



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

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## Newsletter 3

April 2014

### **Water Strategy Launched for Consultation**

The development of a Water Strategy for Wales was a key action from the Programme for Government that was published in September 2011. The aim of the Strategy is to ensure that our water resource is resilient, sustainable and is managed in a way that optimises the benefits that are delivered to Wales and its citizens. We will work with a wide range of partners who will play a full part in ensuring that this vision is realised.

This Strategy sets out our long-term policy direction on water. We want to balance the long-term needs of the environment with the need for sufficient, reliable water resources and waste water services available to encourage sustainable growth and job creation.

A key theme which underpins the development of this Strategy is the importance of taking an integrated approach to water management. By this, we mean that we want to promote the coordinated development and management of water, land and related resources in order to maximise economic and social benefits in an equitable manner without compromising the sustainability of vital ecosystems and the environment. Building on the approach set out in the Environment Bill.

This requires wider public involvement, recognition of the links between water and

other policy areas such as energy efficiency and land management and a better understanding of the services that the water environment provides.

This consultation will set out our aspirations to ensure that the management of our water resources enhances and makes the most of our natural environment. This will have the benefit of supporting enterprise and encouraging job creation, creating viable and vibrant places for the citizens of Wales and visitors to Wales, whilst also protecting people.

- Water for Nature, People and Business - This section sets out how we intend our water resources to be sustainably managed, meeting society's needs and offering opportunities for green growth and protecting and enhancing our natural environment. In particular, it sets out the links between this Strategy and the wider natural resource management approach which we are developing as a Government.
- Taking Action to Reduce Pollution - This section sets out our proposals to tackle pollution through the adoption of good practices and procedures by land and business managers and by each of us as individuals.

- Improving the Way We Plan and Manage Our Water Services - This section set out how we will ensure that our water services remain robust, sustainable and support high quality services both now and in the future.
- Water Affordability and Delivering Excellent Services to Customers - This section sets out our proposals for ensuring that people and businesses in Wales have access to affordable water and sewerage services that are sustainable, safe, secure and dependable.
- Protecting and Improving Drinking Water Quality - This section set out our approach to maintain the current high standard of our public drinking water quality, ensure compliance with the Drinking Water Directive and that any quality problems are dealt with effectively.
- A New Approach for Drainage - This section sets out our approach to ensuring that both waste water and surface water are managed in an integrated way.
- Supporting Delivery - This section sets out a number of overarching proposals that will support the delivery of our objectives and key outcomes.

We have talked to people and engaged extensively in preparing this Strategy. We are now consulting formally on our long-term policy direction for water in Wales.

We have not set timescales for delivery on all of our policy aspirations in this consultation as we are keen to hear your views on what is important to you and when you think the Welsh Government should be implementing proposals in order deliver the best outcomes for Wales.

We want your comments and responses to our specific consultation questions.

[www.wales.gov.uk/consultations/environmentalndcountryside/water-strategy/?lang=en](http://www.wales.gov.uk/consultations/environmentalndcountryside/water-strategy/?lang=en)

**Start of consultation:** 7 April 2014

**End of consultation:** 4 July 2014

#### **How to respond**

Please submit your comments by 4 July 2014, in any of the following ways:

#### **Email**

[Water@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Water@wales.gsi.gov.uk)

#### **Post**

Water Strategy Programme Manager  
Water Branch  
Energy, Water and Flood Division  
Welsh Government  
Crown Buildings  
Cathays Park  
Cardiff  
CF10 3NQ

#### **Additional information**

If you have any queries on this consultation, please telephone: 029 2082 5175