Policies 17 and 18</i></p> <p>New text in red:-</p> <p>The UK's energy system is now undergoing significant change, with energy generation and delivery becoming more distributed in the communities and regions where the energy is used. The boundaries between systems are also becoming blurred, with energy being converted into (and stored in) different forms to address a range of needs. There is also a need to consider large-scale energy storage as part of the energy system to provide grid balancing. During the lifetime of Future Wales the energy system is likely to move to a 'multi-vector system' approach, which will require flexibility to fully exploit the inter-relationships and synergies between the power, heat and transport sectors. The Welsh Government acknowledges the significant challenge that grid infrastructure and capacity will have on the</p>

	<p>Wales should include a commitment to developing such a strategy. If the Welsh Government believes it would not be appropriate to include such a commitment in Future Wales, it should commit to do so in another way it believes to be appropriate.</p>	<p>aware of this issue and will be taking action in this area.</p> <p>Future Wales will be amended to acknowledge the challenges which the Grid poses in Wales and that ongoing work and liaison will address these issues.</p>	<p>potential for new on-shore and off-shore renewable energy developments across Wales. We are committed to working with energy networks and developers to identify opportunities and barriers as well as working collaboratively to find solutions.</p>
12	<p>The Welsh Government should consider whether Pre-Assessed Areas for Wind Energy should be retained in Policies 17 and 18 of Future Wales.</p>	<p>Accept</p> <p>Following the committee's recommendation on the Pre-Assessed Areas, the Welsh Government has considered its position and has decided to keep these areas in Future Wales.</p> <p>The Pre-Assessed Areas are intended to facilitate additional on-shore wind energy projects in areas with the greatest resource by reducing some landscape barriers and giving more certainty.</p> <p>It is acknowledged that communities living in Pre-Assessed Areas are concerned about their designation. However, it is also the case that, even if these areas were not</p>	<p>No change required.</p>

		<p>designated, there would still be pressure to develop wind farms in these upland areas in any event. Designating these areas helps raise awareness amongst communities that planning applications may be forthcoming.</p> <p>Policy 18 seeks to ensure that any adverse impacts from new renewable energy proposals are minimised and mitigated where possible through the Developments of National Significance process.</p>	
13	<p>The Welsh Government should amend the text of the final paragraph on page 99 of Future Wales to make clearer its intention that planning at the regional level should identify opportunities for all types of renewable energy developments.</p>	<p>Accept</p> <p>Text under policies 17 and 18 of Future Wales already states that regional energy planning will be used to identify opportunities for all types of renewable projects.</p> <p>However, it is believed that there has been confusion and the belief that regional energy planning in this context refers to Strategic Development Plan (SDPs) and that there is concern that these plans would further constrain renewable energy developments. This is not the case.</p> <p>Energy planning in this context means the process which aims to inform, shape and enable key aspects of the transition to a low carbon energy system. It helps local areas</p>	<p><i>Text under Policies 17 and 18</i></p> <p>New text in red:-</p> <p>The Welsh Government will use support regional and local energy planning to identify opportunities for all types of renewable projects. Energy planning in this context means the process undertaken by local authorities working with stakeholders to inform, shape and enable key aspects of the transition to a low carbon energy system. This will help local areas develop plans to meet climate change targets by exploring a range of different local energy scenarios. Local area energy plans will identify the preferred combination of technological and system changes needed to the local energy system, to decarbonise heat and local transport and realise opportunities for local renewable energy production.</p>

		<p>develop plans to meet their climate change targets by exploring a range of different local energy scenarios. Local area energy plans identify the preferred combination of technological and system changes needed to the local energy system, to decarbonise heat and local transport and realise opportunities for local renewable energy production.</p> <p>This will be clarified in the text of Future Wales.</p>	
14	<p>In monitoring Future Wales in relation to progress in delivering renewable energy, regard should be had to the target of 70% of electricity consumption being generated from renewable sources by 2030 and the targets required to achieve net-zero carbon emissions.</p>	<p>Accept</p> <p>The Welsh Government monitors the progress in delivering the renewable energy and decarbonisation targets.</p> <p>The Future Wales Monitoring Framework identifies renewable energy and decarbonisation as key issues for the delivery of Future Wales. The monitoring of Future Wales will measure progress on these key issues against existing indicators and evidence, including the renewable energy and decarbonisation targets.</p>	<p>No change required.</p>
15	<p>The Welsh Government should</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>Policy 18</p>

