



DRAFT POLICY PLAN 2020-2025 FOR CONSULTATION



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POLICY PLAN – period 2020 to 2025

A FIVE YEAR PLAN FOR THE NORTH AND MID WALES ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

1. HISTORY

1.01 The Association has a history spanning over 30 years representing Town and Community Councils in North and Mid Wales.

1.02 The Association has taken the formal decision not to be part of One Voice Wales but to continue in its present form but to seek to work with One Voice Wales.

2.00 INTRODUCTION

2.01 The Association has in recent years taken a more active role in taking Forward common members concerns and has now achieved some links with the Welsh Government and Parliament direct.

2.02 The policy is to stand for a period of 5 years subject to annual review at the Annual General Meeting.

2.03 A review of actions taken during the last plan period is set out at appendix A.

3.00 MEETINGS

3.01 The Association shall hold at least 4 meetings per annum in accordance with the Standing Orders and Constitution of the Association.

3.02 The Annual General Meeting shall be held in July of each year.

3.03 The Chair, Vice Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Auditor and Treasurer a shall be elected annually at the annual meeting in accordance with the Standing Orders and Constitution of the Association.

3.04 The Association shall appoint and elect members to an Executive to conduct business between main meetings and to formulate with the Secretariat the main agenda for Quarterly Meetings.



4.00 MEMBERSHIP AND SCOPE OF AREA

4.01 The membership of the Association shall be open to any Town or Community Council whose geographical area lies within that from Aberystwyth and Newtown in the South, the Coast to the North and and the borders of Wales with England in the East in accordance with the Standing Orders and Constitution of the Association.

5.00 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

5.01 The aims and objectives of the Association are as follows:

- a) To give a forum for member councils to discuss common issues.
- b) To respond to relevant consultations with regard to both Parliament and the Welsh Assembly.
- c) To support and act upon subjects agreed by the members.
- d) To represent and promote members views of the Members wherever they are needed.

6.00 POLICY

6.01 The subjects listed at **appendix B** are those which have been accepted as a priority by the majority of the membership. The Climate Change action plan is set out at **Appendix C**.

6.02 The list can be added to or subtracted from at each Annual Meeting.

6.03 Subjects for actions shall be approved by the Executive and confirmed at the Quarterly Meetings. A current update of the subjects being taken forward with actions and updates are to be put on the web site and circulate with the agenda for each quarterly meeting.

5.04 The policies in this document supersede those contained in the previous plan.

7.00 CONSULTATIONS

7.01 The Association shall respond to consultations which are relevant to the members.

7.02 The Association shall offer to both Parliament and the Welsh Assembly the opportunity of members being represented on any committee.



8.00 PLAN OF ACTION

8.01 A plan of action shall be agreed at the time of being taken forward by the Executive and Quarterly Meeting.

8.02 A plan of action shall be agreed by the quarterly meeting on other topics to be added to the policy document. Such additions to be confirmed by the Annual General Meeting when the plan is reviewed.

9.00 LOBBYING

9.01 The Association shall use its resources to lobby the authorities relevant to each policy item.

9.02 To achieve this aim a monthly update shall be prepared which will be posted on the Association's web site.

9.03 Meetings with relevant authorities, MP's and AM's can be attended by Members or Officers or both.
However, only the Association policies may be promoted at these meetings.

10.00 COMMUNICATIONS

10.01 The agenda and minutes of the meetings shall be posted on the web site within 7 days of the meeting.

10.02 The agenda for any meeting shall be posted on the web sites each at least 7 days before any meeting is due to take place.

10.03 The agenda and minutes of meetings shall be made available to MP's, AM's, County Councils and One Voice Wales as well as Members.

10.04 A press release shall be issued to local press and local news web sites following each meeting if the meeting so directs.

11.00 WEB SITE

11.01 The Association shall operate a web site which is to be updated at least every 7 days.

11.02 The Membership shall use the web site as a means of keeping up to date with activities, agenda, minutes and other matters about the Association.



