### **Sustainability Committee**

SC(3)-12-10 Paper 1: 26 May 2010

# Scrutiny of the Welsh Assembly Government's Environment Strategy and Implementation

#### Submission from the Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing

#### **Purpose**

1. The Sustainability Committee is conducting an inquiry into the Environment Strategy and its implementation.

#### **Environment Strategy**

- 2. The Environment Strategy for Wales was published in May 2006 and sets out a 20 year vision for the Welsh environment. It has six main themes, and sets out 39 high level environmental outcomes that collectively will achieve the WAG's vision. Progress is measured against 103 indicators that are linked to the outcomes.
- 3. The first Environment Strategy was accompanied by an Action Plan which contained 62 actions contributing to the 39 outcomes. In September 2007 a progress report was published, summarising data and information on the indicators, and summarising progress on the action plan.
- 4. In October 2008, following a 6 week web-based consultation, the second Environment Strategy Action Plan, covering the period 2008-11, was launched. This contains 41 new actions, involving 22 different stakeholders in Wales. The second Action Plan recognises that other WAG policies and programmes, and other existing workstreams will help deliver Environment Strategy outcomes. The second Action Plan does not duplicate this effort, nor does it replicate other ongoing regulatory and legislative drivers. The four main purposes of the second Action Plan are to:

Firstly, drive action to deliver a better environment;

Secondly, promote partnership working with all key stakeholders and partners;

Thirdly, encourage engagement with people, so that everyone can understand, and benefit from, our natural environment; and

Fourthly, deliver progress on achieving our environmental outcomes across the board.

5. The actions in the Environment Strategy Action Plan 2008 -11 are identified as performance targets in the remit letters of sponsored bodies such as the Countryside Council for Wales and the Environment Agency, as well as the National Park Authorities, helping to ensure that they deliver them in partnership with the Assembly Government. In addition, my Environment Strategy Reference Group, made up of members of all of our partners involved in the Environment Strategy, regularly provide advice and valuable input to the delivery of the actions.

#### **Environment Strategy - reporting**

- 6. In July 2008, WAG published a State of the Environment Statistical Bulletin, reporting the progress against our Environment Strategy indicators, organised by the six main themes of the Environment Strategy.
- 7. Work continues to publish the State of the Environment report and interim reports annually. These reports track the progress of the Environment Strategy Action Plan in meeting its 39 outcomes. The December 2009 report is attached as an annex to this paper.
- 8. WAG is working with partners in CCW, EAW, WLGA and Wales Environment Link (WEL) to provide a comprehensive report for the indicators and to develop the data collection to report on them. The main focus of the improvement programme is to develop where there either no method or no data, as follows:

For 15 indicators where there are no data, acquisition of data is being pursued;

For 8 indicators, data collection methods are being developed through a research programme;

- 5 indicators will be referred back to Reference Group as being impractical.
- 9. Where necessary, proxy data may be necessary to indicate trends, but without being statistically robust.
- 10. The Environment Strategy Action Plan Annual Plan was launched in November 2009. This Annual Report is also attached. It reported:

progress against the 41 actions in the second Action Plan, together with progress against the remaining 'live' actions from the first Action Plan, showing how these actions have been taken forward by various partners. It also provided:

a statement on how WAG has had regard to Section 40(1) of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006;

various case studies illustrating good practice in delivering ES outcomes, provided by WEL as part of their reporting to us. We would wish to continue to use case studies provided by our partners, including WEL, to illustrate the next ESAP.

11. This places a duty on public authorities to promote biodiversity, and is being followed up with a range of actions, including working with local authorities on the appointment of biodiversity champions, and guidance to all WAG departments on the application of the duty.

#### **Sustainable Development Scheme and Action Plan**

- 12. Under Section 79 of the Government of Wales Act 2006, Welsh Ministers have a legal duty to have a Scheme setting out how they propose to promote sustainable development. Our new Sustainable Development Scheme, One Wales; One Planet, was launched in May 2009. It sets out the WAG's vision of a sustainable Wales, and confirms that sustainable development is the central organising principle of the Assembly Government. I, and other Ministers, have already provided evidence and appeared before this Committee on the action we have taken across WAG to embed sustainable development as our central organising principle, and I have welcomed the Committee's report on this.
- 13. By its very nature, the Scheme sets the context for achievement of all the Environmental Strategy outcomes.

