



Future Wales

The national plan up to 2040

What we need to think about when planning things like houses, buildings and power supplies



This document was written by Welsh Government. It is an easy read version of **'Future Wales - The National Plan 2040'**.

This document is also available in Welsh - Mae'r ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg.

April 2021

How to use this document



This is an easy read document. But you may still need support to read it. Ask someone you know to help you.



Words in **bold blue writing** may be hard to understand. You can check what the words in blue mean on **page 41**.



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Contents

	Page
How to use this document.....	2
Introduction.....	4
Planning in Wales.....	8
What we want to achieve.....	11
National Growth Areas.....	14
Regional Growth Areas.....	15
Countryside communities.....	16
The regions.....	18
How we plan and manage growth.....	34
Town centre first.....	35
Improving public transport.....	35
Mobile phone signal and broadband internet.....	36
Clean energy vehicles.....	36
Green spaces.....	37
National Forest.....	37
Clean energy.....	38
Heat Networks.....	40
Hard words.....	41

Introduction



This is an easy read explanation of our **framework** for planning the change and development we need in Wales over the next 20 years.

A **framework** is a document with a set of rules and ideas for people to follow when making important decisions.



The **framework** is called **Future Wales**. It is the first **framework** of its kind in Wales. It will help guide all planning decisions made in Wales on things like:

- Housing
- Roads, railways and cycletracks
- Health facilities
- Energy supplies
- Public transport
- Mobile phone signal
- Internet
- And all other services people need to live a good life.





Future Wales will help us make the most out of:

- where we live
- where we work
- how we travel
- our **environment** and nature.



The **environment** is where we live. It is the land, the sea, the air, and everything that lives in and on it. For example plants, animals and fish.



We are facing an **environment** emergency. The way we live and treat our planet is affecting weather patterns and global warming - our planet is getting warmer.



This is having a huge impact on nature and the places animals and plants live. Some species of plants and animals are dying out, or are in danger of dying out.



It is having a huge impact on us too. We are now more likely to have floods, heatwaves and storms.



Coronavirus has spread across the whole world. This has had a huge impact on our health, the way we live and our **economy**.

The **economy** is how much money a country has and also how much money individuals have.



We need to find ways to develop and grow that help us improve our well-being and our quality of life, whilst also looking after our **environment**.



Future Wales will help us do this.

Planning in Wales



There are 3 levels of planning in Wales. At the top is the **Future Wales framework**, which is for the whole of Wales.



At the next level of planning are **Strategic Development Plans** – These plans are for each **region** of Wales. They will have more detail about what will happen and where.

For this work Wales is split into 4 **regions**:

- **The North**
- **Mid Wales**
- **The South West**
- and **The South East**.



And then we have **Local Development Plans** – These plans are for each council area in Wales.



There are many things we need to think about to make sure places are well planned and meet our needs, now and in the future.



There are many other policies and plans for development, and how things like buildings and roads are organised in Wales.

The **Future Wales framework** will work together with all these plans, to help us:



- work in a more joined up way



- make the best use of public money



- make sure we are thinking about all the things we need to. Like how change in 1 area, may impact or benefit services and change in another area.



What we want to achieve



The aim of the **Future Wales framework** is to support planning that will make Wales a great place. There are 11 important things we want to achieve over the next 20 years, they are:



1. A Wales where people are connected and feel included. They live in good homes near services and green spaces, like parks and woodland.



2. A Wales where people can live happily in the countryside. With good homes, jobs and services.



3. A Wales where people have the same chances wherever they live.



4. A strong Welsh language.



5. A Wales where our towns and cities get bigger and have more people.



6. A Wales where people can succeed and be creative.



7. Travel that is good for the **environment** that does not cause too much **pollution**.



Pollution is when anything that harms the **environment** is let off. For example gases like **carbon**.



8. Good internet and to keep up with new **technology**.

Technology is things like computers, machines and equipment.



9. To look after **natural resources**. And have less **pollution**.

Natural resources are things like wind, the sun, water, coal and iron. They come from nature and we can use them for things like energy, power and food.



