

WG40442



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Welsh Government

Consultation Report: Summary

Draft National Development Framework

September 2020

Mae'r ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg.

This document is also available in Welsh.

Our first national development framework will when published be called '**Future Wales – The National Plan 2040**'. This document was prepared prior to publication and uses the name 'national development framework' and 'NDF' throughout. For clarification the references to the national development framework in this document are taken to mean Future Wales – The National Plan 2040.

## **Introduction**

The National Development Framework (NDF) will be a 20-year plan for Wales up to 2040. It will address big issues important to Wales, including housing, energy, the economy, transport and the environment. It will identify where nationally significant developments should take place, National and Regional Growth Areas, what infrastructure and services are needed and how Wales can contribute to the fight against climate change.

## **The purpose of this document**

We consulted on the draft NDF between August and November 2019. When a consultation has ended the Welsh Government publishes a Consultation Report outlining what was said by respondents and how we intend to use the feedback. This document is a summary of the full Consultation Report. Due to the very large number of responses, the full report is over 250 pages in length. This summary report concisely sets out how we consulted, how many and who responded, and what were the main issues raised. It also summarises the main changes we propose to make to the NDF.

The full Consultation Report sets out responses thematically, and includes a statistical and qualitative analysis of the comments received. It also contains quotes and excerpts from the responses, highlighting the breadth of views expressed. The Welsh Government sets out its response on each aspect of the consultation, explaining any changes it proposes to make to the NDF.

## **How we consulted**

The draft NDF was published on 7 August 2019 and people were invited to comment and provide feedback through a public consultation until 15 November 2019. The Welsh Government used traditional and social media and we wrote directly to hundreds of public bodies, businesses, organisations and members of the public to notify them of the consultation. We arranged a number of public sessions across the country to give people an opportunity to discuss the NDF with members of the team that prepared the document. We also attended numerous events arranged by the public, private and third sectors to raise awareness of the consultation.

A full record of the events arranged and attended by the NDF team is available on the [NDF webpages](#).

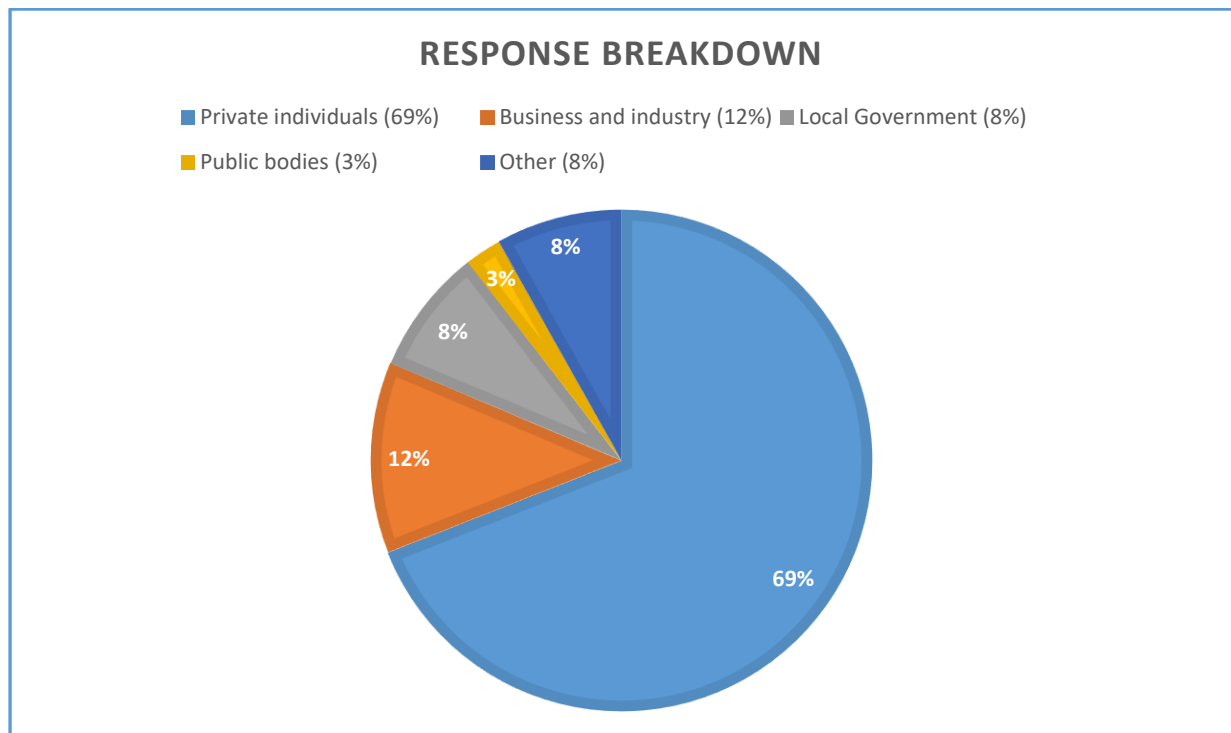
## Making consultation documents available