#### **Biodiversity Policy**

- 14. I issued a Written Statement on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2010 about Welsh Assembly Government action on biodiversity. This Statement also committed the Assembly Government to producing a new Natural Environment Framework later this year which will aim to secure a stronger focus on sustainable land and marine management, based on the ecosystem services they provide.
- 15. Sustainable Development has been agreed by Cabinet as the central organising principle of all our work, and biodiversity enhancement and protection is a key element of this approach. I will be closely consulting with Ministerial colleagues on the development of the new Framework.
- 16. The Natural Environment Framework will underpin improved embedding of sustainable development in all WAG policies and their delivery, in order that people in Wales can continue to benefit from ecosystem services in the face of climate change and other pressures. By building on existing strong and positive collaborative partnerships and by working closely the public, business and voluntary sector, we will ensure that the Framework secures a more coherent partnership approach to protecting and enhancing our natural and so delivers a more effective approach to habitats/species management. The aim is to publish a draft Framework for public consultation in September 2010.

The key Environment Strategy outcomes supported by this theme are: 19, 20 and 21

#### **Waste Strategy**

17. The waste related aspiration and four outcomes stated in the Environment Strategy are referred to and encompassed throughout the draft Wales Waste Strategy, Towards Zero Waste, which we consulted on last year, the final version of which is due out in Spring 2010. The proposals in the strategy are intended to develop Wales as a zero waste nation by 2050 - reducing waste's contribution to Wales' ecological footprint, no waste production in the long term, design for waste prevention and sustainable production and consumption. The strategy also promotes a high recycling society by 2025 - at least 70% recycling across all sectors, source separation of recyclates, closed loop recycling and any residual waste phased out of landfill.

It will contribute to Environment Strategy outcomes 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12

#### **Climate Change**

- 18. Taking robust and sustained action to tackle causes and consequences of climate change is a key priority of the Welsh Assembly Government. Our commitment is reflected in One Wales, the agenda for Government and will be delivered through our Climate Change Strategy for Wales.
- 19. Our principal aim is to achieve annual greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions of 3% by 2011 onwards in areas of devolved competence. This should lead to a 40% reduction in emissions by 2020 against a 1990 baseline. At the same time, the Assembly Government is adopting a strategic approach to climate change adaptation to understand better the potential impacts of climate change in Wales and to provide the support and advice that organisations and communities will need for adapting to changing climate in the future.
- 20. During 2009 we consulted on a High Level Policy Statement and Programme of Action to inform development of Wales' Climate Change Strategy. In the light of these consultations, contributions from the Climate Change Commission for Wales and the UK Committee on Climate Change, and further inputs from Assembly Government departments, we are now refining the Climate Change Strategy and associated plans for delivery for publication later this year.
- 21. The final Strategy will confirm the package of measures for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Wales our emission reduction targets for each sector, and our framework for supporting adaptation work in Wales. Progress reports on delivery of our climate change objectives, as required under the Climate Change Act (2008) will be submitted to annually to the National Assembly for Wales.

#### **Climate Change Commission for Wales**

- 22. The Climate Change Commission for Wales was established in December 2007 to support the Welsh Assembly Government in delivering action on climate change across Wales and help deliver its "One Wales" commitments on climate change. The Commission is chaired by Jane Davidson, Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing. It includes representatives from the four main political parties, key sectors, and expert organisations, with a view to building a consensus on the action needed in response to climate change, provide leadership in tackling both the causes and consequences of climate change in Wales, and make recommendations to the Assembly Government on what action is needed.
- 23. The Commission has been supported by a number of task and finish groups to provide expert opinion on specific issues that the Commission seeks to address. These have included:

Adaptation task and finish group;

Land use and climate change group; and

Business and Transport task and finish group

It will contribute to Environment Strategy outcomes 7, 8 and 25.

