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

A Sustainable Wales - Better Choices for a Better Future
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
“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

**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

**Environment and Sustainability Aim**

To become a “one planet nation”, putting sustainable development at the heart of government.
Sustainable Development

Sustainable development in Wales

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

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

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Key Requirements

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
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.
Sustainable Development Governance Framework

Long term wellbeing of Wales
(economic, social and environmental)

Outcome
Indicators

Outcome
Indicators

Outcome
Indicators

Outcome
Indicators

Activities

better info
now
economic
social
environmental
long
term

Support

Sustainable Development Body

Reporting

Scrutiny

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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

_A Sustainable Wales - Better Choices for a Better Future_
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
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
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
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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<th>Phased Implementation</th>
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<td><strong>From 2015</strong></td>
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<td>• Welsh Government</td>
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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.
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
Next steps

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