10. Good, strong animal and plant life.



11. Less carbon in the air. **Carbon** is a gas that is harmful to our **environment**.



We will check how well we are achieving the aims in the **Future Wales framework** every 5 years.

Where Wales will grow



The **Future Wales framework** says what type of development should happen in what types of places.

National Growth Areas

We support growth and development in all parts of Wales. However there are 3 **National Growth Areas** where we will focus on the growth of:



- employment



- housing



- infrastructure - this means how things like roads, telephone lines, sewerage and electric is organised.



The **3 National Growth Areas** are:

- Cardiff, Newport and the Valleys
- Swansea Bay and Llanelli
- Wrexham and Deeside

Regional Growth Areas



The **3 National Growth Areas** will be supported by growth and development in the **Regional Growth Areas**. There are Regional Growth Areas in 3 **regions**:

- The South West
- Mid Wales
- The North



There are a number of important places in the **Regional Growth Areas**. They are the centres for things like employment, services, shops and tourism in that area. For example Carmarthen in the South West, and Aberystwyth in Mid Wales.



The **Local** and **Strategic Development Plans** will focus on these areas when planning services.

Countryside communities



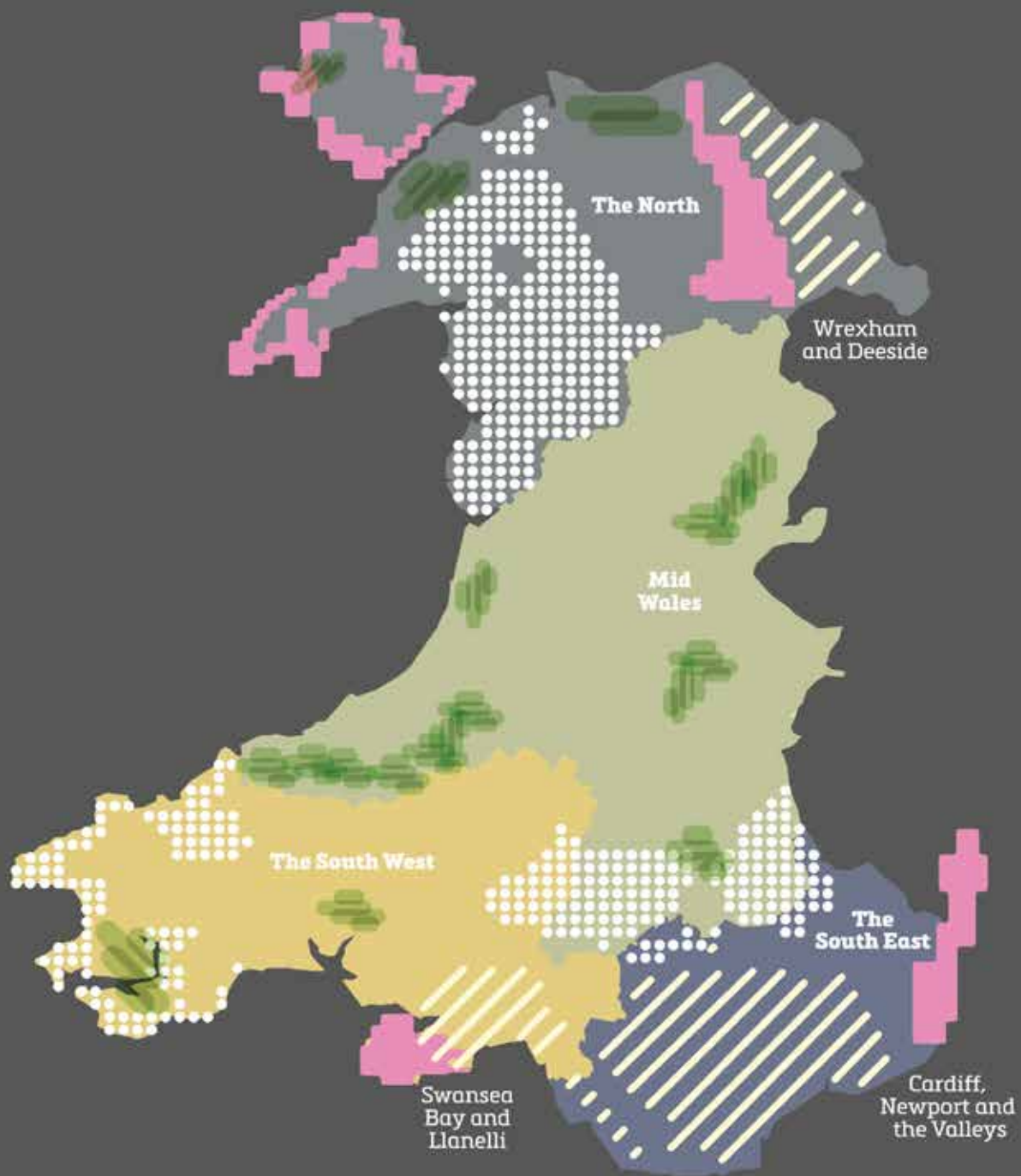
Growth in the countryside will be based on what people who live there need and want.



