

Appendix 1: Summary of National Development Framework, Issues, Options and Preferred Options consultation paper

1. Introduction.

1.1. Welsh Government has begun work on the production of a National Development Framework (NDF). The National Development Framework will set out a 20 year land use framework for Wales and will replace the current Wales Spatial Plan (updated 2008).

1.2. The National Development Framework will:

- set out where nationally important growth and infrastructure is needed and how the planning system – nationally, regionally and locally – can deliver it;
- provide direction for Strategic and Local Development Plans (SDPs) and Local Development Plans (LDPs) and support the determination of Developments of National Significance;
- sit alongside Planning Policy Wales, which sets out the Welsh Government's planning policies and will continue to provide the context for land use planning;
- support national economic, transport, environmental, housing, energy and cultural strategies and ensure they can be delivered through the planning system;
- be reviewed every 5 years.

1.3. The purpose of the National Development Framework is to support the delivery of Welsh Government '*Prosperity for All: the national strategy*', (2017) by developing a clear long term spatial direction for Government policy, action and investment and for others who the Government work with. The National Development Framework 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 directing key partners to help deliver the national spatial vision. Future policy development, investment decisions and the work of our key partners

will be directed by the National Development Framework, allowing co-ordination and early focus on delivery rather than establishing separate spatial priorities.

1.4. Strategic Development Plans and Local Development Plans will have to conform to the requirements of the National Development Framework, and together these three tiers of spatial plan will constitute the 'development plan' for the local authority. The National Development Framework will provide direction for the three regions of Wales: North Wales, Mid & South West Wales and South East Wales. For North Wales, there will be:

- Policies to provide a framework for regional planning;
- Policy-based regional housing projections and numbers;
- A framework for the Growth Deal area and to support economic growth;
- A regional framework and policies for rural areas.

1.5. National Development Framework preparation timetable:

Stage 1 – completed	Prepare Statement of Public Participation	January 2016
Stage 2 – completed	Publish and consult on the Statement of Public Participation (12 weeks)	February – April 2016
Stage 3 – completed	Consider responses to the Statement of Public Participation consultation and prepare a consultation report	May – September 2016
Stage 4 – completed	Gather evidence, develop the vision, objectives and options / Undertake engagement / Call for Evidence & Projects	October 2016 – March 2018
Stage 5 – current	Publish and consult on main issues, options and preferred option, supported by environmental reports and assessment (12 weeks)	April – July 2018
Stage 6	Consider responses to the main issues, options and preferred option	July – October 2018

	consultation and prepare a consultation report	
Stage 7	Prepare draft NDF / Undertake engagement	October 2018 – June 2019
Stage 8	Consult on draft NDF (12 weeks)	July – September 2019
Stage 9	Consider responses to the draft NDF and prepare a consultation report	October 2019 – March 2020
Stage 10	Assembly consideration of the draft NDF (60 ‘sitting’ days)	April – June 2020
Stage 11	Publish NDF	September 2020

1.6 The National Development Framework is currently at Stage 5 – public consultation on issues, options and preferred option. This started on 30th April 2018 and will close on 23rd July 2018. The consultation document sets out the vision and objectives for the National Development Framework, considers four options for alternative approaches to deliver these, and identifies the preferred option (which is a hybrid of all four options). The preferred option provides the framework for the development of the National Development Framework, identifying the spatial issues the National Development Framework will include and strategic direction for National Development Framework policies. It does not identify projects, sites or specify levels/locations of growth.

1.7 The preferred option is presented under 5 areas:

1. Placemaking;
2. Distinctive & Natural Places;
3. Productive & Enterprising Places;
4. Active & Social Places;
5. Wales’ Regions.

They are outlined in full below:

National Development Framework PREFERRED OPTION
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1. Placemaking

To support the delivery of sustainable places, the NDF will embed placemaking into the heart of the development planning system. The NDF will focus on three spatial aspects of the Placemaking theme – decarbonisation and climate change (P1); health and well-being (P2); and cohesive communities and the Welsh language (P3). The placemaking theme represents the first principle through which all spatial choices are first considered. Decisions taken to support other themes, must first demonstrate that they are compatible with the placemaking theme.

