



Planning and placemaking

What the Future Generations
Report 2020 means for the
Planning Directorate

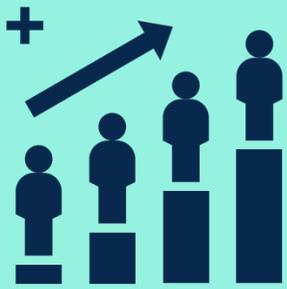




Changing our approach to planning:

Stats and trends:

The demand on land for housing, food, transport, etc is increasing the face of uncertain demographic change.



Household size is decreasing, requiring a greater number of homes, resources and energy to support the overall increasing number of households.



Feeding the world's projected nine billion global population in 2050 is forecast to require a 70% increase in food production but 80% of arable land in developing countries is already used. There is less water available for agriculture, and constantly increasing yields from major crops may be unrealistic, raising concerns about 'food security' and 'peak food'.

Diminishing number of planners and trainees working in the public sector and loss of specialist skills.



Climate change is likely to increase the frequency of flooding, with consequences for property, livelihoods, infrastructure, agricultural production, and ecosystems.

Current rapid urbanisation can exasperate health problems. By 2050, the equivalent of the world's current total population will live in cities.



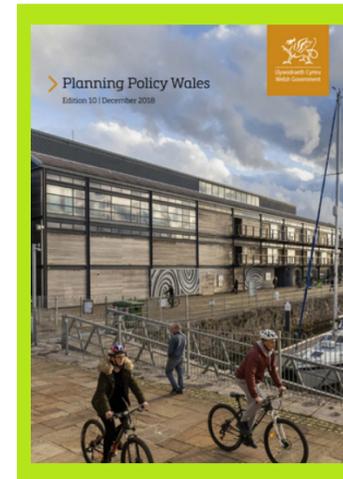
So, what's changing?

The way we plan, design and build our communities and infrastructure is critical in addressing long-term challenges and ensuring well-being nationally and locally. We need to think about tomorrow in the way we plan and build today. Getting planning right can unlock multiple benefits and help us contribute to all seven well-being goals.

Planning has a vital role to play in helping public bodies meet decarbonisation targets and the biodiversity enhancement duty. However, to do that the sector needs to be properly resourced and supported to implement new policies and make brave, long-term decisions.

People and communities need to be better involved in the planning, designing and building of their communities.

Planning Policy Wales 10 is a positive step in embedding the Well-being of Future Generations Act and setting out the vision for placemaking, but now we need to see consistent implementation and ensure that all other national planning documents, like Future Wales, also align with the Act.



Planning Policy Wales 10 Themes, which collectively contribute to placemaking.





What is the Commissioner's vision?

Sustainable development needs to be at the heart of every land use planning decision.

The four dimensions of well-being - the environment, society, economy, and culture - must no longer be seen as something to be 'traded off' or compromised on, but implemented as an integrated and holistic concept.

[Section on Planning and Placemaking in the Future](#)
Generations Report 2020





How can this vision contribute to the 7 well-being goals?



What can you do to contribute to this vision?*

Welsh Government's Planning Directorate should:

- Explore how financial levers can be used to bring back adequate resource in planning.
- Provide additional resources to the Design Commission for Wales to increase the number of applications they can provide advice on, specifically on the application of the the Well-being of Future Generations Act and on new Local Development Plans. Consider imposing requirements that developments over a certain size undergo this process.
- Put in place mechanisms to better monitor the outcomes delivered by the planning system aligned with the Well-being of Future Generations Act.
- Refuse developments which are not fully aligned with Planning Policy Wales and the Well-being of Future Generations Act, and do not enhance or maintain biodiversity.
- In 5 years time review the impact that Planning Policy Wales and the the Well-being of Future Generations Act are having on changing the presumptions on which planning law is based. Raise the bar above 'do no harm' in ensuring that only developments which maximise contribution to the goals are authorised.
- Invest significantly in the implementation of placemaking and Planning Policy Wales legislation to ensure placemaking is delivered and that skills are not lost. Train everyone involved in planning on the Well-being of Future Generations Act and Planning Policy Wales.
- Produce a plain language explanation of the planning code and process.
- Take every step to integrate work between agencies impacting placemaking and the built environment. Align all infrastructure plans and ensure that any new overarching planning policy, like Future Wales, is integrated with national policy in other policy areas like transport and housing (for example, the draft Wales Transport Strategy).



