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Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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Consultation Document

Proposals relating to the Statement of Public
Participation for the National Development
Framework

Draft Statement of Public Participation

Date of issue: 1 February 2016

Action required: Responses by 25 April 2016

Mae'r ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg.
This document is also available in Welsh.

Overview

This consultation seeks your views on the draft Statement of Public Participation for the National Development Framework (NDF).

How to respond

The closing date for responses is 25 April 2016. You can respond in any of the following ways:

email Please complete the consultation form at Annex A and send it to:

planconsultations-a@wales.gsi.gov.uk

(Please include "Statement of Public Participation" in the subject line)

post Please complete the consultation response form at Annex A and send it to:

Statement of Public Participation Consultation
Development Plans Branch
Planning Directorate
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

Further information and related documents

Large print, Braille and alternative language versions of this document are available on request.

Contact details

For further information:

Development Plans Branch
Planning Directorate
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ.

email: planconsultations-a@wales.gsi.gov.uk

telephone: 02920823744 / 02920826657

Data protection

How the views and information you give us will be used

Any response you send us will be seen in full by Welsh Government staff dealing with the issues which this consultation is about. It may also be seen by other Welsh Government staff to help them plan future consultations.

The Welsh Government intends to publish a summary of the responses to this document. We may also publish responses in full. Normally, the name and address (or part of the address) of the person or organisation who sent the response are published with the response. This helps to show that the consultation was carried out properly. If you do not want your name or address published, please tell us this in writing when you send your response. We will then blank them out.

Names or addresses we blank out might still get published later, though we do not think this would happen very often. The Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 allow the public to ask to see information held by many public bodies, including the Welsh Government. This includes information which has not been published. However, the law also allows us to withhold information in some circumstances. If anyone asks to see information we have withheld, we will have to decide whether to release it or not. If someone has asked for their name and address not to be published, that is an important fact we would take into account. However, there might sometimes be important reasons why we would have to reveal someone's name and address, even though they have asked for them not to be published. We would get in touch with the person and ask their views before we finally decided to reveal the information.

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Appendix 1

NDF Consultation Groups

1 Introduction

1.1 The Welsh Government will prepare a National Development Framework for Wales (NDF). The NDF will be a development plan for the whole of Wales. It will set out national planning policies for the next 20 years and express spatially the Welsh Government's long term economic, social and environmental objectives. The NDF will form part of the statutory plan for determining planning applications and will assist the determination of Developments of National Significance (DNS).

1.2 The NDF will identify strategic locations for growth and infrastructure and by linking change and investment will make a positive difference to Wales. The NDF will set out an ambitious future for Wales and provide a framework around which decisions at all levels can help deliver a better future.

1.3 We are committed to ensuring wide public participation in the preparation of the NDF. This Statement of Public Participation sets out how the Welsh Government will embed participation across all stages of the development of the NDF and ensure stakeholders are aware how and when to engage in its preparation.

1.4 We welcome and encourage representations from all stakeholders. Groups, institutions, businesses and the public all have a contribution to make in developing the national land use plan.

1.5 The stakeholders we will engage with initially are set out in Appendix 1. These lists will expand and change as the process moves forward and all are welcome to be added. Individual members of the public will be invited to make formal comments and representations during public consultations. We will use a range of methods to raise awareness and encourage participation and will ensure that the process of engaging is accessible to all.

2 Preparation Process

2.1 The following timetable sets out the stages and timescales for the preparation of the NDF:-

Stage 1	Prepare Statement of Public Participation	October 2015– January 2016
Stage 2	Publish and consult on the Statement of Public Participation (12 weeks)	February – April 2016
Stage 3	Consider responses to the Statement of Public Participation consultation and prepare a consultation report	May – June 2016
Stage 4	Develop the vision, objectives and options	July 2016 – May 2017
Stage 5	Publish and consult on main issues, options and preferred option, supported by environmental reports and assessments (12 weeks)	June – September 2017
Stage 6	Consider responses to the main issues, options and preferred option consultation and prepare a consultation report	October – December 2017
Stage 7	Prepare draft NDF	January – June 2018
Stage 8	Consult on draft NDF (12 weeks)	July – October 2018
Stage 9	Consider responses to the draft NDF and prepare a consultation report	November 2018 – March 2019
Stage 10	Assembly consideration of the draft NDF (60 'sitting' days)	April – July 2019
Stage 11	Publish NDF	October 2019

2.2 The preparation timetable sets out a process of approximately 4 years to adoption. It incorporates three specific 12 weeks stages of public consultation at stages 2, 5 and 8. The timeframe demonstrates the Government's commitment to preparing the NDF and will enable sufficient time for engagement and meaningful dialogue with all stakeholders.

