

Number: WG30668



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Welsh Government  
Consultation – summary of response

## Development of the Natural Resources Policy

August 2017

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

## Executive Summary

The Natural Resources Policy (NRP) is the second statutory product of Part 1 of the Environment (Wales) Act, and forms a key part of the delivery of the sustainable management of natural resources (SMNR) by setting out what Welsh Ministers consider to be the key risks, priorities and opportunities for the sustainable management of natural resources in Wales, including what should be done in relation to biodiversity and climate change; and Welsh Ministers' policies for contributing to the sustainable management of natural resources.

In keeping with the ways of working in the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act and the principles set out in the Environment Act, an engagement approach was taken to inform the development of the policy. Written feedback on priority themes and key objectives were invited; in particular, taking into account the legal framework and its requirements, contributions on the key steps that need to be taken in order to deliver on the priority themes and address the key challenges and the barriers that need to be addressed. The public consultation was launched on 14 November 2016 and closed on 13 February 2017 and this summary of responses report provides a synopsis of the feedback received.

Stakeholders have welcomed the Natural Resources Policy and recognise the role it plays in the implementation of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. The priority themes outlined and key challenges identified within the consultation document were broadly accepted and well supported with clarification in some areas and additional challenges requested, specifically recognising the loss of biodiversity, marine issues and climate change.

Respondents were keen to see an integrated policy for the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (SMNR) which would be delivered across all portfolios and sectors with a clear plan for delivery and implementation. The key role that the NRP and SMNR have to play in the policy reform, further to the UK's exit from the European Union, was highlighted. Some respondents stressed that this would require both cultural and behavioural change. The need to respond quickly, both to address the key challenges, such as the loss of biodiversity and to meet the requirements of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act, was also emphasised.

The three Priority Themes within the consultation document were widely championed. The requirement to ensure nature-based solutions deliver improved ecosystem resilience (including biodiversity) was highlighted, as was the need to move towards decarbonisation. Determining the correct scale to apply interventions rather than taking a broad-brushed landscape approach was also strongly advocated.

Investment and the need for innovation, specifically in relation to financial mechanisms, are seen as key to delivery, particularly in replacing current financial mechanisms such as the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) funding, post-Brexit.

In addition to inviting written responses, stakeholder workshops and policy specific engagement events were held.

This document summarises the 83 written responses to the consultation exercise. Annex B contains further details of the wider approach taken to engagement.

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## 1. Introduction

The Natural Resources Policy will form a key part of the delivery of the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources by setting out:

- what Welsh Ministers consider to be the key priorities, risks and opportunities for the sustainable management of natural resources in Wales, including what should be done in relation to biodiversity and climate change; and
- Welsh Ministers' policies for contributing to the sustainable management of natural resources (SMNR).

The NRP is a key part of the wider delivery framework for the sustainable management of natural resources. This is comprised of:

1. NRW's State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR), an assessment of the sustainable management of natural resources in Wales
2. The Natural Resources Policy
3. Natural Resources Wales' Area Statements will facilitate the implementation of the Natural Resources Policy at a local level.

In keeping with the ways of working in the Well-being of Future Generations Act and the principles set out in the Environment (Wales) Act, an engagement approach was taken to inform the development of the Natural Resources Policy.

The *Consultation to inform the development of the Natural Resources Policy* was launched on 14 November 2016 and closed on 13 February 2017, building on the previous interim Natural Resources Policy Statement published in 2015 which outlined key challenges for the sustainable management of Wales' natural resources:

- Safeguarding and increasing carbon stores
- Maintaining our productive capacity
- Reducing the risk of flooding
- Improving health and equity through access to good quality green and blue spaces
- Improving the quality and maintaining the availability of water
- Improving the quality and connectivity of our habitats
- Retaining the distinctiveness of our places and historic landscapes.

Drawing on the evidence in the State of Natural Resources Report, three priority themes were identified for the Natural Resources Policy to realise the significant opportunities and address the challenges faced.

These priority themes were:

- Accelerating green growth by increasing resource efficiency, renewable energy and supporting innovation.
- Delivering nature-based solutions to improve resilience and the benefits derived from natural resources.
- Improving community and individual well being by taking a place and landscape based approach.

Together, these priority themes aimed to identify the key areas where Wales' natural resources can contribute across Wales' well-being goals; to continue to support Wales'

prosperity and realise the significant opportunities they provide to deliver a secure, healthy and active, ambitious, learning, united and connected nation.

Departing from previous styles of consultation, written feedback on the priority themes and key objectives outlined in the document were invited, rather than responses to direct questions. The consultation document also asked:

'In particular, taking into account the legal framework and its requirements as outlined in this document, it would be helpful to receive contributions on:

- the key steps that need to be taken in order to deliver on the priority themes and address the key challenges; and,
- the barriers that need to be addressed.'

This Summary of Responses report summarises the written responses received as part of the consultation process. These came from a wide range of respondents and, together with feedback from the various engagement sessions outlined in Annex B, have been fundamental in the development of Wales' first statutory Natural Resources Policy.

## 2. Breakdown of Written Responses to the Consultation

A total of 83 written responses were received. Table 1 shows the categories of respondents they were received from. The full list of respondents is shown at Annex 1.

**Table 1: Breakdown of respondents by category.**

Third Sector	25%
Industry Representation Organisations	17%
Public Sector	17%
Private Sector	14%
Private Individuals	12%
Partnerships	10%
Education Establishments	2%

6 respondents (7%) were from outside Wales, although the majority of these have operational links with Wales.

### 3. Feedback on the Priority Themes

Drawing on the evidence in the State of Natural Resources Report, three priority themes were identified;

- Accelerating green growth by increasing resource efficiency, renewable energy and supporting innovation.
- Delivering nature-based solutions to improve resilience and the benefits derived from natural resources.
- Improving community and individual well being by taking a place and landscape based approach

Together, these priority themes aimed to identify the key areas where Wales' natural resources can contribute across Wales' well-being goals; to continue to support Wales' prosperity and realise the significant opportunities they provide to deliver a secure, healthy and active, ambitious, learning, united and connected nation. They drew on the evidence and key trends in the 'State of Natural Resources Report' and early stakeholder feedback on the opportunities and risks following the Referendum on exiting the European Union.

#### Feedback on the priority themes

The three priority themes within the consultation document were widely championed across a broad range of stakeholders. For example, comments were made that the three priority themes align well with the Well-being of Future Generations (WFG) Act's requirements. One respondent agrees that, taken together, they get the point across that natural resources should not be considered in isolation but as part of a whole, interconnected system and that the type of growth we support and nurture today is vitally important for future generations.

