

Welsh Government

Welsh National Marine Plan

High Level Sustainability Review of the Emerging Policies of the Initial Pre-Consultation Draft Welsh National Marine Plan



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Amec Foster Wheeler Environment
& Infrastructure UK Limited on behalf of
Natural Resources Wales



Report for

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1. Introduction

1.1 Overview

The Welsh National Marine Plan (WNMP) is currently being prepared by the Welsh Government in accordance with the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (MCAA)¹. The purpose of marine planning under the MCAA is to help achieve sustainable development in the marine area. Welsh Ministers are the marine planning authority responsible for creating marine plans for both the inshore region (0-12 nautical miles) and offshore region (beyond 12 nautical miles) of Wales.

Building on the UK Marine Policy Statement², the WNMP will enable the Welsh Government to plan for, and guide, the management of Welsh seas; integrating economic, social and environmental considerations and engaging with communities to help shape the future of the plan area and thereby contribute to the wellbeing of current and future generations.

It is anticipated that the WNMP will comprise the following key plan components (inter alia):

- ▶ **Vision:** the overarching statement about what will characterise the Welsh marine area at a given point in the future;
- ▶ **Plan Objectives:** a clear statement of desired outcomes or observable behavioural changes that the WNMP is seeking to achieve in order to realise the Vision;
- ▶ **Sector Objectives:** these objectives will operate alongside the Plan Objectives and will be sector specific, clear statements of desired outcomes;
- ▶ **General Cross-Cutting Policies:** these will be the cross-cutting policies of a general nature that support the delivery of the Plan Objectives; and
- ▶ **Sector Policies:** these will operate alongside the General Policies as sector specific policies that apply to decisions related to a particular activity.

As part of the development of the WNMP, the Welsh Government has prepared an initial draft of the Welsh National Marine Plan to be shared Pre-Consultation³ and is currently seeking views on the developing approach to marine planning set out in the document. This pre-consultation exercise will help to inform the preparation of the Draft WNMP that will be subject to formal consultation as set out in Schedule 6 of the MCAA prior to independent investigation⁴ (if required) and adoption. Further details relating to this initial pre-consultation stage are available from

<http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/marineandfisheries/marine/marine-planning>.

In developing the Welsh National Marine Plan Initial Pre-Consultation Draft, the Welsh Government has taken account of relevant evidence on the state and current use of Welsh seas, potential future use and the views of stakeholders through ongoing engagement and socio-economic and environmental assessment. In this context, and as part of the drafting of the emerging WNMP and ongoing assessment work, a high level sustainability review of the emerging policies has been undertaken by considering the contribution of the emerging policies to a range of socio-economic and environmental criteria. This Report presents the findings of this high level sustainability review and will be used by Welsh Government to refine the developing approach. It is being shared to support understanding during the informal engagement exercise on the developing policies.

¹ HM Government (2009) Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. Available from http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2009/23/pdfs/ukpga_20090023_en.pdf [Accessed 08/09/15].

² HM Government (2011) UK Marine Policy Statement. Available from https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69322/pb3654-marine-policy-statement-110316.pdf [Accessed 08/09/15].

³ Welsh Government (2015) Welsh National Marine Plan Initial Pre-Consultation Draft.

⁴ Section 13 of Schedule 6 'Marine Plans; Preparation and Adoption' of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009

1.2 Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulations Assessment

Sustainability Appraisal

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is a form of assessment that considers the social, economic and environmental effects of a plan or programme in relation to the aims of sustainable development. Schedule 6 (Part 10) of the MCAA states that:

“(1) A marine plan authority preparing a marine plan must carry out an appraisal of the sustainability of its proposals for inclusion in the plan.

(2) The authority may proceed with those proposals only if it considers that the results of the appraisal indicate that it is appropriate to do so.

(3) The marine plan authority must publish a report of the results of the appraisal.

(4) The report is to be published when the marine plan authority publishes the consultation.”

In meeting its requirement to undertake an SA of the WNMP, the Welsh Government must also address the requirements of the European Union Directive 2001/42/EC on the Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment⁵, more commonly known as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive. This has been transposed into UK regulations as the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (SI 2004 No. 1633), hereafter referred to as the SEA Regulations. This is a law that sets out to integrate environmental considerations into the development of plans and programmes such as the WNMP.

SA will help to ensure that sustainability considerations are taken into account in the WNMP through an iterative approach. This iterative approach will seek to predict and evaluate the likely significant effects of plan proposals and alternatives, proposing measures to avoid, minimise or mitigate any adverse effects and maximise positive effects thereby enhancing the sustainability performance of the plan. This high level sustainability review of the emerging policies is part of this iterative approach to assessment. It seeks to provide provisional views on the sustainability implications of the indicative policies of the WNMP as an early contribution to their further development. This review will be used to contribute to the completion of a SA Report (completed to meet the reporting requirements of the SEA Directive) which will be published to accompany the formal consultation on the Draft WNMP.

The SA of the WNMP is being undertaken by Natural Resources Wales and Amec Foster Wheeler Environment & Infrastructure UK Ltd (Amec Foster Wheeler) on behalf of the Welsh Government. To-date, this has included consultation on the scope of the SA as part of the Strategic Scoping Exercise (SSE)⁶ consultation that took place in August 2014, feedback on the developing WNMP vision and objectives and, subsequently, a high level sustainability review of emerging WNMP policies (to which this report relates).

Habitats Regulations Assessment

The WNMP could have effects on habitats or species in respect of which certain sites have been identified as of Community importance (hereafter referred to as European sites). These sites include Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) designated under the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) designated under the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC). UK planning policy accords the same level of protection to sites listed or proposed under The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, called the Ramsar Convention, and to possible/proposed SPAs and candidate SACs. In accordance with Regulation 61(1) of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (SI 2010 No. 490) (as amended) ('the Habitats Regulations'), there is a need to consider whether the WNMP is likely to have a significant effect on any European sites, a process known as Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA).

The HRA is also being undertaken by Natural Resources Wales and Amec Foster Wheeler on behalf of the Welsh Government and the assessment findings will inform the SA of the WNMP, particularly in respect of the potential effects of the Plan on biodiversity.

⁵ Available from <http://ec.europa.eu/environment/eia/sea-legalcontext.htm> [Accessed 08/09/15].

⁶ Welsh Government (2014) Developing the Welsh National Marine Plan: Draft Strategic Scoping Exercise.

The HRA will be produced in consultation with the Statutory Nature Conservation Bodies (Natural Resources Wales, Natural England, Department of the Environment Northern Ireland and the National Parks and Wildlife Service (Ireland)).

A HRA Report presenting the conclusions of the assessment will be published alongside the Draft WNMP and SA Report for formal consultation.

1.3 Purpose of the High Level Sustainability Review

To be effective, SA should be an iterative process whereby the emerging WNMP is appraised and refined. For planning policies in particular, this usually means amendment to proposed policy wording; however, on occasion it can result in new policies being proposed or the suggested deletion of others. In this context, a high level sustainability review of emerging General Cross-Cutting and Sector Policies was undertaken by Amec Foster Wheeler between July and August 2015.

This high level sustainability review is part of the ongoing SA work. The purpose of the initial review has been to identify any likely significant (particularly negative) socio-economic and environmental effects that may arise as a result of the implementation of the emerging policies at an early stage thereby helping to inform the preparation of the Welsh National Marine Plan Initial Pre-Consultation Draft. The identification of significant effects is complemented by recommendations on how emerging policy wording might be improved and where policies might be combined or new policies considered.

1.4 The Status of this Report

The Welsh Government is committed to ensuring that SA is fully integrated into the development of the WNMP. In this context, the high level sustainability review of the emerging draft policies presented in this Report is intended to support the Welsh Government in further developing the WNMP and demonstrates how SA is informing the iterative development of the Plan.

This Report is not intended to fulfil the reporting requirements of the SEA Directive and the relevant transposing regulations. At this early stage in the development of the WNMP and the SA thereof it is too premature for all of these requirements to be met as the initial draft is subject to further significant change in response to feedback from the pre-consultation engagement exercise and the ongoing incorporation of the SA process. The draft WNMP (and any reasonable alternatives) will be subject to detailed SA in full accordance with the SEA Directive and transposing regulations in due course. The findings will be presented in the SA Report that will be published alongside the Draft WNMP for formal consultation which is expected to take place in 2017.

1.5 Structure of this Report

The remainder of this Report is structured as follows:

- ▶ **Section 2** sets out the approach to the high level sustainability review;
- ▶ **Section 3** presents the findings of the review of the emerging General Cross-Cutting Policies;
- ▶ **Section 4** presents the findings of the review of the emerging Sector Policies; and
- ▶ **Section 5** provides a summary of the findings of the high level sustainability review and outlines the next steps in the SA process.

2. Approach to the High Level Sustainability Review of Emerging Policies

2.1 Emerging Draft Policies Subject to Review

An emerging suite of draft Cross-Cutting General Policies and Sector Policies was provided to Amec Foster Wheeler by the Welsh Government in summer 2015. This included a total of 81 policies across the topics/sectors set out in **Table 2.1**. The high level sustainability review of these emerging draft policies are the subject of this Report. It should be noted that the draft policy text considered as part of the review represent that available at that time. Since the review was undertaken, the policies have been revised (in part to reflect the findings of high level review) and in some cases they therefore differ from those presented in the Welsh National Marine Plan Initial Pre-Consultation Draft because the draft policies have been refined.

Table 2.1 Emerging Draft Marine Plan Policies

General Cross-Cutting Policies	Sector Policies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Overarching Planning Policy: 1 policy -Sustainable Growth: 4 policies -Sustainable Co-existence: 1 policy; -Coastal Communities: 2 policies; -Coastal Change and Flooding: 4 policies; -Seascape and Character: 1 policy; -Heritage: 3 policies; -Climate Change: 3 policies; -Safe Seas: 2 policies; -Marine Protected Areas: 1 policy; -Marine Protected Species: 1 policy; -Wider Biodiversity: 1 policy; -Geodiversity: 1 policy; -Invasive Non-Native Species: 1 policy; -Marine Litter: 1 policy; -Underwater Noise: 1 policy; -Water Quality: 1 policy; -Air Quality: 1 policy; -EIA/SEA: 1 policy -Cumulative Effects: 1 policy -Promoting Good Governance: 4 policies; and -Using Sound Science Responsibly: 4 policies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Aggregates: 5 policies; -Aquaculture: 3 policies; -Defence: 3 policies; -Dredging and Disposal: 2 policies; -Energy – Oil and Gas: 2 policies; -Energy – Low Carbon: 6 policies; -Fisheries: 3 policies; -Tourism and Recreation: 6 policies; -Subsea Cabling: 4 policies; -Ports and Shipping: 6 policies; and -Surface Water Management and Waste Water: 1 policy.

2.2 Approach to the Review

Each emerging draft policy has been reviewed against a set of SA criteria to assess the potential scale and significance of socio-economic and environmental effects. These criteria were the subject of consultation in 2014. By appraising the policies against the criteria, it is apparent where they will contribute to sustainability, where they might have a negative effect, and where any positive effects could be enhanced.

The appraisal criteria have been informed by the topics identified in the SEA Directive, an analysis of baseline evidence (incorporating the identification of key issues) and a review of relevant plans and programmes. Broadly, the criteria present the preferred social, economic and environmental outcome which usually involves minimising detrimental effects and enhancing positive effects. Associated guide questions have been developed for each SA criterion to provide a detailed SA Framework against which the Welsh National Marine Plan proposals can be appraised.

This SA Framework and supporting information was set out in the draft Strategic Scoping Exercise and was subject to consultation in August 2014. The SA Framework set out in the draft Strategic Scoping Exercise, amended as appropriate to take into account consultation responses, is presented at **Appendix A** and has been used as the basis for the review of the emerging draft policies.

The results of the high level sustainability review are presented in matrices that include:

- ▶ the emerging draft policy subject to review;
- ▶ a score against each SA criteria; and
- ▶ commentary on likely significant effects including any plan level mitigation/enhancement measures that are proposed for early consideration by Welsh Government.

The scoring system set out in **Table 2.2** has been used in the review.

Table 2.2 Key to Review Matrix*

Symbol	Effect
++	The emerging draft policy is likely to have a significant positive effect on the SA criteria
+	The emerging draft policy is likely to have a positive effect on the SA criteria
0	The emerging draft policy is likely to have a neutral effect on the SA criteria
-	The emerging draft policy is likely to have a negative effect on the SA criteria
--	The emerging draft policy is likely to have a significant negative effect on the SA criteria
?	The effects of the emerging draft policy on the SA criteria are uncertain at this stage

*Note: where more than one symbol is presented in a box it indicates that the review has found more than one score for the category. Where the scores are both positive and negative, hatching has been used. Where a box is coloured but also contains a ?, this indicates uncertainty over whether the effect could be a minor or significant effect. A conclusion of uncertainty arises where there is insufficient evidence for expert judgement to conclude an effect.

In considering the likely effects on the assessment criteria, the following factors have been taken into account:

- ▶ The nature of the potential effect (what is expected to happen);
- ▶ The timing of the potential effect;
- ▶ The potential effect on vulnerable communities, sensitive habitats and/or ecosystem services;
- ▶ The geographic scale of the potential effect (e.g. local, regional, national);
- ▶ The location of the potential effect;
- ▶ The duration of the potential effect (e.g. short, medium, or long term); and
- ▶ The reasons for any uncertainty and any assumption needed to complete the appraisal.

It is important to note that the review does not constitute a detailed appraisal of the draft emerging policies (or reasonable alternatives). This will be undertaken as part of the SA of the formal consultation Draft WNMP with the findings presented in the SA Report. The SA Report will also include assessments of the



cumulative effects of the Draft WNMP as a whole and in-combination with other plans and programmes such as terrestrial land use plans and shoreline management plans.

3. High Level Sustainability Review of General Cross-Cutting Policies

3.1 Review Findings

Table 3.1 below presents the high level sustainability review of the emerging draft Cross-Cutting General Policies against the SA criteria.

3.2 Summary of Likely Effects

Likely significant positive effects

Significant positive effects have been identified in respect of the following SA criteria: biodiversity; water; physical environment; air quality; landscape and seascape; climate change; heritage; tourism and recreation; resources; economy; wellbeing; health; and governance.

The significant positive effects identified are principally encountered in respect of the protection and enhancement of environmental resources which characterise the WNMP area, and opportunities associated with tourism, recreation and the economy where there has been, and can continue to be, a positive relationship between them. The policy areas of sustainable growth, coastal communities, coastal change and flooding, protected areas and species and air and water quality all demonstrate typically (though not universally) strong positive effects.

Likely positive effects

Positive effects dominate the review, reflecting the positive tone of the draft General Cross-Cutting Policies which at a strategic level are pitched at emphasising the importance of environmental protection as the starting point for considering how social and economic interests might be given appropriate weight. The policy areas of sustainable growth, sustainable co-existence, coastal communities, climate change, protected areas and sites and promoting good governance demonstrate typically positive effects across the majority of SA criteria (notwithstanding some variation in relation to specific policies).

Likely significant negative effects

No likely significant negative effects have been identified at this stage. This reflects the broad emphasis of the draft General Cross-Cutting Policies on sustainable development.

Likely negative effects

Only a limited number of likely negative effects were identified during the review. Where negative effects do arise, these are limited to impacts arising from the need to take action against the effects of climate change which could involve significant new coastal defence work and hence compromising some aspect of environmental interests such as heritage and seascape/landscape protection and which could compromise economic interests. There is uncertainty, however, reflecting the location-specific nature of the effects.

It is recognised that there is the potential that enhancing economic outputs from the marine environment and the use of marine resources (such as aggregates, aquaculture and energy) could result in adverse social and environmental effects (as a result of new development or activities during construction, operation and decommissioning and resource depletion). However, the collective policy wording as currently drafted suggests that any adverse effects will be appropriately managed. Notwithstanding, there does remain some uncertainty at this stage as the type, scale and location of future development/activity in the plan area is unknown.

3.3 Recommendations for Mitigation and Enhancement

It is recognised that the General Cross-Cutting Policies are at a draft stage and to inform their refinement, a number of recommendations have been identified in **Table 3.1**. These recommendations predominantly focus on adjusting policy wording to more accurately capture how the policy might promote the interests of sustainable development as well as opportunities to merge policies on the grounds of clearer presentation of the strategic intentions of the WNMP. The recommendations are presented in the context of the SA process only and a wider justification for the policy scope and content as presented could well exist.

In some instances (such as Policy EIA/SEA Gen 1), it is uncertain whether specific policy is required whilst in other cases (such as USSR Gen 1 and Gen 4) potential conflicts/uncertainties in policy implementation suggest that policy could be deleted.