The engagement events and efforts to raise awareness of the draft NDF were supplemented by making the NDF accessible across a number of different formats. To assist the consultation, the following documents were published:

- the draft NDF (available [online](#) and in print)
- an 'easy-read' version of the draft NDF (available [online](#) and in print)
- a young people's summary of the draft NDF (available [online](#))
- a leaflet setting out the background to the NDF and summarising the content of the draft NDF (available in print)
- full and summary versions of the Integrated Sustainability Appraisal and Habitat Regulations Assessment reports (available [online](#) and in print)
- full and easy-read versions of consultation response form (available [online](#) and in print)

## Responses to the consultation

A total of 1088 responses were received. The breakdown of all 1088 responses by respondent type was as follows:



## Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee and Economy, Infrastructure and Skills Committee

In addition to responses from the public consultation, the Welsh Government received a report setting out 51 conclusions from the Senedd's Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee and a letter from the Economy,

infrastructure and Skills Committee. The Welsh Government's detailed response to the conclusions and points made by the two committees can be found in the full Consultation Report.

### **Issues raised in the responses**

The consultation questionnaire issued as part of the consultation gathered both quantitative and qualitative feedback from respondents. The questionnaire asked 15 thematically based questions including questions on the Outcomes, the spatial strategy, all policy areas, the regional planning context and the statutory impact assessment process to which the NDF is subject. Just over half the respondents used the questionnaire to respond to the consultation; the remainder submitted responses without using the questionnaire.

The Welsh Government worked with a specialist company, Strategic Research and Insight Ltd, to analyse all responses. This exercise enabled us to match responses which did not use the questionnaire with the responses to specific questions on the questionnaire, to help us understand the whole range of opinions and views submitted.

The full Consultation Report reflects the thematic structure of the consultation questionnaire and the order of the draft NDF. For each consultation question, the report sets out:

- the question(s) set in the full and easy-read questionnaires
- data from questionnaire responses on the number and percentage of respondents who agreed and disagreed with each question
- the main themes emerging from questionnaire responses
- a summary of the comments submitted and selected quotes from questionnaire responses
- a summary of comments and selected quotes from responses not using the questionnaire
- a Welsh Government response, identifying whether changes are proposed to the NDF and to specific policies.
- a cross-reference to related conclusions and issues raised by Senedd committees.

The issues that drew the highest number and the strongest responses were:

- The approach and policies for new renewable energy generation;
- The footprint for regional planning;
- The approach to rural areas, and support for developing the rural economy;
- The perceived lack of detail/evidence in the NDF
- The approach to infrastructure investment such as transport
- Economic development issues such as housing and impact on tourism

Feedback through the public consultation and from the Senedd Committees have informed proposed changes to the draft NDF. A summary of those changes is included in this summary document. The full Schedule of Changes is published alongside the full Consultation Report.

### **Integrated Sustainability Appraisal (ISA) and Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA)**

The consultation questionnaire also asked for feedback on the ISA and HRA process and reports. The consultation report sets out themes, summarises the comments received and sets out the Welsh Government's response. The ISA and HRA have both been updated, and include comprehensive assessments of the revised policies and proposed new policies.

## National Development Framework: Summary of Main Proposed changes

May 2020

	Area of change	Which sections of the Draft NDF are affected	How the change will impact on the revised NDF
1	<p><b>Regional Footprint</b></p> <p>The Mid and South West Wales region is split into two separate regions:</p> <p>(1) Mid Wales, comprising local authority areas of Ceredigion and Powys; and</p> <p>(2) The South West, comprising the local authority areas of Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire, Swansea and Neath Port Talbot.</p>	<p>Strategic diagram - page 25</p> <p>Regional diagram - page 44</p> <p>Section on Mid and South West Wales - pages 55-60</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New proposed Policy 1 - 'Where Wales will grow'. This establishes the spatial strategy in policy form</li> <li>• Separate sections for Mid Wales and The South West in chapter 5</li> <li>• New strategic diagrams for:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Mid Wales; and</li> <li>(2) The South West.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• New proposed policies for Mid Wales</li> <li>• Additional Regional Growth Areas identified in Mid Wales</li> <li>• Revised policies for The South West</li> <li>• Chapter 1 section on the structure of the document introduces the additional regions</li> <li>• Chapter 2 contextual information recognises the two regions</li> <li>• Amended national strategic diagram</li> </ul>
2	<p><b>Energy</b></p> <p>An amended policy framework and spatial approach for renewable energy. A new policy providing the</p>	<p>Policies 10, 11, 12, 13, 22</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 'Priority Areas' revised and now named 'Pre-Assessed Areas'</li> <li>• Separate policy basis for on-shore wind and solar energy</li> <li>• New focus on Developments of National Significance</li> </ul>