The requirement to ensure nature-based solutions deliver improved ecosystem resilience (including biodiversity) was highlighted, as was the need to move towards decarbonisation. Determining the correct scale to apply interventions rather than taking a broad-brushed landscape approach was also strongly advocated. The definition of green growth was also raised.

#### **Priority Theme 1 - Accelerating green growth by increasing resource efficiency, renewable energy and supporting innovation.**

##### Green Growth

There were differences of opinion on the meaning of Green Growth and the use of the word 'accelerating' caused some apprehension without further definition. For example, a few respondents advised that the definition of 'Green Growth' should drive home the point that all growth should be 'green', if our core principle is that of sustainable development. One respondent favoured a sustainable development reference, saying that "*the phrase 'accelerating green growth' should be replaced by a reference to securing sustainable development, which ensures natural resources are used appropriately in supporting economic opportunities, without compromising the objective to maintain and enhance the resilience of ecosystems and the benefits they provide.*"

It was felt that there should be more emphasis on the importance of agriculture, forestry and fisheries as an important part of the green economy, and a generator of green growth. High quality produce from Wales was seen as a key aspiration for a sustainable economy for a number of respondents. A local planning institute commented that "*a competitive,*

*productive, sustainable agriculture and land-use sector in Wales is essential in delivering against many of the challenges identified in the Policy.” Another stakeholder agreed, saying “there is an inadequate focus in the document on the importance of agriculture in protecting, enhancing and benefiting from the natural resources of Wales.” Similar comments were made in support of forestry and aquaculture, and of related activities including shooting sports, which “can make the creation of habitats desirable and financially viable in locations where it otherwise would not be.”*

### Resource Efficiency

While the term ‘circular economy’ generally needs some further refinement, the reference to it in this theme was well supported. A suggestion was made that this theme could be reworded to *“reflect the need to increase resource efficiency and move towards a circular economy while ensuring sustainable development.”* Another suggested that *“accelerating green growth should be seen in the context of developing a circular economy such as energy schemes and waste measures.”*

One advisory panel commented that *“Wood products are an exemplar of the circular economy. All parts of a harvested tree are utilised and a very high use is made of recycled wood and paper for fuel, paper manufacture and reconstituted wood products.”* Similarly, another stakeholder considered that *“the principal of cascade use requires a focus on high value longer-life products first, with co-product or re-used material feeding lower value processes. Such an approach supports the principles of resource efficiency, but requires a degree of coordination and strategic vision.”*

### Innovation

Some private sector respondents supported this theme, offering examples of how they were already looking for opportunities to increase the use of waste in their processes by investing in the innovation of new products and solutions that require less material or have higher recycled contents. For example, one said that they *“continue to look for more opportunities to use waste within our processes, for example, by investing in the innovation of new products and solutions that require less material or have higher recycled contents.”*

### Renewable Energy

There was broad support for renewable energy, particularly emphasising the need to move away from the use of fossil fuels. There were some concerns, however, regarding the methods and locations of some developments. Comments such as *“renewable energy like all development needs to be located in the appropriate places not only to generate power but also to minimise its environmental impact”*, were made. Similarly, concerns were voiced for the environmental impact. For example *“it will be important to put in place mechanisms and safeguards by which new technologies can be assessed for any environmental damage they may produce. This will also be the case for renewable energy technologies.”* Renewables companies, though, were keen to show steps they are already taking to address this issue. For example, one drew attention to their Ecosystems Enhancement Programme (EEP) which is intended to enhance biodiversity in parallel with the development of future tidal power lagoons.

## **Priority Theme 2 - Delivering nature-based solutions to improve resilience and the benefits derived from natural resources**

Nature based solutions were generally understood and strongly supported by respondents.

For example, comments included acknowledgement *“that internationally there is growing recognition that nature-based solutions can form part of a viable, cost effective and efficient solution to challenges such as climate change, flood risk management and water pollution, as well as support in tackling some of our key public health issues, diabetes, obesity, air and noise pollution and how, by utilising nature-based solutions, we can contribute towards the 7 goals.”*

Other technological Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) such as bio-remediation and water filtration were also presented.

### Biodiversity

There were concerns that biodiversity was not specifically mentioned as a part of NBS. For example *“We strongly support the use of nature-based solutions to improve resilience and the benefits derived from natural resources, with the condition that solutions build in biodiversity measures. There are some nature-based solutions which don’t provide benefits for biodiversity or contribute towards creating resilience ecosystems, therefore this should be central to any solutions identified.”*

Another respondent stated *“The development of nature based solutions should make clear that their design should integrate consideration of what biodiversity needs – in particular the priority species and habitats listed under section 7 of the Act.”*

### Ecosystems as Nature Based Solutions

Several respondents acknowledged the role the ecosystems are primarily concerned with, in providing Nature-Based Solutions, for example, there was reference to woodlands in urban areas, which would *“help remove air pollution, reduce temperature in towns and cities, assist with SUDS and provide biodiversity habitats and recreation facilities in badly needed areas.”* Another referred to gardens as being *“important components of multifunctional ecological networks. Gardens, whether private, communal or community have the potential to deliver multiple benefits, for climate change resilience, biodiversity and health and wellbeing and there is a growing evidence base to support this.”*

Nature-based Solutions were considered by some respondents to be best for the opportunities identified in SoNaRR. They believe that *“the best chance of building the resilience of ecosystems and delivering nature-based solutions and optimising the benefits of well-being by increasing green infrastructure; increase woodland cover; coastal zone management; manage nutrients, enhance flood plains and hydrological systems; better soil management; better use of uplands; integrated management of marine natural resources.”*

### Flood risk mitigation

The role of NBS to mitigate flood risk was particularly acknowledged. For example, it was recognised that *“the potential to make a positive difference to flood mitigation through land management practice would be something of considerable public value. Moving away from hard engineering will in the long run save money for the public purse and should be seen as a value for money investment.”*

Some individual organisations pointed out where they could contribute to this. *“Across the UK, wildfowling clubs have undertaken numerous managed retreat projects as new intertidal areas are of use to wildfowling clubs.”* Stakeholders have *“the potential to work with Welsh Government and NRW in identifying possible new projects to assist in flood control.”*

### Green Infrastructure

Support for green infrastructure, such as green corridors, roofs, walls and open spaces, providing regulating services including mitigating flood risk, providing habitat for pollinators and preventing extremes of temperature in urban areas was summed up by the following observation that *“The connectivity of green infrastructure has an important role to play with increasing pressure to meet housing demand. The importance of retaining local natural resources should be acknowledged. Such areas provide for green corridors to assist the active travel agenda, provide opportunities for community action and ultimately have a positive impact on mental and physical health.”*

There was a lot of cross referencing to the third priority theme, particularly to the relationship with connectivity and landscape scale action, for example the suggestion that *“our aims should not solely be around rigidly protecting and restoring habitats where they exist now – that is potentially not a resilient strategy in the face of climate change. Instead we should be looking at net improvements in habitat / species presence and condition across Wales as a whole to allow for opportunities to create improvements adjoining existing areas and in corridors for expansion and movement at a landscape scale.”*

The forestry industry suggested greater use of trees and green infrastructure in urban areas for surface water management, shade, air quality, amenity, recreation, health and wellbeing.