We need to get and keep people of working age living in the countryside. This will help us keep and grow services here.



We hope this way of planning growth will help protect the land in the countryside. Especially important farm land. And take away the need to build new or larger towns in the countryside.



National Growth Area



Regional Growth Area



National Parks



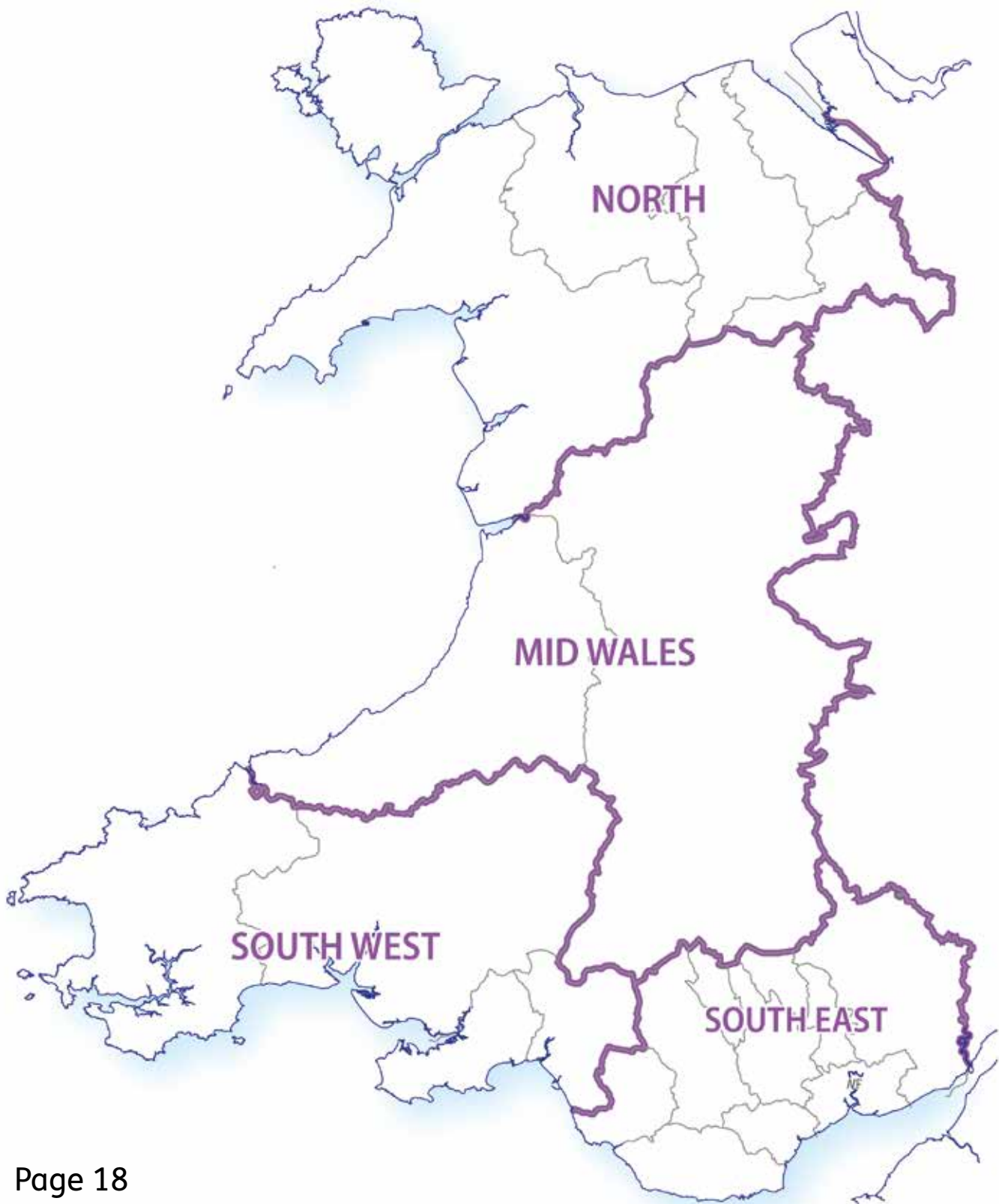
Area of Outstanding
Natural Beauty



The regions

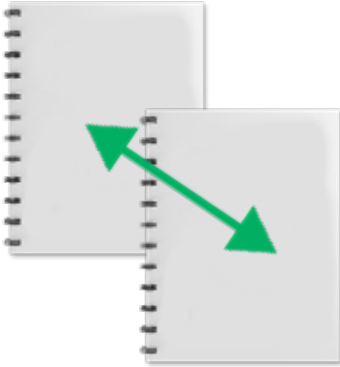
For this work Wales is split into 4 **regions**:

- The North
- Mid Wales
- The South West
- and The South East





Planning in each of the 4 **regions** is a really important part of the whole planning system. It is the link between the **Future Wales framework**, and making sure we deal with local issues.



Each **region** must have a **Strategic Development Plan** that recognises the strengths and challenges in that **region**, and also **complements** the plans and work happening in other **regions**.



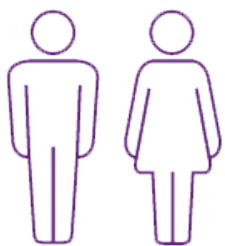
This means **regions** should work well together to deal with issues that happen across the **regions**. And make the most of opportunities for growth.



We will check that each **region** has a **Strategic Development Plan**.



North




Almost 700 thousand people live here.



Welsh is an important part of life here. Over 204 thousand people speak Welsh. Many speak Welsh as their first language.



People mainly live along the coast.

- 
- **Conwy**
 - **Denbighshire**