	<p>consider whether criterion 2 of Policy 18 should require the application of the test of 'no unacceptable adverse visual or noise impacts on nearby communities or individual dwellings'. It should also consider whether cumulative impact should be a consideration in the assessment of other potential environmental impacts.</p>	<p>We accept that these suggested changes to Policy 18 will help to make the clearer and in line with established practice.</p>	<p>New text in red:-</p> <p>Proposals for renewable and low carbon energy projects (including repowering) qualifying as Developments of National Significance will be permitted subject to Policy 17 and the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Outside of the Pre-Assessed Areas for wind developments and everywhere for all other technologies, the proposal does not have an unacceptable adverse impact on the surrounding landscape (particularly on the setting of National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty); 2. The proposal is designed to minimise There are no unacceptable adverse visual impacts on nearby communities and individual dwellings, and the cumulative impact of the proposal, with other existing or proposed development, is acceptable; <p><i>Additional paragraph to the end of Policy 18 following the criteria</i></p> <p>The cumulative impacts of existing and consented renewable energy schemes should also be considered.</p>
16	<p>The Welsh Government should ensure that Future Wales and the</p>	<p>Accept</p> <p>Future Wales highlights the relationship with the National Marine Plan and the importance</p>	<p><i>Text under Policies 17 and 18</i></p> <p>New text in red:-</p>

<p>National Marine Plan are well aligned and complementary in relation to renewable energy developments. Future Wales should provide guidance on the protection of potential cable landfalls for off-shore renewable energy developments.</p>	<p>for these plans to provide a coordinated framework for the management of change around our coast. This includes renewable energy opportunities. Policies 24 North West Wales and Energy and 32 Haven Waterway also support in principle on-shore developments associated with off-shore renewable energy projects including cable landfall infrastructure.</p> <p>The appropriate renewable energy sections within Future Wales will be amended to ensure cable landfall sites for off-shore renewable energy developments are considered in all development plans.</p>	<p>Policy 18 provides a decision-making framework for renewable and low carbon energy technologies. The planning system sets policy and takes decisions on on-shore schemes. The Welsh Government is supportive of off-shore proposals and sees them as an important part of our future energy mix but they do not fall within the remit of Future Wales. The on-shore development aspects of off-shore schemes are supported, for example cable landfall infrastructure. Strategic and Local Development Plans should identify and enable appropriate on-shore development to support such schemes. Future Wales and the Welsh National Marine Plan address energy and reflect the energy hierarchy as set out in Planning Policy Wales. Both plans recognise that there are a number of opportunities to generate renewable energy across a variety of technologies both on-shore and off-shore which should be maximised to help meet the targets.</p> <p><i>Text under Policy 24</i></p> <p>New text in red:-</p> <p>The planning system has an important role in supporting renewable and low carbon energy and ensuring the North plays its part in decarbonising society. The region has strong potential for generating wind, solar and marine energy and has the potential to play a continuing role for energy generation from nuclear power. There is also the opportunity across the region for the generation of</p>
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			<p>hydrogen to deliver energy storage capacity and a transport fuel source for the A55 corridor, Holyhead Port and rural communities. There are a number of opportunities for off-shore renewable energy developments in this area and the role of development plans is to enable appropriate on-shore development, including cable landfall sites.</p> <p><i>Text under Policy 32</i></p> <p>New text in red:-</p> <p>Some developments will be located in the marine environment, and the role of of Future Wales and other development plans is to enable appropriate on-shore development to support such schemes, including cable landfall sites.</p>
17	<p>Future Wales should include a clear statement that it is the highest tier of the development plan, against which proposed Developments of National Significance require to be assessed.</p>	<p>Accept</p> <p>Chapter 1 under the heading ‘What is this document?’ already states that “Future Wales is the highest tier of development plan”. To reinforce this point, it will be restated again in Chapter 1 under the heading ‘A plan-led system’.</p> <p>With regard DNS, text will be added under Policies 17 and 18 under the heading ‘Developments of National Significance’ to</p>	<p><i>Chapter 1 under the heading ‘A plan-led system’</i></p> <p>New text in red:-</p> <p>The Welsh Government by producing Future Wales contributes the national tier of the development plan. This is the highest tier of development plan. Strategic Development Plans cover regional and sub-regional scales and Local Development Plans consider issues at the local scale.</p>