### Access

Access to nature and green infrastructure was generally seen as a positive aspect, for example one respondent stated *“Improving community and individual wellbeing are enhanced by access to green spaces and leisure facilities. These facilities are often provided at no cost to the public purse by the forestry sector. Expanding the forest area in Wales can only mean that more people get access to the facilities they provide and must therefore improve wellbeing for everyone.”* A rambling association said that *“Connecting people to the countryside and helping farmers to deliver permanent public access will ensure both local economic benefits and population public health benefits.”* One respondent commented that *“Despite increases in access to good quality green or blue spaces around urban areas, little or no progress has been made overall in terms of tackling health and wellbeing issues associated with inactivity, thereby providing clear evidence that vast increases in access do not address the problem.”*

### **Priority Theme 3 - Improving community and individual well being by taking a place and landscape based approach**

The wording of this priority theme caused some confusion, with some respondents concentrating on the first part of the theme, regarding improving community and individual well-being, while others' comments were regarding the scale that issues were addressed at.

One example of the former, said *"Improving community and individual wellbeing through provision of employment, community heating schemes, value adding, infrastructure improvement eg road, rail, broadband, health and education."* While another said *"it may be clearer / more productive to sub-divide this theme further (to include) for example: 'improving community and individual well-being through education'."*

#### Improving Health and Well-being

There were many comments relating to improving health and well-being. Respondents made a direct link between contact with nature and good mental and physical health which could be further improved by policies to facilitate public education regarding access, offering examples of this, in particular from the woodland and forestry sector, where *"these facilities are often provided at no cost to the public purse by the forestry sector."* A gardening forum also commented that *"there is evidence that the benefits of 'contact with nature' as a way of reducing a series of health disorders does not necessarily require contact with rural or wilderness areas and that back gardens can fulfil this role equally well."*

One county borough council, amongst others, saw the management of natural resources as a public health issue. *"Sustainable management of natural resources particularly within the urban areas is a public health issue and requires a partnership approach with Local Health Boards and NRW to support Local Authorities to strengthen the effectiveness of local strategies for the benefit of the population such as well-being plans and area statements."* There was much support for the NHS making clear links with the sustainable management of natural resources, and the prevention of ill health, mental and physical, which would reinforce the WFG objective of taking preventative action. The NHS Scotland / Forestry Commission Scotland report on "greening" their hospitals for better cure rates was also cited.

#### Scale of Action

Some respondents focussed more on the second element of the theme, regarding the scale of action required. For example, one said *"the wording of this theme is somewhat confusing and we would welcome it being turned around, e.g. 'Taking a place and landscape based approach to restoring nature, thereby tackling biodiversity decline while improving community and individual well-being.'"*

There were also differences of opinion about the terminology 'landscape-based', with many references to a landscape approach and landscape scale action. While this was supported and many examples provided, for example referring to the connectivity provided by hedgerows, roadsides and waterways, said these could fit more easily into the nature-based solutions priority theme. The 'place-based approach' seemed to be better understood, with support for action being taken at local area level, at catchment level and at ecosystem level, with the use of 'ecosystem approach' in place of 'place and landscape based approach' proposed by several respondents, particularly as it can be better applied to the marine environment.

Various examples were provided of the scale needed for action. Designated sites were commented on frequently, as having a role in this priority theme, whereby protected sites could become the core of large-scale functional networks. One respondent felt, for example, that more use should be made of the tools currently available, including protected sites. National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) Place Plans were also given as examples of place and landscape-based approaches for settlements. Place Plans were also referred to as a key tool for facilitating this priority theme.

Catchment scale was also supported, for example, "*Catchment management is increasingly being seen as the first line of defence for the protection of our drinking water supplies.*"

One city council surmised "*This theme is about taking actions and interventions at scales appropriate for the problem. Therefore Natural Resource Management should take account of the less tangible social concepts of community, locality and region with which people may identify. They also need to take into account the ecological and physical boundaries created by for example variation in topography, geology, soils and therefore ecosystems. A combination of these factors will help to determine the most appropriate and effective scale for actions and interventions.*"

### Community Scale action and enterprise

There was a theme throughout the responses to this priority theme supporting community schemes, investment and enterprise. Local projects such as the Pollinators for Life project, including a Pollinators Green Infrastructure Action plan and a multitude of community based practical projects were highlighted as successful approaches to place-based working. One facilities provider's customers attached a high priority to supporting educational, recreational and environmental projects in their communities. However the Strategy Action Plan of one stakeholder, stated that "*the greatest contribution to individual wellbeing is gainful employment, which in turn helps maintain rural communities and the services they depend upon for quality of life.*" Another respondent agreed saying "*it is important to remember that real growth and investment for the rural economy and community can only be sustainably delivered through private enterprise, landowners and land managers. Redistribution of wealth alone is not sustainable.*"

Some believe that land-use change should be prioritised "*where it offers direct investment opportunities and returns to local people, supporting social and cultural resilience.*" Another gave the example of the opportunities offered by large scale renewables projects for community investment, to support the delivery of Welsh Government's well-being goals. However, there was also concern raised that there was no mention or recognition of the marine environment or coastal rural communities in the NRP and others commented that there was not enough mention of urban areas. The concern that large green field areas are being allocated for development, was also raised, while others commented that the health and equity challenges for poorer urban areas would be worsened disproportionately following the removal of EU funding.

