

Number:WG27618



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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Consultation Document

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

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	<p>The closing date for responses is 25 April 2016. You can respond in any of the following ways:</p> <p>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)</p> <p>post Please complete the consultation response form at Annex A and send it to:</p> <p>Statement of Public Participation Consultation Development Plans Branch Planning Directorate Welsh Government Cathays Park Cardiff CF10 3NQ</p>
Further information and related documents	Large print, Braille and alternative language versions of this document are available on request.
Contact details	<p>For further information:</p> <p>Development Plans Branch Planning Directorate Welsh Government Cathays Park Cardiff CF10 3NQ.</p> <p>email: planconsultations-a@wales.gsi.gov.uk</p> <p>telephone: 02920823744/ 02920826657</p>

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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1. Purpose of this consultation

- 1.1 This consultation seeks your views on the draft Statement of Public Participation for the National Development Framework.
- 1.2 The Planning (Wales) Act 2015 sets a statutory framework for the Welsh Ministers to prepare and keep up to date a national land use plan known as the National Development Framework for Wales (NDF). The NDF will enable the Welsh Government to progress an active stewardship role and address land use issues of national significance through the planning system.
- 1.3 The NDF will set out national planning policies for the next 20 years and will express spatially the Welsh Government's long term economic, social and environmental objectives. The Planning Act requires that as part of the process of developing the NDF, Welsh Ministers prepare a Statement of Public Participation. It states:-

60A Preparation of Framework: statement of public participation

- (1) The Welsh Ministers must prepare and publish a statement of public participation setting out their policies relating to the consultation to be carried out in preparing the National Development Framework for Wales.
- (2) In particular, the statement must include provision about—
 - (a) the form that the consultation will take,
 - (b) when the consultation will take place, and
 - (c) the steps that will be taken to involve members of the public in the preparation of the Framework.
- (3) The statement must provide that, as part of the consultation, the Welsh Ministers will—
 - (a) publish a draft of the Framework, and
 - (b) allow a period of 12 weeks beginning with the publication of the draft Framework during which any person may make representations with regard to the draft.
- (4) The Welsh Ministers may revise the statement, and must publish the statement as revised.

1.4 The Statement of Public Participation will set 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 the process. Your views are sought on the Welsh Governments proposed approach.

2 Ensuring participation in the preparation of the National Development Framework

- 2.1 Participation by stakeholders in the preparation of land use plans is a long established principle within the planning system. It is essential that a plan-led system prepares plans that seek to achieve consensus and are developed in an open and transparent way. Everyone should have the opportunity to be informed of the preparation of a plan and participate if they wish. Accordingly, there are statutory requirements for engagement and consultation during Local Development Plan (LDP), Strategic Development Plan (SDP) and NDF preparation.
- 2.2 The Welsh Government has considered how it can raise awareness of the NDF particularly during the key development stages and how it can ensure stakeholders have the opportunity to participate. It would welcome views from all parties on its proposed approach.

Facilitating engagement

- 2.3 In developing its approach, the Welsh Government has considered a range of issues that can influence how and whether people engage in the development of the NDF.
- 2.4 For the last 20 years, the planning system has focussed on local development plans. These cover local planning authority areas and focus primarily on borough and county wide issues. The Planning Act has introduced regional SDPs and the national NDF. This is a major change to the planning system and will see development plans prepared at a greater than local level. Both plan makers and stakeholders will be required to think and engage in new ways and consider wider than local issues.
- 2.5 Raising awareness of the new NDF and its preparation process will be a key priority for the Welsh Government. It will be important that formal consultation stages are supported by clear guidance on the purpose of the NDF; its role; and how stakeholders can influence its development. It is also important that informal advice and support is available outside of key public consultations, so that stakeholders can learn more about the NDF across the whole process and are ready to engage at key stages. The draft Statement of Public Participation includes approaches to support engagement both at key stages and continuously across the process.

2.6 In considering all these issues, the Welsh Government's approach has been shaped by considering how it can ensure:-

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

Ensuring stakeholders inform the development of the participation programme

2.7 This consultation provides the opportunity for stakeholders to inform the development of the Statement of the Public Participation. There are a series of questions in Section 4 on which your views would be welcome.

Ensuring participation is inclusive, open and transparent

2.8 To ensure that stakeholders are aware of when they should engage in the development of the NDF, the draft Statement of Public Participation includes an 11 stage timetable for the preparation of the NDF. This includes the dates for each stage and identifies the key periods of public consultation. It is important that stakeholders are aware of when they need to become involved and plan ahead to ensure they have the time and resources to participate.

Ensuring information is accessible

2.9 All key documents and evidence will be made available on the Welsh Government website. To ensure they are accessible to all, they will be supported by information that summarises in plain language both the processes and the key concepts.

Ensuring that there is feedback on representations made across the process

2.10 At each consultation stage, the Welsh Government will report the representations made, how these have been considered and how they have influenced the development of the NDF. The data protection section at the front of this document explains how representations will be handled.