2.3 The Welsh Government will ensure that information about the development of the NDF is available during all stages of the process and officials will be available to provide advice and support. It is important that all stakeholders are aware of the key public consultation stages and that it is at these times that their views will formally influence the development of the NDF.

3 Participation

3.1 In developing the Statement of Public Participation, the Welsh Government has considered how it can ensure:-

- stakeholders can inform the development of the participation programme;
- participation is inclusive, open and transparent;
- information is accessible; and
- that there is feedback on representations made across the process.

3.2 Participation will be encouraged by ensuring there is the opportunity for both continuous engagement across the NDF process and at key consultation stages.

Continuous Participation

3.3 During the preparation of the NDF, the Welsh Government is committed to ensuring all stakeholders have the opportunity to access information on the emerging NDF; are kept informed of its progress; and can contact officials to learn more about the process.

Website	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Access to all key documents on Welsh Govt website• Explanation of timescales and process
Helpline & Email	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Planning Division will provide assistance with all aspects of NDF process including how to make representations and general queries
Social Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Using Ministerial twitter account and stakeholder channels to disseminate information, publicise key stages and send reminders
Articles & Press	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Articles and press releases to raise profile and stimulate engagement and debate
Newsletter	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Publication of regular newsletter to record progress and give notice of forthcoming stages
Consultation Database	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Establishment of an NDF consultation database which will be open to all stakeholders and members of the public and will be used to keep parties informed of the preparation of the NDF

Participation at Key Stages

3.4 Stages 5 and 8 will include 12 weeks of public consultation. These stages are the opportunity for stakeholders and the public to formally submit representations to the process and influence the development of the NDF. In addition to the steps above to encourage participation during all stages, the Welsh Government will at these stages seek to further raise awareness and provide opportunities to be involved through the following methods:-

Publication of key documents and supporting evidence

- All key documents will be made available on the Welsh Government website, including information on how to make a representation

Direct Meetings & Stakeholder Events

- One to one and/or group meetings will be used to publicise public consultations and encourage stakeholders to engage
- Attendance at public events such as Eisteddfod & Royal Welsh Show

Drop In Events Across Wales

- Drop in events will be held at:-
 - Cardiff
 - Swansea
 - Carmarthen
 - Newtown
 - Wrexham
 - Bangor

Awareness Raising

- Press adverts
- Web adverts
- Social Media
- Press stories in specialist media
- Animations

3.5 Stage 3 will also include a 12 week public consultation. This initial consultation will focus on the process for preparing the NDF and the approach to public participation. It will not focus on planning issues and will not require the same level of consultation activities as stages 5 and 8. The focus at this stage will be electronic communication and the publication of documents on the website.

4 Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment

4.1 Undertaking a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) for the NDF is mandatory under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended by the Planning (Wales) Act 2015). SA incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a formal process for assessing the effect of a plan or programme on the contribution to the achievement of sustainable development and is fully integrated into a plan preparation process. The SA will consider the social, economic and environmental effects of the NDF. SEA will be undertaken alongside this to assess the NDFs impact on the environment.

4.2 The SA/SEA ensure that policies and proposals are informed by relevant information and provide the opportunity for people to get involved. Public consultation is a key part of this process.

4.3 The SA/SEA will be undertaken alongside the development of the NDF. The table below shows the key SEA stages alongside NDF stages 2 to 9 (see table at 2.1 for NDF stages). Whilst it is not expected that an update to the Environmental Report will be required in the latter stages, if significant changes are made to the NDF a further consultation period will be held.

NDF Stage	SEA Stages	Estimated timescale
2	(A) Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding the scope	February – June 2016
3	Consultation on SEA Scoping Report	
4	Consider responses to SEA Scoping Report (B) Developing and refining alternatives and assessing effects (C) Prepare Environmental Report	July 2016 – May 2017
5	(D) Publish and consult environmental reports and assessments alongside NDF main issues, options and preferred option report (12 weeks)	June – September 2017
6	Consider responses to the environmental reports and assessments and prepare a consultation report	October – December 2017
7	Update Environmental Report if required	January – June 2018
8	Consult on Environment Report if required	July – October 2018
9	Consider responses to consultation if required	November 2018 – March 2019
	(E) Implementation, monitoring and review	October 2019 onwards

Habitats Regulations Assessment

4.4 Under an EU Directive, a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) is required to be undertaken for the NDF. The HRA will assess whether the plan is likely to have significant effects on a European site of nature conservation importance in Great Britain or on a European offshore marine site of nature conservation. The process requires the screening and appropriate assessment of options. The NDF will only be able to be adopted if it is found to have no adverse effects on the integrity of the designated sites. If such an effect cannot be ruled out, the NDF should be amended to avoid such effects occurring. It is only in the most exceptional circumstances that the plan may be adopted which is likely to have such an effect. The findings of this work will feed into the SA/SEA of the NDF.