### Species and habitats

It was not clear to respondents if the need to address species and habitats recovery would be central to this priority theme. One response stated, for example, that the reference to the correlation between species and habitats and resilient ecosystems "*does not...provide sufficient certainty that recovery of priority habitats and species will be fully addressed by measures to maintain and enhance ecosystems.*" Another cautioned that "*a landscape approach does take a broad brush which can neglect micro-habitats or individual species.*"

## 4. Feedback on the Key Challenges

The consultation summarised the assessment of Wales' natural resources drawing from Natural Resources Wales' State of Natural Resources Report which highlighted key challenges around:

- pollution levels in our air
- ensuring a continuous supply of clean water
- our biosecurity (plant, animal health and invasive non-native species)
- the quality and productive capacity of our soils • biodiversity, which underpins the structure and functioning of our ecosystems
- the resilience of our ecosystems and the benefits they provide, including their considerable role in protecting us against hazards such as flooding, and mitigating and adapting to climate change
- urban noise which contributes to the environmental burden of ill-health.

The following key challenges were also outlined, drawing from the interim Natural Resources Policy Statement published in 2015

- Safeguarding and increasing carbon stores
- Maintaining our productive capacity
- Reducing the risk of flooding
- Improving health and equity through access to good quality green and blue spaces
- Improving the quality and maintaining the availability of water
- Improving the quality and connectivity of our habitats
- Retaining the distinctiveness of our places and historic landscapes.

There was acceptance of these key challenges across a range of respondents and support for them in most instances. For example, one response stated they were pleased to see flooding and the quality and productive capacity of soils identified as important challenges that need addressing in the context of ecosystem resilience. Another commented that from a public health perspective they recognise and actively promote strategies and initiatives that improve all aspects of physical and mental health and the fundamental link between natural resources and health benefits. Health is central to the sustainable management of natural resources. There were calls for air pollution to be recognised as the most important public health challenge for the NRP. Others agreed that landscapes are a unique but fragile asset threatened with degradation by 'inappropriate and non-sustainable development'.

Many respondents suggested additional key challenges should be included in the Natural Resources Policy.

One focussed on the loss of woodland cover, stating that the lack and loss of native tree and woodland cover and the loss of healthy hedgerows has implications for connectivity in the landscape, impacting on the survival and adaptation of wildlife, increasing the risk of water run-off, with consequences for flood risk water quality and soil degradation, and undermining carbon storage.

Another wanted to see inclusion in the key challenges of:

- *The urgent need to tackle climate change, particularly in the context of the first carbon budgets being set in 2018.*
- *the ongoing decline in many species and habitats*
- *How to achieve the sustainable management of the marine environment.*

Others also highlighted the need for the challenges to recognise the marine environment and the land/sea interface issues, particularly related to the issues highlighted by SoNaRR, for example, development pressure and impacts associated with climate change. One response gave the figure of 80% of marine litter originating on land, as does the increased levels of pollution/run-off, suggesting that NRP priorities should include robust measures to address the sources of litter and pollution that negatively impact the marine environment biodiversity and resilience.

Other suggestions for inclusion as key challenges were invasive non-native species and the recognition of the challenge for mineral resources, for example, one commented that long term strategic thinking is needed to ensure that an adequate and steady supply of Welsh minerals are consented in line with the ongoing demand for infrastructure, houses and other construction projects that contribute to improved well being and the UK economy.

Many respondents were particularly concerned with Wales' declining biodiversity and wished to see this recognised as a specific challenge. Some suggestions were received that the challenge 'Improving the quality and connectivity of our habitats' be amended to reflect the wording of the Environment Act around ecosystem resilience – *'Improve/enhance the resilience of ecosystems, taking account of diversity (between and within ecosystems), connectivity, scale, condition and adaptability.'*

There was support for pollinators to be specifically included, for example, two responses said that linked to food security, action to protect bees and other pollinators should be a central part of the Natural Resources Policy, recognising that pollinators play a key role in our countryside and landscape.

There was also support for including reference to the root causes behind some of the challenges, for example, *"It should be made clear that over- exploitation of resources is a current cause and will be a key future challenge, due to growing population, demand for water etc.'* and there were many references to air, soil and water pollution.

## 5. Feedback on the key steps to take to deliver the priority themes, address the key challenges and barriers to their delivery

Written feedback was invited on the key steps that need to be taken, and the barriers that need to be addressed, in order to deliver on the priority themes and address the key challenges, which included the following areas

- Funding and investment
- Cross-sectoral working
- Legislative frameworks
- Land-use planning
- Engagement and communications
- Skills and training
- Specific comments on the priority themes

Comments were made that translating the priority themes into practical action must demonstrate an integrated approach which will ensure that the Policy works holistically to build the social, cultural and economic wellbeing of current and future communities in Wales, whilst responding urgently and robustly to those environmental concerns.

### Funding and investment

The need for resourcing, funding and investment in order to deliver the priority themes in the Natural Resource Policy was a recurring interest raised by respondents. There were several key points for both public funding and procurement and private sector.

The cuts in public funding and the conflicting calls on that funding were raised as issues for implementing the NRP. One stakeholder said *“Where change will be delivered by NRW, through Area Statements, or by Local Authorities for example there also needs to be thought given to resourcing of these actions at a time when competition for funding within these bodies is high.”*

Local Authorities themselves highlighted cultural and policy barriers within public services where these have been delivered separately rather than the integrated approach which is also required by the Well-being of Future Generations Act.

Resourcing for specific capacity to deliver the NRP was seen as a problem, fewer Local Authorities have biodiversity officers, grant bidding is time consuming and competitive and there is little dedicated resource for it, and Local Authorities are risk averse in relation to capital investment.

Public procurement was seen as a tool for ensuring the NRP priorities would be acted on, for example the use of locally grown timber. However, this would need leadership and frameworks to encourage greater uptake. For example, one stakeholder said *“There is currently a conflict between the fast-paced and unpredictable energy subsidy context, where tariffs are dropping and the length of the public procurement and political decision-making process.”*

It is suggested that measures and incentives need to be introduced to require developers to better utilise green energy, safeguard ecosystem services and improve overall biodiversity on a wider scale.

Management of publicly owned land to enhance ecological resilience with ring-fenced budgets was seen as a good use of public money, which could also be used to match-fund where some resource has already been secured from private organisations and the public. This includes where strategic measures are considered necessary, for example, to tackle Invasive Non-Native Species.

