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Welsh Government

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A Sustainable Wales

Better Choices for a Better Future

Sustainable Development White Paper

Resource Pack

Vision

We want to make to the lives of people in Wales: healthy people living productive lives in a more prosperous and innovative economy; safer and more cohesive communities, with lower levels of poverty and greater equality; a resilient environment with more sustainable use of our natural resources and a society with a vital sense of its own culture and heritage.

Carwyn Jones

First Minister

Foreword to the Programme for Government



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The focus

For me, real value is about being absolutely focused on the **outcomes** we are achieving out there in the real world.

If people can't see and measure the impact we are having. There's something wrong.

Carwyn Jones

First Minister



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Context - Programme for Government



Programme for Government

“creating the Wales of the future is something that involves all of us”

“This is our Welsh account of **sustainable development**: an emphasis on social, economic and environmental well-being for people and communities, embodying our values of fairness and social justice.”

“All our policies and programmes will reflect this commitment to sustainability and fairness so that we make sustainable development our **central organising principle**”

Stronger Governance Framework



Environment and Sustainability Aim

The Dickinson family are helping Wales reduce its carbon footprint by installing a 1.05kW solar PV system in their home near Abergavenny. We are committed to improving the energy performance of homes in Wales to help communities find ways to reduce their reliance on fossil fuels.

To become a "one planet nation", putting sustainable development at the heart of government.

Legislate to make sustainable development the central organising principle of the Welsh Government and public bodies in Wales.

Create an independent sustainable development body for Wales

Sustainable Development

Sustainable development in Wales



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Sustainable development means enhancing the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of people and communities, achieving a better quality of life for our own and future generations in ways which:

- promote social justice and equality of opportunity; and
- enhance the natural and cultural environment and respect its limits – using only our fair share of the earth’s resources and sustaining our cultural legacy.

Sustainable development is the process by which we reach the goal of sustainability.

White Paper 2012

Wales' sustainable development journey



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1998

Government of
Wales Act
S.121 "Sustainable
Development"

2000

'Learning to live
differently'
Sustainable
Development
Scheme

2003

1st Effectiveness
Report
CAG

2004

Starting to Live
Differently
Sustainable
Development
Scheme

2006

Government of
Wales Act
s.79 "Sustainable
Development"
s.60 "well-being"

2008

2nd Effectiveness
Report
Flynn, Marsden,
Netherwood & Pitts

2009

One Wales: One
Planet
Sustainable
Development
Scheme

2011

3rd Effectiveness
Report
PwC

2011

Programme for
Government

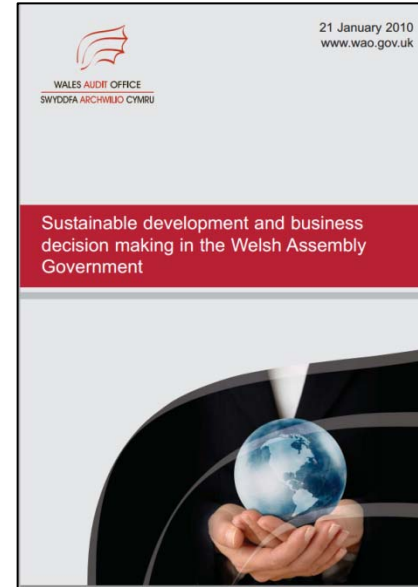
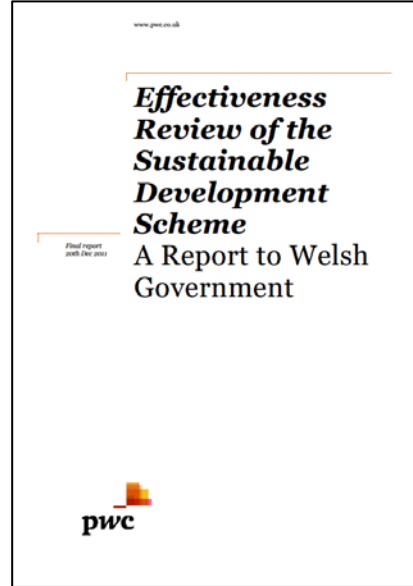
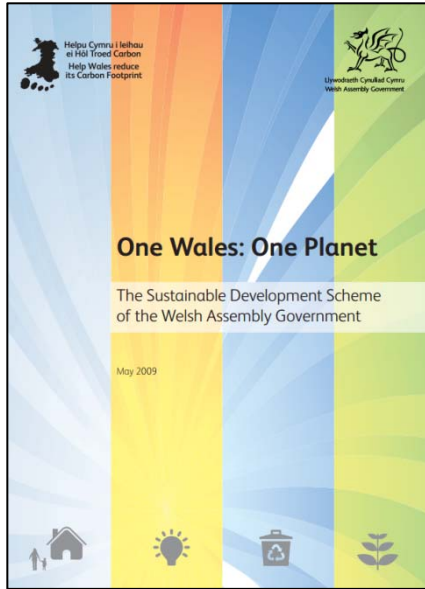
2011