- 11.03 The web site shall contain contact details and also details of local PM's and AM's.
- 11.04 The web site shall contain a documents section where members can view background papers for agenda items and also papers which form consultations completed by the Association.
- 11.05 The web site shall be published at its own domain at www.northwalesassociation.org.

12.00 MONITORING AND REVIEW

- 12.01 The Plan is to be the subject of a progress report at each Annual General Meeting and shall be presented in written form and shall be reviewed at that meeting.
- 12.02 Any member wishes to alter the general policy document must request such in writing to the Secretary at least 7 clear days before the AGM.
- 12.03 The Plan shall be reviewed in April 2025 in full.

13.00 GENERAL POLICIES

- 13.01 The Association has adopted and the documents published on its web site polices as follows:
- Constitution
 - Standing Orders
 - Code of Conduct
 - Health and Safety
 - Bilingual

14.00 TRAINING

- 14.01 The Association shall support training programmes and urge members to attend those run by recognised bodies and County Councils.
- 14.02 The Association shall from time to time invite relevant speakers to offer training at its quarterly meetings on topics raised by the membership.



16.00 SIGNATURES TO THE DOCUMENT

Chair.....

Vice Chair.....

Secretary.....

Dated.....



APPENDIX A

Review of previous plan 2014 to 2020

Ref	Heading	Detail	Status
1	Health	Concerns over health provision in North and Mid Wales.	Visits by Health Officials to quarterly meeting. Monitoring of both North and Mid Wales Hospital performance. Discussions and work on homeless situation.
2	Service delivery	Seeking more support for local councils on service delivery.	Involvement in consultations with regard to service delivery by local councils.
3	Rail	Seeking better liaison with rail operators along North Coast lines.	Liaison with Rail Operators under discussion.
4	Planning Bill	Support for Planning Bill for Wales.	Responded to consultations on the Planning Bill for Wales and also the Strategic Planning Bill.
5	Funding	Seek funding for local councils service delivery.	Support for funding at local level through Welsh Government Grants given at each stage of consultations.
6	Flood Plains	Support provision with planning laws regarding construction in flood plain areas.	No actions taken directly.
7	Consultations	Responding to consultations.	The Association has responded to all consultations which are relevant to its work.
8	Web Site	Provision of an Association Web Site.	A new web site has been designed and is kept up to date weekly.
9	Charity Shops	Seeking a level playing field for retailers (ie normal v charity)	Letters sent and attendance at Welsh Government have put the case forward. Discussions continue.

NORTH AND MID WALES ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

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Ref	Heading	Detail	Status
10	Wind Farms	Seek to reduce the impact of large scale wind farms and transmission lines.	Letters sent to Welsh Government at each stage of the strategic process with regards to overall policy on large scale windfarms and transmission lines.
11	Magistrates Courts	Support for the retention of magistrates courts.	Letters sent supporting local councils in keeping their magistrates courts. No further action possible.
12	Alcohol licencing	Seeking local councils to be statutory consultees.	Letter sent to Welsh Government – no action to date. This will be followed up.
13	North South Road	Seeking the provision of a good north south road link in Wales.	Letter sent support initiative. Overall Government Trunk Road Policy not yet complete to take forward any proposal for a north south road link.
14	Local Government	Seeking to support and aid the delivery of the Local Government review.	Involvement with Welsh Government in delivery of Local Government Wales Measure 2010 through both consultations and direct work with the Welsh Government Committee system.
15	Pensions	Seeking to reduce the burden on taxpayers of the Local Government Pension Scheme.	No actions taken directly.
16	Charters	To support the introduction of charters between Local and County Councils.	Support given to Member Councils who required it in delivering a Charter between the two authorities.
17	PCSO's	To seek having PCSO's the same powers in Mid and North Wales.	Discussions have taken place with Dyfed Powys Police seeking them to give the PCSO's the same powers as those in North Wales. No success to date, discussions on-going.
18	One Voice Wales	To seek closer working relationships.	Agenda and Minutes made available to One Voice Wales.