The need to invest in the benefits of sustainable natural resources from associated budgets, for example, health and transport, was widely recognised. There was the suggestion that SMNR and the multiple benefits to the country's well-being deserves better funding per unit area: *"Given the GVA contribution that Wales' natural resources make as explained in the consultation, and the costs associated (with their management).....it would be beneficial to adjust the balance of spend in Wales to ensure that the environment's full health and well-being benefits are realised..... for example, from within the Health, Well-being and Sport."*

One stakeholder would like to test the suggestion that these benefits are tangible enough to warrant part of the health budget being diverted from treatment to prevention, in line with the Well Being of Future Generations Act.

Following the UK's exit from the EU, the issue of new policies for farming and fisheries management after the Common Agricultural Policy and Common Fisheries Policy come to an end, was highlighted as an opportunity to review funding models and the use of public money.

For example, one respondent said *"The loss of the CAP means the loss of the funding model that has existed in our rural areas for decades and supported the management of over 80% of the land of Wales. We need a new model of Sustainable Land Management in Wales."*

There were many comments about how future schemes could operate, what they should support and their focus on building resilient ecosystems, businesses and communities for the future.

Specific comments were made on

- increasing the uptake of schemes,
- increasing the extent and quality of the provision for biodiversity within farmland
- encouraging landscape-scale collaborations to improve habitat connectivity
- join-up between the Welsh Government's policies – e.g. on water and agriculture
- operation of projects to offer clear measureable impact and the value for money in terms of ratio of practical action to administration/management/promotional costs.
- making mechanism and incentives contingent of collaborations at a landscape scale
- providing long term access after the life of a scheme
- ensuring that incentives provided through schemes should not penalise other positive outcomes

The Sustainable Management Scheme was highlighted as demonstrating the appetite for delivering beneficial change from a bottom-up approach, although respondents were keen to see a truly collaborative approach.

There was concern that many of the challenges at hand risk falling to the public purse or regulation, when the costs could be better internalised where there are market based activities. There is a need to engage commercial sector interests in delivering the NRP priorities and to look for new ways of funding delivery through investment in our natural resources. There was much recognition for the need to value our natural resources in a way that can then support such investment in their sustainable management. One response captured this as *'Ensuring a balanced weighting of monetary value vs the environment....needs a mechanism for weighing one project against another which may have very different balances with regard to equity/environment/economy.'* The intrinsic value of the natural environment was highlighted as difficult to attribute value to as compared to the economy.

There was agreement that natural resources should be valued and consideration of the economic benefits of Wales' assets such as water and minerals should be referenced in the Welsh Infrastructure and Investment plan and the proposed Infrastructure Commission for Wales.

There were suggestions that all industries that utilise ecosystems and ecosystem services should contribute to their restoration, or to mitigation of damage. For example one stakeholder said that a premium rate for Welsh water not used in Wales could be charged and used for funding enforcement and mitigation. Reference was also made to funds such as the Pen y Cymoedd Community Fund which can use income from renewable energy to support community projects, and the closure of the Aggregates Levy Fund was raised.

A stakeholder stated that there is clear potential to attract institutional investors into woodland in Wales and that different ownership and management models for the Welsh Government Woodland Estate (WGWE) should be explored.

Another respondent suggested that if regulatory barriers were addressed to enable the economic activity, investment would be forthcoming that would facilitate the growth and continuity of aquaculture associated Nature Based Solutions.

Payments for Ecosystem Services to support delivery of SMNR outcomes was particularly welcomed by some respondents, saying *"we would welcome a clear commitment to developing PES schemes as part of the NRP...(and) a clear statement of the role of Welsh Government and NRW in supporting such schemes."*

Others also supported the use of market mechanisms, but several cautionary points were raised. There was concern that natural resources must be appropriately priced in real terms to drive economic incentives for efficiencies and that any income raised should be invested in improvements to ecosystems.

Several respondents shared the view that PES is still aspirational, particularly in real monetary terms, that there is difficulty in connecting beneficiaries and providers of services and that it may not generate the desired investment.

### **Cross-sectoral working**

Some respondents highlighted that the sustainable management of natural resources via the NRP will require cultural change for delivery across the public sector and called for this to be recognised as one of the key challenges.

One possible barrier to delivery identified the failure or unwillingness to recognise the role natural resources can play in securing long term economic development, instead preferring short term 'quick wins'. Achieving a balance in managing the sustainable management of natural resources and balancing conflicting demands on our natural resources and the policies to manage SMNR, was seen as a challenge that may have been under-estimated.

Such examples as the requisition of land for housing and economic needs, proposals for renewable energy schemes, the needs of livestock production and tourism, where they may seem to contradict SMNR, or could pose a threat to each other, or be prioritised one over the other, were given. Calls were also made for land managers to be able to manage the natural environment in a sustainable way which seeks to find a workable balance between the demands of food security, water share and availability, climate change mitigation, biodiversity and wildlife protection, flood risk management, water quality and farm business viability.

Others voiced concerns regarding the difficulty of this delivery claiming that it would require the informed and participatory assessment of a long-list of crucial issues and that while this may identify some welcome "win-win" solutions, in most cases there will be inevitable ecosystem-service trade-offs to be assessed in terms of whether the benefit for delivery of one ecosystem service outweighs the cost to the delivery of others.

## **Legislative Frameworks**

Comments were received on the need show how the various pieces of legislation and the legislative frameworks work together in Wales. There is a need to be clear that the Well-being of Future Generations Act underpins the development of the NRP, and that the NRP sets out priorities and policies to maximize the contribution of natural resources to our well-being.

Particularly there were calls to show how the NRP would align with and influence, planning mechanisms including the Welsh National Marine Plan, the Nature Recovery Action Plan, National Infrastructure Commission for Wales, the National Development Framework, the Wales Marine & Fisheries Strategic Action Plan and Technical Advice Notes.

A wide range of legislation was suggested to be linked to the NRP including the Active Travel (Wales) Act, the Historic Environment (Wales) Act and UK legislation including the Environment Act 1995, the Environmental Protection Act 1990, the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, the Climate Change Act 2008, the Planning and Energy Act 2008 and the Energy Acts 2008, 2010 and 2011.

One respondent called for WG to agree to uphold the Nature Directives in Wales and to be part of the process to work with other countries to develop an Action Plan to tackle the implementation challenges identified.

A strong regulatory baseline was supported, with improved regulation for polluting practices. However that was seen in the context of the need for enforcement to make them of any value.

Conversely, however, regulation was seen as a barrier to implementing some of the priorities. One forestry stakeholder commented '*the single most significant barrier to woodland creation and the green growth it generates is regulation.*' This was a shared view,

particularly with regard to gaining approval for woodland creation where respondents would like WG to compare the situation in Scotland.