5 Contact Details

Address Statement of Public Participation Consultation
Development Plans Branch
Planning Directorate
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

Email Planconsultations-a@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Telephone 02920 82 3744 02920 82 6657

Website www.gov.wales

APPENDIX 1

A1.1 The following three tables set out the Welsh Government Stakeholder Group, Core Stakeholder Group and General Stakeholder Group that will be engaged and consulted during the development of the NDF. These stakeholders are not the only stakeholders who will be engaged and are included here to illustrate the range of bodies the Welsh Government will involve. These groups may change over time.

Welsh Government Stakeholder Group
Agriculture, Food & Marine
Environment
Transport
Economy, Skills & Natural Resources
Tourism, Heritage & Sport
Education & Public Services

Core Stakeholder Group
Canal & River Trust
Coal Authority
Community Council "One Voice Wales"
County Councils
Crown Estate Commissioners
Dee Valley Water
Department of Energy and Climate Change
Dwr Cymru Welsh Water
Forestry Commission Wales

Health and Safety Executive
Local Highway Authority
Local Planning Authority
Ministry of Defence
National Air Traffic Services and Operators of Officially Safeguarded Civil Aerodromes
Natural Resources Wales
Operator of Cardiff Airport
Office of Nuclear Regulation
Rail Network Operators (Network Rail)
Severn Trent Water
Sports Council for Wales
Theatres Trust

General Stakeholders
Alistair Yates
Architecture Verte Ltd.
ARUP
Association of National Park Authorities
Atriarc Planning
Bartlett School of Planning
Blaenavon Town Council
BRE Wales & South West
Cadw
Campaign for National Parks
Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales
CAMRA Campaign for Real Ale

Capita Symonds
Cardiff School of Planning and Geography
CBI Wales
Chartered Institute of Housing
Cheshire West and Chester Council
Children's Commissioner for Wales
Citizens Advice Bureaux
City of Bangor Council
Civic Trust for Wales
Commissioner for Sustainable Futures
Community Enterprise Wales
Community Housing Cymru
Country Land & Business Association
Davies & Co
Department of Law, Cardiff University
Design Commission for Wales
Development Planning Partnership
Disability Wales
Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee
DTZ
Energy Savings Trust
Energy UK
Entec UK Ltd.
Farmers Union of Wales (FUW)
Federation of Master Builders
Federation of Small Businesses
Friends of the Earth Cymru
Geldards
GMB

Greenpeace UK
Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations (GAVO)
Home Builders Federation
ICE Wales Cymru
Infrastructure Planning Commission
IoD Wales
Jeff Porter
John Rowlands
Jones Lang LaSalle
Land Registry Wales Office
Land Use Consultants
Landscape Institute Wales
Law Society Wales
Mark Roberts Planning and Environmental Consultancy
Nathaniel Lichfield & Partners
National House Building Council
National Trust
Natural Resources Wales
NFU Cymru
Older People's Commissioner for Wales
One Voice Wales
Planning & Environment Bar Association
Planning Aid Wales
Planning Inspectorate Wales
Planning Officers' Society Wales
Police Liaison Officer
Public Services Ombudsman for Wales
Race Equality First
Redrow Homes South Wales

Renewable Developments Wales
RNIB Cymru
RNID Cymru
Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors Wales
Royal Society of Architects in Wales
Royal Town Planning Institute in Wales
RPS Planning and Development
RSPB Welsh Headquarters
Sustainable Wales
The Centre for Sustainable Planning and Environments
The Equality and Human Rights Commission
The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association
The Outdoor Media Centre Ltd
Town and Country Planning Association
Town and Country Planning Services (Conwy)
Turley Associates
Unite
Wales Council for the Blind
Wales Council for the Deaf
Wales Council for Voluntary Action
Wales Disability Rights Commission
Wales Environment Link
Wales Planning Consultancy Forum
Wales TUC

Wales YFC
Wales Zero Carbon Hub
Welsh Language Commissioner
Welsh Local Government Association
Welsh School of Architecture
Wildlife Trust Wales
WWF Cymru
WYG