#### **Green Jobs Strategy**

- 24. This strategy is a One Wales commitment and its purpose is to ensure that businesses in Wales are able to remain competitive in a world increasingly constrained by carbon, and to maximise Wales' share of the commercial opportunities that will arise.
- 25. The overall aim is to achieve a strong, stable and sustainable economy for Wales that is able to continue to develop whilst stabilising and then reducing its use of natural resources and mitigating its impact on climate change.
- 26 . Regeneration activities will be firmly based on sustainability principles. They will involve and engage with communities creating an infrastructure for the future that favours sustainable ways of living and working.

It will contribute to Environment Strategy outcomes 4, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 14, 18, 19 and 25.

#### Wales' Fisheries Strategy

27. This is the Welsh Assembly Government's long term strategy for the management and development of fisheries in Wales across all sectors of aquaculture, commercial fisheries and recreational fisheries for 2020. The vision of the Wales Fisheries Strategy is to support the development of viable and sustainable fisheries in Wales as an integral part of coherent policies for safeguarding the environment. It emphasises the importance of developing and managing fisheries in a sustainable way as a part of healthy and productive ecosystems. Implementation Plans to achieve the goals of the Strategy have been developed with stakeholders.

The Strategy and Implementation Plans will contribute towards Environment Strategy outcomes 20 and 22.

#### Food, Farming and Countryside "Building a secure future" - a new strategy for farming and food industries

28. The final version of "Building a Secure Future" will provide a reviewed strategy for the farming and food industries, with an overall objective of supporting the development of a profitable future for farming and its associated food processing industry which will sustain farming families and rural communities whilst safeguarding the well being of the environment, mitigating climate change and continuingly supporting the need to increase the vitality and prosperity of our rural communities. It recognises the crucial role of rural land managers and farmers in helping to deliver biodiversity, soil conservation and carbon and water management.

It will contribute to Environment Strategy outcomes 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 20, 23, 34, 35 and 36.

## Sustaining the Land - review of land management actions under Axis II of the Rural Development Plan for Wales 2007-13

29. Glastir, the Welsh Assembly Government's new agri-environment scheme, is designed to allow WAG to compensate farmers for producing environmental goods and services. It will focus upon several key areas - climate change, water and the delivery of ecosystems services outputs, including biodiversity. It will go live on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012.

It will contribute to Environment Strategy outcomes 8, 13, 16, 19, 20, 21, 23, 26, 31 and 35.

#### Woodlands for Wales - WAG's strategy for trees and woodlands

30. The Woodlands for Wales strategy has been revised in part, to take account of the need to enhance the ecosystem services that woodlands can provide. It aims to expand Wales's native woodlands, improve the management of existing native woodlands and species with an increased emphasis on protecting biodiversity, designated sites and ancient woodland and adapt woodlands to climate change. It stresses the importance of providing access to trees and woodlands, encouraging recreation for all for people's health and wellbeing. It also sets out the potential role for trees and woodlands as a land use solution to environmental challenges that relate to many of the Environment Strategy outcomes.

31. The key implementation tools include forest design planning for the Assembly woodland estate, re-aligning the Better Woodlands for Wales grant scheme and facilitating delivery through other stakeholders.

Collectively the strategy will contribute to Environment Strategy outcomes 7, 8, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 27, 29, 35 and 36.

#### **Wales Spatial Plan Update**

32. The Wales Spatial Plan 2008 update, adopted by the National Assembly for Wales, states that each Spatial Plan Area is supported by an environmental working group to provide expert advice and assist in delivering the Environment Strategy at an Area level. As a result of the first Environment Strategy Action Plan t each Area held workshops to consider the relevant Environment Strategy issues for their Area. The environmental priorities were agreed by each WSP Area group and are reflected in the Wales Spatial Plan update 2008. This second Environment Strategy Action Plan has identified (in action 33) that the next phase of the Spatial Plan will help deliver these priorities. Two key work streams were identified to progress this work in each area:

Low carbon regions, to implement the climate change strategy at a regional level,

Integrating green & blue infrastructure planning into regional planning and delivery as piloted in the joint project in South East Wales

It will contribute to Environment Strategy outcomes 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 9 and 11.

#### Making the most of Wales' Coast - Integrated Coastal Zone Management Strategy for Wales

33. The Welsh Assembly Government's vision for the Welsh coast is one where the natural, cultural and economic assets of the coastal zone, and the services they provide, are maintained and enhanced for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Welsh Assembly Government's ICZM Strategy set out an approach to take a long-term, holistic approach to adaptive management. The Welsh Assembly Government will now review the strategy and its implementation, within the context of its new spatial planning powers in The Marine and Coastal Act 2009. The new powers should enable more effective integration between marine and terrestrial planning.