There were several very specific comments around the urgent requirement for the commencement of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems legislation within the Flood and Water Management Act, and the need to enforce discharge consents.

## **Land Use Planning**

Several respondents referred to the role that Planning Policy could play in implementing the NRP. One commented *“Planning policies developed by the Welsh Government and through Local Development Plans (LDPs) are essential to secure appropriate and positive responses to the local and external pressures on natural resources, and to rural development. Planning policy on housing land supply should be kept up to date to balance fully the range of pressures with the need to protect natural resources and the well-being of communities.”*

This view was supported by others and specific guidance was called for on the allocation of greenfield sites for development, to ensure that gardens and open space for new developments are considered within wider networks.

## **Engagement and Communications**

Several respondents expressed their wish to engage and communicate more widely on the purpose and ways of working for both the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act and the Environment (Wales) Act in order to deliver and implement the Natural Resources Policy.

Some have voiced concerns about engaging wider audiences to realise the potential that implementation of the Environment Act could deliver. Others were keen to see collaboration and engagement with public, private and voluntary sectors, involving all citizens and stakeholders who benefit from natural resources, through the life cycle of the policy. The need to mediate the local implications of our national ambitions and ensure they are clearly understood and supported was also raised.

Respondents suggested there is a need to raise awareness and communicate both internally and externally of what is meant by SMNR and its outcomes, including the benefits for health and communities. Several points regarding the changes and language needed were raised. *“The way we talk about, promote and educate on SMNR is, therefore, critical. The language and approach used must be accessible, inspirational and easily understood. Fostering a national desire to protect and enhance our natural resources for future generations is key to the success of SMNR.”*

Suggested key messages for communications:

- The crucial role the environment plays as our life support system
- How ecological networks, connectivity and resilience contribute to improving community and individual well-being

- Addressing the challenge of reducing the pressures on our natural resources/reducing demand to exploit natural resources/promoting alternative resource use
- Connecting people with the outdoors
- Encouraging behaviours so that people value and respect the environment
- The role green space plays in overcoming health issues
- The positive contribution made by farmers and land managers to the sustainable management of natural resources

Some comments emphasised the public and political resistance to policies that might encourage more sustainable levels of consumption, encourage higher levels of re-use and recycling, use of public transport, active travel or electric vehicles, and to the development of some forms of renewable energy (e.g. wind farms) and there was a caution that success in resource efficiency could actually increase consumption as consumers feel they are having less of an impact resulting in no net difference.

## **Skills and Training**

There was support for using educational opportunities, initiatives and incentives to address the cultural and behavioural changes needed.

Some respondents saw the greatest challenge for implementation of the priority themes as the need to increase levels of expertise, and grow the sector and skills pool for SMNR - a theme which is echoed throughout the responses on the need for guidance, best practice examples and advice. There was a suggestion that *“Focus should be put on educating and incentivising farmers to intensify sustainably through for example techniques such as the integrated farm management approach, or other more novel techniques scarcely used such as agroforestry, alongside the more frequent focus of technological advances.”*

Wider delivery partners were also recognised. One respondent suggested, for instance, that Directors of Public Health, supported by local and national public health specialists, have a valuable contribution to make to local air and noise quality management, saying that their influence can extend beyond the NHS and can help shape public health improvement and protection actions across sectors.

Specific comments on the priorities themes were raised.

## **Priority Theme 1 - Accelerating green growth by increasing resource efficiency, renewable energy and supporting innovation**

Leadership, greater understanding, incentives and initiatives were seen as key to overcome barriers and make progress on this theme. One county council response said '*Local businesses need to be encouraged to develop skills and initiatives to make the most of Green Growth opportunities.*' They highlighted their own Wood Encouragement Policy as a good example of leadership in this area.

It was suggested that policy initiatives which involve the resource efficiency industry work best at a national level, coordinated between UK government, local government and industry. A suggestion was made that central planning of infrastructure is needed to ensure the ability to "work at scale" to consolidate the opportunities afforded by increased productivity of timber, fuel and ecosystem services.

Similarly, there was concern that take up of renewables within local developments has been limited to date, and suggestions that a stronger lead from WG and more economically attractive feed-in tariffs and incentives, regulations and best practice guidance would be needed for uptake to become the norm.

Steps to support the circular economy were seen as vital. The example of the 5p carrier bag charge was quoted as a step in the right direction, but the need to accelerate our efforts in this area to reduce waste, such as deposit return schemes and a potential Styrofoam ban, remains.

Working with the construction industry was a recurring theme. Planning Policy Wales was raised as a key intervention to assist this, with compulsory policies suggested for housing developers to construct green roofs and walls and energy efficient measures. Another proposal focussed on embodied carbon driving resource efficiency in construction, suggesting that embodied carbon assessments should become mandatory for all public projects. However, another flagged up the use of waste materials in their industry and cautioned that the future availability of waste materials, particularly for cement producers, should be considered when developing resource efficiency policies.

Respondents from the renewable energy industry flagged up many issues for the further development of this priority, including grid availability particularly in rural areas, and facilitation of associated infrastructure such as storage projects, support for developments both from WG and Local Authorities and the operation of Strategic Search Areas.

Shared ownership and community assets were seen as one way forward. For example, one response said that "*Shared ownership of utility-scale renewables is an opportunity for much-needed long term investment at a time of squeezed local authority budgets. Welsh Government should consider developing guidance and supporting organisations to ensure shared ownership opportunities are understood and developed.*"

There was some concern that multiple developers competing for the same community engagement could lead to loss of scale and there were also individual concerns around the lack of financial protection for communities and individuals, and the regulation of the renewables organisations.

## **Priority Theme 2 - Delivering nature-based solutions to improve resilience and the benefits derived from natural resources.**

One of the key steps and barriers to overcome is to raise awareness and understanding of nature-based solutions and their benefits.

NRW emphasised the need to develop best practise guidance relevant to public authorities, and professional development to raise awareness of Nature-Based Solutions. with any funding offered to ensure that the use of NBS is incorporated within it.

