



3.24  Where significant effects on human health are likely to arise as a result of development plans or individual development proposals, environmental impacts should be considered in full knowledge of the likely consequences for health. Information to assess potential impacts on health can be required through various mechanisms, such as sustainability appraisal of development plans and environmental impact assessments, and where relevant, health impacts should be incorporated into such assessments. In general, the most effective and collaborative ways of working will require shared and integrated approaches to evidence gathering and assessments. Health Impact Assessment¹¹ makes a valuable contribution towards plan making. It may be useful when proposing or making decisions on new development along with evidence collected by Public Service Boards. Evidence on health impacts can help the planning system develop stronger and more coherent approaches towards maximising health and well-being.

The Welsh Language and Placemaking

3.25  The Welsh language is part of the social and cultural fabric and its future well-being will depend upon a wide range of factors, particularly education, demographic change, community activities and a sound economic base to maintain thriving sustainable communities and places. The land use planning system should take account of the conditions which are essential to the Welsh language and in so doing contribute to its use and the Thriving Welsh Language well-being goal.

3.26 Planning authorities must consider the likely effects of their development plans on the use of the Welsh language as part of the Sustainability Appraisal. Planning authorities should seek to ensure a broad distribution and phasing of development that takes into account the ability of the area or community to accommodate development without adversely impacting use of the Welsh language.

3.27 Development plans should include a statement on how planning authorities have taken the needs and interests of the Welsh language into account in plan preparation and how any policies relating to the Welsh language interact with other plan policies.

3.28 Considerations relating to the use of the Welsh language may be taken into account by decision makers so far as they are material to applications for planning permission. Policies and decisions must not introduce any element of discrimination between individuals on the basis of their linguistic ability, and should not seek to control housing occupancy on linguistic grounds.

3.29 If required, language impact assessments may be carried out in respect of large developments not allocated in a development plan which are proposed in areas of particular sensitivity or importance for the language. Any such areas should be defined clearly in the development plan.

Sustainable Management of Natural Resources

3.30 The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 introduces the Sustainable Management of Natural Resources¹² (SNMR) and sets out a framework to achieve this as part decision-making. The objective of the SMNR is to maintain and enhance the resilience of ecosystems and the benefits they provide. The Welsh Government is required to prepare,

¹¹ <https://whiasu.publichealthnetwork.cymru/en>

¹² <https://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/consmanagement/natural-resources-management/natural-resources-policy/?lang=en>