 - **Flintshire**
 - **Gwynedd**
 - **Isle of Anglesey**
 - **Snowdonia National Park**
 - **Wrexham**



Tourism and manufacturing (making things) is important for making money in this area.



Wrexham and **Deeside** will be the main focus for growth in the North. This is the National Growth Area for the North.

The Regional Growth Areas are:

- **Caernarfon**
- **Bangor**
- **Llandudno**
- **Holyhead**
- **Colwyn Bay**
- **Rhyl**
- **Prestatyn**



We will need over 16 thousand new homes in this **region**. Just over half should be affordable. This means cheap enough for people to buy or rent.



Flooding is a big problem in many of these places. We must think about flooding when planning and make sure people's houses are safe.



Strategic Development Plans must protect nature, the **environment** and the countryside around towns and cities.



Holyhead is very important. Many people come to Wales by boat to Holyhead Port.



We will work with partners to make sure Holyhead Port is the best it can be.

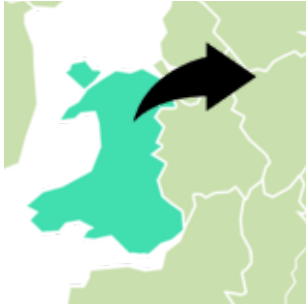


We will work with partners to make sure there is good public transport across the **region** and into North West England.



Development Plans must support a new North Wales **Metro**.

A **Metro** is a transport system.



The new **Metro** should help to improve travel between:

- North Wales
- Chester
- Liverpool
- Manchester



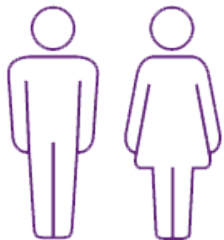
We support new energy projects in North West Wales. Energy projects should provide jobs, training and skills.



