

Welsh Language Impact Assessment

August 2017

Welsh Language Impact Assessment

Title: Welsh Language Impact Assessment on the Natural Resources Policy.	WLIA Reference No (completed by WLU):			
Name of person completing form:	Leanne Fraser			
Date:	August 2017			
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Programme/Project Type <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Policy <input type="checkbox"/> Project or programme <input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input type="checkbox"/> Research, evaluation <input type="checkbox"/> Grant <input type="checkbox"/> Services <input type="checkbox"/> Business change <input type="checkbox"/> Contracts, tenders <input type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure <input type="checkbox"/> Construction, Capital <input type="checkbox"/> ICT <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please specify below)				
<p>1. The Natural Resources Policy is a statutory requirement of the Environment (Wales) Act. The law requires that it must set out the Welsh Ministers' policies for contributing to the sustainable management of natural resources (SMNR), and also set out the risks, opportunities and priorities for SMNR, including what should be done in relation to biodiversity and climate change. The Environment (Wales) Act also requires that the Natural Resources Policy is developed and implemented by applying the principles of sustainable management of natural resources.</p> <p>2. In developing the policy, Welsh Ministers' are also required to have regard to Natural Resources Wales' (NRW) State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR), which links our natural resources to well-being through the Well-being of Future Generations Act goals.</p>				
Costs: How much is the projected whole life cost for the programme/project? If below £25k, then a full WLIA is not always required (see guidance).				
Under £25k	£25k - £49k	£50 - £249K	£250K - £1m	Over £1m
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Of the above, please provide details if there are any identified costs directly associated with the Welsh language? Translation work and associated costs have been allocated for the Environment Act				

associated documentation, associated requirements (this includes the National Natural Resources Policy) and communications activities which have included events with simultaneous translation facilities.

How long is the programme/project expected to run?

Up to 1 yr	Up to 2yrs	Up to 5yrs	Up to 10yrs	More than 10 yrs	Unknown
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Key milestone dates for the programme/ project:

- Non-statutory National Natural Resources Policy statement published Spring 2015 (for confirming priorities prior to Bill coming into force and to inform scrutiny of Bill)
- The Environment (Wales) Act was introduced in May 2016, after having received Royal Assent on 21 March 2016.
- The first Natural Resource Policy (NRP) to be published in August 2017, with preparation of area statements from mid-late 2017.

STAGE 1: PLANNING

What are the aims and objectives of the policy?

What are the desired outcomes/ what constitutes 'success'?

The Natural Resources Policy applies to all our natural resources and how we use and manage them to meet the objective set by the Environment (Wales) Act to 'maintain and enhance the resilience ecosystems and the benefits they provide to meet the needs of the present generations without compromising future generations and contribute across the well-being goals'. The Natural Resource Policy's focus is the sustainable management of Wales' natural resources, which is in turn fundamental to the achievement of the goals within the Well-being of Future Generations Act.

Across the Welsh Government, the Natural Resources Policy plays a key role in supporting the achievement of the objectives in the Programme for Government by identifying the key areas where Wales' natural resources can continue to support Wales' prosperity and realise the significant opportunities they provide to delivering a secure, healthy and active, ambitious, learning, united and connected nation.

Within the Environment and Rural Affairs portfolio, the Natural Resources Policy is also important in the context of the UK's withdrawal from the European Union. Given the profound implications to the current policy, legal and financial framework and need to ensure that Wales benefits from the significant opportunities the better management of our natural resources can provide in parallel with addressing the clear challenges we face, the Natural Resources Policy plays a key role as part of the Departmental response.

Under the legislation, Natural Resources Wales' Area Statements will facilitate the delivery of the policy at a local level, including through wider public service delivery. Local Development Plans and Well-being Plans under the Well-being of Future Generations Act must have regard to the evidence in the Area Statements.

**What policy options have been considered?
and
What impacts will there be if the policy is *not* implemented?**

Part 1 section 9 of the Environment (Wales) Act imposes a duty on Welsh Ministers to prepare, publish and implement a National Natural Resources Policy.