		confirm that DNS will be determined in accordance with Future Wales.	<p><i>Text under Policies 17 and 18 under the heading ‘Developments of National Significance’</i></p> <p>New text in red:-</p> <p>Developments of National Significance Proposals for large-scale energy development are classed as ‘Developments of National Significance’ and are determined by the Welsh Ministers. Proposals below the threshold for Developments of National Significance are determined by local planning authorities. As set out in legislation, applications for Developments of National Significance must be determined in accordance with Future Wales, which is the national development plan for Wales.</p>
18	The Welsh Government should progress the development of an amended Part L of building regulations, so that the next Welsh Government is able to introduce subordinate legislation as soon as possible following the 2021 Senedd elections.	<p>Accept</p> <p>The Welsh Government is progressing with the review of Part L Building Regulations which is a separate process to Future Wales.</p> <p>Stage 1 of the consultation on Part L Building Regulations in relation to new dwellings concluded on the 12 March. The preferred option in the consultation has a 37% reduction in carbon emissions compared to current standards. The</p>	No change required.

		<p>document also provides detail on the direction of travel for energy efficiency requirements for introduction in 2025. Representations made during the consultation are being analysed and we expect a Government response in early 2021.</p> <p>A further second stage consultation has been published and closed on 17 February 2021. This second (stage 2A) consultation sets out our plans to improve the energy efficiency and ventilation requirements for existing homes, mitigation of overheating in new dwellings, and proposals to account for the amended energy performance of buildings directive (in existing dwellings and non-domestic buildings). The document also provides proposals for transitional provisions, and a Government response is expected by spring 2021.</p> <p>Therefore, a Government response for all the domestic elements of the Part L review are expected by spring 2021.</p> <p>A further third Part L consultation (stage 2B) is estimated for early 2021 with proposals to improve the energy efficiency and ventilation requirements for non-domestic buildings. The Government response for the non-domestic elements of the Part L review is</p>	
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		expected to be available in summer 2021, and subordinate legislation made later that year.	
19	<p>The Welsh Government should clarify its role in improving connectivity between north and south Wales and other inter-regional transport links of national importance. This should also address east west connectivity in both north and south Wales.</p>	<p>Accept</p> <p>The Welsh Government has published for consultation a first draft of the new Wales Transport Strategy, Llwybr Newydd, which sets out the Welsh Government’s vision, priorities and desired outcomes for improving connectivity across Wales.</p> <p>Future Wales sets out how the Welsh Government will support and invest in improving national and regional connectivity. Text will be added to make clearer how this will improve north south and east west connectivity. This includes the re-opening of railway lines and stations, improvements to the strategic road network, and the development of the National Cycle Network. Further details can be found in the draft Wales Transport Strategy.</p>	<p>Text under Policies 11 and 12</p> <p>New text in red:-</p> <p>Travelling in Wales</p> <p>The national and regional connectivity policies set out the measures the Welsh Government will support and invest in to improve connectivity. These measures will improve connectivity between the north and south, as well as east-west connectivity in the north, the south and mid Wales.</p> <p>The Welsh Government’s aim is to reduce the need to travel, particularly by private vehicles, and support a modal shift to walking, cycling and public transport. The sustainable transport hierarchy in Planning Policy Wales, which prioritises active travel and public transport, is a fundamental Welsh Government principle that underpins Future Wales.</p> <p>Map Strategic Corridors and Metro Developments under Policies 11 and 12</p> <p>Replace map with Figure 3 and 4 from A Railway for Wales - Meeting the Needs of Future Generations: https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2019-09/a-railway-for-wales-the-case-for-devolution.pdf.</p>

