Legislating for sustainable development to secure the long term well-being of Wales

For Wales to develop sustainably, we need to change the law to put in place the key elements that will enable it to happen:

- A clear idea of what we are aiming for and an understanding of the key principles that will guide us;
- A clear picture of the natural resources we have, the risks they face and the opportunities they provide; and,
- An efficient process that ensures the right development is located in the right place to make it happen.

The three Bills do this by:

- **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Bill**: Placing six well-being goals into law, and requiring public bodies to apply the sustainable development principle in five key ways.
- **Environment (Wales) Bill**: Putting in place a modern statutory process to plan and manage our natural resources in a joined up and sustainable way.
- **Planning (Wales) Bill**: Improves the existing Planning process to ensure the right development is located in the right place.

To help achieve the goals we need to plan how we use our land, and how our cities, towns and communities change over time:

- **A plan-led system** means that Local Planning Authorities need to understand what their communities need. Local Planning Authorities will be under a duty to have regard to the ‘local well-being plan’ published by the Public Service Board (PSB).
- Greater development engagement at the **pre-application stage** will ensure local communities are able to engage early on in the planning process to influence development proposals.
- **Strategic Development Plans** will focus planning for areas with matters of greater than local significance. The key is to focus on areas where development is of a strategic nature.
- The **National Development Framework** will set out the Welsh Government’s land use priorities.

Our natural resources are essential for us to achieve the well-being of a sustainable Wales:

- The use and resilience of natural resources is reflected in the 6 well-being goals.
- Natural Resources Wales are one of the 44 identified **public bodies** subject to the sustainable development duty and a member of the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales’ **Advisory Panel**.
- **State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR)** will provide the evidence base for our natural resources which will inform Public Services Boards’ assessments of well-being.
- Natural Resources Wales will be a statutory member of all **Public Services Boards**, supporting partnership working across the public sector to maximise their contribution to the well-being goals.
- **Area statements** will identify local needs, opportunities and challenges within the context of both natural resource management and local well-being plans.

Linking how we manage the use of our land must be done in alongside how we manage our natural resources:

- **Natural resource management** informs priorities and opportunities through area-based evidence.
- More consistent, proactive and prioritised **evidence base** for natural resource use aligned to national and local goals.
- Prioritised opportunities to inform and underpin investment decisions and ensure the **right development**, supporting positive planning.