3.4 Policy Coverage Gaps

The high level sustainability review presented in **Table 3.1** has not identified any significant policy gaps from a SA perspective. This is reflected in the broadly positive effects identified across all of the SA criteria.

Notwithstanding the above, the Welsh Government may wish to include a specific policy on supporting and enhancing Welsh language and culture. Whilst the draft General Cross-Cutting Policies are certainly expected to have a positive effect on this SA criteria (through, for example, the provision of jobs for Welsh communities), specific policy and guidance could be usefully included in the WNMP. A specific policy could, for example, identify those coastal communities where Welsh language is particularly important (evidenced by the proportion of Welsh speakers/change in Welsh speaking populations) and highlight the range of measures that could be adopted to mitigate adverse effects and enhance positive effects (including requirements for Welsh Language Impact Assessment). This would be consistent with Planning Policy Wales, Technical Advice Note 20: Planning and Welsh Language and the Wellbeing of future Generations Act in particular and would support the Welsh Government's Welsh Language Strategy.

Table 3.1 High Level Sustainability Review of Draft General Cross-Cutting Policies

Policy	1. Biodiversity	2. Water	3. Physical Environment	4. Air Quality	5. Landscape and Seascape	6. Climate Change	7. Heritage	8. Welsh Language	9. Tourism and Recreation	10. Resources (incl Waste)	11. Economy	12. Wellbeing	13. Health	14. Governance	Commentary:
Overarching Planning Policy															
OPP GEN 1 There will be a presumption in favour of the sustainable development and use of the Welsh marine area when proposals are consistent with the objectives and policies of this plan.	+	+	+	+	+	?	+	?	+	+	+	+	+	+	<p>Significant Effects: The policy will seek to balance environmental, social and economic effects which should produce positive (though not significant) effects on the SA criteria, reflecting parent legislation such as the <i>Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015</i> where “sustainable development” means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle.</p> <p>Mitigation/Enhancement: No recommended changes at this stage.</p>
Sustainable Growth															
SG GEN 1 Decision makers should support the sustainable development of economically productive activities, throughout the supply chain, where this is consistent with other policies within this plan.	+/ ?	+/ ?	+/ ?	+/ ?	+/ ?	+/ ?	+/ ?	+	++ /?	+/ ?	++	+	+/ ?	0	<p>Significant Effects: Whilst there is the potential that enhancing economic outputs from the marine environment could result in adverse social and environmental effects (as a result of new development or activities, during construction, operation and decommissioning), there is no reason to assume that effects will be other than positive across all SA criteria if the policy is appropriately implemented. In the case of tourism and recreation and the economy, effects are likely to be significantly positive. This reflects the policy's emphasis on sustainable economic development and realising the economic potential of the Welsh seas.</p> <p>Mitigation/Enhancement: Suggest replacing the term ‘economically productive activities’ with ‘economic activity’</p>

Policy	1. Biodiversity	2. Water	3. Physical Environment	4. Air Quality	5. Landscape and Seascapes	6. Climate Change	7. Heritage	8. Welsh Language	9. Tourism and Recreation	10. Resources (incl Waste)	11. Economy	12. Wellbeing	13. Health	14. Governance	Commentary:
															to reflect the broader intention of the policy as set out in the supporting text.
SG GEN 2 Decision makers should, where appropriate, support activities that, on a long-term basis, create employment at all skill levels and contribute to economic growth.	0/ ?	0/ ?	0/ ?	0/ ?	0/ ?	0/ ?	+/ ?	+	++ /?	0/ ?	++	+	+/ ?	0	<p>Significant Effects: There should be beneficial effects in respect of economic and social interests with neutral effects elsewhere, depending on how the policy is implemented.</p> <p>Mitigation/Enhancement: The policy could benefit from being more specific. Possible contradiction identified with environmental protection policies. Consider merging with Policies SG GEN 3 and 4 to reflect their shared content. Wording could also be added to specifically refer to key sectors related to the marine environment (tourism, recreation fishing, ports etc) and support for high valued-added activities which support the aspiration to move to a high skilled, high value economy.</p>
SG GEN 3 Decision makers should, where appropriate, support activities that provide opportunities for skills development and diversification that will contribute to economic growth.	0/ ?	0/ ?	0/ ?	0/ ?	0/ ?	0/ ?	+/ ?	+	++ /?	0	++	++	+/ ?	0	<p>Significant Effects: There should be significant positive effects in respect of economic and social SA criteria. The policy is likely to help address persistent issues such as skills gaps and deliver employment opportunities for Welsh people and communities. Neutral effects are expected in respect of other criteria, depending on how the policy is implemented.</p> <p>Mitigation/Enhancement: Considerable overlap with Policies SG GEN 2 and 4. Potential to consider merging policies.</p>
SG GEN 4 Decision makers should support proposals that promote opportunities for Welsh people and businesses where consistent with the objectives and policies of this plan.	0/ ?	0/ ?	0/ ?	0/ ?	0/ ?	0/ ?	+/ ?	+	++ /?	0	++	+	+/ ?	0	<p>Significant Effects: This policy is expected to help maximise economic opportunities for Welsh people and businesses, generating positive and significant positive effects across social and economic SA criteria. Neutral effects are expected in respect of other criteria, depending on how the policy is implemented.</p>

Policy	1. Biodiversity	2. Water	3. Physical Environment	4. Air Quality	5. Landscape and Seascapes	6. Climate Change	7. Heritage	8. Welsh Language	9. Tourism and Recreation	10. Resources (incl Waste)	11. Economy	12. Wellbeing	13. Health	14. Governance	Commentary:
															Mitigation/Enhancement: Clarification is required on precisely what this policy is seeking to achieve. Text accompanying the policy is weak. Consider merging with Policy SG GEN 2 and 3 to reflect their shared content.
Sustainable Co-existence															
SC GEN 1 Proposals which enable or facilitate coexistence with other sectors and activities within the marine area to increase its value and use are encouraged.	+/ ?	+/ ?	+/ ?	+/ ?	+/ ?	+/ ?	+/ ?	0	++ /?	+/ ?	++ /?	0	0	0	<p>Significant Effects: This policy would be expected to optimise economic benefits from ensuring multiple activities could take place. This is likely to have significant positive effects in respect of the economy and tourism and recreation in particular with positive effects across the majority of other SA criteria. Notwithstanding, there is uncertainty over precisely how the principles of co-existence might be implemented in practice.</p> <p>Mitigation/Enhancement: It is uncertain whether the policy tone is sufficiently strong – will “encouraged” make a positive difference? Suggest replacing with “promoted”. Consider including direct reference to avoidance of adverse cumulative effects, particularly on sensitive receptors such as biodiversity and the physical environment.</p>
Coastal Communities															
CC GEN 1 Access to the marine plan area should be maintained or enhanced, to allow both understanding and enjoyment and also economic use of the marine environment.	+/ ?	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	<p>Significant Effects: There is the potential that enhancing access to the marine environment could have adverse effects on, in particular, biodiversity. However, on balance effects associated with this policy are likely to be positive in light of the intent to encourage a greater understanding and enjoyment of the marine environment. This is likely to lead to beneficial effects over the long term in respect of recognition of the need to protect and enhance the marine environment.</p>

Policy	1. Biodiversity	2. Water	3. Physical Environment	4. Air Quality	5. Landscape and Seascapes	6. Climate Change	7. Heritage	8. Welsh Language	9. Tourism and Recreation	10. Resources (incl Waste)	11. Economy	12. Wellbeing	13. Health	14. Governance	Commentary:
															Mitigation/Enhancement: Current wording of the policy could be strengthened (e.g. maintain <u>and</u> enhance) and by removing reference to economic use, as this is covered by Policy CC GEN 2. Consideration could also be given to the inclusion of wording that seeks to ensure that enhancing accessibility will not have adverse impacts on the environment (it is noted that this is covered in the supporting text but it could be usefully captured in the policy wording itself).
CC GEN 2 Development and use of the marine environment should consider the identity and wellbeing of coastal communities at a local scale and should provide social and economic benefits for those communities where possible.	+/ ?	+/ ?	+/ ?	+/ ?	+/ ?	+/ ?	+	+	++	0	++	++	++	0	<p>Significant Effects: The nature of effects associated with this policy will be dependent upon the balance struck between the socio-economic interests of coastal communities and environmental protection objectives. Overall, however, effects are likely to be positive and significantly positive in respect of those SA criteria relating to social and economic factors.</p> <p>Mitigation/Enhancement: The wording of the policy could be strengthened to make proportionate demands on developers. For example: “<i>Development and use of the marine environment should be of benefit to the identity and wellbeing of coastal communities, providing for their social and economic enhancement.</i>”</p>
Coastal Change and Flooding															
CCF GEN 1 Developments and use of the marine environment should be resilient to coastal change and flooding over their lifetime.	0/ ?	+	++ /?	0	-/?	++	-/?	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	<p>Significant Effects: Effects on the SA criteria are likely to be mixed. This reflects the often contradictory objectives of addressing coastal change and flood risk (through, for example, hard engineering) and the interests of biodiversity and tourism (which can lead to managed retreat of areas). Much depends on the likely impacts of change in respect of specific localities, for example in respect of the degree of hard engineering which might be required to address coastal dynamics/flooding.</p>

Policy	1. Biodiversity	2. Water	3. Physical Environment	4. Air Quality	5. Landscape and Seascapes	6. Climate Change	7. Heritage	8. Welsh Language	9. Tourism and Recreation	10. Resources (incl Waste)	11. Economy	12. Wellbeing	13. Health	14. Governance	Commentary:
															Notwithstanding, significant positive effects are likely in relation to the physical environment and climate change. Mitigation/Enhancement: Consider combining with Policy CCF GEN 2 to reflect their shared content.
CCF GEN 2 Development and use of the marine environment should not have a significant adverse impact upon coastal processes or the risk of coastal change and flooding.	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	Significant Effects: Effects are likely to be neutral across the majority of SA criteria with positive effects anticipated in respect the physical environment and climate change. Mitigation/Enhancement: The policy could be strengthened by direct reference (within the policy wording) to TAN15 and SMPs as the source of detailed guidance on what constitutes significance adverse impacts and how this can be avoided as part of development. Consider combining with Policy CCF GEN 1 and GEN 4 to reflect their shared content.
CCF GEN 3 Flood and coastal erosion risk management solutions should where possible, align with the relevant Shoreline Management Plan policy.	0	+	++	0	+	++	+	0	+	0	+	0	+	0	Significant Effects: The development of an integrated approach to coastal management should help to reconcile competing interests, although implementation and impacts depends upon the character of localities. Mitigation/Enhancement: No recommended changes at this stage.
CCF GEN 4 Measures that provide opportunities to reduce the risk of coastal change and flooding should be encouraged and promoted.	++	+	++	0	++	++	++	0	+	0	+	0	+	0	Significant Effects: Similar to Policy CCF GEN 3, effects should be positive across the majority of the SA criteria, but will be location-specific. Mitigation/Enhancement: No recommended changes at this stage.
Seascapes and Character															

Policy	1. Biodiversity	2. Water	3. Physical Environment	4. Air Quality	5. Landscape and Seascape	6. Climate Change	7. Heritage	8. Welsh Language	9. Tourism and Recreation	10. Resources (incl Waste)	11. Economy	12. Wellbeing	13. Health	14. Governance	Commentary:
SSC GEN 1 Development proposals or the adoption of new or revised Plans should demonstrate how potential impacts on seascapes have been taken into consideration at an early stage of proposal design or plan development.	+	0	0	0	++	0	++	0	++	0	+	+	+	0	<p>Significant Effects: A range of positive effects should result from the implementation of this policy and particularly in respect of landscape and seascape, heritage and tourism.</p> <p>Mitigation/Enhancement: It is noted that this policy makes reference to new or revised Plans. A full definition of the range and types of plans being referred to could be usefully included in the supporting text and/or policy (though it is noted that reference is made to land use plans in the supporting text).</p>
Heritage															
H GEN 1 Measures to better understand the significance of historic assets, the cultural benefits they provide and the issues and changes that affect them should be encouraged and promoted.	0	0	0	0	++	0	++	+	++	0	+	+	0	0	<p>Significant Effects: The promotion of a better understanding of heritage assets is likely to have positive and significant positive effects across a range of SA criteria and in particular landscape and seascape, heritage and tourism and recreation.</p> <p>Mitigation/Enhancement: It is considered that the policy wording could be clearer i.e. to specify what measures might be encouraged/promoted and by whom.</p>
H GEN 2 Development and use of the marine environment should, where appropriate, assess and manage the impact upon historic assets and their setting.	0	0	0	0	++	0	++	+	++	0	+	+	0	0	<p>Significant Effects: Sensitivity to the historic environment should be a central component of development proposals and yield positive effects where considered in the context of wider management frameworks at local and national scales.</p> <p>Mitigation/Enhancement: The wording of the policy could be strengthened to reflect a greater commitment to the protection and enhancement of cultural heritage assets and their settings, consistent with Planning Policy Wales (Chapter 6). Additionally, reference could be made to unknown archaeological assets.</p>

Policy	1. Biodiversity	2. Water	3. Physical Environment	4. Air Quality	5. Landscape and Seascape	6. Climate Change	7. Heritage	8. Welsh Language	9. Tourism and Recreation	10. Resources (incl Waste)	11. Economy	12. Wellbeing	13. Health	14. Governance	Commentary:
H GEN 3 Public access to the historic environment is to be encouraged where appropriate.	0	0	0	0	+	0	++	+	++	0	+	+	0	0	<p>Significant Effects: The encouragement of public access, where appropriately managed, should have a range of positive effects related to increased understanding and appreciation of cultural heritage within and concerning the marine environment. In particular, significant positive effects are expected in respect of heritage and tourism and recreation.</p> <p>Mitigation/Enhancement: Currently, the policy is non-strategic. The policy could form part of a separate policy covering tourism, recreation and access such as: “<i>The direct and indirect impacts and interests of tourism, recreation and access should be considered as part of development proposals and management planning activity, ensuring that the interests of the marine environment are properly taken into account in decision-making.</i>”</p>
Climate Change															
CLC GEN 1 Development and use of the marine environment should include measures to minimise the emission of greenhouse gases.	+	+	+	+	+	++	+	0	0	++	0	0	+	0	<p>Significant Effects: Efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions will, over the longer term, be of direct and indirect benefit to a range of environmental receptors, as well as demonstrating a wider move towards more sustainable patterns of development. The policy may also support renewable energy development in the marine environment, generating a significant positive effect in respect of resources.</p> <p>Mitigation/Enhancement: There is an opportunity to be more specific in respect of what is expected/aspired to e.g. through adding reference to key sources such as transport.</p>
CLC GEN 2 Development and use the marine environment should have regard for the impacts of climate change	+	+	+	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	<p>Significant Effects: This policy is likely to generate significant positive effects in respect of climate change in particular. There is also the potential that the promotion of adaptation measures could have positive effects in respect</p>

Policy	1. Biodiversity	2. Water	3. Physical Environment	4. Air Quality	5. Landscape and Seascapes	6. Climate Change	7. Heritage	8. Welsh Language	9. Tourism and Recreation	10. Resources (incl Waste)	11. Economy	12. Wellbeing	13. Health	14. Governance	Commentary:
and, where appropriate, should provide adequate adaptation measures.															of a range of other SA criteria and in particular biodiversity, the physical environment and health. Mitigation/Enhancement: Consider combining with Policy CLC GEN 3 reflecting the shared attention on adaptation and mitigation.
CLC GEN 3 Measures that contribute towards climate change adaptation and mitigation should be encouraged and promoted.	+	+	+	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	Significant Effects: This policy is likely to generate significant positive effects in respect of climate change in particular. There is also the potential that the promotion of adaptation measures could have positive effects in respect of a range of other SA criteria and in particular biodiversity, the physical environment and health. Mitigation/Enhancement: Consider combining with Policy CLC GEN 2 reflecting the shared attention on adaptation and mitigation.
Safe Seas															
SS GEN 1 Safety must be a primary consideration for any development and use of the marine environment.	+	+	+	+	+	0	+	0	+	+	+	++	++	0	Significant Effects: This policy is likely to have a significant positive effect on wellbeing and health in particular. Ensuring safer seas may also have indirect positive effects on other SA criteria such as biodiversity and water (by reducing pollution), tourism and recreation and the economy. Mitigation/Enhancement: The wording of the policy could better reflect the intention conveyed in the supporting text. For example: "Development and use of the marine environment should demonstrate adherence to relevant legislation, regulations and guidance, including emergency and risk planning where appropriate."
SS GEN 2	++	++	+	++	+	0	+	0	+	+	+	++	++	0	Significant Effects: Attention to risk management will help to reduce avoidable accidents which can have a