			<p>Include the text on these maps to show the detailed measures being taken to improve connectivity on the rail network and through the metro projects. Also clearly reference that these are from A Railway for Wales - Meeting the Needs of Future Generations.</p>
20	<p>The text supporting Policy 9 - Resilient Ecological Networks and Green Infrastructure should identify Section 7 species and habitats as potential drivers of habitat creation and restoration.</p>	<p>Accept</p> <p>The function and role of Section 7 species and habitats will be referenced in the supporting text to Policy 9.</p>	<p><i>Text under Policy 9</i></p> <p>New text in red:-</p> <p>There is a need to expand and make connections between designated sites to increase the ability of species and ecosystems to adapt to the pressures of climate change and pollution. While protected sites are critically important to the long term resilience of our ecosystems, they should not be seen as islands within the landscape, but should instead form the nodes of large-scale resilient and functional ecological networks and green infrastructure. In this context, the species and habitats of principal importance identified under Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 are a key driver of habitat restoration and creation.</p>
21	<p>The text relating to the Habitats Regulations Assessment on page 8 of Future Wales should be amended to</p>	<p>Accept</p> <p>The principle of the recommendation is noted and agreed with. It is not considered necessary to amend the text on page 8</p>	<p>No change required.</p>

	<p>reflect more clearly that the absence of adverse effects on the features for which the Natura 2000 site has been designated will need to be demonstrated at the lower tier plan or project stage.</p>	<p>relating to the HRA as this already sets out the need for lower tier plans and projects to demonstrate that there are no adverse effects on National Site Network sites (formerly known as Natura 2000 sites) and Ramsar sites. It states:</p> <p><i>Development at the lower-tier plan or project stage will need to demonstrate there are no adverse effects on the features for which a National Site Network site or Ramsar site has been designated...</i></p> <p>(For information - the table in appendix 3 identifies changes to the HRA text in Chapter 1 of Future Wales).</p>	
22	<p>Green Belts are an essential tool in constraining urban sprawl and their function should be strengthened and their benefits emphasised in Future Wales.</p>	<p>Accept</p> <p>The principle of the recommendation is agreed with. Given the three specific policies in Future Wales in relation to green belts, their respective supporting text and the detailed explanation of the role and function of green belts in PPW it is not considered necessary to expand the policy content in Future Wales. It is important that the green belt policies within Future Wales are understood and applied in the context of PPW.</p>	<p>No change required.</p>

		(For information - the table in appendix 3 identifies changes to the supporting text to policies 22 and 34).	
23	The Welsh Government should give spatial expression to the National Forest and include suitable references to it in Policies 1 – 7 and supporting text.	<p>Accept</p> <p>Specific references to the National Forest in Policies 1-7 is unnecessary. Policy 15 outlines the Welsh Government’s commitment to the National Forest.</p> <p>Work is progressing on the National Forest and the Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs announced in November the first 14 exemplar sites across Wales for inclusion in the conceptual National Forest map.</p> <p>The spatial data that supports Future Wales will be made available through an online GIS mapping tool. The ongoing work to develop and implement the National Forest policy will sit alongside this GIS mapping tool.</p> <p>This will help people spatially understand and support the implementation of the National Forest policy.</p>	No change required.
24	Future Wales should include a statement	Accept	<i>Text under Policy 19 to be added after the section headed ‘Cross Border Relationships’</i>

	<p>on the role of National Park Authorities in Strategic Development Plan preparation and the Welsh Government should address the resource implications.</p>	<p>Clarity can be given in Future Wales to the role of National Parks in the preparation of Strategic Development Plans (SDP).</p> <p>The Local Government Elections (Wales) Act and associated Corporate Joint Committee (CJC) Establishment Regulations set out that National Park Authorities will be a member and have a vote on the respective CJC when preparing a SDP.</p> <p>It will be for the CJC to determine the financial contribution from each principal council (including a National Park Authority) as part of the budget for each respective SDP/CJC.</p> <p>The Regulatory Impact Assessment accompanying the CJC Establishment Regulations set out the cost implications for preparing a SDP. This is based on the Planning Wales Act 2015 Regulatory Impact Assessment, (updated to take account of respective cost increases).</p>	<p>New text in red:-</p> <p>National Parks National Park Authorities are unique planning entities with a specific remit to reflect the distinctive characteristics of their areas. National Parks are at the heart of resilient ecological networks and have a key role to play in Strategic Development Plans as part of the sustainable management of natural resources, protecting Wales’s cultural heritage and promoting health and well-being. Future Wales policies respect the functions of National Parks in terms of their statutory purposes. At the regional scale, where National Park Authorities will be considered in the context of a wider spatial region, their statutory duty must inform Strategic Development Plans. Planning Policy Wales sets out the wider planning policy context for National Parks.</p>
25	<p>Future Wales should include a specific policy on National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural</p>	<p>Reject</p> <p>In seeking to overly define and explain the role of National Parks in Future Wales and for Welsh Government to take a more</p>	<p>No change required.</p>