It will contribute to Environment Strategy outcomes 8, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 29 and 31.

#### **Community Planning**

- 34. Community planning should contribute to the achievement of sustainable development in the United Kingdom. Community planning partners should therefore set sustainable development and the integration of social, economic and environmental priorities as a key principle of their community strategy.
- 35. The community strategy is the overarching strategy for each local authority area, providing a long-term strategic vision, based on a set of shared ambitions and values, discussed and negotiated with local citizens, communities and their leaders.
- 36. As a result of the Local Government (Wales) Measure passing into law in 2009 the WAG has consulted on new statutory community planning guidance to reflect the provisions of the Measure. Accompanying this are a series of non-statutory Advice Notes, including those on Sustainable Development, Climate Change and the Environment. The Environment Advice Note focuses on local environmental issues, including biodiversity, flood risk and environmental education, and provides guidance on setting up a partnership to take forward key issues.

It will contribute to Environment Strategy outcomes 1 and 4.

#### **Strategic Policy Position Statement on Water**

- 37. The Welsh Assembly Governments Strategic Policy Position Statement on Water was launched on 31 March 2009. It sets out the Assembly Government's core principles and policies on a number of key areas relating to water in Wales to help the water industry and its regulators respond to the economic, social and environmental changes and pressures that affect water in Wales. The Statement was developed within the context of the commitments for water in the Environment Strategy for Wales and the Assembly Government's wider policies including One Wales and our Sustainable Development Scheme for Wales, One Wales: One Planet.
- 38. The core principles in the Statement are ensuring access to safe drinking water, maintaining water and sewerage services at an affordable price and compliance with statutory obligations that drive all round water quality.
- 39. The Statement clarifies the Assembly Government's position on increased competition, charging and metering and private water supplies and sewerage services, and highlights that affordability is a key concern.
- 40. Progress under this theme is summarised below:

Increased flooding is likely to be a more common occurrence as a consequence of climate change in years to come. Studies suggest that as rainfall patterns change and sea levels rise, flooding and coastal erosion events will become more frequent and more severe.

The New Approaches Programme, launched in 2007, sought to respond to these challenges, highlighting the risks for those most exposed and providing advice on how they can address this. A review of the programme will be conducted in 2010.

The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 includes provisions designed to clarify the roles and responsibilities of those engaged in flood and coastal erosion risk management and will provide better, more sustainable flood and coastal erosion risk management

measures for people, homes and businesses.

A National Strategy for flood and coastal erosion risk management in Wales will be issued in 2010, setting out the policies, objectives and measures for managing the risks of flooding and coastal erosion in Wales. A consultation on the content of the strategy will take place in the summer of 2010.

The transposition of the EU Flood Directive through the Flood Risk Regulations 2009 places new duties for assessing, mapping and planning for the risks of flooding across Wales on the Environment Agency and the local authorities. Along with the local strategies for flood risk management required under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 this information will enhance our understanding of the risks faced by communities across Wales.

Responding to these challenges the Welsh Assembly Government has developed a Strategic Programme of European funded risk management projects with £36m available from European Funding Programmes.

Maintaining Wales' resilience to these dangers has resulted in a strong working relationship developing between the Environment Agency and local authorities to establish the risks that are likely to result as a consequence of increased flooding. This is being taken forward through the Wales Flood Group.

A Raising Awareness Action Plan will issue in 2010, disseminating best practice on raising awareness of the risks of flooding and coastal erosion in Wales.

Environment Strategy outcomes supported by this theme: 1, 3, 8, 13, 14, 15, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 35, 36.

#### Flood and Water Management Act 2010

41. The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 gained Royal Assent on the 8 April 2010. The legislative changes contained within the Act are central to both updating the current arrangements for flood and coastal erosion risk management and water management, and provide an opportunity to align systems designed to protect people, properties and businesses with systems designed to protect the wider environment.