3 Our proposed approach

3.1 In considering timings to prepare the NDF, we have based a draft timetable on the LDP process, working on the basis of approximately 4 years to adoption and incorporating three specific stages of public consultation (12 weeks each).

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

3.2 The Welsh Government considers that a dual approach to engagement is appropriate. There will be a continuous programme of activities and additional engagement activities to support the key public consultation stages.

3.3 To ensure that support and advice is available during the NDF preparation process, we will utilise:

- our website
- a helpline & email support
- social media

- articles & the press
- a newsletter
- a contact database

to provide information and updates on the NDF and ensure that support is available for those wishing to participate.

3.4. The NDF preparation process will include three periods of 12-week consultation. These stages allow stakeholders and the public to review key documents and evidence and submit formal representations to the process. It is important that during these stages, awareness of the consultations is raised and stakeholders can access information and provide comments to us. To support this, we will:-

- publish key documents & evidence
- organise & attend meetings and stakeholder events
- hold drop-in sessions across Wales
- co-ordinate a strategy for awareness raising.

3.5 Whilst 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 only. It will not focus on planning issues or present evidence on land-use issues. Stage 3 will not require the same level of consultation activities as stages 5 and 8.

4 Key questions

4.1 Views are sought on the following questions:-

Q1	Do you agree with the NDF preparation timetable?
Q2	Do you agree that 3 periods of public consultation are sufficient?
Q3	Do you agree that the periods of public consultation are in the right place to ensure stakeholders can participate in the development of the NDF?
Q4	Do you agree with the methods to support continuous engagement? Are there additional methods that should be used?
Q5	Do you agree with the methods to support engagement at key stages? Are there additional methods that should be used?
Q6	Are there additional groups/bodies that could be added to those listed in Appendix 1 of the draft Statement of Public Participation?
Q7	Are there any additional comments you wish to make on the draft Statement of Public Participation?

Annex A – Consultation Response Form

CONSULTATION FORM

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

We want to know your views on the proposed Statement of Public Participation for the National Development Framework (NDF) for Wales. The statement sets out how the Welsh Government will embed participation across all stages of the development of the NDF and will ensure stakeholders are aware of how and when to engage in the process. Your views are sought on the proposed approach.

Please submit your comments by 25 April 2016

If you have any queries on this consultation, please email:

Planconsultations-a@wales.gsi.gov.uk or telephone: 029 2082 3744 / 029 2082 6657

Data Protection

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.

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Confidentiality

Responses to consultations may be made public on the internet or in a report.

If you do not want your name and address to be shown on any documents we produce please indicate here

If you do not want your response to be shown in any document we produce please indicate here

CONSULTATION FORM
Proposals relating to the Statement of Public Participation for the National Development Framework (NDF)

Date		
Name		
Organisation		
Address		
E-mail address		
Telephone		
Type <i>(please select one from the following)</i>	Businesses	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Local Planning Authority	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Government Agency/Other Public Sector	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Professional Bodies/Interest Groups	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Voluntary sector (community groups, volunteers, self help groups, co-operatives, enterprises, religious, not for profit organisations)	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Other (other groups not listed above)	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q1	Do you agree with the NDF preparation timetable?	X
	Agree	
	Neither Agree nor Disagree	
	Disagree	
Further comments		

Q2	Do you agree that 3 periods of public consultation are sufficient?	X
	Agree	
	Neither Agree nor Disagree	
	Disagree	
Further comments		

Q3	Do you agree that the periods of public consultation are in the right place to ensure stakeholders can participate in the development of the NDF?	X
	Agree	
	Neither Agree nor Disagree	
	Disagree	
Further comments		

Q4	Do you agree with the methods to support continuous engagement? Are there additional methods that should be used?	X
	Agree	
	Neither Agree nor Disagree	
	Disagree	
Further comments		

Q5	Do you agree with the methods to support engagement at key stages? Are there additional methods that should be used?	X
Agree		
Neither Agree nor Disagree		
Disagree		
Further comments		

Q6	Are there additional groups/bodies that could be added to those listed in Appendix 1 of the draft Statement of Public Participation?	X
Further comments		

Q7	Are there any additional comments you wish to make on the draft Statement of Public Participation?	X
Further comments		

How to respond

Please submit your comments by 25 April 2016, in any of the following ways:

Email	Post
Please complete the consultation form and send it to : Planconsultations-a@wales.gsi.gov.uk [Please include Statement of Public Participation in the subject line]	Please complete the consultation form and send it to: Statement of Public Participation Consultation Plans Branch Planning Directorate Welsh Government Cathays Park Cardiff CF10 3NQ

Additional information
If you have any queries about this consultation, please Email: Planconsultations-a@wales.gsi.gov.uk Telephone: 029 2082 3744 029 2082 6657