The policy must set out what the Welsh Ministers consider to be the key priorities, risks, opportunities for the sustainable management of natural resources and their general and specific policies for contributing to the sustainable management of natural resources in relation to Wales. This must include what they consider should be done in relation to climate change and biodiversity.

Once finalised, Welsh Ministers are required under section 9 (4) to take all reasonable steps to implement the NRP and also to encourage others to take such steps.

Does the programme demonstrate a clear link with the Welsh Government's strategy for the Welsh language - *laith fyw: laith byw*?

Yes

What are the impacts/ effects (both positive and/or adverse) on the Welsh language you have identified at the initial planning stage
i.e. Welsh speakers, Welsh language communities, Welsh medium education, Welsh learners, services available in Welsh?

No negative impacts on the Welsh language were identified for any of the proposals in the NRP.

The following potential positive impacts were identified in relation to Sustainable Management of Natural Resources.

Positive

Through the long term, efficient and sustainable use of natural resources at both national and local levels, the NRP provides the opportunity for a number of positive impacts on Welsh communities aimed towards securing the future prosperity of Wales. Many of these benefits will have an equitable affect on Welsh speaking and non-Welsh speaking communities.

The NRP supports the implementation of the Well-being of Future Generations

(Wales) Act 2015 through providing an integrated approach on how sustainable management of natural resources can help to deliver the well-being goals in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

- The NRP sets out the priorities and opportunities for the sustainable management of natural resources in Wales and therefore to ensure that our ecosystems are resilient and are able to provide services to meet both current and future needs. This in turn will lead to longevity of those services, which many of our social and economic activities rely upon. Examples include land management and land use applications, extractive industries and primary industries. Specific to the Welsh language, statistics show that 29.5% of those employed in the agriculture, energy and water industries are Welsh speakers (Ability to speak Welsh by Industry – Census 2011). The agriculture, energy and water industries tend to be rural, with a higher proportion based in Welsh language heartlands. It is expected that improved management of our natural resources will have a positive affect on the sustainability of these industries and provide for further growth opportunities, thereby, indirectly contributing positively to the use of Welsh language within these communities.
- Area statements will implement national policy priorities and opportunities for our natural resources in local areas - this will ensure more focused delivery of priorities and opportunities at the appropriate scale. Area statements will be underpinned by up to date and robust data provided by SoNaRR and, in practical terms, the development of area statements will need to be informed by the specific needs of the relevant local community. Area statements may identify new opportunities, for example, payment for ecosystem services or natural solutions to flood alleviation of carbon storage. More specifically, Welsh language communities that benefit from the social and environmental opportunities identified in NNRP could see increased prosperity through local, targeted, sustainable job creation, thereby, reducing emigration of Welsh speakers to economic centres such as Cardiff or further afield, such as Bristol or London. This could help to reverse the loss of Welsh speakers in Welsh heartlands as well as reducing the net loss of fluent Welsh speakers from Wales. 3 area based trials are being undertaken by NRW, one of which, Dyfi, is in the Welsh speaking heart lands.
- Sustainable management of natural resources can have a positive impact on Wales' resilience to climate change and the impacts of climate change. This will have a positive impact on Welsh communities. The proposals can help to find new approaches to mitigating and adapting to climate change by: (i) finding new ways to enhance ecosystem resilience and therefore ability to adapt to climate pressures; (ii) improving services to either store carbon or to alleviate flooding.

Who are the stakeholders? Are the needs of Welsh speakers and learners addressed? To what extent are Welsh language interest groups likely to respond positively to the proposals?

As the national strategic policy for natural resources, all stakeholders have been considered throughout the development of the policy as relevant.

Where an assessment was not completed, or no impacts were identified, please provide a full account for record keeping purposes?
(This could be used in the Welsh Language Tribunal in future)

N/A

What actions/ further work has been identified at the initial planning stage?
e.g. data requirements, need for peer review, external engagement with Welsh speaking groups, identify stakeholders or consultation list, need to contact Welsh Language Unit for advice)?

