

Adran yr Economi a'r Seilwaith
Department for Economy and Infrastructure



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

This document is an update to the ‘Proof of Evidence – Planning & Sustainable Development’ document WG 1.23.1. It follows the publication by the Welsh Government of ‘*Prosperity for All – the national strategy*’ on 19 September 2017.

Scheme Evidence Update

John Davies, MBE, BSc, MRTPI

Welsh Government, Planning and Sustainable Development

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1. AUTHOR

- 1.1 My name is John Davies. I currently work as a self-employed planning consultant under the title 'John Davies Planning' as a sole trader. My professional qualifications are set out in my main proof of evidence.
- 1.2 The evidence provided in this Proof of Evidence has been prepared and is given in accordance with the guidance of my professional institution and I confirm that the opinions expressed are my true and professional opinions.

2. SCOPE AND PURPOSE OF THIS PROOF OF EVIDENCE

- 2.1 This Proof of Evidence provides an update to my original evidence for the published Scheme in respect of matters relating to the Welsh Government's programme for government '*Taking Wales Forward 2016-21*' and their well-being objectives, published together on 4 November 2016.
- 2.2 This update follows the publication by the Welsh Government on 19 September 2017 of its national strategy *Prosperity for All*¹ together with the accompanying *Well-being Statement 2017*², which set out its revised well-being objectives. The Inspectors requested clarification of the status and meaning of *Prosperity for All* and its relationship to *Taking Wales Forward* in the afternoon session on 27 September 2017.
- 2.3 I include in paragraph 3.12 below a table identifying the paragraphs from my original evidence that contained references to specific well-being objectives, together with the relevant well-being objective number from the 19 September 2017 update.

¹ Document 5.2.10

² Document 5.2.9

3. SCHEME EVIDENCE UPDATE

- 3.1 The Welsh Government published its 5-year programme for government, *Taking Wales Forward 2016-21*, on 4 November 2016³. Alongside this programme it published its well-being objectives⁴ under Section 3(2)(a) of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (the Act).
- 3.2 On 19 September 2017, the Welsh Government published its national strategy, *Prosperity for All*. This states (page 2) that *Taking Wales Forward 2016-21* set out the headline commitments the Welsh Government will deliver up to 2021. The September 2017 national strategy -
- “takes those key commitments, places them in a long-term context, and sets out how they will fit with the work of the wider Welsh public service to lay the foundations for achieving prosperity for all”.*
- 3.3 *Taking Wales Forward* set out the Government’s pledges for this Assembly term, 2016-21. *Prosperity for All* is a broader based document that takes a long-term view, beyond this Assembly term. It states (page 2) that how the Government delivers is just as important as what it delivers and that whilst many of the actions in this strategy will be delivered in this Assembly term, others are about working in a much more collaborative and integrated way *“designing solutions for the future – together”*. This is a clear reference to the 5 ways of working that make up the sustainable development principle defined in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (the Act). Under the heading ‘Working Differently’ (page 4), *Prosperity for All* states that it is more than just a list of actions; it represents a new way of working that recognises *“the challenges we face today, the Wales we want for the future and the steps that need to be taken to make it a reality.”*

³ Doc 5.1.11

⁴ Doc 5.2.5

- 3.4 The flowchart on page 6 of *Prosperity for All* links the various elements of Welsh Government policy. The Act establishes the framework for *Taking Wales Forward*, which sets out what the Government will deliver during this Assembly term. This is then developed further in *Prosperity for All*, which explains how the Government will deliver during this term and sets the long term foundations for the future. These two documents set out the same four key themes; in *Prosperity for All* each theme leads to 3 well-being objectives.
- 3.5 These well-being objectives are explained further in the *Well-being Statement 2017*, also published on 19 September 2017 under sections 7 and 8 of the Act. This sets out on page 12 the Welsh Government's updated well-being objectives under the Act, reducing to 12 the original 14 objectives published in November 2016. The table in Annex A of the *Well-being Statement 2017* compares the 2016 well-being objectives with the updated objectives. The importance of the national strategy *Prosperity for All* is emphasised on page 6 of the *Well-being Statement* as follows:
- The publication of **Prosperity for All**: the national strategy signals a new approach and one that forms the basis for all that we will do over the course of this government term.*
- 3.6 Consequently, whilst the 5 year programme for government sets out the Welsh Government's delivery commitments for this Assembly term, *Prosperity for All* is the most up to date statement of its long term strategy beyond this term, and the most recent declaration of its intent to work differently to achieve the well-being goals of the Act.
- 3.7 As shown on page 6 of *Prosperity for All*, each of its four key themes (the same as those in *Taking Wales Forward*) are supported by three of the updated well-being objectives, providing an explicit link between the themes and objectives. The vision for the *United and Connected* theme (page 19) includes "*building the vital links that make it easier for people to come together for the economy to grow, and for us to become an ever more confident and outward looking nation*". Well-