Some respondents highlighted the barriers of regulators and developers not understanding the benefits of green infrastructure, cultural resistance and a skills shortage. Several Local Authorities agreed, stating that there is *“a perception challenge that the performance of green infrastructure schemes is unknown and there are uncertain ongoing maintenance costs. As such, funding sources could be considered to be more inclined to facilitate grey infrastructure solutions that whilst requiring significant upfront costs are considered to have less complicated and lower costing maintenance implications.”*

One respondent stated that it would be essential to *“help organisations understand how nature-based solutions might offer them a way forward - often in line with the ‘prevent principle of the WFG Act (e.g. prevention of flooding; prevention of diabetes, mental health issues) and in some cases, an economic development opportunity (e.g. tourism opportunities, timber-based businesses.)”*

Some Local Authorities acknowledged land management is often outside of planning control and that most measures will be heavily reliant on landowners and the schemes and incentives to facilitate this action. For example, one respondent highlighted *“the degree to which water quality and connectivity had been improved under the Glastir and previous agri-environment schemes.”* And another added that *“sustained efforts by farmers through participation in agri-environment schemes has resulted in an improvement in the condition and maintenance of many habitats and species.... The delivery of wider non-market benefits including biodiversity are, therefore, highly dependent on active land management.”*

There were a few comments on the detail and ways of working for future agri-environment schemes, for example:

- *The future support for Agri Environment needs to promote good habitat management practices therefore funding for maintenance of the best habitat not just the creation of new improved habitat.*
- *The success of the Nature Fund and interest in the Sustainable Management Scheme demonstrates that custodianship that landowners and farmers have for their land and natural resources and the strong appetite for delivering beneficial change from a bottom-up approach. There is scope to extend this facilitated collaborative way of working beyond the current scheme.*

Further specific comments were raised regarding the need for a strategic approach to tackle Invasive Non Native Species, which would pose a threat to the effectiveness of NBS, and the imperative to ensure that a proposed nature-based solution is not replacing a different ecosystem, providing different services.

One commented that *“This is because “ecosystem services” actually derive from wider ecosystems and some “ecosystem services” can only be exploited by further degradation of*

*other “ecosystem services”* Others gave examples such as locating a pond or planting broadleaved trees in species rich grassland.

Woodland expansion was a particular cause for concern, raising the point that consideration of placement of woodland or forestry cover needs to ensure that natural resources and ecosystems services are appropriately conserved. It was proposed that greater ecosystem benefits may be realised via a mosaic of habitats rather than intensive forest cover.

There was also the suggestion here that species and their management should be balanced with landscape conservation, and a caution that the preservation of current landscapes may limit the removal of poor practices or the increase of woodland or moorland cover. The assessment of landscapes for both ecosystem and cultural/historic benefits need to be balanced.

### **Priority Theme 3 - Improving community and individual well being by taking a place and landscape based approach**

There was a strong focus on the need for participation by multiple stakeholders in this priority. One said that *“more partners, means more diversity of views in any planning undertaking - so time and effort is needed to build that connectivity between people as well as between places.”*

Another pointed out that a collaborative approach is heavily reliant on the willingness, capacity and tenacity of stakeholders to take forward project development and implementation. Supporting this collaboration and partnership working is key. They said *“One of the lessons we have learnt from our work in our water source catchments is the importance of collaboration and harnessing people power. But that requires facilitation.”*

Respondents pointed out the importance of strong partnerships with good local knowledge and contacts to tackle complex and challenging bid processes. The issue of the long history of delivering different public services separately which now needs to be brought together was also raised. The creation of workforce planning for council departments with natural resource responsibilities to work more closely together and be better aligned to make sustainable decisions has been championed.

Respondents agreed that there is huge potential for local residents to take ownership of schemes and projects within communities. However, more advice and guidance is needed to ensure a truly holistic approach to sense of place and well-being is taken. There is a need to ensure that community schemes, particularly with reference to energy schemes, meet the needs and priorities of those communities that are most impacted.

## 6. Other comments

The majority of respondents welcomed the Natural Resources Policy and recognised the role it will play in the implementation of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, by setting the framework for developing future land and sea management policies. Further comments were received in relation to

- The UK's withdrawal from the European Union, and the role of the NRP
- New ways of working
- Delivery
- Evidence and monitoring
- Further general and specific comments

### **The UK's withdrawal from the European Union**

The foreword, written by the Cabinet Secretary for the Environment and Rural Affairs, emphasised the key role the NRP has to play in the policy reform following the UK's exit from the European Union. One stakeholder commented how the referendum result changes the strategic context within which this policy must operate. Another said that it was clear that the Natural Resources Policy should identify the opportunities and threats to the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources arising from the UK's exit from the EU. Stakeholders are keen that the environmental protection orders currently in place through the EU are secured post-Brexit.

### **New ways of working**

Another observation was that SMNR is a crucial new way for Government and other public bodies to operate and that moving to this way of operating requires major systems and culture change. They see the Natural Resources Policy as a crucial part of delivering this transition and recognise the scale of the task involved. Several respondents highlighted the need to develop new ways of working to collaborate and share best practice and the requirement for the NRP to focus on transformational governance policies to encourage communication and integration across WG departments and stakeholders.

### **Delivery**

Respondents were keen to see an integrated policy for sustainable management of natural resources which would clearly direct a stepped change in delivery across all portfolios and sectors with a clear plan for how the changes would be delivered. Others called for clarity about what needs to be done and the scale and pace of action required and that furthermore, this in turn will require the setting of, and reporting against, targets or milestones to ensure progress towards achieving SMNR can be measured, or a lack of progress recognised and addressed.

Another called for Welsh Government to set out its policy intentions and the supporting timeline for this work. And that in order to stimulate activity around the three themes it will be essential that the statutory NRP sets out some of the specific opportunities and priorities which Government, business, third sector and public sector bodies might work together to address.

Comments also advised that we must guard against being too prescriptive or "solution focussed", to avoid stifling innovative and creative SMNR opportunities which inadvertently are ruled out from consideration.

The Area Statements required to be produced by NRW under Section 10 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016, to facilitate the implementation of the Natural Resources Policy, were the subject of several comments regarding the key steps for delivery of this theme. Some believe that it is important that the Natural Resources Policy emphasises the interconnectedness of decisions on land use and natural resources management and makes clear the implications in the development of Area Statements. A more cautionary comment made was that *“making these assessments wholly independently area-by-area will not be efficient, and there will be a pressing need for larger scale analysis.”*

Concerns were also raised regarding the potential barrier to collaboration and the delivery of SMNR of the potential mis-match of planning cycles. One warned that *“Well-being Plans, Well-being Statements and Area Statements, some of which will be overlapping, but not necessarily co-terminus, need to align and be complementary to avoid confusion and duplication. Many of the local priority areas are likely to be less environmentally focused than any Area Statements so these need to ensure that they complement local priorities and deliver environmental gains.”* Similarly, another expressed concerns *“regarding the potential restrictions that Area Statements may place on rural businesses; how these will be dealt with by relevant authorities; and how these may interact with other designated areas. For example, where a single business is subject to rules associated with one or more Area Statements, the Local Authority and a National Park authority, this may be restrictive and burdensome for both the business and officials.”* Others stated that clarity would be needed to direct working across the boundaries of area statements, with a wide range of stakeholders, and particularly with land managers.