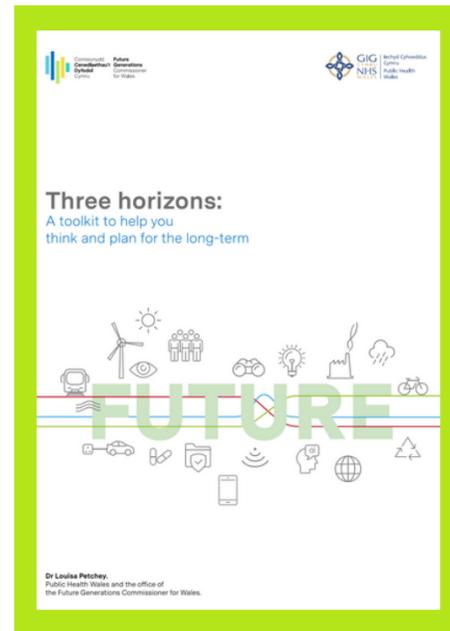
*These are the recommendations most relevant to the work of you and your team. There are more recommendations contained in the [Planning and Placemaking Section](#) (as well as other chapters) of the Future Generations report, which you may wish to look at.



Useful resources and tools to help you follow these recommendations:



This is a once in five years report, which sets out the Commissioner's assessment of progress made in implementing the Act within the reporting period. It reflects on the progress of all public bodies in terms of whether they have embraced the cultural change required by the Act and also considers the progress being made on each of the seven national well-being goals.



This is an easy-to-use guide to help public bodies think and plan for the long-term by keeping a clear vision and taking future trends into account. The Three Horizons Toolkit is based on a model developed by Bill Sharpe and the International Futures Forum. It was developed by Public Health Wales and our office to help public bodies avoid making decisions that don't stand the test of time.



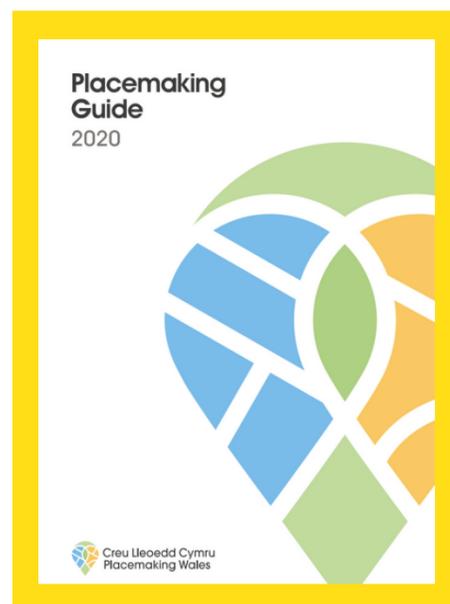
The RTPI's tool on the value of planning seeks to promote and inform a more considered, balanced and evidenced debate on the relationship between planning and economic growth.



'Shape My Town' is a tool to help people who want to get involved in designing the places and communities they live in.



This document aims to amplify the voices of young people as we approach the Senedd election in 2021. It sets out the key recommendations that the Commissioner wants to see the next Welsh Government commit to. She has called on all political parties to consider these recommendations within their manifesto work.



The Placemaking Charter and guide developed by Welsh Government and the Design Commission for Wales in collaboration with the Placemaking Wales Partnership. It builds on the strengthening focus on Placemaking in policy and practice in Wales and aims to provide a common understanding of the range of considerations that go into placemaking.



Public Health Wales' Creating Healthier Places and Spaces for Our Present and Future Generations guide explains how green spaces, access to healthy food, opportunities to be active, clean air, well-designed buildings, and supportive local facilities can help people and communities thrive in Wales.

Useful contacts to support you with following these recommendations:

