

The following notes set out a brief response on the following three questions listed below

1. **How does the draft NDF support regional/economic development and connectivity?**

The draft NPF clearly seeks to develop the global competitiveness of Wales. This is consistent with the overall inquiry by the UK2070 Commission to build fairer and stronger nations and regions across the UK. The work of the UK2070 Commission however has highlighted the fact that this requires a change in policies if we are to tackle the growing inequalities in across the UK and the need. This includes the need for all areas including Wales to play a key role in the rebalancing of the UK economy, and to make it fairer and stringer.

The UK2070 Commission has therefore proposed seven key interventions including a Connectivity Revolution between cities, within the main urban concentrations and beyond to remoter areas. The Draft NPF reflects these connectivity goals. It has been proposed that the delivery of this agenda needs a new fiscal context with the establishment of a £10bn. / year UK Renewal Fund, and a lifting of the current cap on infrastructure spending to 3% of GDP.

2. **How does the draft NDF support City growth deals?**

National development frameworks are seen as providing a more systematic context for investment funding, which has been sought through the City Deal process. The UK2070 Commission has drawn attention to the limitation of the bidding-based approach of city deals and has argued that a more systematic devolution of power and resourcing locally is required. This is also seen as being related to the need for more general changes to enable local access to funding, (see below question 4)

3. **What can be learnt from overseas examples?**

Experience from other nations suggest that the **scope** of a national spatial framework should be limited to those matters which can only be or are best defined at a national level. From international experience these include:

- **Setting out a consistent basis** for sectoral programmes of investment, for example, scales of economic and demographic change.
- **Identifying priorities** which are critical to the restructuring of the nation and the opening up of opportunities of national significance for example, new towns, community regeneration, industrial sectors or conservation priorities.
- **Requiring cross-boundary action** where it is in the national interest, for example in terms of metropolitan regions and along key trans-regional development corridors, as well cross-boundary collaboration with the nations of the UK (e.g. between Wales and the South West of England) and internationally with the Republic of Ireland and France/Belgium.

The **content** of a national spatial framework would vary from time to time but in general it could typically include:

- **Climate Change** - Priority actions to respond to the climate change emergency including a renewable energy framework;
- **Competitiveness** - A new urban policy to support the global role of London as a trading centre, and the major towns and cities in delivering Industry 4.0;
- **Quality of Life and Places** - Priorities for raising the standards of services, environmental and accessibility for communities at risk including 'overlooked or excluded places' and remoter communities;
- **Land Use and Environmental Management** - To support the vital national ecosystems and indicative priorities for agricultural and forestry, national heritage assets and nature recovery;
- **Infrastructure** - An integrated infrastructure strategy to serve all cities, towns and regions, including transport, energy and the national Green-Blue networks.

4. Are there any other matters anything from the work of the 2070 Commission that can inform the discussion on the NDF?

- The UK2070 Commission set out the case for change in the balance of economic development across the UK. The current trajectory is one of increasing concentration of development and investment in London and the Wider South East of England – a situation in which all areas are losing out in social and environmental terms. Its analysis demonstrated that if *business carries on as usual* the imbalance and inequalities in the UK will get worse. The UK2070 Commission has drawn attention to the role of national development frameworks internationally as a key tool in delivering a national agenda (in the UK this would be to rebalance the economy). It has therefore been supportive of the Welsh NDF, and proposed that a national spatial strategy for England is required (see its second report)

- The UK2070 Commission has set out the case for change in its [First Report](#); this has been developed into the following seven key proposals in its [Second Report](#).
 - Responding to the climate change by locally sensitive adaptation policies and by harnessing economic opportunities that will energy e.g. in productivity capacity
 - Leading a connectivity revolution (e.g. in the connectivity between south Wales and the other major centres of the UK economy)
 - Leading the Digital Revolution by developing centres of excellence that complement the Golden Triangle of SE England and make the UK economy more resilient
 - Building up the Foundations of local economies drawing particularly on the experience of the Welsh Government
 - A systematic Framework for Devolution and decentralization of powers and resources
 - Shaping and aligning the Future through National Spatial Plans for all four nations, which should be linked to their subnational strategic frameworks;
and
 - Accessing new funding sources, including the review of ‘greenbook’ type criteria, the sharing of the uplift in land and property values and access to private financing.