## **Evidence and monitoring**

There was support for the iterative framework for SMNR of assessing the evidence, determining the priorities for action, and facilitating those through the area statements. There were comments regarding the need to show stronger links to the evidence-base provided by SoNaRR, although this was seen by some as too high level for decision making. In order to facilitate decision making, comments were made around the need for better understanding, particularly an unambiguous definition of resilience, its attributes, and how to achieve it, - for example - what constitutes resilient habitats, what are its requirements and management?

The need to measure progress to demonstrate improved resilience of our natural resources and the enhanced benefits they provide was also raised. The development of an ongoing long term monitoring programme for natural resources

was supported.

The issue of the paucity of data was raised, particularly in the marine environment. Several respondents commented on the need to ensure good data on which to base decisions, to support the volunteers who collect the data and the organisations who support them, to retain the skills and capacity to collect and analyse data, including reference collections.

There was much support for using the best available evidence world-wide on policy that works. One university advocated the use of the What Works Wales policy mechanism and CPRW suggested a Scientific Advisory Committee should be appointed to advise NRW. Welsh Universities were willing to engage with WG on gap analysis and best practice but saw a need for further development of the HE-NRW platform.

## Further general and specific comments

- The three priority themes (or areas of work might be a clearer title) should specifically explain the rationale for their choice, their desired outcomes and their contribution to the goals. This latter is not intended to suggest a tick box approach showing that they in some measure contribute to everything, even though this could be laid out in a table for clarity.
- While the priority themes are clear, the key objectives are far from explicit. We believe this will make it difficult to develop the Natural Resources Policy, and ultimately to monitor the effectiveness of its implementation.
- The need for a glossary of terms
- The language throughout is vague and open to mis-interpretation. The document fails to set out clear policy direction and language is often ambiguous, particularly if this policy is going to inform the scale and content of Area Statements and implementation of the Nature Recovery Action Plan for Wales.
- There could also be a clearer focus on risks and opportunities for SMNR, including what should be done in relation to climate change and biodiversity, as required by section 9(2) of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.
- It might be useful therefore to outline in the structure diagram where other WG policies fit in.
- More consideration of the historic environment
- Clearer reference to National Parks, AONBs , world heritage sites and listed parks and gardens, and the Future Landscapes Review.
- Geoparks/ The geosphere has an important role to play in underpinning and shaping landscapes and controlling the location of natural resources, both of which contribute to the unique visual and cultural identity of Wales.
- The industrial heritage of Wales is a strong component of its national identity and many former industrial sites have been repurposed as places to learn about the local industrial heritage. Geological Society
- Active travel
- Sustainable travel options – electric car charging points, but also addressing people’s reliance on car use
- Light pollution
- To consider the needs and representation of women
- Contribution to global sustainability
- Fieldsports
- Minerals
- Urban food production

## **Annex A – List of Respondents**

### **Third Sector = 21 (25%)**

- Anfonydd Cymru/Rivers Trust Wales
- Bat Conservation Trust (Wales)
- Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales (CPRW)
- Glandwr Cymru – the Canal and River Trust in Wales
- Cilgwyn Community Group
- Coed Cymru
- Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust
- Llais y Goedwig (Community Woodlands in Wales)
- Marine Conservation Society
- National Trust Wales
- National Federation of Women’s Institutes
- Ramblers Cymru
- RSPB Cymru
- South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre
- The Geological Society
- The Woodland Trust/Coed Cadw
- Wales Environment Link
- Welsh Beekeepers Association
- Wildlife Gardening Forum
- Wildlife Trusts Wales
- WWF Cymru

### **Industry representation organisations = 14 (17%)**

- British Association for Shooting and Conservation
- CLA Cymru
- Confor
- Countryside Alliance Wales
- Farmers’ Union of Wales (FUW)
- Hybu Cig Cymru
- Institution of Civil Engineers
- Mineral Products Association Ltd
- National Farmers Union Cymru (NFU)
- Royal Town Planning Institute Cymru
- Scottish Association of Country Sports
- UK Forest Products Association
- Welsh Fisherman’s Association
- WoodKnowledge Wales

**Public Sector = 14 (17%)**

- Brecon Beacons National Park Authority
- Bridgend County Borough Council
- The City of Cardiff Council
- Carmarthenshire County Council
- City & County of Swansea
- Conwy County Borough Council
- Cyngor Gwynedd Council
- Future Generations Commissioner for Wales
- Natural Resources Wales
- Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
- Powys County Council
- Public Health Wales
- Torfaen County Borough Council
- Welsh Local Government Association

**Private Sector = 12 (14%)**

- Andrew Bromwin & Co Ltd
- Dee Valley Water
- Dwr Cymru/ Welsh Water
- Pisces Environmental & Fisheries Advisory Services.
- Resource Efficiency Services
- Severn Wye Energy Agency
- Tarmac
- Tidal Lagoon Power
- Tilhill Forestry Ltd
- Trallwm Forest Lodge
- Valpak
- Vattenfall

**Private Individual responses = 11 (12%)**

- Ann MacGarry
- Betty Lee
- G Brine
- Keith Jones
- Ken Richards
- Max Wallis
- Robert Ellis
- Sarah Bond
- 3 x wished to remain anonymous

## **Annex B – Engagement Report**

In keeping with new ways of working under the Well-Being of Future Generations Act and to demonstrate compliance with the principles of the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources (SMNR), an engagement and collaborative approach has been taken to the development and to informing the production of the final Natural Resources Policy.

The 12 week public consultation on the NRP was launched on Monday 14 November 2016 and closed on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2017. Two cross-sectoral workshops were held during the consultation period; on 7<sup>th</sup> December an independently facilitated event was held, which also drew in expertise from the Natural Environment Research Council and is written up below and a further workshop was held 23<sup>rd</sup> January for the Cabinet Secretary for the Environment & Rural Affairs Roundtable. Throughout the consultation sectoral specific engagement events were undertaken and on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2017, Welsh Government presented at a webinar hosted by the Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA), open to a large number of stakeholders, to discuss Why the Natural Resource Policy Matters to Third Sector? – Key Questions and Comments.