

Future Landscapes Wales Working Group - Terms of Reference

Background

1. Future Landscapes Wales was commissioned by the Minister for Natural Resources, Carl Sargeant AM, in a Cabinet Written Statement dated the 29th October 2015. It was established in response to the publication of the independent Review of Designated Landscapes in Wales (the Marsden Report) also on the 29th October 2015. The Review's purpose was to consider how the devolved area of designated landscapes fit and deliver with emerging Welsh priorities including green growth and natural resource management within the context of the Well Being and Future Generations Act. Important in this is aligning any reform of the approach to landscape in Wales with that of reform of devolved public services.
2. The Future Landscapes Wales Working Group (the working group) will work alongside a Future Landscapes Development Programme, which comprises people who are very closely aligned to the operational delivery of the designated landscapes.

Purpose

The purpose of the working group is to provide rigour and challenge to current thinking on the future of landscapes in Wales. In this context it will consider the recommendations of the Marsden Report including any new and innovative thinking, and alongside the Future Landscapes Wales Development Programme project groups, advise on the way forward with the Report's key themes:

- The Well-being Goals and what they mean for refreshing the vision and ambition for designated landscapes;
- The true potential for designated landscapes to be catalysts for economic development, and what this looks like;
- Modernising governance, and the blueprint for the future that reconciles national and local accountability;
- Looking for innovation in resourcing of activities.

Functions

3. In order to achieve the above aims the working group will:
 - Identify, commission, receive, and debate evidence that supports the purpose;
 - Collectively support and challenge the project groups of the Future Landscapes Wales Development Programme who will be exploring in detail the opportunities in the short and long term of the four key themes;
 - Provide an ongoing support and challenge function through the opportunity to mentor the four project groups;
 - Collaborate to produce a report in summer 2016 which sets out a way forward For Designated landscapes in Wales

Membership

4. The Chair and membership of the working group was decided by the Minister for Natural Resources.

5. In order to function effectively the working group needed to include academics, entrepreneurs, specialists, senior figures in non governmental organisations in the sector, and senior representative from designated landscape boards. The way of working should not be set on defending the status quo, and members are expected to demonstrate inclusive and collaborative behaviour, be willing to take risks to move things forward, be innovative, and focussed on making recommendations for positive change to the delivery of landscape work in Wales.

6. The membership of the working group is:

Lord Dafydd Elis-Thomas AM, Chair

Howard Davies	National Association of AONB
Melanie Doel	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority
Bridget Emmett	Centre for Ecology and Hydrology
Sue Essex	Independent
Iolo ap Gwyn	Snowdonia National Park Authority
Mark Lang	Federation of Small Businesses
Rachel Lewis-Davies	National Farmers Union
Katie-jo Luxton	RSPB Cymru
Mike James	Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority
Victoria Jenkins	Environmental Law Association
Rachel Sharp	Wildlife Trust Wales
Jeremy Smith	Renewables UK Cymru
Sean Taylor	Zip World
Rebecca Williams	Country Land and Business Association
Laura White	National Trust
Einir Young	University of Wales Bangor

7. Meetings will be attended by Welsh Government officials from the Land, Nature and Forestry Division who will provide the secretariat function. Policy officials from relevant Welsh Government departments will be invited to meetings of the working group where relevant.

Working Arrangements

8. The working group will be accountable and report to the Minister for Natural Resources. The proposed schedule of meetings is:

1st Meeting: ToR, Ways of Working, Project Questions	January
2nd Meeting: Evidence Session Wellbeing Goals & Economy Challenge Chamber 1 with Project Groups	February March
3rd Meeting: Evidence Session Governance and Resourcing Challenge Chamber 2 with Project Groups	April May
4th Meeting Reporting	June

9. It is expected that all members will attend all meetings. If a member is unable to attend, a deputy may attend in their place providing that reasonable notice has been given to the Chair and the Group's secretariat. Video Conferencing will be used when possible to minimise the need for travel. All meetings and papers will be bilingual Welsh and English.