

## **Our profession's 'asks' for the political parties' manifestos for the National Assembly for Wales elections 2016**

To make Wales a better place for people to live, work and play in, and for nature to thrive, we recommend the next Welsh Government needs to deliver the following:

### **1. Develop a “Landscape Vision for Wales”**

#### **1.1 Require that sustainable place-based policy approaches form the distinctive focus of a national “Landscape Vision for Wales” which:**

- aligns Wales with the European Landscape Convention
- ensures local and national level landscape specialist advice informs decisions about landscape - from streetscapes to seascapes
- guides local authority reorganisation
- aligns Glastir with natural resources management
- guides any reforms of National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty flowing from the Marsden Review and the Elis-Thomas group

#### **1.2 This Vision to be reflected in all Welsh Government spatial policies.**

### **2. Leadership for Place Making**

#### **2.1 Create a Cabinet position for 'Place-Making'.**

*This will ensure delivery of the Well Being of Future Generations Act via sustainable place-based policy approaches to Planning, Infrastructure, Regeneration etc.*

#### **2.2 Include 'leadership for place-making' as a major part of the Public Sector Reform programme.**

*Leaders will deliver more public value through multi-purpose place-making. This will help connect people to place, integrate development, and plan with natural systems, whilst also creating environments which are economically beneficial and sustainable.*

**2.3 Require every local authority, including National Parks, to employ a 'Head of Place-Making' landscape professional.**  
*This will ensure local government is competent to meet the future needs of society, and are intelligent clients when commissioning the private and third sectors for delivery, providing direct policy advice to elected members and to the Local Development Plan and Development Management functions.*

**2.4 Introduce new legislation to enable all Wales' nationally designated landscapes to realise their potential to assist in fulfilling the ambitions of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act, in ways which safeguard and enhance their nationally important "special qualities".**  
*This will deliver recommendations of the Marsden Review and the Elis-Thomas group.*

### **3. Maximise the multiple benefits for society from every development**

**3.1 Maximise the benefits that green and blue infrastructure brings to the Welsh economy** by using the terrestrial and marine planning systems, and national policies to identify, protect and/or create these assets.

**3.2 Give Planning Policy Wales a new foundation, in line with the Well-Being Goals, by using the Place Making and Green Infrastructure approaches as a framework for planning local change and Natural Resource Management for wider rural change.**  
*This would deliver integrated development with multiple benefits rather than the current rather piecemeal approach to separate policy areas including green-space planning, local food growing, recreation, play, active travel, habitat networks, environmental quality, health and well-being and climate change adaptation.*  
*[See a case study [here](#) about Monmouthshire County Council's award winning approach to Green Infrastructure.]*

**3.3 Incorporate the landscape character approach supported by LANDMAP in the refresh of Planning Policy Wales.**  
*This will ensure that the planning and delivery of development better responds to 'place' by working sustainably with landscape and will help ensure the original purpose of Design and Access Statements is delivered.*

**3.4 Ensure National Development Plans, Strategic Development Plans for Cardiff & Swansea City Regions and the A55 corridor, and Local Development Plans embed the green infrastructure approach to guide and integrate development.**  
*Thus the economic, environmental and cultural well-being of development areas will be improved and deliver the Well Being of Future Generations Act.*  
*[Torfaen Council are successfully leading this approach.*  
*Contact: [andrew.osborne@torfaen.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.osborne@torfaen.gov.uk)]*

**3.5 Use the Green Infrastructure approach for ecosystem services delivery, which Landscape Architects are well placed to provide.**

*Thus places are managed within cultural, historic, visual, sensory parameters, and including small and large scale, for the longterm, involving integrated thinking and working, and building resilience.*

**3.6 Ensure Local Authority planning departments are fully skilled with Landscape Architects who play a leading role in a 'Place-Making and Green Infrastructure delivery team', with a remit to inform all Council strategies, Local Development Plans, Planning, infrastructure and community projects.**

*This will result in better place-making with multiple benefits for people and quality environments through good landscape planning, design and management, including: landscape sensitivity and capacity assessments, green belt/green wedge review using landscape planning tools, and evidence for local landscape designations, Planning Management, developing funding bids such as to the Heritage Lottery Fund, involving communities to strengthen pride and ownership, and making local change happen.*

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**Landscape Architects** are well placed to plan, design, manage and deliver high quality and multi-functional landscapes for both town and country, that are resilient to climate change with special attention given to the health and wellbeing of existing and future communities, especially for the young and old in society.

We can do this in a number of ways through harnessing natural resources, and processes for multifunctional benefits through Green Infrastructure and working with character, community resources and needs through Place Making.

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