Policy	1. Biodiversity	2. Water	3. Physical Environment	4. Air Quality	5. Landscape and Seascape	6. Climate Change	7. Heritage	8. Welsh Language	9. Tourism and Recreation	10. Resources (incl Waste)	11. Economy	12. Wellbeing	13. Health	14. Governance	Commentary:
Development and use of the marine environment must take measures to minimise the risk of marine pollution incidents.															disproportionate impact on some aspects of the marine environment. In consequence, this policy has been assessed as having positive effects across the majority of the SA criteria. Mitigation/Enhancement: No recommended changes at this stage.
Marine Protected Areas															
MPA GEN 1 Development and use of the marine environment must comply with legal requirements associated with Marine Protected Areas.	++	++	++	+	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	Significant Effects: This policy is expected to have significant positive effects on biodiversity, water and the physical environment in particular along with positive socio-economic effects which flow from the protection of ecological assets. Mitigation/Enhancement: Consider combining Policies MPA GEN1, MPS GEN1, WB GEN1 and G GEN 1 under a single biodiversity/geodiversity policy. Consider the inclusion of specific wording relating to the avoidance of likely significant effects on Marine Protected Areas.
Marine Protected Species															
MPS GEN 1 Proposals for development and use of the marine environment should consider the possible adverse effect of activities upon European and Nationally Protected Species.	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	Significant Effects: This policy is expected to have positive effects on biodiversity, water and the physical environment in particular along with positive socio-economic effects which flow from the protection of ecological assets. Mitigation/Enhancement: Consider strengthening the wording of the policy to include reference to the avoidance of damaging effects: <i>"Development and use of the marine environment should not result in any likely significant effects (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) on European</i>

Policy	1. Biodiversity	2. Water	3. Physical Environment	4. Air Quality	5. Landscape and Seascape	6. Climate Change	7. Heritage	8. Welsh Language	9. Tourism and Recreation	10. Resources (incl Waste)	11. Economy	12. Wellbeing	13. Health	14. Governance	Commentary:
															<p>sites. If likely significant effects cannot be ruled out, there should be no adverse effects on the integrity of European designated sites, protected areas, species and habitats unless impacts can be mitigated or, in the case of European sites, there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest."</p> <p>Also, consider combining policies MPA GEN1, MPS GEN1, WB GEN1 and G GEN 1 under a single biodiversity/geodiversity policy.</p>
Wider Biodiversity															
WB GEN 1 Decision makers and developers should consider opportunities to promote the conservation of biodiversity including opportunities for recovery or enhancement.	++	++	++	+	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	<p>Significant Effects: This policy is expected to have significant positive effects on biodiversity, water and the physical environment in particular along with positive socio-economic effects which flow from the protection of ecological assets.</p> <p>Mitigation/Enhancement: Consider combining policies MPA GEN1, MPS GEN1, WB GEN1 and G GEN 1 under a single biodiversity/geodiversity policy.</p>
Geodiversity															
G GEN 1 Development or use of the marine environment must take account of the legal requirements for designated geodiversity features.	+	+	++	+	++	0	+	0	+	+	+	+	0	0	<p>Significant Effects: This policy is likely to have significant positive effects on the physical environment and landscape and seascape in particular along with positive socio-economic effects which flow from the protection of geodiversity features.</p> <p>Mitigation/Enhancement: Consider combining policies MPA GEN1, MPS GEN1, WB GEN1 and G GEN 1 under a single biodiversity/geodiversity policy. The policy wording itself could more explicitly refer to the protection and enhancement of geological features.</p>

Policy	1. Biodiversity	2. Water	3. Physical Environment	4. Air Quality	5. Landscape and Seascapes	6. Climate Change	7. Heritage	8. Welsh Language	9. Tourism and Recreation	10. Resources (incl Waste)	11. Economy	12. Wellbeing	13. Health	14. Governance	Commentary:
Invasive Non-Native Species															
INNS GEN 1 Development and use of the marine environment must, where appropriate, take measures to reduce the risk of introduction and spread of invasive non-native species.	++	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	+	0	<p>Significant Effects: This policy has been assessed as having a significant positive effect on biodiversity in particular, reflecting the threat of non-native species to marine ecology.</p> <p>Mitigation/Enhancement: No recommended changes at this stage.</p>
Marine Litter															
ML GEN 1 Development and use of the marine environment should demonstrate that they have taken adequate measures to minimise the introduction of litter into the marine plan area.	++	++	+	0	+	0	+	0	+	+	+	0	+	0	<p>Significant Effects: Significant positive effects are expected for key environmental receptors and socio-economic interests.</p> <p>Mitigation/Enhancement: The wording could be amended to a format that is measurable and can be achieved, for example: "Measures to minimise marine litter introduced into the Marine Plan Area should be identified and implemented, where appropriate, as part of development proposals and activities using the marine environment."</p>
Underwater Noise															
UN GEN 1 Development and use of the marine environment must, where appropriate, demonstrate that man-made noise impacts have been taken into account and if necessary, provide appropriate avoidance, minimisation or mitigation measures to manage any possible impacts.	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	<p>Significant Effects: This policy has been assessed as having a significant positive effect on biodiversity. The management of underwater noise may also have positive effects on wellbeing and health.</p> <p>Mitigation/Enhancement: Suggest including reference to effects arising from "noise, vibration and sonar" which would capture percussive effects associated with, for example, wind farm piling or defence training.</p>

Policy	1. Biodiversity	2. Water	3. Physical Environment	4. Air Quality	5. Landscape and Seascapes	6. Climate Change	7. Heritage	8. Welsh Language	9. Tourism and Recreation	10. Resources (incl Waste)	11. Economy	12. Wellbeing	13. Health	14. Governance	Commentary:
Water Quality															
WQ GEN 1 Development and use of the marine environment must comply with the Water Framework Directive and should not prevent the achievement of established objectives set out in River Basin Management Plans.	++	++	++	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	+	0	<p>Significant Effects: This policy has been assessed as having a significant positive effect on biodiversity, the physical environment and water with associated indirect positive effects on tourism, resources, wellbeing and health.</p> <p>Mitigation/Enhancement: The policy could be strengthened through the inclusion of wording to reflect aspirations to enhance water quality. For example, <i>“Development and use of the marine environment must, as a minimum, comply with the Water Framework Directive, and where possible contribute to enhancing water quality in estuaries, coastal waters and the open sea.”</i></p> <p>It is uncertain whether this policy is required as it reiterates existing legislation.</p>
Air Quality															
AQ GEN 1 Development and use of the marine environment should not result in the deterioration of air quality and should not breach any statutory air quality limits.	++	0	0	++	0	++	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	<p>Significant Effects: Measures to minimise air quality impacts are expected to have significant positive effects on biodiversity, air quality, climate change and health.</p> <p>Mitigation/Enhancement: Suggest strengthening the policy through adding an aspiration to improve air quality. For example, <i>“Development and use of the marine environment should minimise emissions to air and not, as minimum, breach any statutory air quality limits. Where possible, proposals should contribute to the enhancement of air quality.”</i></p>
EIA/SEA															

Policy	1. Biodiversity	2. Water	3. Physical Environment	4. Air Quality	5. Landscape and Seascapes	6. Climate Change	7. Heritage	8. Welsh Language	9. Tourism and Recreation	10. Resources (incl Waste)	11. Economy	12. Wellbeing	13. Health	14. Governance	Commentary:
EIA/SEA GEN 1 Development, use and plan making in relation to the marine environment must comply with the requirements of the Environmental Impact Assessment and Strategic Environmental Impact Assessment Directives.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0	0	+	0	0	+	+	<p>Significant Effects: Compliance with the EIA and SEA Directives and transposing regulations will encourage the identification of environmental effects and implementation of appropriate mitigation at the plan/project level. This has been assessed as having a positive effects across the majority of the SA criteria.</p> <p>Mitigation/Enhancement: It is uncertain whether this policy is required as it reiterates existing legislation. It is also noted that there is no reference to HRA and other permits and licenses that may be required. If retained, it is recommended that the policy is broadened to refer to the need to adhere to all regulatory requirements at international and national scales, deleting specific reference to SEA and EIA.</p>
Cumulative Effects															
CE GEN 1 Proposals for development and use of the marine environment must assess the possible cumulative effects upon the ecosystem of the marine plan area and adjacent areas.	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	<p>Significant Effects: This policy has been assessed as having a positive effect across those SA criteria that relate to marine ecosystems (in particular, biodiversity, water, the physical environment and resources).</p> <p>Mitigation/Enhancement: The policy could be strengthened beyond the 'consideration' of cumulative effects on ecosystems to other receptors and include reference to co-existence and the avoidance and minimisation of effects. The policy could state, for example: "Proposals for the development and use of the marine environment should assess likely cumulative effects upon environmental, social and economic receptors as well as other marine activities. Proposals to avoid, minimise or compensate adverse effects (including the displacement of existing activities) should be identified and implemented." Alternatively, the need to consider cumulative effects could be a thread that runs through all</p>

Policy	1. Biodiversity	2. Water	3. Physical Environment	4. Air Quality	5. Landscape and Seascape	6. Climate Change	7. Heritage	8. Welsh Language	9. Tourism and Recreation	10. Resources (incl Waste)	11. Economy	12. Wellbeing	13. Health	14. Governance	Commentary:
															relevant General Policies thereby negating the need for a specific policy.
Promoting Good Governance															
PGG GEN 1 Early and effective engagement must be undertaken with the full range of appropriate stakeholders to inform planning, plan implementation and making decisions.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	++	<p>Significant Effects: Positive effects likely across all SA criteria, reflecting the opportunity to plan for, anticipate and respond to the likely effects of decisions made.</p> <p>Mitigation/Enhancement: No recommended changes at this stage.</p>
PGG GEN 2 Decisions will be made in accordance with the marine plan unless relevant considerations indicate otherwise and all interests will be treated in a fair, proportionate and transparent manner.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	++	<p>Significant Effects: Positive effects likely across all SA criteria reflecting the adoption of a balanced approach to decision making and trade-offs between objectives.</p> <p>Mitigation/Enhancement: No recommended changes at this stage.</p>
PGG GEN 3 All reasonable steps should be taken by public authorities to integrate planning on land with that in the marine area (and vice-versa).	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	++	<p>Significant Effects: Positive effects likely across all SA criteria, reflecting the intention to ensure that there is read-across between terrestrial and marine planning.</p> <p>Mitigation/Enhancement: As currently drafted, the policy is unclear as to what 'all reasonable steps' means and how integration might be achieved in practice. There could be inclusion of a requirement to "have regard to other plans and programmes" and reference to shared monitoring, for example. Consider combining with Policy PGG GEN 4, reflecting shared content.</p>

Policy	1. Biodiversity	2. Water	3. Physical Environment	4. Air Quality	5. Landscape and Seascapes	6. Climate Change	7. Heritage	8. Welsh Language	9. Tourism and Recreation	10. Resources (incl Waste)	11. Economy	12. Wellbeing	13. Health	14. Governance	Commentary:
PGG GEN 4 All reasonable steps should be taken to ensure co-ordinated decision-making across marine plan boundaries in relation to other marine plans adjacent to the WNMP area.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	++	<p>Significant Effects: Positive effects likely across all SA criteria reflecting the shared aspirations with adjacent marine plans.</p> <p>Mitigation/Enhancement: Consider combining with Policy PGG GEN 3, reflecting shared content.</p>
Using Sound Science Responsibly															
USSR GEN 1 Decision making in relation to development in the marine environment will, as far as possible, be based on sound scientific and socio-economic evidence.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	++	<p>Significant Effects: Positive effects likely across all SA criteria reflecting the application of evidence-based analysis and decision making.</p> <p>Mitigation/Enhancement: Consider combining with Policy USSR GEN 3, reflecting shared content.</p>
USSR GEN 2 The precautionary principle should be applied consistently in decision-making, within a risk-based approach, in accordance with Welsh and UK Government policy.	+/ ?	+/ ?	+/ ?	+/ ?	+/ ?	+/ ?	+/ ?	+/ ?	+/ ?	+/ ?	+/ ?	+/ ?	+/ ?	+/ ?	<p>Significant Effects: Uncertain positive effects likely across all SA criteria reflecting doubt as to the precise effects of the practical application of the precautionary principle.</p> <p>Mitigation/Enhancement: Suggest deleting policy given the degree of uncertainty as to how this would be applied in practice. Is this an approach to decision making rather than a policy? As a minimum, consider combining with Policy USSR GEN 4, reflecting shared content.</p>
USSR GEN 3 Where there are evidence gaps, reasonable effort should be applied by decision makers to fill those gaps.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	++	<p>Significant Effects: Positive effects likely across all SA criteria reflecting the importance of evidence-based decision making.</p> <p>Mitigation/Enhancement: Consider combining with Policy USSR GEN 1, reflecting shared content.</p>

Policy	1. Biodiversity	2. Water	3. Physical Environment	4. Air Quality	5. Landscape and Seascape	6. Climate Change	7. Heritage	8. Welsh Language	9. Tourism and Recreation	10. Resources (incl Waste)	11. Economy	12. Wellbeing	13. Health	14. Governance	Commentary:
USSR GEN 4 Where insufficient evidence is available to determine likely impact of new activities and technologies but the potential impact is manageable, the principle of deploy and monitor should be considered.	+/ ?	+/ ?	+/ ?	+/ ?	+/ ?	+/ ?	+/ ?	+/ ?	+/ ?	+/ ?	+/ ?	+/ ?	+/ ?	+/ ?	<p>Significant Effects: Uncertain positive effects likely across all SA criteria reflecting stepped approach to decision making. However, there is potential conflict with the precautionary principle in USSR GEN 2.</p> <p>Mitigation/Enhancement: As for USSR GEN 2, suggest deleting policy given potential conflict with precautionary principle and the existence of approaches other than 'deploy and monitor'. As a minimum, consider combining with Policy USSR GEN 2, reflecting shared content.</p>

4. High Level Sustainability Review of Sector Policies

4.1 Review Findings

Table 4.1 below presents the high level sustainability review of the emerging draft Sector Policies against the SA criteria.

4.2 Summary of Likely Effects

Likely significant positive effects

Significant positive effects have been identified in respect of the following SA criteria: biodiversity; water; physical environment; landscape and seascape; climate change; heritage; tourism and recreation; resources; economy; and health. In particular, the sector policies are expected to generate significant positive effects on the economy. This reflects the broad intent/scope of the sector policies which is to safeguard existing economic activity in the marine area whilst supporting new development.

Significant and minor positive effects have been identified across the environmental SA criteria and primarily where policies promote legal compliance and adherence to good practice and support an enhanced understanding of the marine environment. These policies have also been assessed as having positive effects on Welsh language and governance.

Additionally, the review has identified the potential for indirect environmental benefits associated with policy support for some sectors including, for example, tourism and recreation, renewable energy development and surface water management and wastewater.

Likely significant negative effects

One policy (Policy AGG3) has been identified as having a likely significant negative effect. Policy AGG3 supports and promotes the use of marine dredged sand and gravel over other types of aggregates which will result in the depletion of a finite resource and the generation of waste and in consequence, it has been appraised as having a significant negative effect in respect of the SA criteria concerning the sustainable use of natural resources. The appraisal notes, however, that the performance against this objective is mixed with positive effects also occurring which reflects the importance of marine dredged sand and gravel.

No other likely significant negative effects have been identified at this stage. There is the potential for negative effects across the majority of the SA criteria associated with the direct and indirect adverse socio-economic and environmental effects of new development or activity in the marine area during construction, operation and decommissioning. The range of adverse effects identified during the review include, for example:

- ▶ disturbance to, or loss of, habitat and species;
- ▶ reduced water quality due to the mobilisation of sediment or pollution;
- ▶ changes in bathymetry / seabed topography;
- ▶ impacts on landscape and seascape character;
- ▶ disturbance to, or loss of, heritage assets;
- ▶ increased emissions to air and energy use;
- ▶ resource use and waste generation;
- ▶ impacts on human health; and

- ▶ disruption to, or displacement of, other activities.

Until the exact location and scale of activity is known, the likelihood of adverse effects occurring and their magnitude is uncertain. In this context, there is the potential for negative effects to be significant where activities affect, for example, European designated nature conservation sites.

It is important to note that the probability of negative effect occurring as a result of the implementation of the draft Sector Policies may be reduced through other policies contained in the WNMP (in particular, those General Cross-Cutting Policies that promote environmental conservation and enhancement). Further, through the existing licensing and consenting regimes (including, where appropriate, requirements for EIA), it would be expected that any significant adverse effects would be minimised/mitigated where possible.