	<p>context for decisions on Developments of National Significance.</p> <p>Support for specific energy developments in North West Wales.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New policy encouraging low carbon and renewable energy generation and testing at Milford Haven waterway (proposed Policy 32). This policy corresponds to draft Policy 22 – North West Wales and Energy (proposed Policy 24)</li> <li>• New specific reference to support in principle for developments associated with Anglesey Energy Island, Wylfa Newydd and Trawsfynydd.</li> </ul>
<b>3</b>	<p><b>Rural issues</b></p> <p>New policies for rural areas and enhanced recognition throughout the document of the positive vision for development in rural places</p>	<p>Outcomes 2 &amp; 3 Policy 4 All regional chapters</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Separate policies on (1) rural communities – proposed Policy 4; (2) the rural economy – proposed Policy 5</li> <li>• New policies for Mid Wales will largely be addressing rural issues</li> <li>• New text addressing the rural parts of all regions in Chapter 5</li> </ul>
<b>4</b>	<p><b>Transport</b></p> <p>Enhanced focus on transport and connectivity infrastructure, with new national policies in Chapter 4</p>	<p>Outcomes 7 Policy 7 Policies 20, 25, 32 Policies 21, 26, 31</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New transport policies in Chapter 4 - Spatial Strategy. (1) International connectivity – proposed Policy 10; broadly based on draft NDF Policies 20, 25 and 32 (2) National connectivity – proposed Policy 11; new policy with NDF draft Policy 7 incorporated (3) Regional connectivity – proposed Policy 12; new policy to provide a context for regional policies, (draft NDF Policies 21, 26, 31)</li> </ul>
<b>5</b>	<p><b>Flood risk</b></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New policy on flood risk management – proposed Policy 8.</li> </ul>



	A new national policy in Chapter 4 and stronger references in each regional section in Chapter 5		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More detailed descriptions of specific spatial risks in each of the regions, in Chapter 5</li> </ul>
<b>6</b>	<p><b>The role and function of the NDF</b></p> <p>Additional explanations throughout the document on how the NDF fits with other Welsh Government plans and strategies.</p>	Chapter 1 Chapter 4, Chapter 5 – All policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revisions to Chapter 1, setting out how the NDF is linked with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Planning Policy Wales</li> <li>- The National Natural Resources Policy</li> <li>- The Wales National Marine Plan</li> <li>- The Wales Transport Strategy</li> </ul> </li> <li>• All NDF policies to show brief reference to the section(s) of Planning Policy Wales to which they directly relate</li> </ul>
<b>7</b>	<p><b>NDF Opportunities and Challenges</b></p> <p>More visual and spatial presentation of the key challenges and opportunities that inform the NDF.</p>	Chapter 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revisions to Chapter 2</li> <li>• Strengthened consideration of climate change</li> <li>• Strengthened consideration of the foundational economy</li> <li>• New section outlining long-term implications of Covid-19, and the recovery from the pandemic</li> </ul>
<b>8</b>	<p><b>NDF Outcomes and Monitoring</b></p> <p>Minor amendments to a number of Outcomes to improve their clarity and incorporate suggestions from the consultation responses.</p>	Chapter 3 - All NDF Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revisions to the NDF Outcomes in Chapter 3</li> <li>• New content on monitoring the impact of the NDF included in Chapter 3</li> <li>• New standalone monitoring document to sit alongside the NDF</li> </ul>

	A new framework for monitoring and measuring the impact of the NDF		
9	<p><b>NDF policies</b></p> <p>Other new policies, and general improvements to existing draft NDF policy and supporting text to improve clarity and consistency.</p>	Chapter 4, Chapter 5 - All policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amendments and clarifications to policy text and supporting text, based on consultation responses.</li> <li>• Consistent structure to spatial policies in all regions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All policies on National Growth Areas use consistent format</li> <li>- Policies on Cardiff, Newport and Valleys amalgamated into one policy – proposed Policy 33</li> <li>- All policies on Regional Growth Areas use a consistent format</li> <li>- Green belt policies in the North (proposed Policy 22) and South East (proposed Policy 34) more aligned with each other</li> <li>- New policy to enable green belts in the South West – proposed Policy 30</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Policies on urban development (draft Policies 1,2,3) refined and clarified – and re-set as proposed Policies 2,3 and 6</li> <li>• A new policy on ‘Supporting Digital Communications’ (proposed Policy 13) to complement existing policy on Mobile Action Zones (proposed Policy 14). Linked to NDF Outcome 8</li> <li>• Re-ordering of national policies within Chapter 4</li> </ul>

<b>10</b>	<b>Strategic Diagrams – National and Regional</b>  The strategic diagrams that show the national and regional spatial strategies have been amended, to reflect the proposed changes to the NDF.	Chapter 4 – Page 25 Chapter 5 – pages 50, 57, 63	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Updates to all Strategic Diagrams reflecting:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- changes to regional footprint</li><li>- new transport policies</li><li>- new Regional Growth Areas</li></ul></li></ul>
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