	<p>Beauty, referencing Valued and Resilient – The Welsh Government’s Priorities for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and National Parks (2018).</p>	<p>prescriptive approach at the national level, the ability of National Parks to lead would be undermined and their role questioned.</p> <p>National Parks benefit from high levels of protection enshrined in legislation and Future Wales does not affect this, nor does it undermine longstanding principles like the Silkin or Sandford principles. National Parks are entities in their own right and best placed to articulate their role as part of all tiers of the planning system.</p> <p>Future Wales is an enabling and empowering document; National Parks intrinsically ‘know their patch’ best. Local democracy facilitates decision making within National Parks at the heart of local communities. If Future Wales contained a specific policy for National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty this thread of local accountability could be detrimentally lost and it could risk raising confusion and uncertainty over the status of differing policies in different documents. Decision making within our designated landscapes is best placed at the local level, close to those communities affected by such decisions.</p> <p>.</p>	
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26	<p>Future Wales should reflect the need to apply the Major Development test to proposals for large developments in National Parks.</p>	<p>Accept</p> <p>Specifically in relation to potential development at Trawsfynydd in Snowdonia National Park, Futures Wales references (Policy 24) the issue of the consideration of major development in the National Park setting.</p> <p>The test for major developments in National Parks is outlined in PPW.</p> <p>Future Wales does not contain policy statements on all land use planning issues set out in PPW and for major development in National Parks, the policy detail is given in PPW.</p> <p>PPW outlines at para 6.3.10 that in National Parks or AONBs, special considerations apply to major development proposals which are more national (defined as UK wide) than local in character.</p>	<p>No change required.</p>
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Appendix 2 - Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee

Recommendation / Conclusion		Welsh Government Response	
		Accept / Reject	Change Made
1	<p>The Committee recommends that the regional level of spatial planning in the Framework should be flexible enough to allow for the growth of partnerships that address specific issues, such as the support and promotion of the Welsh language. The Framework should specify how the contribution to the outcomes of Cymraeg 2050 will be measured and monitored.</p>	<p>Accept</p> <p>Future Wales provides policy on the regional framework established in legislation and it expects regions to look outside of the area and work with neighbouring regions (see policy 19 and supporting text).</p> <p>The Monitoring Framework identifies how progress against the Future Wales Outcomes will be monitored and measured. Outcome 4 in Future Wales is focused on making a contribution towards the aims of Cymraeg 2050. The impacts of Future Wales towards Cymraeg 2050 outcomes will be captured through our monitoring framework.</p>	<p>No change required.</p>
2	<p>The Committee notes the concerns regarding the governance and</p>	<p>Comment noted.</p>	<p>No change required.</p>

	<p>accountability of regional structures and recommends that the Welsh Government outline how it intends to ensure greater transparency of the work of the regional boards.</p>	<p>Following the passage of the Local Government and Elections Act regional working, including the preparation of Strategic Development Plans, will be led by Corporate Joint Committees (CJCs). CJCs will comprise the local authority Leaders from the constituent local authorities and a representative from respective National Parks. CJCs will therefore be led by local authorities and be locally democratically accountable.</p> <p>CJCs will have the broad power to co-opt other members, with or without voting rights. This power would ensure appropriate stakeholder engagement and expertise relevant to the functions CJCs are exercising.</p> <p>It is envisaged that other members' roles would be via sub-committees and final decision making powers will sit with the CJC. This will ensure a balance between democratic accountability and the need for (and value of) involving partners in their work.</p> <p>To provide further assurance of democratic accountability, the Local Government and Elections Act provides that the number of votes held by elected members must be higher than the number of votes held by co-opted members.</p>	

