

**From:** [BUTLER, David](#)  
**To:** [NDE](#)  
**Subject:** Welsh NDF consultation response  
**Date:** 11 November 2019 15:46:15  
**Attachments:** [2019.11.11 Welsh National Development Framework CWAC response.pdf](#)

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Please find attached a consultation response on the draft Welsh NDF, from Cheshire West and Chester Council.

Regards,

**David Butler**

*Principal Planning Officer - Planning Policy*

*Places Strategy*

**Cheshire West and Chester Council**

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# Cheshire West & Chester Council

## Planning Policy

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Date: 11 November 2019

NDF Team,  
Planning Policy Branch,  
Welsh Government,  
Cathays Park,  
Cardiff,  
CF10 3NQ

Dear Sir/Madam,

### **Draft National Development Framework 2020-2040**

Thank you for consulting Cheshire West and Chester on the Draft National Development Framework (NDF). This proposes national growth areas around Wrexham and Deeside and makes some references to Cheshire West and Chester in relation to Wrexham and Deeside and green belts in North Wales and transport links with North West England. The Council would like to make the following observations:

#### **Spatial Strategy Map (p.25)**

- The Council considers that the A55 could also be shown as an international link, as this was a Trans-European Network (TENS) funded extension.

#### **Policy 17 – Wrexham and Deeside**

- The Welsh Government supports Wrexham and Deeside as the primary focus for regional growth and investment, and Wrexham and Deeside's role within the North region and the wider cross-border areas of Cheshire West and Chester and Liverpool City Region should be maintained and enhanced. The Welsh Government will work with cross border authorities to promote Wrexham and Deeside's strategic role and ensure key investment decisions support Wrexham and Deeside and the wider region.
- The Council supports the reference to Cheshire West and Chester in the accompanying explanation and the aspiration of co-ordinating and planning housing, economic growth and connectivity infrastructure on the basis of the whole region. Welsh Government's commitment to consider the connections with Cheshire West and Chester, promoting accessibility and linkages, ensuring that these areas do not compete against each other, or take strategic decisions in isolation, is welcomed. This continues the work that Cheshire West and Chester is undertaking with



Cheshire West  
and Chester

Wrexham and Deeside, through the Mersey Dee Alliance. However, the Council would suggest that a reference to the Mersey Dee Alliance and the prospectus should be included in the (NDF) – as this gives an outline of the transport requirement to fulfil the economic ambitions of the wider area.

- The Council considers that the policy could clarify whether national (in this context) is referring to Wales or the UK.

### **Policy 19 – Green Belts in North Wales**

- The Welsh Government supports the role of Strategic Development Plans identifying and establishing green belts to manage urban form and growth in North Wales, particularly around Wrexham and Deeside.
- The Council considers that Strategic Development Plans should consider the relationship of any new green belts with the Green Belt in Cheshire West and Chester.

### **Policy 21 – Transport Links to North West England**

- The Welsh Government will work with local and regional authorities, in North Wales and North West England, to ensure transport investments, including in the North Wales Metro, strengthen cross border transport links. Strategic and Local Development Plans should support improved transport links between North Wales, Chester, Liverpool and Manchester, and plan growth to maximise the potential opportunities arising from improved regional connectivity.
- The Council supports Welsh Government's commitment to tackling congestion on the A55 including through its Pinch Point Programme, and where connectivity corridors between North Wales and England are identified, the exploration of the potential for these corridors to become green infrastructure.
- With reference to Policy 17 (above) the Council considers that it would be helpful to include within the NDF a reference to the Mersey Dee Alliance and the prospectus as this gives an outline of the transport requirement to fulfil the economic ambitions of the wider area.
- The Council notes that there is no reference to the role that technology plays in overcoming "artificial" transport borders. This is important to public transport routes and route planning (for information there are examples of collaboration on the Chester Transport Model) and could be something that should be included in the NPF.
- In addition, the policy could be amended recognise that close collaborative working should be employed where major infrastructure investment will have an impact on neighbouring authorities' highway network management duty (whether the impact is on a temporary or permanent basis).

### **Policy 22 – North West Wales and Energy**

- The Council notes that whilst the explanation to the policy refers to sand and gravel aggregates for North West England, there is no specific policy for minerals.

Please note that this represents an Officer view only. If you require any further explanation please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully



**Fiona Hore** – Head of Planning