Principle 1 (P1) Decarbonisation & Climate Change

The NDF will ensure that the planning system in Wales plays a key role in facilitating clean growth and decarbonisation and helps build resilience to the impacts of climate change.

Principle 2 (P2) Health & Well-being

The NDF will provide a strong policy framework requiring that physical and mental health and well-being outcomes, for both current and future generations, are central to spatial decision making.

Principle 3 (P3) Cohesive Communities & Welsh Language

The NDF will ensure that the planning system in Wales plays a key role in delivering cohesive communities. Strong and inclusive land use planning is essential to ensuring existing and future communities are well planned and equitable for all. The NDF will ensure that Welsh speaking communities are supported and create conditions that enable the language to prosper.

Themes

The following sections of the Preferred Option identify the spatial issue the NDF will consider and the high-level strategic direction for developing future NDF policies. The spatial issues are issues that can be understood spatially and which have a nationally important dimension. The strategic policy direction provides a high-level overview of the policies the NDF could contain and what they will seek to do. They are not final policies.

2. Distinctive & Natural Places

To support the delivery of Distinctive & Natural Places, the NDF Spatial Strategy focuses on our natural resources and our unique culture and heritage. The following spatial direction will shape the NDF.

	Spatial Issue	Strategic Policy Direction
DN1	Identify national natural resource	NDF polices will maintain and enhance natural resources, improve resource efficiency and minimise the unsustainable use of natural resource
DN2	Identity areas of current and future potential environmental risk	NDF policies will require that new development avoids areas of environmental risk and builds resilience to the risks from flooding, air quality, water quality, increases in temperatures, loss of habitats and ecosystem
DN3	Nationally important landscapes, seascapes, nature conservation sites and habitats will be identified. Opportunities for growth, expansion, greater connectivity and enhancement will be identified	NDF policies will require the protection and enhancement of nationally important landscapes, seascapes, nature conservation sites and habitats.
DN4	Nationally important ecosystems will be identified	NDF policies will require strengthening of nationally important ecosystem resilience through greater diversity, connectivity, scale, condition and adaptability
DN5	Nationally important green infrastructure and	NDF policies will require the protection and enhancement and

	opportunities for new infrastructure will be identified	facilitate the delivery of new green infrastructure.
DN6	Nationally important historic and cultural assets will be identified. Opportunities for new national cultural development will be identified	NDF policies will require the protection, promotion and enhancement of historic and cultural assets and facilitate the delivery of new national cultural development

3. Productive & Enterprising Place

To support the delivery of Productive & Enterprising Places, the NDF Spatial Strategy focuses on key sectors and the delivery of modern, resilient, low-carbon transport, energy and digital infrastructure. The following spatial direction will shape the NDF.

	Spatial Issue	Strategic Policy Direction
PE1	Nationally important energy generation, storage and distribution infrastructure will be identified. Locations for new national scale renewable and low-carbon energy generation, storage and distribution infrastructure will be identified.	NDF policies will support the delivery of the Welsh Government's renewable energy targets including 70 per cent of electricity consumed in Wales from Welsh renewable sources by 2030 and locally owned renewable energy capacity in Wales, reaching 1 GW by 2030. Policies will support generation through a range of renewable and low carbon technologies, storage and distribution infrastructure.
PE2	All Wales	NDF policies will provide a framework for the delivery of decentralised, local energy generation and distribution including community owned renewable energy schemes across the whole of Wales.