<p>3</p>	<p>The Committee would like to see more information on the Welsh Government’s thinking on ‘local hubs’. The Committee recommends that the Framework is updated to take account of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a more balanced approach to developing urban and rural centres to prosper rather than one which focusses on urban centres surrounded by a rural ‘hinterland’. • new working patterns, arising from the COVID-19 pandemic most recently, which have seen a greater need for fast, reliable and accessible broadband in all parts of Wales; 	<p>Accept</p> <p>We agree that employment patterns have become, and will continue to be, more flexible in spatial terms. The supporting text to policies 4 and 5 make this point:-</p> <p><i>“The increasing ability to work from home and remotely from main offices may result in higher demand to live in rural areas and opportunities to retain the working age population. This could bring positive impacts for rural enterprises and the foundational economy.”</i></p> <p>The supporting text to policies 13 and 14 states:-</p> <p><i>“Modern, reliable mobile telecommunications and fast broadband services are essential to our everyday lives, as highlighted by the number of people working and learning from home during the Covid-19 pandemic. Digital communications infrastructure is crucial to the future success and economic competitiveness of Wales’ businesses and supports community and individual needs, including access to key services and facilities”</i></p> <p>In recognition of the Committee’s recommendation we will amend references to an ‘urban growth focus’ in the introductory text to Chapter 4; strengthen references to</p>	<p>Chapter 2 under the heading ‘Covid-19’</p> <p>New text in red:-</p> <p>The quality and accessibility of our local areas was hugely important for people’s health and their well-being during the toughest stages of the pandemic. There was a collective appreciation of the value of parks and green spaces, walking and cycling routes, local shops and amenities, and the cleaner air that emerged during the lockdown. The essential nature of good broadband and telecommunications connections to enable people to work from home, access services, and to stay in touch with one another has also been highlighted during this period. Good digital communications can have a positive effect on well-being. Among the many important challenges in the recovery period will be ensuring all communities enjoy access to these fundamentally important things.</p> <p>Many of the urgent actions and changes in behaviour that were introduced in response to the pandemic are emerging as permanent features of life. The Welsh Government has published COVID-19 Reconstruction: Challenges and Priorities which outlines the issues our response to the pandemic must address.</p>
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		<p>broadband in Chapter 2 under the heading 'Covid-19'; and add a further reference to the potential growing role for co-working hubs to the supporting text of policy 6.</p> <p>The role of Planning Policy Wales in providing the all-Wales approach to developments of this type will also be highlighted within Future Wales.</p>	<p>These have implications for the planning system as people are using places differently, travelling less and spending more time working from home. The planning system must respond to these changes and contribute to a sustainable recovery, shaping places around a vision for healthy and resilient places. Planning Policy Wales is the primary source of detail on how the planning system will support reconstruction efforts.</p> <p>Introductory text to Chapter 4</p> <p>New text in red:-</p> <p><i>The focus on Growing urban areas across Wales will create concentrations of jobs, services and amenities and a critical mass of people to sustain good public transport services and a range of economic activities. An Urban growth focus enables more people to walk and cycle for everyday journeys and, with good urban design, can create positive impacts on public health, air quality and well-being</i></p> <p>Text under Policy 6</p> <p>New text in red:-</p>
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			Town centres remain important focal points of communities and are increasingly becoming places to live, centres of community and cultural activity, and the a focus for public services such as health and education, and the location of new co-working spaces.
4	The Committee recommends that the link between social housing and affordable housing in Welsh-speaking areas and the impact on the Welsh language should be explored more thoroughly in the Framework.	<p>Reject</p> <p>The relationship and the impact of Future Wales policies on the Welsh language is an integral part of the Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA). The ISA has ensured that every practical and lawful opportunity to enhance the plan's contribution to the well-being of the language was identified and undertaken.</p> <p>Future Wales already states that the Welsh language will be an embedded consideration in the spatial strategy of all development plans. Where Welsh is the everyday language of the community, development will be managed to ensure there are homes, including affordable homes, to enable the language to remain central to those communities' identities.</p> <p>Future Wales stipulates that Strategic and Local Development Plans should contain settlement hierarchies and policies that create the conditions for the Welsh language to thrive</p>	No change required.