4.3 Recommendations for Mitigation and Enhancement

It is recognised that the Sector Policies are at a draft stage and to inform their refinement, a number of recommendations have been identified in **Table 4.1**. In particular, the recommendations focus on the inclusion of additional policy wording and/or supporting text that relates to:

- ▶ the identification of factors to be taken into account when determining potential impacts on existing sector activities;
- ▶ detailing the instances where proposals which would adversely affect particular activities may be supported;
- ▶ highlighting the range of potential socio-economic and environmental impacts that could arise from the various sector activities and associated mitigation measures;
- ▶ ensuring that the adverse socio-economic and environmental effects of sector activities are avoided, minimised or mitigated and positively effects enhanced;
- ▶ avoiding duplication of existing legislation.

4.4 Sector Policy Coverage Gaps

The high level sustainability review presented in **Table 4.1** has not identified any significant policy gaps from a SA perspective, although consideration could be given to the provision of policy relating to the development of new facilities and infrastructure for the management of surface water and waste water.

It is understood that policy mapping will be prepared to accompany the Sector Policies and that will identify preferred areas for specific activities. Any areas designated for particular activities (and reasonable alternatives) will be considered through the subsequent assessment processes.

Table 4.1 High Level Sustainability Review of Draft Sector Policies

Policy	1. Biodiversity	2. Water	3. Physical Environment	4. Air Quality	5. Landscape and Seascapes	6. Climate Change	7. Heritage	8. Welsh Language	9. Tourism and Recreation	10. Resources (incl Waste)	11. Economy	12. Well-being	13. Health	14. Governance	Commentary:
Aggregates															
Policy AGG1: Decision making authorities should not authorise proposals in areas where a licence for extraction of aggregates has been granted.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	+	0	0	0	<p>Significant Effects: Policy AGG1 restricts all non-aggregate related forms of development within areas licensed for aggregate extraction. In protecting appropriate areas of the seabed for the winning of marine aggregates, this policy is expected to have significant positive effects on the promotion and sustainable use of natural resources (SA Criteria 10). The safeguarding of areas licensed for aggregate extraction should also have a positive effect on the economy (SA Criteria 11).</p> <p>Mitigation/Enhancement: No recommended changes at this stage.</p> <p>Uncertainties: None.</p>
Policy AGG2: Decision making authorities should ensure that proposals in or affecting areas identified as having high potential aggregate resource likely to be developed within the term of this plan demonstrate that they will in order of preference: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> avoid adverse impacts on likely future aggregate extraction; minimise them where they cannot be avoided mitigate them where they cannot be minimised present the case for proceeding where (a-c) are not possible 	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	+	0	0	0	<p>Significant Effects: Policy AGG2 will help to ensure that non-aggregate related proposals (sequentially) avoid, minimise or mitigate adverse effects upon areas of high potential aggregate resource. This policy will therefore help to protect areas of the seabed for the winning of marine aggregates and has been assessed as having a significant positive effect on the promotion and sustainable use of natural resources (SA Criteria 10). The protection of such areas should also have a positive effect on the economy (SA Criteria 11).</p> <p>It is noted that under Policy AGG2, proposals which may adversely affect areas of high potential aggregate resource and which do not meet the sequential test outlined above could be supported where a case for proceeding is presented. Careful consideration should therefore be given to the final policy wording/supporting text in this regard in</p>

Policy	1. Biodiversity	2. Water	3. Physical Environment	4. Air Quality	5. Landscape and Seascape	6. Climate Change	7. Heritage	8. Welsh Language	9. Tourism and Recreation	10. Resources (incl Waste)	11. Economy	12. Well-being	13. Health	14. Governance	Commentary:
															<p>order to make explicit the cases where such proposals would be supported.</p> <p>Mitigation/Enhancement: The policy wording could be expanded to identify the factors to be taken into account when determining potential impacts on aggregate resources.</p> <p>Consider the inclusion of additional policy wording and/or supporting text which details the instances where proposals which would adversely affect areas identified as having high aggregate potential resource may be supported.</p> <p>The identification of areas with high potential for aggregate resource should take into account socio-economic and environmental constraints and opportunities.</p> <p>Uncertainties: Areas with high potential aggregate resource are unknown at this stage. As the draft WNMP evolves more detailed SA and HRA, including of the location of areas identified as having high potential for aggregate resource, will be undertaken.</p>
Policy AGG3: Decision making authorities should support proposals for the use of marine dredged sand and gravel over other sources, whilst ensuring the optimum use of aggregates as a finite resource by taking a long-term view.	-/?	-/?	-/?	-/?	0	+/-	-/?	0	0	++ /--	+/- /?	+	0	0	<p>Significant Effects: Policy AGG3 supports and promotes the use of marine dredged sand and gravel over other types of aggregates. The Strategic Scoping Exercise (2015) (SSE) highlights that marine sand and gravel provide an essential contribution to meeting the nation's demand for construction material whilst the UK Marine Policy Statement notes that Wales is highly dependent on marine-dredged sand, which meets more than 80% of the demand. Reflecting the importance of marine dredged sand and gravel, and taking into account the policy's intent to optimise the use of aggregates, Policy AGG3 has been assessed as having a significant positive effect on SA Criteria 10.</p>

Policy	1. Biodiversity	2. Water	3. Physical Environment	4. Air Quality	5. Landscape and Seascape	6. Climate Change	7. Heritage	8. Welsh Language	9. Tourism and Recreation	10. Resources (incl Waste)	11. Economy	12. Well-being	13. Health	14. Governance	Commentary:
															<p>The winning of sand and gravel will support development such as housing and infrastructure which in-turn is expected to have a positive effect on the economy (SA Criteria 11) (although aggregate extraction could potentially adversely affect existing activities such as fishing) and may also generate positive effects in terms of the creation of employment opportunities (SA Criteria 12). The extraction of aggregates such as sand and gravel can also support the construction of sea defences, generating a positive effect in respect of climate change (SA Criteria 6).</p> <p>Marine aggregate extraction may cause direct, indirect and cumulative adverse effects on a number of the SA criteria. Potential adverse effects include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • disturbance / habitat loss due to sediment removal; removal of species within sediment; • creation of sediment plumes by draghead disturbance, by overflow when loading sediment and by screening (sorting) of aggregate for end user requirements; • changes in bathymetry / seabed topography; • potential adverse effects on archaeological sites; and • increased emissions to air and associated greenhouse gas emissions. <p>In consequence, the potential for negative effects has been identified across a number of the SA criteria, although until the exact location and scale of activity is known, the likelihood of adverse effects occurring and their magnitude is uncertain. Notwithstanding, the licensing of aggregate extraction usually requires Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and it would be expected that any significant adverse effects would be minimised/mitigated where possible.</p> <p>The winning of marine aggregates will result in the depletion of a resource. Further, the activity itself will</p>

Policy	1. Biodiversity	2. Water	3. Physical Environment	4. Air Quality	5. Landscape and Seascapes	6. Climate Change	7. Heritage	8. Welsh Language	9. Tourism and Recreation	10. Resources (incl Waste)	11. Economy	12. Well-being	13. Health	14. Governance	Commentary:
															<p>require resources and generate waste. In consequence, significant negative effects have also been identified in respect of SA Criteria 10.</p> <p>Mitigation/Enhancement: Considering the finite nature of the aggregates being promoted for use, the viability and/or feasibility of these resources should be considered. Accompanying text for the policy could note the role of national and local mineral planning policy in limiting future demand by promoting the preferential reuse of aggregates within development activities, which will in turn contribute to the long term management of a finite resource.</p> <p>The policy could specifically seek to ensure that adverse socio-economic and environmental effects are avoided, minimised or mitigated and positive effects enhanced. In this regard, additional wording or supporting text could be usefully included relating to the range of potential socio-economic and environmental impacts that could arise from aggregate extraction and associated mitigation measures.</p> <p>Uncertainties: The nature and scale of future extraction activity is uncertain at this stage.</p>
Policy AGG4: In areas of identified aggregate resource, decision making authorities should, in liaison with industry and other interested parties, identify preferred areas for licensing aggregate extraction.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	+	0	0	+	<p>Significant Effects: Through Policy AGG4, the identification of areas for aggregate licensing and extraction should have a significant positive effect on SA Criteria 10 and a positive effect on the economy (SA Criteria 11). Liaising with industry and other interested parties will support integrated decision making and collaboration whilst also promoting engagement in marine planning. This has been assessed as having a positive effect on SA Criteria 14.</p> <p>The identification of preferred areas for aggregate extraction presents an opportunity to generate positive effects across a number of the other SA criteria depending</p>

Policy	1. Biodiversity	2. Water	3. Physical Environment	4. Air Quality	5. Landscape and Seascapes	6. Climate Change	7. Heritage	8. Welsh Language	9. Tourism and Recreation	10. Resources (incl Waste)	11. Economy	12. Well-being	13. Health	14. Governance	Commentary:
															<p>on the issues that are considered in the identification process. However, the policy as currently worded does not set out what issues should be considered in the identification of preferred areas for aggregate extraction.</p> <p>It should be noted that once the extent of preferred areas for aggregate resource extraction has been defined, the effects from licensing of aggregate extraction on any European designated conservation sites will be considered through the HRA process.</p> <p>Mitigation/Enhancement: Consideration should be given to setting out, either in the policy wording or supporting text, the issues to be considered in identifying preferred sites. Issues could include, for example, marine ecology, bathymetry / seabed topography; water quality; archaeology; and other users/activities.</p> <p>The policy could usefully be expanded to make explicit that new development should be located in preferred areas for aggregate extraction.</p> <p>Uncertainties: None identified.</p>
Policy AGG5: Decision making authorities should ensure that the terms and conditions of licenses reflect the outcomes of relevant assessments.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	<p>Significant Effects: By requiring that the terms and conditions of licences reflect the outcomes of assessments (which are assumed to include, for example, EIA and Habitats Regulations Assessment), it is expected that Policy AGG5 will have a potentially positive effect across all of the SA criteria.</p> <p>Mitigation/Enhancement: The policy or supporting text could usefully set out the socio-economic and environmental issues to be considered in the preparation and determination of applications as well as the range of assessments that may be required.</p>

Policy	1. Biodiversity	2. Water	3. Physical Environment	4. Air Quality	5. Landscape and Seascapes	6. Climate Change	7. Heritage	8. Welsh Language	9. Tourism and Recreation	10. Resources (incl Waste)	11. Economy	12. Well-being	13. Health	14. Governance	Commentary:
															Uncertainties: None identified.
Aquaculture															
Policy AQU1: Decision making authorities should ensure that proposals demonstrate consideration of opportunities for co-existence and compatibility with existing and areas of high aquaculture potential. Proposals should demonstrate in order of preference: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> avoid adverse impacts on existing and areas of high aquaculture potential; minimise them where they cannot be avoided; mitigate them where they cannot be minimised; present the case for proceeding where (a-c) are not possible 	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	<p>Significant Effects: Policy AQU1 would be expected to help safeguard areas of high aquaculture potential through ensuring that non-aquaculture proposals avoid, minimise or mitigate against any adverse effects on such areas. The policy will also help ensure that consideration is given to opportunities to promote co-existence. Aquaculture is an important sector in the Welsh marine economy and supports rural and coastal communities. The Welsh Government is committed to helping support the sustainable growth of aquaculture and has ambitious plans to double Wales's annual finfish aquaculture output, from 1,000 tonnes to 2,000 tonnes by 2020, and shellfish aquaculture production from 8,000 tonnes to 16,000 tonnes. In this context, the safeguarding of areas of high aquaculture potential has been assessed as having a significant positive effect upon the economy (SA Criteria 11).</p> <p>It is noted that under Policy AQU1, proposals which may adversely affect areas of high aquaculture potential and which do not meet the sequential test outlined above could be supported where a case for proceeding is presented. Careful consideration should therefore be given to the final policy wording/supporting text in this regard in order to make explicit the cases where such proposals would be supported.</p> <p>Mitigation/Enhancement: The policy wording could be expanded to identify the factors to be taken into account when determining potential impacts on aquaculture.</p> <p>Consider the inclusion of additional policy wording and/or supporting text which details the instances where</p>

Policy	1. Biodiversity	2. Water	3. Physical Environment	4. Air Quality	5. Landscape and Seascapes	6. Climate Change	7. Heritage	8. Welsh Language	9. Tourism and Recreation	10. Resources (incl Waste)	11. Economy	12. Well-being	13. Health	14. Governance	Commentary:
															<p>proposals which would adversely affect areas with high aquaculture potential may be supported.</p> <p>The identification of areas with high aquaculture potential should take into account socio-economic and environmental constraints and opportunities.</p> <p>Uncertainties: Areas with high aquaculture potential are unknown at this stage. As the draft WNMP evolves, more detailed SA and HRA including of the location of areas identified as having high aquaculture potential will be undertaken.</p>
Policy AQU2: Decision making authorities should, in liaison with industry and other interested parties, identify areas of high potential for future aquaculture development.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	+	<p>Significant Effects: It is considered that Policy AQU2 will have a significant positive effect upon the economy (SA Criteria 11) as it would be expected that the identification of areas with high potential for aquaculture will promote the sustainable growth of aquaculture in Wales.</p> <p>In addition, the policy's emphasis on collaboration should ensure the growth of the industry without detriment to other sectors and interests which could generate further positive effects in respect of the economy and promote good governance (SA Criteria 14). In this context, the SSE highlights the potential conflict between aquaculture businesses and the management of European Marine Sites and the associated costs and delays these conflicts entail.</p> <p>Through the identification of appropriate, sustainable areas for aquaculture, this policy could help to generate positive effects across a number of the other SA criteria and in particular biodiversity (SA Criteria 1). However, the policy as currently worded does not set out what issues should be considered in the identification of areas of high potential for aquaculture.</p>

Policy	1. Biodiversity	2. Water	3. Physical Environment	4. Air Quality	5. Landscape and Seascapes	6. Climate Change	7. Heritage	8. Welsh Language	9. Tourism and Recreation	10. Resources (incl Waste)	11. Economy	12. Well-being	13. Health	14. Governance	Commentary:
															<p>Mitigation/Enhancement: Consideration should be given to setting out, either in the policy wording or supporting text, the issues to be considered in identifying preferred areas. Issues could include, for example, marine ecology and other users/activities such as tourism/recreation and navigation.</p> <p>The policy could usefully be expanded to make explicit that aquaculture proposals should be located in the preferred areas ultimately identified. Areas unsuitable for aquaculture could be identified.</p> <p>Uncertainties: None identified.</p>
<p>Policy AQU3: Decision making authorities should support proposals that provide opportunities for future aquaculture development and supporting infrastructure.</p>	-/?	-/?	-/?	-/?	-/?	+/- /?	-/?	0	-/?	-/?	++ /-	+	0	0	<p>Significant Effects: As set out above, aquaculture is an important sector in the Welsh marine economy and supports rural and coastal communities. The SSE highlights that the long term trend for the aquaculture industry is expected to be one of continued growth. In this context, Policy AQU3 would be expected to have a significant positive effect upon the economy (SA Criteria 11) by supporting proposals for aquaculture development and associated infrastructure and could support local employment creation (SA Criteria 12).</p> <p>Marine biomass from seaweed harvesting is emerging as one of the newest prospective aquaculture business sectors for use in energy production. Support for such activity may therefore have a positive effect upon climate change (SA Criteria 6), although the magnitude of any positive effect is uncertain at this stage given the infancy of the business sector.</p> <p>There is a risk that aquaculture development (including supporting infrastructure) could have adverse effects across a number of the SA criteria. In particular, inappropriate activity could result in adverse effects on</p>

Policy	1. Biodiversity	2. Water	3. Physical Environment	4. Air Quality	5. Landscape and Seascapes	6. Climate Change	7. Heritage	8. Welsh Language	9. Tourism and Recreation	10. Resources (incl Waste)	11. Economy	12. Well-being	13. Health	14. Governance	Commentary:
															<p>marine ecology, a decline in fish stocks and impact upon other activities such as tourism and recreation and inshore fisheries, although it would be expected that potential adverse impacts would be considered at the consenting stage such that any significant adverse effects would be minimised/mitigated where possible. Notwithstanding, where impacts affect designated sites in particular, there is the potential for negative effects to be significant.</p> <p>Mitigation/Enhancement: The policy wording could be amended to include reference to sustainable aquaculture.</p> <p>The policy could specifically seek to ensure that adverse socio-economic and environmental effects are avoided, minimised or mitigated and positive effects enhanced. In this regard, additional wording or supporting text could be usefully included relating to the range of potential socio-economic and environmental impacts that could arise from aquaculture and associated mitigation measures.</p> <p>Uncertainties: The nature, location and scale of future aquaculture development is uncertain at this stage.</p>
Defence															
Policy DEF1: Decision making authorities must ensure that proposals in or affecting Ministry of Defence Danger and Exercise Areas are only authorised with agreement from the Ministry of Defence.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	+	<p>Significant Effects: The SSE highlights that non-defence related developments in the marine area have the potential to impact MOD activities. The Marine Policy Statement sets out that marine activities should not prejudice the interest of defence and national security and the MOD should be consulted accordingly. Policy DEF1 accords with this Statement and has therefore been assessed as having a positive effect on SA Criteria 11 and SA Criteria 14.</p> <p>Mitigation/Enhancement: No recommendations at this stage.</p>

