

Summary from online SDP visioning session

REGIONAL ISSUES

1. Provision for Growth
 - a. Locations for growth – future Wales Growth Areas, spatial hierarchy
 - b. Scale of Growth – same across region?
 - c. Holistic approach inclusive of rural areas – not just about urban areas
 - d. Key types of growth to consider:
 - i. Employment
 - ii. Housing (including affordable)
 - iii. Energy
 - iv. Tourism
 - v. Role of settlements?

2. Accommodating Growth
 - a. Make the plan infrastructure-led
 - b. Infrastructure capacity:
 - i. Physical – Transport, drainage, power, water
 - ii. Social – Education, health
 - c. Plan needs to facilitate Resilience in N. Wales communities
 - d. Viability
 - e. Aging population – prevent young people leaving/attract back
 - f. Treat region holistically vs recognising sub-regional differences NW – NE
 - g. Addressing specific needs:
 - i. Environmental limits/protection
 - ii. Affordable housing provision
 - iii. Gypsies and Travellers
 - h. Relationship of rural to urban areas – connectivity

3. Related Factors
 - a. Capacity of decision makers and relationship with Local Plans
 - b. Engagement with key groups:
 - i. Infrastructure providers
 - ii. House builders and RSLs
 - iii. Young people/hard to reach groups
 - c. Sub-regional differences and how to accommodate – economies, Welsh language, Strategic roles

DRIVERS FOR CHANGE

1. Primary Focus – Economic growth and well-being
 - a. Creating job opportunities BUT...
 - i. Right jobs in the right place
 - ii. Sufficient workers?
 - iii. Sufficient skills e.g. AI, nuclear, renewables, digital
 - b. Accessibility
 - c. Sustainability

2. Supporting Growth
 - a. Government policy context
 - b. Funding opportunities:
 - i. Growth Deal and Investment Zone – what happens after these?
 - ii. Long term framework for continued economic growth
 - iii. Work collectively to maximise opportunities and benefits

3. Strategic Opportunities/Assets
 - a. Defining North Wales in a global context and its USPs e.g. resilience to climate change, sustainable food production, energy capacity, quality of place
 - b. Nuclear offer – Wylfa, micro-generation – sites?
 - c. Offshore renewables including tidal
 - d. Significance of Ports
 - e. Ne and NW 'gateways' to markets, labour force, investment
 - f. Tackling climate change via investing in nature, nature-based solutions, land management
 - g. Viewing nature as an asset
 - h. Align infrastructure upgrades to growth trajectory

2051 VISION FOR NORTH WALES

1. The Place
 - a. Primary location to live, work, and study
 - b. A location of better-quality places – healthy, resilient, vibrant, attractive
 - c. Well-connected physically and digitally
 - d. A place of quality, identity, integrity, distinctiveness, linguistic and cultural diversity
 - e. Well-connected communities with equal opportunities

2. The People
 - a. A future where young people have a real choice to stay, or return having moved away

3. The Assets/infrastructure
 - a. Shared regional objectives and collaboration – clear narrative for investors
 - b. Better transport connectivity especially in rural areas
 - c. Quality and affordable housing stock
 - d. Energy self-sufficiency (renewables, nuclear)

4. The Opportunity
 - a. Be the first choice for investment – not the poor relation to S Wales
 - b. Dynamic, innovative, open for business
 - c. Creating prosperity through opportunities
 - d. Being a key driver for the Welsh Economy

Strategic Plan Messages

Arup

- SDP manual resolves many issues – detail? - intentionally more prescriptive plans
- Clarity on levels of granularity?
- Linking of operational frameworks across government tiers
- Free-hand or outputs pre-determined?
- Shared vision – what about disagreements – rules for prioritising what goes in the plan and where? - plan ownership
- Recipe for a good plan - **critical ideas expressed simply**
- Accommodating uncertainty (25-year plan) - enabling policy framework vs prescription (former makes sense)
- Defining housing markets
- Setting housing targets
- Top-down vs bottom up – strategic growth vs cumulative local growth
- Deliverability and viability – regional scope
- Affordable housing
- Place making and design standards

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- Need to clearly define and express a vision for the plan and what it wants to achieve
- Be brave – see the plan as an opportunity to define a positive framework for the region, rather than be concerned about getting it right
- Assess the regional as a whole and identify what is strategically significant, why, and where
- Identify the key issues that the plan should aim to tackle/facilitate solutions to – housing, jobs, transport, energy, climate change, demographics, infrastructure capacity
- A different scale of thinking – settlement hierarchy, principal transport network, strategic investment sites
- Key questions:
 - What do we want North Wales to look like in 2051?
 - What scale of issues do we want the SDP to consider?
 - Focus on strategically important locations rather than say something about everywhere
 - Key issues to address?
 - Relationships with areas outside the region?
 - What if plan not progressed?
 - Missed opportunity – links to future funding?