		<p>and remain as the community language in the many places where everyday life takes place in Welsh. Consequently, the link between affordable housing, which includes social housing, and the Welsh language is best addressed at the regional and local scale, where local evidence, engagement and communities are best placed to shape the development plan response and specific policies.</p> <p>This is set within the wider context outlined in Planning Policy Wales (PPW) which requires planning authorities to consider the likely effects of their development plans on the use of the Welsh language as part of the development plan preparation and associated Sustainability Appraisal. Planning authorities should seek to ensure a broad distribution and phasing of development, including housing, which takes into account the ability of the area or community to accommodate the development without adversely impacting use of the Welsh language.</p> <p>PPW also requires planning authorities to understand and assess their local housing market to establish a housing requirement and policies through their development plans to address both market and affordable housing needs for their communities.</p>	
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		Planning authorities in partnership with the community, including the private sector, must develop market and affordable housing policies to meet the challenges, requirements and particular circumstances evident in their areas, including those associated with the Welsh language.	
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Appendix 3 - Table of Other Changes

No	Section of Plan	Change proposed
1	Across Document	Text amended to reflect change from 'Climate Change' to 'Climate Emergency'.
2	Across Document	Updates to graphics and maps including new headings, improved explanation, visual changes, and removal of superfluous graphics.
3	Across Document	Correction of drafting and setting errors; grammatical, phrasing and presentational improvements; updating of terminology and the status of documents; updated referencing; improvement to visual presentation; numbering of criteria in policies; and other such final drafting changes.
4	Introduction under heading – 'Habitats Regulations Assessment of Future Wales'	<p>Habitats Regulations Assessment of Future Wales</p> <p>Under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive (and Regulation 105 of the Habitats Regulations), a A Habitats Regulations Assessment is required where a plan or project has the potential to impact upon National Site Network sites (formerly known as Natura 2000 sites prior to the amendments made to the Habitats Regulations by the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019). In line with planning policy, we have included Ramsar sites in the Habitats Regulations Assessment. Planning Policy Wales and Technical Advice Note 5 also provide guidance in relation to National Site Network Natura 2000 sites and Ramsar sites,</p>

		<p>including refusing development where there are adverse effects on the features for which a site has been designated. Specific mitigation measures have been developed within the Habitats Regulations Assessment which will provide a strong guide to lower-tier plans and projects (refer to table 6 and Appendix A of the Habitats Regulations Assessment report). Future Wales does not support lower-tier plans or projects where adverse effects on site integrity cannot be ruled out. Development at the lower-tier plan or project stage will need to demonstrate there are no adverse effects on the features for which a National Site Network site Natura-2000 or Ramsar site has been designated, and Future Wales does not support lower-tier plans or projects where this is not concluded lower-tier plans or projects cannot be approved (unless there are no less damaging alternative solutions, Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI) and appropriate compensatory measures have been secured). The Welsh Government therefore expects the findings of the Habitats Regulations Assessment to be taken into consideration during the preparation and implementation of all Strategic and Local Development Plans. The Habitats Regulations Assessment concludes that, on the assumption that the findings of the Habitats Regulations Assessment are adopted at the lower-tier planning or project scales, adverse effects on the integrity of National Site Network sites Natura-2000 and Ramsar sites can be avoided as a result of implementing the policies within Future Wales.</p>
5	Text Under Policy 3	<p>Developments should be resource efficient and reflect the principles of a circular economy.</p> <p>Compulsory purchase powers are available to the public sector to assemble land and, where necessary, will be used to support the delivery of urban growth and regeneration.</p>
6	Policy 12 – Regional Connectivity	Policy 12 – Regional Connectivity