Policy	1. Biodiversity	2. Water	3. Physical Environment	4. Air Quality	5. Landscape and Seascapes	6. Climate Change	7. Heritage	8. Welsh Language	9. Tourism and Recreation	10. Resources (incl Waste)	11. Economy	12. Well-being	13. Health	14. Governance	Commentary:
															Uncertainties: None identified.
Policy DEF2: Decision making authorities should ensure that the operational effectiveness of the armed services in Welsh waters is not compromised by managing activity and development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. within Firing Danger Areas b. within Exercise Areas c. which cause unacceptable interference with communication, navigation and surveillance systems, including RADAR necessary for national defence 	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	Significant Effects: As per Policy DEF1, Policy DEF2 has been assessed as having a positive effect on SA Criteria 11 as it will ensure that non-defence related development does not compromise MOD activity. Mitigation/Enhancement: No recommendations at this stage. Uncertainties: None identified.
Policy DEF3: Decision making authorities respect that, where required for the purposes of national defence, the Ministry of Defence may establish bye-laws for exclusions and closures of sea areas.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	Significant Effects: Policy DEF3 supports the closure of sea areas for the purpose of national defence which will support operational capability. This reflects existing regulation under Military Lands Act 1892 and 1900 and the Land Powers Defence Act 1958 and has been assessed as having a positive effect on SA Criteria 11. Mitigation/Enhancement: At present, Policy DEF3 reiterates/signposts existing legislation only. In consequence, consideration could be given to the deletion of this policy and inclusion of the wording as supporting text instead. Uncertainties: None identified.
Dredging and Disposal															

Policy	1. Biodiversity	2. Water	3. Physical Environment	4. Air Quality	5. Landscape and Seascapes	6. Climate Change	7. Heritage	8. Welsh Language	9. Tourism and Recreation	10. Resources (incl Waste)	11. Economy	12. Well-being	13. Health	14. Governance	Commentary:
Policy DD1: Decision making authorities should ensure that proposals in or affecting licensed navigation dredging and disposal areas demonstrate, in order of preference: a. avoid adverse impacts on navigation dredging and disposal activities b. minimise them where they cannot be avoided c. mitigate them where they cannot be minimised d. present the case for proceeding where (a-c) are not possible	+/- /?	-/?	+/- /?	-/?	0	+/- /?	-/?	0	+	+/-	++	0	0	0	<p>Significant Effects: Policy DD1 would be expected to help safeguard licensed navigation dredging and disposal areas. The SSE highlights that dredging and disposal is essential for maintaining and developing unimpeded and safe navigation of ports, harbours and waterways for shipping and recreational boating. In consequence, this policy has been assessed as having a significant positive effect on SA Criteria 11 in particular and a positive effect on SA Criteria 9.</p> <p>Dredged material can be a valuable resource and can be used in environmental enhancement projects including habitat creation and enhancement, and engineering projects for construction materials, flood defence, land reclamation and beach nourishment. In safeguarding dredging and disposal areas, Policy DD1 has therefore been assessed as having an indirect, positive effect on SA Criteria 1, 3, 6 and 10. However, dredging can also give rise to a range of adverse environmental effects. These effects may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • disturbance to or loss of habitat and species; • reduced water quality due to the mobilisation of sediment or pollution; • disturbance to or loss of heritage assets; • increased emissions to air and energy use; and • waste generation. <p>Where impacts affect designated sites in particular, there is the potential for negative effects to be significant. However, until the exact location and scale of activity is known, the likelihood of adverse effects occurring and their magnitude is uncertain.</p> <p>It is noted that under Policy DD1, proposals which may adversely affect areas licensed for navigation dredging and disposal could be supported where a case for proceeding is presented. Careful consideration should</p>

Policy	1. Biodiversity	2. Water	3. Physical Environment	4. Air Quality	5. Landscape and Seascapes	6. Climate Change	7. Heritage	8. Welsh Language	9. Tourism and Recreation	10. Resources (incl Waste)	11. Economy	12. Well-being	13. Health	14. Governance	Commentary:
															<p>therefore be given to the final policy wording/supporting text in this regard in order to make explicit the cases where such proposals would be supported.</p> <p>Mitigation/Enhancement: The policy wording could be expanded to identify the factors to be taken into account when determining potential impacts on navigation dredging and disposal activities.</p> <p>Consider the inclusion of additional policy wording and/or supporting text which details the instances where proposals which would adversely affect areas licensed for navigation dredging and disposal may be supported.</p> <p>The policy could specifically seek to ensure that adverse socio-economic and environmental effects are avoided, minimised or mitigated and positive effects enhanced. In this regard, additional wording or supporting text could be usefully included relating to the range of potential socio-economic and environmental impacts that could arise from dredging and disposal and associated mitigation measures.</p> <p>Uncertainties: None identified.</p>
Policy DD2: Decision making authorities should ensure that navigation dredging operations and sea disposal of dredged materials should comply with legal requirements and recognised good practice (including prioritising re-use opportunities) to minimise the impact on the environment and other users.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	<p>Significant Effects: Dredging and the disposal of dredged materials can adversely affect the marine environment as well as other economic activity. The SSE highlights that adverse effects can include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • changes in water quality, noise and physical disturbance which can affect ecology; • mobilisation of contaminants; • impacts on cultural heritage assets; and • changes in sedimentary systems. <p>By ensuring that activity complies with legal requirements and recognised good practice, Policy DD2 should ensure</p>

Policy	1. Biodiversity	2. Water	3. Physical Environment	4. Air Quality	5. Landscape and Seascapes	6. Climate Change	7. Heritage	8. Welsh Language	9. Tourism and Recreation	10. Resources (incl Waste)	11. Economy	12. Well-being	13. Health	14. Governance	Commentary:
															<p>that adverse effects are avoided/minimised where possible. In consequence, the policy has been assessed as having positive effects across all of the SA criteria.</p> <p>Mitigation/Enhancement: Compliance with legal requirements is an existing statutory requirement and in consequence, the requirement for this policy should be reviewed to minimise the unnecessary repetition of existing statutory requirements. If the policy is to be retained, it would also be helpful to clarify the basis and sources of 'recognised good practice' – so for example, is this within Wales, within the UK or is it envisaged to encompass international examples. It may be more appropriate for the policy to set out the socio-economic and environmental issues to be considered during the consenting process as well as the range assessments that may be required.</p> <p>Uncertainties: None identified.</p>
Energy – oil and gas (including carbon capture and storage)															
EOG-01: Decision-makers should take a consistent and standard approach when assessing applications.	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	+	+	?	?	+	<p>Significant Effects: Taking a consistent and standard approach to decision making in respect of oil and gas proposals could provide certainty to the industry, supporting investment decisions. This has been assessed as having a positive effect on SA Criteria 10, 11 and 14. At this stage, the effects of this policy on the remaining SA criteria are considered to be uncertain.</p> <p>Mitigation/Enhancement: The policy wording could usefully set out those factors to be taken into account by decision makers in determining oil and gas proposals and the instances where proposals will be supported.</p> <p>The policy could specifically seek to ensure that adverse socio-economic and environmental effects are avoided,</p>

Policy	1. Biodiversity	2. Water	3. Physical Environment	4. Air Quality	5. Landscape and Seascapes	6. Climate Change	7. Heritage	8. Welsh Language	9. Tourism and Recreation	10. Resources (incl Waste)	11. Economy	12. Well-being	13. Health	14. Governance	Commentary:
															<p>minimised or mitigated and positive effects enhanced. In this regard, additional wording or supporting text could be usefully included relating to the range of potential socio-economic and environmental impacts that could arise from oil and gas developments and associated mitigation measures including the potential need for EIA and HRA.</p> <p>Uncertainties: Those factors to be taken into account by decision makers when assessing applications are unknown at this stage.</p>
<p>EOG-02: Decision making authorities should ensure that proposals in areas of current oil, gas and CCS activities or areas identified as having high potential resource likely to be developed within the term of this plan demonstrate that they will, in order of preference:</p> <p>a. avoid adverse impacts on current or future energy activities</p> <p>b. minimise impacts where they cannot be avoided</p> <p>c. mitigate impacts where they cannot be minimised</p> <p>d. present the case for proceeding where (a-c) are not possible</p>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	+	+	0	0	<p>Policy EOG-02 seeks to ensure that adverse impacts on existing oil and gas and CCS activities and prospective areas are avoided, minimised or mitigated wherever possible. The safeguarding of existing activities and prospective areas is likely to result in a significant positive effect on resources (SA Criteria 9) and may help support economic activity and employment in the oil and gas sector generating positive effects on SA Criteria 11 and 12.</p> <p>It is noted that under Policy EOG-02, proposals which may adversely affect existing activities or areas identified as having high potential resource could be supported where a case for proceeding is presented. Careful consideration should therefore be given to the final policy wording/supporting text in this regard in order to make explicit the cases where such proposals would be supported.</p> <p>Mitigation/Enhancement: The policy wording could be expanded to identify the factors to be taken into account when determining potential impacts on oil and gas (including CCS activities).</p> <p>Consider the inclusion of additional policy wording and/or supporting text which details the instances where</p>

Policy	1. Biodiversity	2. Water	3. Physical Environment	4. Air Quality	5. Landscape and Seascapes	6. Climate Change	7. Heritage	8. Welsh Language	9. Tourism and Recreation	10. Resources (incl Waste)	11. Economy	12. Well-being	13. Health	14. Governance	Commentary:
															<p>proposals which would adversely affect existing oil and gas activities or areas identified as having high potential resource may be allowed.</p> <p>The identification of areas with high potential oil and gas resource should take into account socio-economic and environmental constraints and opportunities.</p> <p>Uncertainties: Areas with high potential oil and gas resource are unknown at this stage. As the draft WNMP evolves more detailed SA and HRA, including of the location of areas identified as having high potential renewable energy resource, will be undertaken.</p>
Energy – low carbon															
Policy MR1: Decision making authorities should ensure that proposals in areas of current renewable energy activities or areas identified having high potential renewable energy resource likely to be developed within the term of this plan demonstrate that they will, in order of preference: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> avoid adverse impacts on current or future renewable energy activities minimise them where they cannot be avoided mitigate them where they cannot be minimised present the case for proceeding where (a-c) are not possible 	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	++	+	+	0	0	<p>Significant Effects: Policy MR1 seeks to ensure that adverse impacts on existing renewable energy activities and prospective areas are avoided, minimised or mitigated wherever possible. The safeguarding of existing activities and prospective areas is likely to result in a significant positive effect on climate change and resources (SA Criteria 6 and 10 respectively) and may help support economic activity and employment in the low carbon sector generating positive effects on SA Criteria 11 and 12.</p> <p>It is noted that under Policy MR1, proposals which may adversely affect existing renewable energy activities or areas identified as having high potential renewable energy resource could be supported where a case for proceeding is presented. Careful consideration should therefore be given to the final policy wording/supporting text in this regard in order to make explicit the cases where such proposals would be supported.</p>

Policy	1. Biodiversity	2. Water	3. Physical Environment	4. Air Quality	5. Landscape and Seascapes	6. Climate Change	7. Heritage	8. Welsh Language	9. Tourism and Recreation	10. Resources (incl Waste)	11. Economy	12. Well-being	13. Health	14. Governance	Commentary:
															<p>Mitigation/Enhancement: The policy wording could be expanded to identify the factors to be taken into account when determining potential impacts on renewable energy activities.</p> <p>Consider the inclusion of additional policy wording and/or supporting text which details the instances where proposals which would adversely affect existing renewable energy activities or areas identified as having high potential renewable energy resource may be allowed.</p> <p>The identification of areas with high potential renewable energy resource should take into account socio-economic and environmental constraints and opportunities.</p> <p>Uncertainties: Areas with high potential renewable energy resource are unknown at this stage. As the draft WNMP evolves more detailed SA and HRA, including of the location of areas identified as having high potential renewable energy resource, will be undertaken.</p>
<p>Policy MR2: Decision making authorities should, where possible, support proposals for:</p> <p>a. commercial scale marine tidal stream renewable energy projects in the key resources areas identified in Map X</p> <p>b. commercial scale marine wave renewable energy projects in the key resources areas identified in Map X</p> <p>c. marine renewable energy projects in the wave and tidal test and demonstration zones identified in Map XX</p>	+/- /?	+/- /?	+/- /?	+/- /?	-/?	++ /-	-/?	0	-/?	++ /-	++ /- /?	+	0	0	<p>Significant Effects: Policy MR2 supports proposals for renewable energy projects in key resource areas/demonstration zones (for tidal and wave schemes), demonstration zones, tidal range schemes and windfarms outside 12nm. Renewable energy offers the potential for significant, broad-scale environmental benefits associated with mitigating greenhouse gas emissions from energy production and in consequence, Policy MR2 has been assessed as having a significant positive effect upon climate change and resources (SA Criteria 6 and 10 respectively), although the construction of renewable energy schemes would result in resource and energy use.</p> <p>In addition, there are a number of potentially significant socio-economic benefits that may arise from the construction, operation and decommissioning of renewable</p>

Policy	1. Biodiversity	2. Water	3. Physical Environment	4. Air Quality	5. Landscape and Seascape	6. Climate Change	7. Heritage	8. Welsh Language	9. Tourism and Recreation	10. Resources (incl Waste)	11. Economy	12. Well-being	13. Health	14. Governance	Commentary:
d. tidal range schemes e. wind farms inside/outside 12nm identified in Map XX															<p>energy facilities supported by Policy MR2 including the generation of employment opportunities, economic diversification, export business benefits and energy security and which this policy could help deliver. In consequence, the policy has been assessed as having a significant positive effect on SA Criteria 11 and a positive effect on SA Criteria 12. However, it is recognised that there is the potential for the construction, operation and decommissioning of renewable energy development to adversely affect existing economic activity such as fishing and tourism, although this would be dependent on the exact scale, type and location of future proposals which is currently uncertain.</p> <p>The policy has been assessed as having mixed positive and negative effects on biodiversity, water, the physical environment and air quality. This reflects the climate change benefits associated with renewable energy generation but also the potential for adverse environmental effects during the construction, operation and decommissioning of renewable energy development and associated infrastructure. In this regard, the potential for negative effects has also been identified in respect of landscape and seascape and cultural heritage. However, the likelihood of any adverse effects occurring and the magnitude of such effects would be dependent on the exact scale, type and location of future proposals. Further, it would be expected that the potential for adverse socio-economic and environmental would be considered during the consenting process and as part of the EIA/HRA processes, where appropriate, such that any significant adverse effects would be minimised/mitigated where possible. Notwithstanding, where impacts affect designated sites in particular, there is the potential for negative effects to be significant.</p> <p>Mitigation/Enhancement: The policy could specifically seek to ensure that adverse socio-economic and</p>

Policy	1. Biodiversity	2. Water	3. Physical Environment	4. Air Quality	5. Landscape and Seascapes	6. Climate Change	7. Heritage	8. Welsh Language	9. Tourism and Recreation	10. Resources (incl Waste)	11. Economy	12. Well-being	13. Health	14. Governance	Commentary:
															<p>environmental effects are avoided, minimised or mitigated and positive effects enhanced. In this regard, additional wording or supporting text could be usefully included relating to the range of potential socio-economic and environmental impacts that could arise from renewable energy developments and associated mitigation measures including the potential need for EIA and HRA.</p> <p>Consideration could also be given to the identification of areas with potential for marine biomass.</p> <p>Uncertainties: Key resources areas have not been identified at this stage. The socio-economic and environmental characteristics of each area will need to be considered as part of the SA of the final draft Marine Plan.</p> <p>The exact scale, type and location of future proposals is currently unknown.</p>
Policy MR3: Decision making authorities should support proposals that provide opportunities to develop transmission infrastructure	+/- /?	+/- /?	+/- /?	+/- /?	-/?	++ /-	-/?	0	-/?	++ /-	+/-	+	-/?	0	<p>Significant Effects: The SSE highlights that Wales benefits from good coastal grid connections. However, like most regions across the UK, energy infrastructure is under pressure and it is recognised that it will require investment, reinforcement and upgrading to support the aspirations for low carbon energy generation. In requiring that decision making authorities support proposals relating to transmission infrastructure, Policy MR3 will help to facilitate the delivery of renewable energy schemes which has been assessed as having a significant positive effects on climate change (SA Criteria 6) and resources (SA Criteria 10), although it is recognised that developing transmission infrastructure will result in energy and resource use. Additionally, the installation and decommissioning of transmission infrastructure may generate positive economic effects including support for the wider renewables sectors and the creation of employment opportunities which has been assessed as</p>

