Welsh Context
Y Cyd-destun Cymraeg

Rhodri Asby
Yr Is-adran Datblygu Cynaliadwy, Newid Hinsawdd a Chynllunio
Adnoddau Naturiol
Sustainable Development, Climate Change and Natural Resource
Planning Division
Programme for Government & SD

“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.”

“We must also look to the longer-term in the decisions that we make now, to the lives of our children’s children as well as current generations.”

“All our policies and programmes will reflect this commitment …so that we make sustainable development our central organising principle. “

• Creating a sustainable, low carbon economy

• Living within environmental limits and acting on climate change
Legislative Programme

- Sustainable Development Bill
- Environment Bill
- Planning Bill
”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.”

Programme for Government

“creating the Wales of the future is something that involves all of us”
- A sustainable development duty
- Role and functions of a new independent SD body
- Current barriers
- Evidence on progress
- Simplification
Objectives

- To support the embedding of SD into the strategic decision making processes of the public sector
- 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 sustainable solutions that are best for their circumstances
- To ensure that SD will have a practical effect and not simply be a set of high level principles
A Central Organising Principle

To ensure that in delivering the Programme for Government, all we do exemplifies sustainable development by:

- delivering environmental, economic and social benefit at the same time
- addressing the unequal distribution of environmental costs and benefits
- reflecting the different needs and opportunities of place
- working for the future as well as now.
Overarching Wellbeing Aim

Programme for Government

Economic
- VFM
- Lifecycle Costing
- EIA

Social
- Rights of the Child
- Equalities Duty
- Welsh Language

Environmental (Environment Bill)
- Ecosystems Approach
- SEA

Long Term Impacts

Measures

Measures

Measures
Planning

- Independent Advisory Group Report
- Study to Examine the Planning and Application Process
- Planning White Paper 2013
- Single Environmental Body
A Living Wales

- Natural Resource Planning
- Ecosystems Approach
- Environment Bill
- Single Environmental Body
The difference in approach...

- holistic management that reflects the diversity of the environment and our interdependency with it;

- identifying the best ways of working with nature to provide environmental, social and economic benefits;

- developing the habitats we need for the future rather than simply defending those we have now;

- having a strong spatial or place-based dimension because the best use of land or water will vary hugely from place to place; and

- partnership approaches that enable wider community.
The ecosystem approach

“a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way” (CBD 1993)

Figure 9 Conceptual Framework for the UK NEA showing the links between ecosystems, ecosystem services, good(s), valuation, human well-being, change processes and scenarios. *Note that the term good(s) includes all use and non-use, material and non-material benefits from ecosystems that have value for people.
Opportunity Mapping – our life support system

Moorland slows run-off & locks up carbon

Hills provide recreation & drinking water

Wind and water power for renewable energy

Trees and green spaces in town improve quality of life

Country park provides:
- Healthy leisure and exercise
- Urban wildlife

Pond balances storm flow

Food production

Green Infrastructure around business park

Sustainable drainage system

Motorway

Trees improve air quality around motorway

Allotments provide food

Woodland for recreation, biofuels, carbon store and education

Country park provides:
- Healthy leisure and exercise
- Urban wildlife

Hills provide recreation & drinking water

Moorland slows run-off & locks up carbon

Food production

Green Infrastructure around business park

Sustainable drainage system

Motorway
Diolch
Thank you

Rhodri.Asby@wales.gsi.gov.uk