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active Travel – Prioritising walking and cycling for all local travel. We will by supporting the implementation of the Active Travel Act to create comprehensive networks of local walking and cycling routes that connect places that people need to get to for everyday journeys-purposes. • Bus – Improve the legislative framework for how local bus services are planned and delivered. We will-and invest in the development of integrated regional and local bus networks to increase modal share of bus travel and improve access by bus to a wider range of trip destinations. • Metros – Develop the South East Metro, South West Metro and North Wales Metro. We will to create new integrated transport systems that provide faster, more frequent and joined-up services using trains, buses and light rail.
7	Text under Policies 11 & 12	The changes in the way people moved around towns and cities during the Covid-19 pandemic are a sign of the widespread potential will to reduce our use of cars and to allocate more space for walking and cycling. We will also be making 20mph intend to introduce a national the new default speed limit for most streets. of 20mph on restricted roads by April 2023
8	Policy 13 – Supporting Digital Communications	Development Plans should include policies supporting this requirement.
9	Text under Policy 13	‘Gigabit capability’ will give developers some flexibility over the type of technology that is deployed; for the most part this is likely to be fibre, but could also include fixed wireless access. For the former this will mean that the developer will need to install underground ducting to allowing the communications provider to install fibre to connect easily with residents and businesses, and for fixed wireless infrastructure the communications provider may need to erect a mast and/ or install small antennae. This helps negate the need to retro-fit developments in the near future to accommodate fibre or any newer technologies that arise.

10	Text under Policies 17 & 18	From a well-being perspective, the Welsh Government would wishes to see as much renewable electricity generated and consumed as locally as possible.....
11	<p>Policy 18 – Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Developments of National Significance - additional criteria and amendment to criteria 3.</p> <p><i>(This change addresses the issue discussed in the CCERA Report on page 18 regarding criteria 3 of policy 18, which is not raised within one of the 26 recommendations).</i></p>	<p><i>3. There are no adverse effects on the integrity of Internationally designated sites (including National Site Network sites and Ramsar sites) and the features for which they have been designated (unless there are no alternative solutions, Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI) and appropriate compensatory measures have been secured);</i></p> <p>4. There are no unacceptable adverse impacts on international and national statutory designated sites for nature conservation (and the features for which they have been designated), protected habitats and species;</p>
12	Text under Policies 17 & 18	<p>Re-siting of text to read:-</p> <p>Policy 17 recognises the wealth of current and emerging renewable energy technologies that can contribute towards our energy and decarbonisation targets. It also demonstrates the Welsh Government’s support in principle for all renewable energy projects and technologies. Proposals should ensure there is no significant unacceptable detrimental impact on the surrounding natural environment and local communities and that the development delivers positive social, environmental, cultural and economic benefits.</p>

13	Text under Policy 19 under heading – ‘Strategic Development Plans and the Future Wales Outcomes’	<p>Add to last para in first column:-</p> <p>In sustainably managing natural resources, Strategic and Local Development Plans must ensure that environmental capacity issues have been fully assessed and addressed, for example not exceeding environmental capacity for nutrients and other water quality issues. Planning Policy Wales sets out the policy context for biodiversity and ecological networks.</p>
14	Text under Policy 22 and 34	<p>Text under Policy 22</p> <p>Strategic decisions on the location of development, key services and infrastructure should support existing built-up areas and be taken on a regional basis, ensuring they are located in the most accessible and sustainable locations, support actions to address inequality and deprivation and improve links to neighbouring areas of England. Planning Policy Wales sets out the policy context for establishing green belts. In advance of a Strategic Development Plan, the areas shown for consideration for green belts should be treated as if they have been designated as green belts by a Strategic Development Plan. Planning Policy Wales sets out the circumstances and limited forms of development that may be appropriate in green belts and this should be applied to the areas identified for consideration for green belts.</p> <p>Text under Policy 34</p> <p>Strategic decisions on the location of development, key services and infrastructure should support existing built-up areas and be taken on a regional basis, ensuring they are located in the most accessible and sustainable locations, support actions to address inequality and deprivation and improve links to neighbouring areas of England. Planning Policy Wales sets out the policy context for establishing green belts. In advance of a Strategic Development Plan, the areas shown for consideration for green belts should be treated as if they have been designated as green belts by a Strategic Development Plan. Planning Policy Wales sets out the circumstances and</p>

		limited forms of development that may be appropriate in green belts and this should be applied to the areas identified for consideration for green belts.
15	Text under Policy 24	The site lies within the Snowdonia National Park and major development here should be subject to the principles in Planning Policy Wales. At the detailed planning stage, it will would be necessary to consider design and impact upon the environment and landscape of the National Park including potential mitigation.