We will think about nuclear energy projects. And whether we need energy made in this way. And whether it could have a bad impact.



Mid Wales



205 thousand people live here. There are almost 60 thousand Welsh speakers.



It is the **region** with the largest area of countryside.



Many people living here travel for work, education and services.



- Brecon Beacons National Park
- Ceredigion
- Powys

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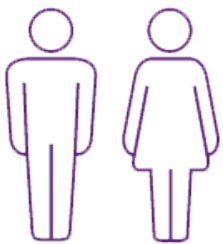
Tourism is important for making money here. We must make sure this **region** is well connected to the other 3 **regions** in Wales, and also English towns on the border.

The **Regional Growth Areas** are:

- The Teifi Valley, including Cardigan, Newcastle Emlyn, Llandysul and Lampeter
- Brecon and the Border
- The Heart of Wales, including Llandrindod Wells and Builth Wells
- Bro Hafren, including Welshpool and Newtown
- Aberystwyth



South W




Over 700 thousand people live here. Almost 150 thousand speak Welsh.



Swansea Bay and Llanelli will be the main focus for growth. This is the National Growth Area for the South West.



Over 25 thousand new homes will be needed in this **region**. Just under half need to be affordable.

- 
- Carmarthenshire
 - Neath Port Talbot
 - Pembrokeshire
 - Pembrokeshire Coast National Park
 - Swansea

West



Strategic and Local Development Plans should follow the **Swansea Bay City Region City Deal** and other important plans for the [region](#).

The Regional Growth Areas are:

- Carmarthen
- Milford Haven
- Haverfordwest
- Pembroke
- Pembroke Dock



We want there to be a South West **Metro**. We want to make it easier for people to use public transport, and cycle or walk to places for things like work, leisure and education. Plans should support this. And look at ways to make the most out of having a **Metro**.



There are 4 very important ports in this **region**. Milford Haven, Port Talbot, Swansea and Fishguard. We must plan carefully at every level to support these ports.

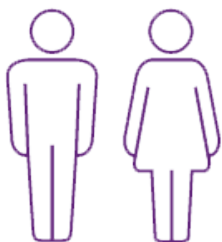


The Haven Waterway is a really important natural harbour in this **region**. It is a good place to make clean energy. Plans should manage the development and growth of this carefully.





South East



This is the biggest **region** in terms of how many people live here. Over 1.5 million people live here. But it is the smallest **region** in terms of land.



There are just over 150 thousand Welsh speakers.



The National Growth Area for the South East includes Cardiff, Newport and the Valleys.

- Blaenau Gwent
- Bridgend
- Caerphilly
- Cardiff
- Merthyr Tydfil
- Monmouthshire
- Newport
- Rhondda Cynon Taf
- Torfaen
- Vale of Glamorgan

ast



Cardiff is our capital city, and is the main centre in Wales for culture, sport, leisure, media, finance and the night time **economy** - things like pubs, clubs and theatres.



Half of all demand for new housing in Wales is in this **region**. We will need over 66 thousand new houses here. Almost half will need to be affordable.



Growth in this **region** should be spread out. Communities around Cardiff are important to keeping the city a great place.



Development plans must support the South East **Metro**. This will help people travel quicker and easier around the **region** on public transport and by cycling or walking.



We want to see growth in Newport. We want to use land and buildings in Newport that have been left empty for a long time.



Plans for the **region** as a whole should support growth in Newport. This will help us ease the pressure for more growth in Cardiff.



Half of all our money is made in the South East. We must think carefully about how our plans can support this.



This **region** has some of the richest communities and the poorest too. We need to make sure all people of the **region** have the chance to do well. And get great services.



Flooding is a major issue in this **region**. This might impact growth. We must have strong plans for managing floods.



We will support plans to improve the buildings and services at Cardiff Airport.



We want there to be easier and better ways to get to the airport. Including better public transport to the airport.



We want there to be a **Valleys Regional Park**, to get people to visit and make the most of the beautiful land here.