#### 42. The Act's provisions include:

New statutory responsibilities for managing flood risk - Welsh Ministers will develop a National Strategy for flood and coastal erosion risk management. County councils and County Borough Councils will bring together the relevant bodies, who will have a duty to cooperate, to develop local strategies for managing local flood risk. The Environment Agency will oversee the implementation of the National Strategy.

Protection of assets which help manage flood risk - The Environment Agency, local authorities and internal drainage boards will be able to ensure that private assets which help manage the risks of floods cannot be altered without consent. For example, putting a gate in a wall that is helping protect an area could increase the risk of flooding.

Powers to carry out environmental works - the Environment Agency, local authorities and internal drainage boards will be able to manage water levels to deliver leisure, habitat and other environmental benefits.

Sustainable drainage - drainage systems for all new developments will need to be in line with new National Standards to help manage and reduce the flow of surface water into the sewerage system.

New sewer standards - all sewers will be built to agreed standards in future so that they are adopted and maintained by the relevant sewerage company.

Reservoir safety - the public will be protected by a new risk-based regime for reservoir safety. It will reduce the burden on regulated reservoirs where people are not at risk, but introduce regulation for some potentially risky reservoirs currently outside of the system.

Water company charges - there will be protection against unaffordable charges for surface water drainage for community groups such as churches, scouts and others. Future water company charges can include social tariffs for those who would otherwise face difficulty meeting their bills.

Protection of water supplies - there will be wider powers for water companies to control non-essential domestic uses of water in times of drought.

Other protection for water company customers - there will be new powers to reduce the level of bad debt, new arrangements for managing very risky infrastructure projects which could be a threat to the ability of the water company to provide its services, and updated arrangements for administration of water companies should they get into difficulties.

Environment Strategy outcomes supported by this theme: 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 13, 14, 15, 31, 32, 35, 36

#### National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management

43. Under the terms of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 the Welsh Assembly Government is required to develop, maintain and apply a national strategy for flood and coastal erosion risk management in Wales. In addition to setting out the Welsh Assembly Governments policies and objectives for managing flood and coastal erosion risk in Wales the strategy must include a statement on how

it contributes to the achievement of Ministers wider environmental objectives.

- 44. The strategy will cement the transition from the historic defence based approach to flooding and coastal erosion, to the more holistic risk management approach advocated by the Welsh Assembly Government via the New Approached Programme launched in 2007. Risk management involves the management of both the frequency and consequences of flood and coastal erosion events and advocates working in line with natural processes to deliver sustainable solutions.
- 45. A consultation on the national strategy will take place in the summer of 2010.

Environment Strategy outcomes supported by this theme: 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 13, 14, 15, 17, 31, 32, 35, 36

#### **River Basin Management Plans**

46. In December 2009 Welsh Ministers approved three River Basin Management Plans for Wales (one is wholly in Wales, the Western Wales River Basin District, and the remaining two are cross border, Severn River Basin District and Dee River Basin District) that will ensure a strategic river basin management approach to our land and water environment. The Plans are an important step in the Welsh Assembly Governments implementation of the Water Framework Directive, the most substantial piece of EU water legislation to date, and involved setting environmental objectives for all groundwaters and surface waters (including estuaries and coastal waters) within the river basin district and devising a programme of measures to deliver those objectives.

Environment Strategy outcomes supported by this theme: 1, 3, 8, 13, 14, 15, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 35, 36.

#### The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009

47. The Welsh Assembly Government shares in the UK vision for all our seas - for them to be clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse - and has worked with the UK Government to achieve The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. The Act enables better integrated planning and management of Welsh seas, estuaries and coast; better protection for marine ecosystems and biodiversity; and better regulation. We need a range of tools to manage our seas sensitively and the Act adds to our tool kit, giving us the ability to plan more strategically, protect important conservation areas and streamline our marine licensing and management systems. This strategic approach will benefit all who use the sea by maximising sustainable benefits while protecting precious resources.

It will contribute to Environment Strategy outcomes 1, 2, 4, 21, 22, 23.