- being objectives 10-12 (page 19) apply to this theme and Objective 11 (page 21) is “*delivering modern and connected infrastructure*”.
- 3.8 The programme for government published in November 2016 included under the *United and Connected* theme a commitment to “*Deliver an M4 Relief Road*”. The 2017 national strategy now states under the *United and Connected* theme and well-being Objective 11: *Deliver modern and connected infrastructure* (page 21) – “*deliver a significant improvement to the M4 around Newport, as well as enhancements to the A55, the A40 in West Wales and other trunk roads*”.
- 3.9 The fact that the improvement of the M4 around Newport is highlighted in Objective 11 demonstrates the importance the Welsh Government attaches to this project. The wording of *Prosperity for All* is broader and less prescriptive than the commitment to ‘*deliver an M4 Relief Road*’ stated in the programme for Government, recognising that the published Scheme is not necessarily the only one that could deliver the objectives of the 2017 national strategy. This was also the case with the 5 year programme for government, but *Prosperity for All* makes this clearer, confirming that the Welsh Government’s objective is to deliver a significant improvement to the M4 around Newport whilst leaving options open to deliver that improvement. Nonetheless, *Prosperity for All* provides a more appropriate description in relation to the published Scheme, which includes comprehensive changes to the existing M4 as well as a new section of motorway to provide relief to the traffic problems around Newport. As the more up to date, long term statement of Welsh Government strategy, the Scheme should be judged against the commitment in *Prosperity for All*.
- 3.10 The flowchart on page 6 of *Prosperity for All* explicitly links the four themes with the 12 well-being objectives. Table 1 on page 14 of the *Well-being Statement 2017* clarifies the contribution of each of the Welsh Government’s well-being objectives to the 7 well-being goals under Section 4 of the Act. Well-being Objective 11: *deliver modern and connected infrastructure* makes a primary contribution to well-

being Goal 1: A Prosperous Wales; Goal 2: A Resilient Wales; Goal 5: A Wales of Cohesive Communities; and Goal 7: A Globally Responsible Wales. Table 1 also recognises that there are cross-cutting opportunities between other well-being goals and objectives.

- 3.11 In my original proof of evidence, I examined the Scheme against national planning policies in Planning Policy Wales and identified, where appropriate, contributions to the relevant Welsh Government 2016 well-being objectives and the well-being goals under the Act. These contributions stemmed from the social, economic and environmental benefits of the Scheme, including improvements to air quality and reduction of noise levels. Whilst the Scheme contributes explicitly to well-being Objective 11 under the *United and Connected* theme of the 2017 national strategy, the reasons that led me to identify cross-cutting contributions to a range of well-being goals and objectives still hold true. These contributions now need to be related to the current well-being objectives in the 2017 update and, to assist with this, Table 1 below sets out the updated 2017 objectives.

Table 1: Updated 2017 Well-being Objectives

Objective	Description
01	Support people and businesses to drive prosperity
02	Tackle regional inequality and promote fair work
03	Drive sustainable growth and combat climate change
04	Deliver quality health and care services for the future
05	Promote good health and well-being for everyone
06	Build healthier communities and better environments
07	Support young people to make the most of their potential
08	Build ambition and encourage learning for life
09	Equip everyone with the right skills for a changing world
10	Build resilient communities, culture and language
11	Deliver modern and connected infrastructure
12	Promote and protect Wales' place in the world

- 3.12 Table 2 below sets out the paragraphs from my original proof that refer to the Welsh Government 2016 well-being objectives alongside the relevant well-being objective from the 2017 update.

Table 2: Updated well-being objectives

Paragraphs	2016 well-being objective(s)	Updated 2017 well-being objective(s)
46	4,7,10	1,2,3,11
55	6	3
118, 121, 125	3	5, 6
133	12	3, 5
169	7	3
197	4,7,10	1,2,3,11
216	4,7,10	1,2,3,5,6,11
220	4,7,10	1,2,3,5,6,11

- 3.13 The published Scheme would contribute directly to Objective 11 since it is identified under that objective as part of the 2017 national strategy *Prosperity for All*. Furthermore, the M4 motorway is a key strategic route connecting South Wales with the rest of Europe and, as the main gateway into South Wales, it is one of the most heavily used roads in Wales, critical to the Welsh economy. The benefits the Scheme would bring, by addressing congestion on the existing M4 and hence improving perceptions of South Wales as a place to visit and do business, would contribute significantly to well-being Objective 12: *Promote and protect Wales' place in the world*.
- 3.14 I confirm that the statement of truth and professional obligations to the inquiry from my main proof still applies.