The Welsh Government's Welsh language unit were contacted for further advice. The Natural Resources Policy will be published bilingually in English and Welsh, as will the Welsh Language Impact Assessment.

STAGE 2: IDENTIFYING AND ASSESSING IMPACTS

Impact Assessment Summary

Summarise the detailed impact assessment carried out together with the scores assigned.

Positive effects/ impacts:

Whilst the NRP has not been designed specifically to address Welsh language issues, four positive impacts through natural resource management have been identified. These are:

1. The NRP will support the implementation of the seven well-being goals in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. This includes the goal for a "Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language".
2. The NRP will set out the priorities and opportunities for the sustainable management of natural resources in Wales leading to more resilient ecosystems. This will benefit communities across Wales leading to long term prosperity, social benefit and health and well being.
3. Area statements will facilitate a local approach to sustainable management of natural resources and provide for targeted solutions based on economic, social and environmental profile of a given area. This should lead to more resilient Welsh language communities that benefit from the economic, social and environmental opportunities identified which, in turn, could have a positive impact on the outward migration of fluent Welsh speakers from some Welsh speaking heartlands.
4. Sustainable management of natural resources will support climate change adaption and mitigation leading to more resilient communities which will benefit Welsh language communities in the same way as identified in impact 3.

Adverse effects/ impacts:

No negative impacts have been identified.	
Opportunities to promote the Welsh language e.g. status, use of Welsh language services, use of Welsh in everyday life, Welsh at work increased?	
The Environment (Wales) Act supports the delivery of the well-being goals, one of which is “a Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language”.	
Evidence/ data used including demographic profile when considering the effects/ impacts:	
29.5% of those employed in the agriculture, energy and water industries are Welsh speakers (Ability to speak Welsh by Industry – Census 2011)	
What is the overall anticipated likely impact on the Welsh language if this policy is taken forward based on the impact assessment/ risk assessment?	Positive: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adverse: <input type="checkbox"/> Neutral: <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown: <input type="checkbox"/>
Decision following IA	1. No major change <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2. Adjust the policy to improve impacts <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Continue the policy with mitigation measures <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Stop and remove the policy <input type="checkbox"/>
If answered 2,3, or 4 above – then answer the following: How will you address these impacts in order to improve the outcomes for the Welsh language? Details of mitigation measures/ action points/ alternative options to reduce adverse impacts and increase positive outcomes:	
N/A	
If engaging or consulting, what are your plans? What questions do you wish to ask stakeholders about the Welsh Language Impact Assessment and Welsh language related issues?	
This Welsh Language Impact Assessment will be published bilingually alongside the Natural Resources Policy.	
STAGE 3: POST CONSULTATION AND PREPARING FOR PUBLICATION, MONITORING AND EVALUATION	
Following consultation, what changes have you made to address any Welsh language issues that were raised?	
N/A – none raised.	

How will you monitor the ongoing effects during the implementation of the policy?
N/A
Please outline how you will continue to capture effects/ impacts in future monitoring and evaluation?
N/A
Any other comments – ongoing results of evaluations, emerging impacts
None

4. Declaration

Policy lead:
<i>*Please delete as appropriate:</i>
The policy <i>*does / does not</i> have an impact upon the Welsh language. Where there were identified adverse impacts or missed opportunities, the appropriate amendments and actions have been put in place.
Name:
Department:
Date (s):
Signature:
Planned Review Dates:

SRO ENDORSEMENT and REVIEW

I am satisfied that the WLIA is an accurate reflection of the programme/project at this stage of development. By signing, I am able to confirm that the Welsh Language Standards have been given the appropriate attention. I will re-assess the programme/project at key stages throughout the life of the programme/ project, including policy reviews.

Signed (Senior Responsible Owner)	Date
Signed (Senior Responsible Owner)	Review Date
Signed (Senior Responsible Owner)	Review Date
Signed (Senior Responsible Owner)	Review Date