#### **Marine Planning**

- 48. The creation of a system of marine planning which contributes to the achievement of sustainable development is central to the Act. The UK Marine Policy Statement will be the first part of this new system. The Statement will provide the high level policy context within which Marine Plans will be developed throughout the UK, and set the direction for marine licensing and other relevant authorisation systems. With the UK Government and the other Devolved Administrations, we started pre-consultation in March 2010 on a draft Statement. Formal consultation is planned from July 2010. The aim is to then lay the draft before each UK legislature during the Autumn, leading up to formal adoption by April 2011.
- 49. With the Marine Policy Statement providing the strategic UK context, the Welsh Assembly Government will be developing the first marine plan for Welsh seas over the next 2-3 years. The intention is to go out to consultation later in 2010 on our approach to marine spatial planning. The feedback from initial informal dialogue favours a national plan, recognising that there will be instances where more area specific planning is required because of the level and complexity of activity. The approach will, as far as reasonably practicable, ensure compatibility between the Marine Plan and Wales Spatial Plan.
- 50. It is important that we work with all our neighbours including the Republic of Ireland and the Isle of Man to develop marine plans, and especially with England because of the cross-border areas of the Severn and the Dee. To help achieve joined up planning, we will be entering into a formal concordat with the UK Government later this year.

It will contribute to Environment Strategy outcomes 1, 2, 4, 21, 22, 23.

#### **Marine Conservation Zones**

- 51. The Act provides a new mechanism for conserving marine flora or fauna, habitats or types of habitat or features of geological or geomorphological interest through the designation of Marine Conservation Zones, which will be a new type of Marine Protected Area. These sites together with existing management tools will contribute towards enhancing biodiversity and so promoting healthy functioning and resilient marine ecosystems.
- 52. The Welsh Assembly Government's consultation paper 'Protecting Welsh Seas A draft strategy for marine protected areas in Wales' (September 2009) included our proposed approach to using the new Marine Conservation Zone mechanism. Wales already has a significant number of existing Marine Protected Areas but, in order to have an ecologically coherent network, giving a high level of protection to a small number of ecologically important sites is desirable in order to promote healthy functioning and resilient marine ecosystems. The approach is therefore to use the mechanism to designate a small number of sites with high levels of protection. The plan is to be in a position to identify sites for designation by 2012. The Marine Conservation Zone Project Wales has been established to manage the process and an iterative consultation process on site options is planned to start later this year, informing and resulting in formal consultation in 2012. Unlike European designated sites, the process for identifying and designating Marine Conservation Zones

may take into account social and economic considerations.

It will contribute to Environment Strategy outcomes 1, 2, 4, 21, 22, 23.

#### **Marine Strategy Framework Directive**

53. The key purpose of the Directive is for Member States to achieve Good Environmental Status for their marine areas by 2020 by adopting an ecosystem approach. Welsh Ministers will become the Competent Authority for Welsh inshore waters (out to 12 nautical miles) under the UK regulations transposing the Directive which are due to come into force from July 2010. The Welsh Assembly Government will look to use its full range of functions, including the new powers under the 2009 Act, in a sustainable way to help achieve Good Environmental Status for UK seas.

It will contribute to Environment Strategy outcomes 1, 2, 4, 21, 22, 23.

#### Walking and Cycling Action Plan for Wales 2009-13

- 54. The Action Plan, which was launched in January 2009, brings together key initiatives which the Welsh Assembly Government and its main partners are undertaking or planning to undertake in support of walking and cycling in Wales. Development and implementation of the plan has been overseen by a Steering Group that is jointly chaired by the Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing, and the Deputy First Minister.
- 55. The objective is to encourage more people to walk and cycle more safely and more often, and the range of actions listed in the plan are grouped under the following four themes:

Changing Behaviour - Walking and cycling to make an increasing contribution towards climate change targets and raising levels of physical activity.

Sustainable Travel encouraged via better Walking and Cycling Infrastructure - To create safe, attractive and convenient infrastructure for pedestrian and cycle travel.

Policy Objectives - Ensure that walking and cycling are included in cross-cutting policies, guidance and funding.

Evaluation - To enable the Welsh Assembly Government and delivery partners to track progress in delivering the intended outcomes of the plan.

56. The first annual report on progress against the 30 aims and 6 targets set out in the plan, is due to be completed in June 2010.

It will contribute to Environment Strategy outcomes 7, 24, 27, 29, and 30.

Jane Davidson, AM Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing May 2010