Sustainable
Development Bill
Discussion

2012

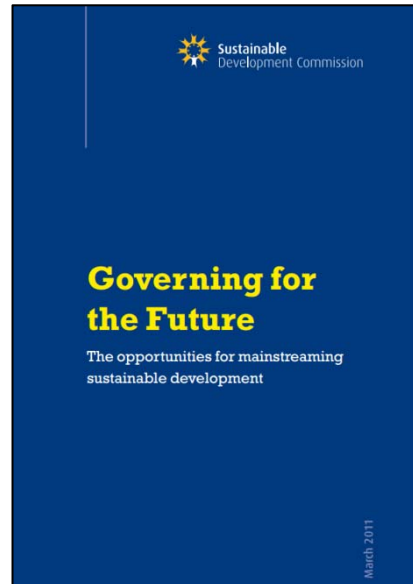
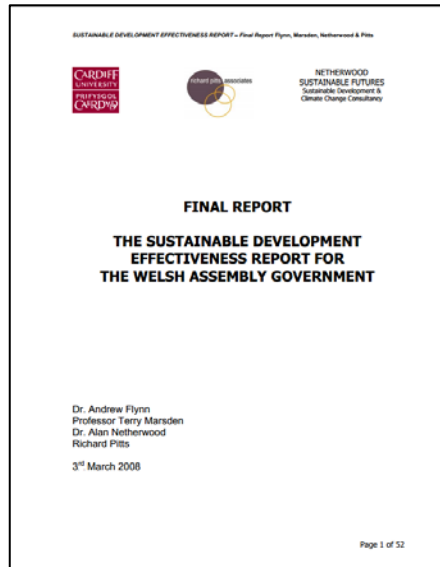
Sustainable
Development
Consultation

Evidence



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Key Requirements



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- To support the **embedding** of Sustainable Development as the central organising principle of public services in Wales.
- To empower and drive positive **change**.
- To **avoid** adding layers of additional bureaucracy and cost and becoming a **tick box exercise**.
- To **avoid** stifling innovation and removing the **flexibility** from organisations to reach the solutions that are best for their circumstances.
- To ensure that SD will have a **practical effect** and not simply a set of high level principles.

White Paper Proposals

- Embedding sustainable development as the central organising principle (duty) and collaborative working
- A focus on support
- Robust accountability
- Phased implementation



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Central organising principle

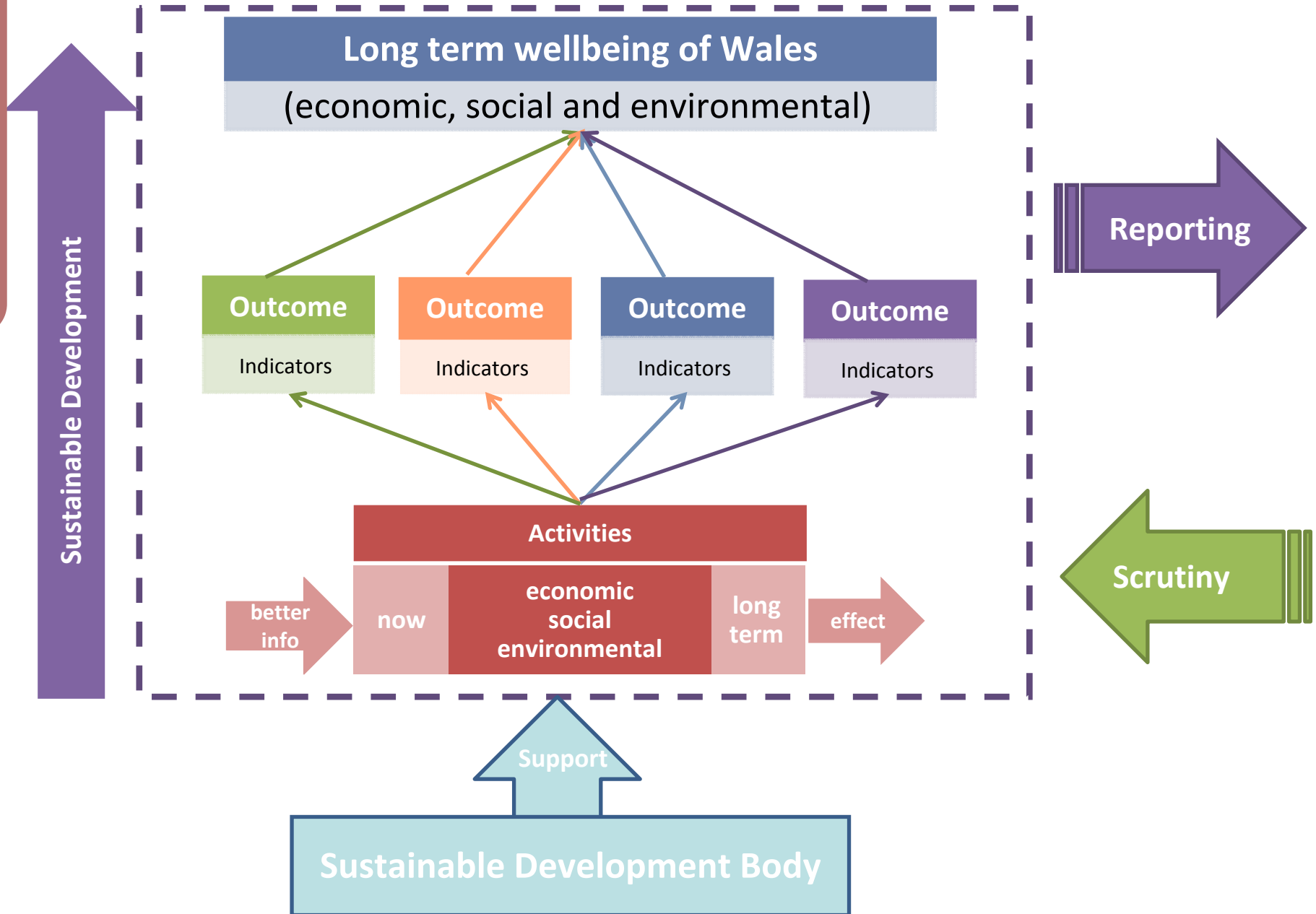
- A clear focus on **what** the organisation is seeking to deliver in support of the future wellbeing of Wales
- Ensuring decisions taken on **how** the outcomes can best be achieved are fully informed by consideration of the effect on economic, social, environmental and long term wellbeing.