Policy	1. Biodiversity	2. Water	3. Physical Environment	4. Air Quality	5. Landscape and Seascape	6. Climate Change	7. Heritage	8. Welsh Language	9. Tourism and Recreation	10. Resources (incl Waste)	11. Economy	12. Well-being	13. Health	14. Governance	Commentary:
															<p>having a positive effect on the economy (SA Criteria 11) and well-being (SA Criteria 12). However, it is recognised that there is the potential that the construction, operation and decommissioning of transmission infrastructure to adversely affect existing economic activity such as fishing and tourism, although this would be dependent on the exact scale, type and location of future proposals which is currently uncertain.</p> <p>The policy has been assessed as having mixed positive and negative effects on biodiversity, water, the physical environment and air quality. This reflects the benefits associated with renewable energy generation but also the potential for adverse marine and terrestrial environmental effects during the construction, operation and decommissioning of transmission infrastructure. In this regard, the potential for negative effects has also been identified in respect of landscape and seascape and cultural heritage. However, the likelihood of any adverse effects occurring and the magnitude of such effects would be dependent on the exact scale, type and location of future proposals. Further, it would be expected that the potential for adverse socio-economic and environmental effects would be considered during the consenting process and as part of the EIA process, where appropriate, such that any significant adverse effects would be minimised/mitigated where possible.</p> <p>Mitigation/Enhancement: Consideration could be given to the inclusion of additional wording or policy relating to potential socio-economic and environmental impacts arising from the construction, operation and decommissioning of transmission infrastructure (in accordance with other policies contained in the Marine Plan) and the potential need for EIA and HRA.</p> <p>Uncertainties: The exact scale, type and location of future proposals is currently unknown.</p>

Policy	1. Biodiversity	2. Water	3. Physical Environment	4. Air Quality	5. Landscape and Seascapes	6. Climate Change	7. Heritage	8. Welsh Language	9. Tourism and Recreation	10. Resources (incl Waste)	11. Economy	12. Well-being	13. Health	14. Governance	Commentary:
Policy MR4: Decision making authorities should support initiatives that provide opportunities to improve understanding of the constraints on renewable energy development and facilitate the development of this sector and the development and promotion of Welsh expertise.	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	+	+	+	0	+	<p>Significant Effects: By supporting initiatives to facilitate renewable energy development and promote Welsh expertise, Policy MR4 is expected to help bring forward new opportunities for renewable energy developments and support the Welsh economy. This has been assessed as having a positive effects on climate change, resources, economy, Welsh language, well-being and governance.</p> <p>Mitigation/Enhancement: None identified.</p> <p>Uncertainties: None identified.</p>
Policy MR5: When assessing proposals for tidal stream and wave devices that are to be located close to shore, decision making authorities should, where appropriate, give preference to subsea devices.	+/ ?	0	0	0	+/ ?	0	+/ ?	0	+/ ?	0	+/ ?	+	0	0	<p>Significant Effects: This policy stipulates that subsea devices are preferred in near shore locations. Relative to above sea devices, subsea schemes can help to minimise adverse impacts on, in particular, seascape, terrestrial heritage assets and ecology and may help to avoid conflicts with other marine activities including tourism. In consequence, Policy MR5 has been assessed as having a positive effects on SA criteria 1, 5, 7, 9, 11 and 12 although the magnitude of effects would be dependent on the exact location of development.</p> <p>Mitigation/Enhancement: The policy could be integrated with Policy MR6.</p> <p>Uncertainties: The exact magnitude of positive effects associated with this policy would be dependent on the exact location of future development.</p>
Policy MR6: Decision making authorities should, where appropriate, support proposals that facilitate the establishment and development of wave and tidal	?	0	?	0	?	++	?	0	?	++	+	+	0	+	<p>Significant Effects: The SSE highlights that Wales has 5 GW of wave and 1 GW of tidal stream potential and test and demonstration zones have been established off Anglesey and Pembrokeshire. In this context, Policy MR6 would help to support the further development of wave and tidal stream technology. In the longer term, this may increase renewable energy production generating a</p>

Policy	1. Biodiversity	2. Water	3. Physical Environment	4. Air Quality	5. Landscape and Seascape	6. Climate Change	7. Heritage	8. Welsh Language	9. Tourism and Recreation	10. Resources (incl Waste)	11. Economy	12. Well-being	13. Health	14. Governance	Commentary:
stream test and demonstration zones.															<p>significant positive effect on SA Criteria 6 and 10. The establishment and development of demonstration zones may also help support investment in the renewables sector, generating economic benefits and employment opportunities, and would facilitate research and development. In consequence, Policy MR6 has been assessed as having a positive effect on SA Criteria 11, 12 and 14.</p> <p>The impact of wave and tidal stream test and demonstration zones on biodiversity, coastal processes, landscape and seascape and tourism and recreation is uncertain at this stage and will depend on the specific technology developed and zone location. However, it would be expected that the potential for adverse socio-economic and environmental effects would be considered during the consenting process and as part of the EIA process, where appropriate, such that any significant adverse effects would be minimised/mitigated where possible.</p> <p>Mitigation/Enhancement: Consideration could be given to the inclusion of additional wording which provides specific guidance to support the identification of demonstration zones and which seeks to ensure that adverse socio-economic and environmental effects are avoided, minimised or mitigated.</p> <p>Uncertainties: The impact of wave and tidal stream test and demonstration zones on biodiversity, coastal processes, landscape and seascape and tourism and recreation is uncertain at this stage and will depend on the specific technology developed and zone location.</p>
Fisheries															

Policy	1. Biodiversity	2. Water	3. Physical Environment	4. Air Quality	5. Landscape and Seascapes	6. Climate Change	7. Heritage	8. Welsh Language	9. Tourism and Recreation	10. Resources (incl Waste)	11. Economy	12. Well-being	13. Health	14. Governance	Commentary:
Policy FIS1: Decision making authorities should ensure that proposals in established areas of commercial fishing activity demonstrate that they will, in order of preference: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> avoid adverse impacts on current fishing activities minimise them where they cannot be avoided mitigate them where they cannot be minimised present the case for proceeding where (a-c) are not possible 	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	<p>Significant Effects: Policy FIS1 will help to ensure that proposals avoid, minimise or mitigate adverse effects upon established areas of commercial fishing activity, supporting the protection and conservation of marine fish stocks and helping to ensure the continuation of a sustainable fishing industry in Wales. The policy will also support commercial fishing activity and the jobs associated with it. In consequence, the policy has been assessed as having a positive effect on SA Criteria 11 and 12.</p> <p>It is noted that under Policy FIS1, proposals which may adversely affect fishing activities and which do not meet the sequential test outlined above could be supported where a case for proceeding is presented. Careful consideration should therefore be given to the final policy wording/supporting text in this regard in order to make explicit the cases where such proposals would be supported.</p> <p>Mitigation/Enhancement: Consider the inclusion of additional policy wording and/or supporting text which details the instances where proposals which would adversely affect fishing activity may be allowed.</p> <p>The policy wording could be expanded to identify the factors to be taken into account when determining potential impacts on fishing activity.</p> <p>Uncertainties: None identified.</p>
Policy FIS2: Decision making authorities should ensure that proposals in and affecting fish spawning and nursery areas for important species and their associated	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	<p>Significant Effects: Policy FIS2 will help to avoid, minimise and mitigate adverse impacts upon important fish species and habitat. This has been assessed as having a positive effect on biodiversity (SA Criteria 1), through the protection of such species and habitat. The policy may also generate positive effects in relation to the economy (SA Criteria 11) and wellbeing (SA Criteria 12) due to the</p>

Policy	1. Biodiversity	2. Water	3. Physical Environment	4. Air Quality	5. Landscape and Seascapes	6. Climate Change	7. Heritage	8. Welsh Language	9. Tourism and Recreation	10. Resources (incl Waste)	11. Economy	12. Well-being	13. Health	14. Governance	Commentary:
<p>habitat, demonstrate that they will, in order of preference</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> avoid adverse impacts on spawning and nursery areas and the associated habitat minimise them where they cannot be avoided mitigate them where they cannot be minimised present the case for proceeding where (a-c) are not possible 															<p>protection afforded to fish stocks which should support the fishing industry and associated jobs.</p> <p>It is noted that under Policy FIS2, proposals which may adversely affect spawning and nursery areas could be supported where a case for proceeding is presented. Careful consideration should therefore be given to the final policy wording/supporting text in this regard in order to make explicit the cases where such proposals would be supported.</p> <p>Mitigation/Enhancement: Consider the inclusion of additional policy wording and/or supporting text which details the instances where proposals which would adversely affect spawning and nursery areas may be allowed.</p> <p>The policy wording could be expanded to identify the factors to be taken into account when determining potential impacts on spawning and nursery areas.</p> <p>The policy wording could be expanded to include reference to the range of mitigation measures that could be considered including the preparation of management strategies.</p> <p>Uncertainties: None identified.</p>
<p>Policy FIS3: Decision making authorities should, where appropriate, support proposals that enhance the fishing sector by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> increasing the GVA or supporting the diversification or 	+/-	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	<p>Significant Effects: The SSE states that in 2011/12, the Welsh Marine Area contributed 4% to the UK's total tonnage of shellfish and fish landings. The total GVA of the sector is currently estimated to be £21.2 million and the SEE notes that Wales does not have any recognisable internal market structure nor added value processing or infrastructure.</p>

Policy	1. Biodiversity	2. Water	3. Physical Environment	4. Air Quality	5. Landscape and Seascapes	6. Climate Change	7. Heritage	8. Welsh Language	9. Tourism and Recreation	10. Resources (incl Waste)	11. Economy	12. Well-being	13. Health	14. Governance	Commentary:
c. supporting access to fishing grounds or d. improving resilience to the effects of climate change															<p>Policy FIS3 aims to enhance GVA in the fishing sector, support diversification, increase access to fishing grounds and improve resilience to climate change. This has been assessed as having a significant positive effect on the economy (SA Criteria 11) and may also have positive effects across on biodiversity and climate change (SA Criteria 1 and 6 respectively). However, there is a risk that increasing access to fishing grounds may result in the over exploitation of stock which could have adverse effects on biodiversity (if stocks are not appropriately managed) as well as indirect effects associated with, for example, the removal of non-target fish and the physical impacts of fishing gear on habitats.</p> <p>Mitigation/Enhancement: Consideration should be given to the inclusion of policy relating to the management of fishing activities to ensure the conservation of fish stocks.</p> <p>Uncertainties: None identified.</p>
Tourism and Recreation															
Policy R&T1: Decision making authorities should ensure that proposals demonstrate that they will, in order of preference: a. avoid adverse impacts on existing recreation and tourism activities and areas of high potential for further growth b. minimise them where they cannot be avoided c. mitigate them where they cannot be minimized	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	+	+	+	0	<p>Significant Effects: Policy R&T1 will help to ensure that proposals avoid, minimise or mitigate adverse impacts on existing recreation and tourism activities and areas for high potential for further growth in this sector. This has been assessed as having a significant positive impact on tourism and recreation (SA Criteria 9).</p> <p>The policy has also been assessed as having a positive effect on SA Criteria 8, 11 and 12, due the value of tourism to the Welsh economy and the jobs provided in this sector (the SSE highlights that coastal tourism was estimated to be worth £602 million for Wales in 2013), and health, given the relationship between recreation and the promotion of healthy lifestyles.</p>

Policy	1. Biodiversity	2. Water	3. Physical Environment	4. Air Quality	5. Landscape and Seascapes	6. Climate Change	7. Heritage	8. Welsh Language	9. Tourism and Recreation	10. Resources (incl Waste)	11. Economy	12. Well-being	13. Health	14. Governance	Commentary:
d. present the case for proceeding where (a-c) are not possible															<p>It is noted that under Policy R&T1, proposals which may adversely affect existing activities or areas of high potential for further growth and which do not meet the sequential test outlined above could be supported where a case for proceeding is presented. Careful consideration should therefore be given to the final policy wording/supporting text in this regard in order to make explicit the cases where such proposals would be supported.</p> <p>Mitigation/Enhancement: The policy wording could be expanded to identify the factors to be taken into account when determining potential impacts on tourism.</p> <p>Consider the inclusion of additional policy wording and/or supporting text which details the instances where proposals which would adversely affect tourism and recreation activity may be allowed.</p> <p>The identification of areas of high potential for further growth should take into account socio-economic and environmental constraints and opportunities.</p> <p>Uncertainties: Areas of high potential for further growth with regards to tourism and recreation are unknown at this stage. As the draft WNMP evolves more detailed SA and HRA, including of the location of areas identified as having high potential for further growth, will be undertaken</p>
Policy R&T2: Decision making authorities should, where appropriate, support proposals that provide new opportunities for tourism and recreation or enhance existing opportunities.	+/- /?	+/- /?	+/- /?	-/?	+/- /?	-/?	+/- /?	+	++ /-	-/?	+	+	+/-	0	<p>Significant Effects: In supporting new opportunities for tourism and recreation, Policy R&T2 has been assessed as having a significant positive effect on SA Criteria 9. As noted above, the SSE highlights that coastal tourism was estimated to be worth £602 million for Wales in 2013. By supporting growth in this sector, Policy R&T2 has been assessed as having a positive effect on the economy (SA Criteria 11) and, due to</p>

Policy	1. Biodiversity	2. Water	3. Physical Environment	4. Air Quality	5. Landscape and Seascape	6. Climate Change	7. Heritage	8. Welsh Language	9. Tourism and Recreation	10. Resources (incl Waste)	11. Economy	12. Well-being	13. Health	14. Governance	Commentary:
															<p>the potential for generation of local employment opportunities, the Welsh language (SA Criteria 8) wellbeing (SA Criteria 12).</p> <p>Given the relationship between recreational tourism and the promotion of healthy lifestyles, Policy R&T2 has been assessed as having a positive effect on health although it is recognised that tourism development and the provision of associated infrastructure could have adverse effects on health due to, for example, emissions to air from traffic during construction activity and once development is complete.</p> <p>Such effects from emissions have also been assessed as having a negative effect on air quality (SA Criteria 4). Tourism development may also result in increased resource and energy use with associated greenhouse gas emissions although this is dependent on the type and scale of development and the extent to which development alters visitor travel choices.</p> <p>Coastal tourism and recreation is reliant upon the natural and built environments and in consequence, proposals in this sector may help to support the conservation and enhancement of these assets. However, it is recognised that tourism and recreation can also generate adverse effects on coastal environments due to both direct effects (arising from, for example, disturbance to ecology and habitats during construction or the presence of new facilities) and indirect effects (arising from increased visitor pressure). Where impacts affect designated sites in particular, there is the potential for negative effects to be significant, although this is difficult to predict until the type, scale and location of development is known.</p> <p>Mitigation/Enhancement: The policy could specifically seek to ensure that adverse socio-economic and environmental effects are avoided, minimised or mitigated</p>

Policy	1. Biodiversity	2. Water	3. Physical Environment	4. Air Quality	5. Landscape and Seascape	6. Climate Change	7. Heritage	8. Welsh Language	9. Tourism and Recreation	10. Resources (incl Waste)	11. Economy	12. Well-being	13. Health	14. Governance	Commentary:
															<p>and positive effects enhanced. In this regard, additional wording or supporting text could be usefully included relating to the range of potential socio-economic and environmental impacts that could arise from tourism and recreation activity and associated mitigation measures.</p> <p>Policy wording or supporting text could be included relating to the promotion of opportunities for the sharing of infrastructure and facilities with other sectors.</p> <p>Uncertainties: The exact scale, type and location of future proposals is currently unknown.</p>
Policy R&T3: Decision making authorities should, where appropriate, support proposals that provide opportunities to improve understanding of current and potential tourism and recreation activities and the importance of a high quality environment to this sector.	+	0	+	0	+	0	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	<p>Significant Effects: It is considered that Policy R&T3 will help to support the sustainable development of the tourism and recreation sector in the medium to long term. The policy should also indicate gaps in knowledge in respect of tourism and recreation and the environment which will then promote greater environmental awareness and responsible behaviours.</p> <p>Overall, the policy has been assessed as having a positive effect across the majority of the SA criteria.</p> <p>Mitigation/Enhancement: The linkages between Policy R&T3 and opportunities to enhance the understanding of the tourism and recreation sector as part of the consenting process (for example, through EIA or monitoring requirements as part of consent conditions) could be usefully referred to in the supporting text.</p> <p>Uncertainties: None identified.</p>
Policy R&T4: Decision making authorities should, where appropriate, support proposals that provide	+/- /?	+/- /?	+/- /?	-/?	+/- /?	-/?	+/- /?	+/-	++	-/?	+	+	++ /-	0	<p>Significant Effects: The type and range of potential effects associated with this policy are likely to be similar to those identified in respect of Policy R&T2. In supporting the development of sport in the marine area, the policy has</p>