Red – not started Blue – on-going Green - completed



APPENDIX B

LIST OF OBJECTIVES APPROVED TO BE TAKEN FORWARD IN THE PLAN

Ref	Policy	Details of Policy	Action Plan	Priority level
1	Consultations	To bring forward and respond to consultations by the Welsh Government and Parliament (where it affects Wales) for the Members to approve.	To monitor both Welsh Government and Parliamentary web sites to identify in good time consultations of relevance. To attend Welsh Government Committees to give oral evidence when useful.	1
2	Local Council Funding	Local Councils are being asked to take on more services locally without any extra funding support. The policy is to support an initiative which provides funding for local council services direct from Welsh Government.	To monitor Welsh Government progress with the Local Council Review. To respond to any consultations on the subject supporting the funding policy.	3
3	North Coast Railways	The North Coast and Conwy Valley railways are important the economy of North Wales. The policy is to support direct liaison between Local Councils, Transport for Wales, Network Rail, Rail Partnership and the British Transport Police	To monitor changes in rail provision for 2022 onwards. To monitor and comment on rolling stock provision. To monitor and comment on timetables.	1



Ref	Policy	Details of Policy	Action Plan	Priority level
3.	North Coast Railways (continued)	<p>To support improvements to the North Coast stations.</p> <p>To support the provision of trains which have adequate seating provision, adequate toilet provision and an adequate stock level to deliver the services to be provided from 2022.</p> <p>To support the provision of better connections direct to London from the North Coast.</p>	<p>To seek to ensure the provision of good rolling stock which meets the needs of the line.</p> <p>To liaise with all parties with regard the provision of rail services.</p>	1
4	Cambrian Line Railways	<p>To support the provision of a full clockface hourly timetable on the main Cambrian Line.</p> <p>To support the provision of a full two hourly service on the Cambrian Coast Line.</p> <p>To support improvements to the stations on the Cambrian Lines.</p> <p>To support the provision of trains which have adequate seating provision, adequate toilet provision and an adequate stock level to deliver the services to be in place 2022.</p>	<p>To support the provision of an hourly train service on the Main Cambrian lines.</p> <p>To support the provision of a two hourly service on the Cambrian Coast Lines.</p> <p>To seek to ensure the provision of good rolling stock which meets the needs of the line.</p>	1



Ref	Policy	Details of Policy	Action Plan	Priority level
5	Local Buses	<p>The Association is aware of the importance of local buses to rural communities in particular.</p> <p>The policy is to support the retention of as many local buses as possible.</p>	To monitor and comment when necessary seeking the implementation of the policy.	2
6	Climate Change	To complete the policies contained in the Association Climate Change Policy.	See separate action plan at appendix C.	2
7	Renewable energy	<p>To support member Councils where they object to large scale off shore wind farm developments where they affect the viability, nature and tourism of the areas concerned.</p> <p>To support member Councils where they object to large scale on shore wind farm developments where they are close to towns and villages where it affects the viability, nature and tourism of the areas concerned.</p> <p>To support member Councils where they object to wind farm transportation through towns where it affects the viability, nature and tourism.</p>	To monitor and respond to any large scale wind farms or pylon lines in line with the policy.	3