PE3	All Wales	NDF Policies will provide a framework for the delivery of modern digital infrastructure across the whole of Wales and will require technological capacity to be built into the design of new development, infrastructure (including transport infrastructure) and areas of growth and regeneration.
PE4	Nationally important employment, mineral and waste areas will be identified. Locations for new nationally significant growth, including projects, linked to connectivity infrastructure and growth areas, will be identified	NDF policies will provide a framework to support growth in sectors helping deliver decarbonisation objectives, the transition to a low-carbon economy; and the circular economy.
PE5	Existing and new locations for nationally important economic growth sectors.	NDF policies will provide a framework to support growth in key national sectors. This framework will include facilitating the infrastructure required to support their growth.
PE6	All Wales.	NDF policies will provide a framework to support growth including in the foundational sectors, which include the care, tourism, food and retail sectors across the whole of Wales.
PE7	Wales – England Border.	NDF policies will promote cross border spatial economic development, land use and transport planning, to maximise the positive, long term outcomes for both Welsh and adjoining regions.

PE8	Nationally important roads, railways, ports and airports will be identified. Proposals for new infrastructure investment including rail electrification, public transport hubs and metro schemes will be identified.	NDF policies will provide a framework for investment in existing and new national transport infrastructure to decarbonise the transport sector, improve connectivity, efficiency and improve air quality
PE9	Nationally targeted regeneration areas will be identified	NDF policies will require regeneration activities support health and well-being benefits and focus on building places that create jobs, enhance skills and employability and provide an environment for businesses to grow and thrive
PE10	National Marine Plan designations and national projects with a marine-terrestrial relationship will be identified.	NDF policies will provide a framework to ensure the delivery of national projects and policies covering the marine-terrestrial planning regimes

4. Active & Social Places

To support the delivery of Active & Social Places, the NDF Spatial Strategy focuses on an integrated approach to the delivery of strategic housing and active travel infrastructure. The following spatial direction will shape the NDF

	Spatial Issue	Strategic Policy Direction
AS1	All Wales	NDF policies will require that strategic housing development is linked to connectivity infrastructure, key facilities (including health and education) and areas of growth; and supports the aim of providing better jobs and facilities closer to home.

AS2	All Wales	NDF policies will require that strategic housing development meets the needs of everyone and that the types of housing required are considered alongside locational and numerical considerations
AS3	All Wales	NDF policies will identify a national policy based population and housing projection, which will include an all Wales range of housing numbers for the plan period.
AS4	National active travel (including walking and cycling) infrastructure will be identified. Improvements to existing and opportunities for new national active travel (including walking and cycling) infrastructure will be identified.	NDF policies will provide a framework for improvements to existing and new national active travel (including walking and cycling) infrastructure

5. Wales' Regions

The NDF Spatial Strategy provides direction for the three regions across Wales – North Wales, Mid & South West Wales and South East Wales. To support the delivery of strong, resilient and distinctive regions, the NDF Spatial Strategy focuses on strategic housing, co-ordinated infrastructure delivery in city and growth deal areas and support for rural areas. The following spatial direction will shape the NDF.

	Spatial Issue	Strategic Policy Direction
R1	Three regions – North Wales, Mid & South West Wales and South East Wales will be identified.	NDF policies will provide a framework for regional planning including the preparation of SDPs. The framework will support growth based on the regions distinctive

		strengths, to create more diverse, resilient economies, connected communities and address regional inequalities
R2	Three regions – North Wales, Mid & South West Wales and South East Wales will be identified.	NDF policies will identify regional policy based population and housing projections for each region, which will include a regional range of housing numbers for the plan period.
R3	City region and growth deal areas will be identified	NDF policies will provide a framework for connected, accessible and well planned city region and growth deal areas through the co-ordinated delivery of national and regional transport, energy and digital infrastructure, housing and key services and facilities.
R4	Rural areas within the three regions will be broadly identified	NDF policies will provide a framework for rural housing, services and facilities (including health and education) employment and connectivity (digital and transport) infrastructure to ensure Wales's rural communities retain and attract people
R5	Rural areas within the three regions will be broadly identified	NDF policies will provide a framework for responding to the challenges and opportunities arising from exiting the EU over the plan period. Supporting agriculture and businesses and providing a clear framework for diversification and co-ordination with key Government strategies will be key policy objectives