Policy	1. Biodiversity	2. Water	3. Physical Environment	4. Air Quality	5. Landscape and Seascapes	6. Climate Change	7. Heritage	8. Welsh Language	9. Tourism and Recreation	10. Resources (incl Waste)	11. Economy	12. Well-being	13. Health	14. Governance	Commentary:
marine recreation and tourism resources and facilitate participation in and development of sport.															<p>additionally been assessed as having a significant positive effect on health, although the potential for adverse effects on this criteria remain.</p> <p>Mitigation/Enhancement: The policy could specifically seek to ensure that adverse socio-economic and environmental effects are avoided, minimised or mitigated and positive effects enhanced. In this regard, additional wording or supporting text could be usefully included relating to the range of potential socio-economic and environmental impacts that could arise from tourism and recreation activity and associated mitigation measures.</p> <p>Uncertainties: The exact scale, type and location of future proposals is currently unknown.</p>
Policy R&T5: Decision making authorities should, where appropriate, support (non-tourism) proposals that provide opportunities to enhance tourism and recreation including by enhancing access to the marine environment.	+/-	-?	-?	-/?	+/- /?	-/?	+/- /?	+/- ?	+	-/?	+	+	+	0	<p>Significant Effects: Policy R&T5 will have a positive effect with regard to tourism and recreation (SA Criteria 9) by helping to enhance access to the marine environment and which may generate additional positive effect in relation to the economy (SA Criteria 11), wellbeing (SA Criteria 12) and the Welsh language (SA Criteria 8). By increasing access to the marine environment, the policy may also help provide opportunities for people to come in to contact with and appreciate wildlife and wild places, coastal landscapes and seascapes and cultural heritage and promote recreation which has been assessed as having a positive effect on SA Criteria 1, 5, 7 and 13.</p> <p>Increased access to the marine environment may require development of facilities and infrastructure such as roads which have the potential to impact on the marine environment and coastal communities both during construction and once operational. However, until the type, location and scale of development is known the magnitude of any adverse effects in this regard are uncertain. Increasing access to the marine environment</p>

Policy	1. Biodiversity	2. Water	3. Physical Environment	4. Air Quality	5. Landscape and Seascape	6. Climate Change	7. Heritage	8. Welsh Language	9. Tourism and Recreation	10. Resources (incl Waste)	11. Economy	12. Well-being	13. Health	14. Governance	Commentary:
															<p>may also result in increased visitor pressure. Where impacts affect designated sites in particular, there is the potential for negative effects to be significant, although this is difficult to predict until the type, scale and location of development is known.</p> <p>Development can result in increased emissions to air during any construction activities and as a result of increased visitor numbers. This has been assessed as having a negative effect on air quality (SA Criteria 4). Development may also result in increased resource and energy use with associated greenhouse gas emissions although this is dependent to an extent on the type and scale of development and the extent to which development alters visitor travel choices.</p> <p>Mitigation/Enhancement: The policy could specifically seek to ensure that adverse socio-economic and environmental effects are avoided, minimised or mitigated and positive effects enhanced. In this regard, additional wording or supporting text could be usefully included relating to the range of potential socio-economic and environmental impacts that could arise from tourism and recreation activity and associated mitigation measures.</p> <p>Policy wording or supporting text could indicate support for, and promote, low carbon modes of transport.</p> <p>Uncertainties: The exact scale, type and location of future proposals is currently unknown.</p>
Policy R&T6: Decision making authorities should, where appropriate, support proposals that provide opportunities to enhance the aesthetic qualities, coastal	++	+	+	0	++	0	++	0	+	0	+	+	0	0	<p>Significant Effects: The SSE notes that wildlife and the landscape attract many visitors to the Welsh marine area, with 70% of the coastline designated for its environmental quality and with other areas designated as Special Areas of Conservation, Marine Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas and other important sites of</p>

Policy	1. Biodiversity	2. Water	3. Physical Environment	4. Air Quality	5. Landscape and Seascape	6. Climate Change	7. Heritage	8. Welsh Language	9. Tourism and Recreation	10. Resources (incl Waste)	11. Economy	12. Well-being	13. Health	14. Governance	Commentary:
character and wildlife experience of Wales' marine areas.															<p>archaeological and historic interest. In this context, and in supporting proposals that seek to enhance the marine environment, Policy R&T6 has been assessed as having a positive effect across the majority of the SA criteria with the potential for significant positive effects identified in respect of biodiversity (SA Criteria 1), landscape and seascape (SA Criteria 5) and cultural heritage (SA Criteria 7) in particular.</p> <p>Mitigation/Enhancement: No recommendations at this stage.</p> <p>Uncertainties: None identified.</p>
Subsea Cabling															
Policy CAB1: Decision making authorities should ensure that proposals demonstrate that they will, in order of preference: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> avoid adverse impacts on existing (and planned) subsea cables (and their landfall sites) minimise them where they cannot be avoided mitigate them where they cannot be minimised present the case for proceeding where (a-c) are not possible 	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	<p>Significant Effects: Communications subsea cabling in particular can help to support economic growth by increasing connectivity. In this context, the SSE highlights that the value of the subsea cabling sector to Welsh GVA is approximately £260 million. In helping to avoid, minimise or mitigate adverse effects upon existing (and planned) subsea cables (and their landfall sites), Policy CAB1 has therefore been assessed as having a significant positive impact upon the economy (SA Criteria 11).</p> <p>No other effects have been identified in respect of this policy.</p> <p>It is noted that under Policy CAB1, proposals which may adversely affect existing subsea cables and which do not meet the sequential test outlined above could be supported where a case for proceeding is presented. Careful consideration should therefore be given to the final policy wording/supporting text in this regard in order to make explicit the cases where such proposals would be supported.</p>

Policy	1. Biodiversity	2. Water	3. Physical Environment	4. Air Quality	5. Landscape and Seascapes	6. Climate Change	7. Heritage	8. Welsh Language	9. Tourism and Recreation	10. Resources (incl Waste)	11. Economy	12. Well-being	13. Health	14. Governance	Commentary:
															<p>Mitigation/Enhancement: The policy wording could be expanded to identify the factors to be taken into account when determining potential impacts on subsea cabling.</p> <p>Consider the inclusion of additional policy wording and/or supporting text which details the instances where proposals which would adversely affect existing (and planned) subsea cables (and their landfall sites) may be allowed.</p> <p>Uncertainties: None identified.</p>
<p>Policy CAB2: Decision making authorities should ensure that subsea cable laying, maintenance and decommissioning complies with recognised good practices to minimise the impact on the environment and other users.</p>	+	+	+	0	+	0	+	0	+	0	+	0	0	0	<p>Significant Effects: The SSE notes that telecommunication cables are liable to interact with other sectors, such as ports, shipping, aggregate extraction and fishing. Additionally, the laying of cables and their decommissioning can generate a number of adverse environmental effects including, for examples, disturbance to marine habitats, and historic assets. Ensuring that subsea cable laying, maintenance and decommissioning adhere to good practice will help to minimise the risk of adverse effects on environmental receptors and other users and may also help avoid risks to power supply from other activities.</p> <p>Mitigation/Enhancement: Compliance with legal requirements is an existing statutory requirement and in consequence, the requirement for this policy should be reviewed to minimise the unnecessary repetition of existing statutory requirements. If the policy is to be retained, it would also be helpful to clarify the basis and sources of 'recognised good practice' – so for example, is this within Wales, within the UK or is it envisaged to encompass international examples.</p>

Policy	1. Biodiversity	2. Water	3. Physical Environment	4. Air Quality	5. Landscape and Seascape	6. Climate Change	7. Heritage	8. Welsh Language	9. Tourism and Recreation	10. Resources (incl Waste)	11. Economy	12. Well-being	13. Health	14. Governance	Commentary:
															<p>The policy could specifically seek to ensure that adverse socio-economic and environmental effects are avoided, minimised or mitigated. In this regard, additional wording or supporting text could be usefully included relating to the range of potential socio-economic and environmental impacts that could arise from subsea cabling and associated mitigation measures.</p> <p>Uncertainties: None identified.</p>
Policy CAB3: Decision making authorities should, where appropriate, support proposals that facilitate the development of infrastructure for the optimal distribution of electricity.	+/- /?	+/- /?	+/- /?	+/- /?	-/?	++ /-	-/?	0	-/?	++ /-	++ /-	+	-/?	0	<p>Significant Effects: The installation and decommissioning of electricity distribution infrastructure may generate positive economic effects including spend and job opportunities associated with construction, maintenance and decommissioning works. There would also be potential benefits related to the securing of electricity supplies at competitive rates that optimisation of the network could bring. These benefits would include enhanced energy security and, potentially, lower commercial and domestic electricity bills. In this regard, developing infrastructure to support electricity distribution may enable the importation of electricity from, for example, offshore renewable energy schemes in the Republic of Ireland.</p> <p>In supporting proposals for electricity distribution infrastructure, Policy CAB3 has therefore been assessed as having a significant positive effect on the economy (SA Criteria 11) and a positive effect on well-being (SA Criteria 12). It is recognised that there is the potential for the construction, operation and decommissioning of infrastructure to adversely affect existing economic activity such as fishing and tourism, although this would be dependent on the exact scale, type and location of future proposals which is currently uncertain.</p>

Policy	1. Biodiversity	2. Water	3. Physical Environment	4. Air Quality	5. Landscape and Seascape	6. Climate Change	7. Heritage	8. Welsh Language	9. Tourism and Recreation	10. Resources (incl Waste)	11. Economy	12. Well-being	13. Health	14. Governance	Commentary:
															<p>Optimisation of the electricity distribution network would be expected to help to facilitate the delivery of renewable energy schemes which has been assessed as having a significant positive effects on climate change (SA Criteria 6) and resources (SA Criteria 10), although it is recognised that developing distribution infrastructure will result in energy and resource use.</p> <p>The policy has been assessed as having mixed positive and negative effects on biodiversity, water, the physical environment and air quality. This reflects the benefits associated with renewable energy generation but also the potential for adverse marine and terrestrial environmental effects during the construction, operation and decommissioning of transmission infrastructure. In this regard, the potential for negative effects has also been identified in respect of landscape and seascape and cultural heritage. However, the likelihood of any adverse effects occurring and the magnitude of such effects would be dependent on the exact scale, type and location of future proposals. Further, it would be expected that the potential for adverse socio-economic and environmental effects would be considered during the consenting process and as part of the EIA process, where appropriate, such that any significant adverse effects would be minimised/mitigated where possible.</p> <p>Mitigation/Enhancement: The policy could specifically seek to ensure that adverse socio-economic and environmental effects are avoided, minimised or mitigated and positive effects enhanced. In this regard, additional wording or supporting text could be usefully included relating to the range of potential socio-economic and environmental impacts that could arise from subsea cabling and associated mitigation measures.</p> <p>As currently drafted, the relationship between Policy CAB3 and Policy MR3 is unclear as both policies appear to be</p>

Policy	1. Biodiversity	2. Water	3. Physical Environment	4. Air Quality	5. Landscape and Seascapes	6. Climate Change	7. Heritage	8. Welsh Language	9. Tourism and Recreation	10. Resources (incl Waste)	11. Economy	12. Well-being	13. Health	14. Governance	Commentary:
															<p>similar in scope. In consequence, there is the potential for the supporting text to clarify the distinction between the two policies.</p> <p>Uncertainties: The exact scale, type and location of future proposals is currently unknown.</p>
Policy CAB4: Decision making authorities should, where appropriate, support proposals that facilitate the growth of digital communication networks.	-/?	-/?	-/?	-/?	-/?	-/?	-/?	0	-/?	-/?	+/-	+	-/?	0	<p>Significant Effects: The installation and decommissioning of telecommunication infrastructure may generate positive economic effects including spend and job opportunities associated with construction, maintenance and decommissioning works. The SSE notes that the increasing use of the internet and an increase in e-commerce has led to an increasing demand for communication cables, faster services and the capacity of cables. Supporting infrastructure enhancements is therefore expected to help support economic growth. In this context, Policy CAB4 has been assessed as having a positive effect upon the economy (SA Criteria 11) and wellbeing (SA Criteria 12). It is recognised that there is the potential for the construction, operation and decommissioning of infrastructure to adversely affect existing economic activity such as fishing and tourism, although this would be dependent on the exact scale, type and location of future proposals which is currently uncertain.</p> <p>The laying, maintenance and decommissioning of communication networks can have adverse environmental effects and which could be significant particularly if impacts affect designated assets. However, the likelihood of any adverse effects occurring and the magnitude of such effects would be dependent on the exact scale, type and location of future proposals. Further, it would be expected that the potential for adverse socio-economic and environmental would be considered during the consenting process and as part of the EIA process, where</p>

Policy	1. Biodiversity	2. Water	3. Physical Environment	4. Air Quality	5. Landscape and Seascapes	6. Climate Change	7. Heritage	8. Welsh Language	9. Tourism and Recreation	10. Resources (incl Waste)	11. Economy	12. Well-being	13. Health	14. Governance	Commentary:
															<p>appropriate, such that any significant adverse effects would be minimised/mitigated where possible.</p> <p>Mitigation/Enhancement: Consideration could be given to combining this policy with Policy CAB3.</p> <p>The policy could specifically seek to ensure that adverse socio-economic and environmental effects are avoided, minimised or mitigated. In this regard, additional wording or supporting text could be usefully included relating to the range of potential socio-economic and environmental impacts that could arise from subsea cabling and associated mitigation measures.</p> <p>Uncertainties: The exact scale, type and location of future proposals is currently unknown.</p>
Ports and Shipping															
Policy PS1: Decision making authorities must ensure that wherever possible proposals avoid restricting access to, or future expansion of, major commercial ports.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	++	+	0	0	<p>Significant Effects: The SSE highlights that ports and shipping are critical to the effective movement of cargo and people, and form an essential part of the Welsh, UK and global economies. Ports are also an important driver of economic growth, key major employers and support the tourism sector. However, as the proportion of large vessels increase (in an effort to achieve scale of economies) access to ports, which are largely dependent on suitable tidal conditions (or substantial capital dredging campaigns), has become increasingly constrained. The SSE also notes that the UK government expects that the market will be ready to fund further expansion of its ports. In safeguarding port access and the future expansion of major commercial ports, Policy PS1 is therefore expected to have a significant positive effect on the economy (SA Criteria 11) and a positive effects in respect of wellbeing (SA Criteria 12) and tourism (SA Criteria 9).</p>

Policy	1. Biodiversity	2. Water	3. Physical Environment	4. Air Quality	5. Landscape and Seascapes	6. Climate Change	7. Heritage	8. Welsh Language	9. Tourism and Recreation	10. Resources (incl Waste)	11. Economy	12. Well-being	13. Health	14. Governance	Commentary:
															<p>Mitigation/Enhancement: The use of the term 'major commercial ports' is assumed to refer to the 14 ports in Wales, notably Milford Haven, Port Talbot and Holyhead, which currently handle commercial traffic, although it would be helpful in the accompany text to the policy to confirm the intended scope of the policy. The scope of the policy could be widened so to avoid restricting access or future expansion to other ports.</p> <p>Uncertainties: None identified.</p>
<p>Policy PS2: Decision making authorities should ensure that proposals demonstrate that they will, in order of preference:</p> <p>a. avoid adverse impacts on current port and harbour activities and future opportunities for expansion</p> <p>b. minimise them where they cannot be avoided</p> <p>c. mitigate them where they cannot be minimized</p> <p>d. present the case for proceeding where (a-c) are not possible</p>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	++	+	0	0	<p>Significant Effects: Policy PS2 will help to ensure proposals avoid, minimise or mitigate adverse impacts on current port and harbour activities and future expansion thereby helping to ensure that capacity is provided for shipping needs, including port facilities. As noted above, ports are an important economic driver and in this regard, the policy has been assessed as having a significant positive effect on the economy (SA Criteria11), well-being (SA Criteria 12) and tourism (SA Criteria 9).</p> <p>It is noted that under Policy PS2, proposals which may adversely affect ports or impede their expansion and which do not meet the sequential test outlined above could be supported where a case for proceeding is presented. Careful consideration should therefore be given to the final policy wording/supporting text in this regard in order to make explicit the cases where such proposals would be supported.</p> <p>Mitigation/Enhancement: Consider the inclusion of additional policy wording and/or supporting text which details the instances where proposals which would adversely affect current port and harbour activities and future opportunities for expansion activity may be allowed.</p>