Ref	Policy	Details of Policy	Action Plan	Priority level
7	Renewable energy (continued)	To support member Councils where they object to substantial overhead power lines close to towns and villages where it affects the viability, nature and tourism of the areas concerned.		3
8	Business Rates & Charity Shops	The policy is to seek to change the Use Class Order to include for an A6 (registered charity retail units) to separate these uses from general retail. This in turn helps non charity uses with rent reviews.	To seek a business rate review to implement the policy.	4
9	Business Rates	To seek a review of the business rates system to provide a more fair approach.	To discuss and agree a suggested way forward for presentation to the authorities.	4
10	Council Tax	To seek a review of the business rates system to provide a more fair approach.	To discuss and agree a suggested way forward for presentation to the authorities.	4
11	Magistrates Courts	The loss of magistrates courts in North Wales is of concern, particularly due to the fact that local transport is poor and therefore getting to the courts is difficult. This policy will support keeping open as many of the local magistrate courts as is possible.	To monitor and respond as necessary to meet the policy.	5



Ref	Policy	Details of Policy	Action Plan	Priority level
12	Policing – PCSO’s	<p>The concern of the Association was the mix of PCSO duties in various areas, the more powers PCSO’s have the better.</p> <p>The policy is to seek to support giving more powers to CPSO’s in all member areas.</p>	To seek via the Welsh Government a single policy on PCSO powers in each Police Area.	3
13	Alcohol licencing	The consultation process via local communities with regard to licencing applications is not common and needs to more robust. The policy is to seek that consultations on licencing include a statutory approach to Local Councils for their views.	To seek via the Welsh Government a requirement upon County Councils to consult Local Councils on licencing matters.	4
14	North South road link	The delivery of a north south road link is considered important and of urgent need. The policy is to support the programme and implementation of the north south road link in Wales.	To support the provision of a good road link between North and South Wales.	3
15	Local Council Charters	The Association has received presentations regarding working charters between County and Local Councils. The policy is to seek support the introduction of charters.	To support Local Councils in their quest to gain a Charter with their County Council in line with the Local Government Wales Measure 2010.	4



Ref	Policy	Details of Policy	Action Plan	Priority level
16	Homeless Provision	<p>To support initiatives which provide more help for the homeless including changes in legislation if required.</p> <p>To monitor the homeless numbers in the area of the Association to ensure members are up to date with this along with what is currently being achieved to address these issues.</p>		1
17	One Voice Wales	<p>The Association has given a clear indication that it wishes to remain as a separate independent body to One Voice Wales.</p> <p>The policy is to seek closer co-operation with One Voice Wales without any prerequisite to be members.</p>	To provide agenda and minutes to One Voice Wales via the Association Web Site.	3

PRIORITY LEVELS CHART

5	4	3	2	1
To implement policy as and when the subjects come forward.	To implement policy as time permits.	To take forward the policy within the plan period.	To actively take forward the policy reporting on a quarterly basis.	To actively campaign to gain changes to enable the policy to be met.



CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY

No	Activity	Actions	Current rating
1	Drive less Walk, bike, car-pool or take mass transit more often. You'll save one pound of carbon dioxide for every mile you don't drive! Use vehicles less.	Members to car share where ever it is practical.	BLUE
2	Recycle more You can save 2,400 pounds of carbon dioxide per year by recycling just half of your household waste.	Secretary to ensure that paperwork is printed on recyclable paper.	BLUE
3	Avoid products with a lot of packaging You can save 1,200 pounds of carbon dioxide if you reduce your garbage by 10 percent.	When purchases are made on behalf of the Association the secretary is to seek items with the least packaging.	YELLOW
4	Plant a tree A single tree will absorb one ton of carbon dioxide over its lifetime.	The Association to fund the planting of 6 trees per annum in Mid and North Wales.	BLUE
5	Renewable Energy Support renewable energy schemes.	Support renewable energy polices put forward by Government.	BLUE
6	Publicity Make the public aware of the Council's actions and consider how to promote the global warming issues.	Put on public record the Associations policy.	BLUE
7	Review Review progress every 3 months with a chart showing progress towards completing actions.	Review progress every other quarterly meeting.	BLUE

KEY: **Red** Not achievable **Yellow**
Could do better – reviews and report
Blue Reasonable but with more actions to be completed **Green**
Completion of all that can be done