There are many beautiful beaches and historical places that need to be protected and also enjoyed. We need to make the most of them.

How we plan and manage growth



The **Future Wales framework** is made up of policies. Some are for specific places and **regions**, and others cover the whole of Wales and need to be thought about in all planning decisions.



The policies help us manage growth and make sure places are well planned. Well planned places:

- lower the need to travel by car and encourage people to walk, cycle and use public transport
- have lots of green spaces, like parks, playing fields, woodlands and street trees where no building is allowed
- help make sure the air is clean
- connect homes and businesses to essential services like energy, water and the internet
- have good social spaces and meeting places for people to use.

Here are some of the policies that cover the whole of Wales:

Town centre first



Town centres aren't just for shopping. They need to be centres for education, health, leisure and public services too.



People should be able to walk, cycle or use public transport to get to these places.



New, large public services must be based inside town and city centres. They are also good places for new homes.

Improving public transport



We want more people to use public transport. So it needs to be good, safe, reliable and easy for everyone to use.



Trains are an important part of this. We will work with **Transport for Wales** to turn stations into important community hubs, where we can put services and businesses.

Mobile phone signal and broadband internet



Mobile phones and fast internet are really important services. They have been even more important to our everyday lives during coronavirus.



We will make sure we have good mobile phone signal and internet all over Wales.



We will focus on areas that have bad or no mobile phone signal. We will work with partners like phone companies to do this.

Clean energy vehicles



Clean energy vehicles like electric cars give off fewer gasses that are harmful to the **environment**.



We must make sure there are enough places to charge electric vehicles all over Wales. We must think about this when planning growth and change.

Green spaces



We want to:

- protect plants and animals
- make our **environment** stronger
- protect important places.



We are working with **Natural Resources Wales** to find places that are important to protect. We want to find places that will make the biggest difference.



National Forest

We want there to be a **National Forest**. We will find the best place for it.

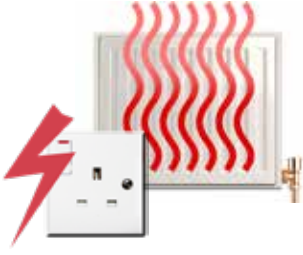


Woodlands have lots of benefits. For example they help to lower **pollution**. And lower the risk of flooding. We need more woodland to help make our **environment** stronger.



We have set big targets for more woodland from 2020. And a **National Forest** would help us reach this target. It could also help to provide jobs. And get more people to visit Wales.

Clean energy



Every house and every workplace needs heat and energy.



We need to get them in a clean way. This means in a way that does not use things that are running out and are bad for the **environment**. Like coal and oil.



We have set big targets for making clean energy.



We will support wind farms and sun farms on the land to make clean energy.



Wind farms use large wind machines to make energy from the wind.



Sun farms use solar panels to make energy from the sun.



Wind farms and sun farms can affect our land. We will think carefully about the impacts they can have when choosing where they should go.



And we have set clear rules about this.



Large wind and sun projects must not happen in:

- National Parks
- Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty



We are interested in all types of clean energy that can help us meet our targets. This might include energy from the sea and from rivers.

Heat Networks



A **Heat Network** is a group of pipes. The pipes take heat and hot water from the place it comes from into lots of different buildings.



We should have **Heat Networks** in as many places as possible. They are the best way of providing heat to lots of buildings.



Any large scale projects should have a special plan for **Heat Networks**. It should say whether a **Heat Network** is the best energy choice for the project.

Hard words

Economy

The economy is how much money a country has and also how much money individuals have.

Environment

The environment is where we live. It is the land, the sea, the air, and everything that lives in and on it. For example plants, animals and fish.

Framework

A framework is a document with a set of rules and ideas for people to follow when making important decisions.

Heat Network

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Metro

A metro is a transport system.

Natural resources

Natural resources are things like wind, the sun, water, coal and iron. They come from nature and we can use them for things like energy, power and food.

Pollution

Pollution is when anything that harms the environment is let off. For example gases like carbon.

Regions

For this work Wales is split into 4 regions – The North, Mid Wales, The South West and The South East.

Technology

Technology is things like computers, machines and equipment.