

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF PARK DIRECTION

SUBJECT:

CONSULTATION RESPONSE TO THE WELSH GOVERNMENT PLANNING FOR SUSTAINABILITY IN FAVOUR OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Purpose of Report

To request Members consider and respond to the Welsh Government's consultation as set out above. The National Park Authority's meeting of the 28th March 2012 gave delegated powers to this Development Management Committee to approve the Authority's response.

The Main Changes

The Welsh Government want to strengthen national planning policy (Planning Policy Wales) to reinforce the need to prepare, adopt and implement the plan-led approach through Development Plans and strengthen the framework within which individual applications are determined in order to further facilitate sustainable development.

The Welsh Government has proposed to do this by:

- Introducing a statement on the presumption in favour of sustainable development
- Giving weight to national planning policy in determining individual applications where policy in adopted or approved development plans is outdated or superseded.

Consultation response

The Welsh Assembly has prepared a questionnaire for completion in response to the consultation. A draft response has been prepared and is attached to this report as Appendix 1.

Recommendation

Members of the Development Management Committee consider and approve the attached response to the Welsh Government's consultation on planning for sustainable development.

Background Papers

<http://wales.gov.uk/docs/desh/consultation/120302sustainabledevelopmenten.pdf>

(For further information, please contact Martina Dunne)

Author: Martina Dunne

CONSULTATION FORM

Planning for Sustainability The presumption in favour of sustainable development

We want your views on an approach to measure the contribution the planning system makes to our vision of a sustainable Wales.

Please submit your comments by 25 May 2011.

If you have any queries on this consultation, please email:
planconsultations-C@wales.gsi.gov.uk or telephone: 029 2082 3869

Data Protection
<p>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.</p> <p>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 tick the box below. We will then blank them out.</p> <p>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.</p>

CONSULTATION FORM

Planning for Sustainability The presumption in favour of sustainable development		
2 March – 25 May 2012		
Name	Martina Dunne	
Organisation	Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority	
Address	Llanion Park Pembroke Dock Pembrokeshire SA72 6DY	
E-mail address	martinad@pembrokeshirecoast.org.uk	
Type <i>(please select one from the following)</i>	Businesses	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Local Planning Authority	<input checked="" 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 our approach to strengthening national planning policy by introducing a clear statement on the presumption in favour of sustainable development? [New section 4.2]	Yes	No
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Please select	

Additional comments:

The existing system requires LPAs to prepare local development plans with a full Sustainability Appraisal to ensure that the policies are focussed on the delivery of SD. As such, where LDPs are current there seems no need to introduce a presumption in favour of SD as this will be the central principle of the Development Plan. It is submitted that providing a further statement to give a presumption in favour would cause confusion and suggest that this should override plan policies when determining individual applications - new paragraph 4.3.4.

It is accepted however that older plans may not achieve the principle of SD and therefore should have a lesser weight (see Q2). In these circumstances, it is suggested that PPW should be amended to give greater weight to national policy as an other material consideration rather than proposing a presumption in favour of SD. This would enable all decisions to be taken with regard to policy (whether through an LDP or national policy) rather than each LPAs individual interpretation of SD.

To support Planning Policy Wales, as a vehicle for expressing the government's sustainability agenda in planning terms it would need to be accompanied by a published sustainability appraisal showing how the policies have been drafted and performance improved in terms of the delivery of sustainable development.

Q2	Do you agree that where development plan policies are outdated or superseded local planning authorities should give them decreasing weight in favour of other material considerations such as national planning policy? [New section at 2.7]	Yes	No
		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Please select	
Additional comments: See answer to Q1 above. Some guidance on what are likely to be 'other material considerations' would be helpful. Can they only be taken into account if they contribute to the achievement of sustainable development?			

Q3	We have asked two specific questions. If you have any related issues which we have not specifically addressed, please use the consultation response form to express your views.
Additional comments:	

Confidentiality
Responses to consultations may be made public – on the internet or in a report. If you would prefer your response to be kept confidential please indicate here: <input type="checkbox"/>

How to respond

Please submit your comments by 25 May 2012, in any of the following ways:

Email	Post
<p>Please complete the consultation form and send it to : planconsultations-C@wales.gsi.gov.uk Please include 'WG14377 Presumption statement in the subject line.</p>	<p>Please complete the consultation form and send it to: WG14377 Presumption consultation Planning Division Welsh Government Cathays Park, Cardiff CF10 3NQ</p>

Additional information
<p>If you have any queries on this consultation, please Email: planconsultations-C@wales.gsi.gov.uk Telephone: Andrew Charles on 029 2082 3869</p>