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Sustainable Development Governance Framework



Key elements

RESULTS

A focus on achieving outcomes to improve the wellbeing of Wales

EVIDENCE

Make decisions using better information

COLLABORATION

Work with others and making the connections

LONG TERM

Fix the causes rather than the symptoms

CONNECT

Focus on the economic, social and environmental benefits

TRANSPARENCY

Measure and report on the difference you make



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Collaborative working

- Consolidate the current practice regarding the production of single integrated plans by Local Service Boards
- Strengthen the strategic role of SIPs in identifying partners contributions to improving long term outcomes for an area
- Ensure the SD duty applies to collaborative working as well as to individual organisations



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Collaborative working

- Simplify the wide range of statutory duties on which integrated planning currently depends
- Consider making LSBs statutory so duties and powers can be conferred and in order to strengthen the link between integrated planning and delivery
- Strengthen the role of evidence (strategic needs assessment) and accountability – role for the Auditor General Wales re. collaborative working



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A focus on support

An independent sustainable development body

- Provide expert advice and guidance to organisations to help them embed sustainable development.
- Support collaboration between organisations, emphasising an integrated and collaborative approach to sustainable development.
- Be an independent advocate for the future



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Robust accountability

- Effective governance framework for sustainable development requires effective accountability.
- Accountability through the existing framework for public service
- A key role for the Auditor General for Wales
- Examination on how organisations have embedded sustainable development as their central organising principles.



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Phased implementation

From 2015

- Welsh Government
- Natural Resources Wales
- National Library Wales
- National Museum Wales
- Sports Wales
- Arts Council of Wales

Independent Sustainable
Development Body

From 2016

- Local Authorities
- Fire & Rescue Authorities
- National Park Authorities
- NHS Trusts
- Local Health Boards
- Higher Education Funding Council for Wales
- Higher Education Institutions
- Further Education Corporations

From 2017

- Registered Social Landlords
- Town and Community Councils

Summary

In these tough times public services are facing various challenges, which mean that we need to improve the way in which we deliver those services so that they become more effective in improving outcomes and providing a better future for people in Wales.

Sustainable development is a shared responsibility.

Proposals to require public service organisations in Wales to consider social economic and environmental aspects in making the best choices for the future wellbeing of Wales

To help support this change and the challenge to achieve it we the Welsh Government propose to establish an independent body to help us improve what we do and drive we do it.



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Summary

The Welsh Government has identified the outcomes Wales should work towards and the priority areas for action in the Programme for Government.

It is clear that these outcomes can only be achieved by multi-agency working.

Commitment to legislate to make sustainable development the central organising principle of the Welsh Government has been extended to public organisations in Wales.

This is a long term change which will need everyone to embark on a shared journey, where we share the responsibility for defining and delivering this future



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Next steps



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- Consultation close (4th March 2013)
- Consultation Analysis (Summary Report)
- Introduction of the Bill (Autumn 2013)

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