Policy	1. Biodiversity	2. Water	3. Physical Environment	4. Air Quality	5. Landscape and Seascapes	6. Climate Change	7. Heritage	8. Welsh Language	9. Tourism and Recreation	10. Resources (incl Waste)	11. Economy	12. Well-being	13. Health	14. Governance	Commentary:
															<p>Consider the identification of factors to be considered when determining the potential impact of proposals on port and harbour activities.</p> <p>Uncertainties: None identified.</p>
<p>Policy PS3: Decision making authorities should ensure that proposals demonstrate that they will, in order of preference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. avoid substantial displacement of established navigation routes b. minimise displacement where it cannot be avoided c. mitigate it where it cannot be minimised d. present the case for proceeding where (a-c) are not possible 	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	++	+	0	0	<p>Significant Effects: As noted above, shipping is critical to the effective movement of cargo and people, and form an essential part of the Welsh, UK and global economies. However, the SSE highlights that the other marine activities can compete for sea space and affect shipping. For example, the projected growth in offshore renewable energy developments has the potential to disrupt shipping activity, including forcing deviation from planned routes.</p> <p>In seeking to avoid, minimise or mitigate this potential issue, Policy PS3 is expected to have a significant positive effect on the economy (SA Criteria 11) through ensuring capacity for shipping needs, including sea space, water depth and port facilities amongst others. The policy has also been assessed as having a positive effect on tourism (SA Criteria 9) and wellbeing (SA Criteria 12).</p> <p>It is noted that under Policy PS3, proposals which may substantially affect navigation routes could be supported where a case for proceeding is presented. Careful consideration should therefore be given to the final policy wording/supporting text in this regard in order to make explicit the cases where such proposals would be supported.</p> <p>Mitigation/Enhancement: Consider the inclusion of additional policy wording and/or supporting text which details the instances where proposals which would adversely affect navigation routes activity may be allowed.</p> <p>Uncertainties: None identified.</p>

Policy	1. Biodiversity	2. Water	3. Physical Environment	4. Air Quality	5. Landscape and Seascape	6. Climate Change	7. Heritage	8. Welsh Language	9. Tourism and Recreation	10. Resources (incl Waste)	11. Economy	12. Well-being	13. Health	14. Governance	Commentary:
Policy PS4: Decision making authorities should, where appropriate, support proposals which provide for the maintenance, repair, development and diversification of port and harbour facilities.	-/?	-/?	-/?	-/?	-/?	-/?	-/?	+/-	+	-/?	++	+	-/?	0	<p>Significant Effects: Proposals relating to the development of port facilities have the potential to generate substantial economic and employment benefits both during construction (for example, due to spend in the economy and the creation of employment opportunities) and operation (given the role of ports as economic drivers). In this context, Policy PS4 has been assessed as having a significant positive effect on the economy (SA Criteria 11) as well as positive effects upon well-being (SA Criteria 12) and tourism (SA Criteria 9).</p> <p>Port development and associated shipping activities can have adverse effects on the marine and terrestrial environment. Adverse effects are likely to be generated during construction and could include, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • disturbance to or loss of habitat and species; • reduced water quality due to the mobilisation of sediment or pollution; • impacts on landscape and seascape character; • disturbance to or loss of heritage assets; • increased emissions to air and energy use; and • impacts on human health. <p>There may also be negative operational effects including pollution caused by unlawful operational discharges by ships, noise and emissions to air from vessels, and the spread of and spread of non-indigenous species. Where impacts affect designated sites in particular, there is the potential for negative effects to be significant. Port construction and operation will also result in increased energy and resource use and the generation of waste. In consequence, the potential for negative effects has been identified across a number of the SA criteria, although until the exact location and scale of activity is known, the likelihood of adverse effects occurring and their magnitude is uncertain.</p>

Policy	1. Biodiversity	2. Water	3. Physical Environment	4. Air Quality	5. Landscape and Seascapes	6. Climate Change	7. Heritage	8. Welsh Language	9. Tourism and Recreation	10. Resources (incl Waste)	11. Economy	12. Well-being	13. Health	14. Governance	Commentary:
															<p>Mitigation/Enhancement: The policy could specifically seek to ensure that adverse socio-economic and environmental effects are avoided, minimised or mitigated and positive effects enhanced. In this regard, additional wording or supporting text could be usefully included relating to the range of potential socio-economic and environmental impacts that could arise from port-related development and associated mitigation measures.</p> <p>Uncertainties: The exact scale, type and location of future proposals is currently unknown.</p>
<p>Policy PS5: Decision making authorities should plan for future climate change and sea level projections, and where appropriate take the necessary steps to ensure their ports and harbours remain viable and resilient to a changing climate.</p>	0	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	0	++	0	0	0	<p>Significant Effects: Rising sea levels associated with climate change will increase the risk of coastal erosion and physical damage to infrastructure such as ports and harbours whilst an increased frequency of extreme weather events could cause disruption to services. In requiring decision making authorities to plan for climate change, Policy PS5 is therefore expected to have a significant positive effect on climate change (SA Criteria 6) and the economy (SA Criteria 11) by protecting the economic function of ports.</p> <p>Mitigation/Enhancement: The policy could more specifically require developers and operators to take into account climate change impacts in the design of new developments.</p> <p>Uncertainties: None identified.</p>
<p>Policy PS6: Decision making authorities should:</p> <p>a. Provide co-ordinated support to ports, harbours and ferry terminals to ensure they can respond to market influences</p>	0	0	0	+	0	+	0	0	+	0	+	0	0	+	<p>Significant Effects: Both parts of this policy accord with the European Commission's Trans-European Network (TEN-T) and their aims to develop an integrated transport network in Europe. Part a. of Policy PS6 will have positive effects upon tourism and the economy (SA Criteria 9 and 11) by helping ensure that port facilities receive support to remain competitive. Part b. of the policy, meanwhile, has</p>

Policy	1. Biodiversity	2. Water	3. Physical Environment	4. Air Quality	5. Landscape and Seascapes	6. Climate Change	7. Heritage	8. Welsh Language	9. Tourism and Recreation	10. Resources (incl Waste)	11. Economy	12. Well-being	13. Health	14. Governance	Commentary:
<p>and provide support to other sectors with necessary facilities and transport links.</p> <p>b. Consider spatial co-ordination of ferries and other modes of transport to promote opportunities for more integrated and sustainable travel options.</p>															<p>the potential to generate positive effects on air quality and climate change (SA Criteria 4 and 6) by promoting integrated and more sustainable transport options which would be expected to reduce emissions to air. Policy PS6 is also expected to promote integrated decision making, generating a positive effect on SA Criteria 14.</p> <p>Mitigation/Enhancement: None identified.</p> <p>Uncertainties: None identified.</p>
Surface water management and waste water															
<p>Policy SWT1: Decision making authorities should ensure that proposals, in order of preference:</p> <p>a. avoid adverse impacts on surface water management and waste water treatment infrastructure</p> <p>b. minimise them where they cannot be avoided</p> <p>c. mitigate them where they cannot be minimised</p> <p>d. present the case for proceeding where (a-c) are not possible</p>	+	++	+	0	0	++	0	0	0	++	0	0	+	0	<p>Significant Effects: Policy SWT1 will help to ensure that proposals avoid, minimise or mitigate adverse effects on surface water management and waste water treatment infrastructure. This will help to ensure that water quality is maintained and in-turn help protect the marine environment. This has been assessed as having a significant positive effect with regards to water and resources (SA Criteria 2 and 10) in addition to positive effects on biodiversity (SA Criteria 1) and the physical environment (SA Criteria 2). The protection of surface water management infrastructure will also help to maintain climate change resilience.</p> <p>Mitigation/Enhancement: Consideration could be given to the inclusion of additional policy wording that is designed to encourage planning for increasing waste water pollution events and surface water runoff that may arise in the future due to population growth, more frequent and intense storm events as well as others.</p> <p>Consideration could be given to the provision of policy relating to the development of new facilities and infrastructure for the management of surface water and waste water.</p>

Policy	1. Biodiversity	2. Water	3. Physical Environment	4. Air Quality	5. Landscape and Seascapes	6. Climate Change	7. Heritage	8. Welsh Language	9. Tourism and Recreation	10. Resources (incl Waste)	11. Economy	12. Well-being	13. Health	14. Governance	Commentary:
															Uncertainties: None identified.

5. Summary and Next Steps

5.1 Summary

As part of the ongoing SA of the WNMP, this Report has presented the findings of an early stage high level sustainability review of emerging draft policies. The purpose of the review has been to support further policy development by identifying any likely significant (particularly negative) socio-economic and environmental effects that may arise as a result of the implementation of the emerging policies at an early stage. This report therefore supports early engagement with stakeholders on the emerging policies and will help to inform the development of the Welsh National Marine Plan Draft for formal consultation.

The high level sustainability review has found that the emerging draft General Cross-Cutting Policies are likely to have a positive or significant positive effect in respect of the SA criteria.

Overall, the high level sustainability review presented in this Report suggests that the emerging draft Sector Policies are likely to have both positive and negative socio-economic and environmental effects. However, it is probable that negative effects identified as occurring as a result of the implementation of the Sector Policies could be reduced through other Draft WNMP policies (in particular, those General Cross-Cutting Policies that promote environmental conservation and enhancement). Further, existing licensing and consenting regimes including, where appropriate, requirements for EIA and project level HRA, would ensure that any significant adverse effects associated with proposals in the marine area would be fully considered and minimised/mitigated where possible and appropriate.

5.2 Next Steps

The findings of the high level sustainability review presented in this Report have informed the preparation of the Welsh National Marine Plan Initial Pre-Consultation Draft. This work will continue, alongside the development of the Draft WNMP and wider stakeholder engagement, throughout the initial pre-consultation exercise and will further help to refine the emerging policies.

The Draft WNMP (and any reasonable alternatives that are considered through the plan development process) will be subject to detailed SA (and HRA) in full accordance with the relevant European directives and transposing regulations. The findings of the SA and HRA will be presented in the SA Report and HRA Report that will be published alongside the Draft WNMP for formal consultation which is expected to take place in 2016.

Appendix A

Sustainability Appraisal Criteria and Guide Questions

Criteria	Guide Questions: <i>Will the proposed WNMP policies...</i>	Key Ecosystem Services
1. To protect and enhance biodiversity (habitats, species and ecosystems).	<p><i>Protect and enhance designated nature conservation sites (e.g. SACs, SPAs, Ramsar and SSSIs), habitats and species?</i></p> <p><i>Protect and enhance the structure and function of marine and coastal ecosystems?</i></p> <p><i>Avoid adverse impacts on marine ecology from underwater noise?</i></p> <p><i>Provide opportunities for people to come in to contact with and appreciate wildlife and wild places?</i></p> <p><i>Maintain and restore key ecological processes, and in particular coastal and marine processes?</i></p>	<p>Provisioning – food, water, genetic resources</p> <p>Regulating – climate, water, waste assimilation</p> <p>Cultural – natural settings, recreation & tourism, nature & wildlife appreciation, education & scientific opportunity</p>
2. To protect and enhance the quality of surface, ground, estuarine and coastal water and help achieve the objectives of the Water Framework Directive.	<p><i>Affect demand for water resources and the availability of water to meet the demand?</i></p> <p><i>Affect groundwater or freshwater, estuarine or marine water quality?</i></p> <p><i>Promote high quality surface water management and waste water treatment and disposal?</i></p>	<p>Provisioning – food, water, genetic resources</p> <p>Regulating – water, waste assimilation</p> <p>Cultural – recreation & tourism, nature & wildlife appreciation, education & scientific opportunity</p>
3. To protect and enhance the physical features of the marine environment.	<p><i>Affect marine and coastal processes and/or erosion rates?</i></p> <p><i>Protect and enhance designated coastal features or sites e.g. geological SSSIs?</i></p> <p><i>Ensure the protection of the seabed in designated or sensitive areas?</i></p> <p><i>Support the policies and actions of Shoreline Management Plans?</i></p>	<p>Provisioning – food, genetic resources</p> <p>Regulating – climate, waste assimilation, erosion</p> <p>Cultural – natural settings, recreation & tourism, nature & wildlife appreciation, education & scientific opportunity</p>
4. To protect and enhance air quality.	<p><i>Help to reduce emissions of air pollutants associated with marine or coastal activities and developments?</i></p>	<p>Provisioning – food, genetic resources</p> <p>Regulating – climate, waste assimilation</p> <p>Cultural – natural settings, recreation & tourism, nature & wildlife appreciation</p>
5. To protect and enhance landscape and seascape character and other protected features.	<p><i>Recognise and respect non-designated landscape and seascape character?</i></p> <p><i>Help to protect designated coastal landscapes and/or townscapes, such as National Parks, AONBs, Heritage Coast or conservation areas?</i></p>	<p>Cultural – natural settings, accessible greenspace, recreation & tourism, nature & wildlife appreciation, tranquillity, historic & cultural heritage, education & scientific opportunity</p>
6. To limit the causes and effects of climate change and promote adaptation.	<p><i>Contribute to a reduction, directly or indirectly, in greenhouse gas emissions?</i></p> <p><i>Contribute positively to resilience and/or adaptation to climate change, helping to ensure that forecast changes are considered over the lifetime of any proposed development or activity?</i></p>	<p>Provisioning – food, genetic resources</p> <p>Regulating – climate, waste assimilation</p> <p>Cultural – natural settings, recreation & tourism, nature & wildlife appreciation</p>
7. To protect and enhance cultural, historic and industrial heritage resources.	<p><i>Help to protect the site and setting of marine and coastal historic sites and assets including scheduled monuments and protected wrecks, landscapes and seascapes?</i></p> <p><i>Help to avoid or minimise damage to onshore and offshore archaeologically important sites?</i></p> <p><i>Help to protect and enhance culturally important sites?</i></p>	<p>Cultural – natural settings, accessible greenspace, recreation & tourism, nature & wildlife appreciation, tranquillity, historic & cultural heritage, education & scientific opportunity</p>

Criteria	Guide Questions: <i>Will the proposed WNMP policies...</i>	Key Ecosystem Services
8. To support and enhance the Welsh language and culture.	<i>Protect Welsh language and culture?</i> <i>Promote and enhance opportunities for the promotion and development of Welsh language and culture?</i>	Cultural – natural settings, accessible greenspace, recreation & tourism, nature & wildlife appreciation, tranquillity, historic & cultural heritage, education & scientific opportunity
9. To support appropriate tourism in Wales and protect and enhance opportunities for recreation.	<i>Help to protect and promote the attractiveness of the coastal and marine environment for visitors?</i> <i>Help to protect and promote the distinctiveness of landscapes and seascapes?</i> <i>Help to protect and promote sustainable opportunities for recreation in the coastal and marine environment for residents and visitors?</i> <i>Help to promote the health and well-being of local communities through supporting appropriate opportunities for recreation?</i>	Cultural – natural settings, accessible greenspace, recreation & tourism, nature & wildlife appreciation, tranquillity, historic & cultural heritage, education & scientific opportunity
10. To promote the sustainable use of natural resources.	<i>Promote the protection and accessibility of the seabed for the winning of marine aggregates?</i> <i>Promote the sustainable use of natural resources including oil and gas?</i> <i>Help to support the development of low carbon energy and thereby contribute towards meeting renewable energy targets?</i> <i>Promote the sustainable management of waste?"</i>	Provisioning – food, natural fluxes of energy Regulating – climate, air quality Cultural – natural settings, education & scientific opportunity
11. To support sustainable development of marine and coastal economy.	<i>Contribute to the growth of any marine activity without detriment to another?</i> <i>Help to ensure that capacity is provided for shipping needs, including sea space, water depth and port facilities?</i> <i>Support the protection and conservation of marine fish stocks and ensure the continuation a sustainable fishing industry in Wales?</i> <i>Help to promote the sustainable growth of aquaculture in Wales?</i> <i>Help ensure appropriate defence activities can be undertaken in sustainable manner?</i> <i>Facilitate telecommunications including cable laying in appropriate areas?</i>	Provisioning – food Regulating – water quality Cultural – natural settings, recreation & tourism, nature & wildlife appreciation, education & scientific opportunity, historic & cultural heritage
12. To maintain and enhance the well-being of local communities.	<i>Help to promote employment creation and thereby support the local and Welsh economy?</i> <i>Help to address social needs such as the retention of high skill levels and achieving a balance of full and part-time work, where appropriate?</i> <i>Help to promote attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities?</i> <i>Help to promote equality?</i>	Regulating – climate, air quality
13. To protect and enhance human health with special regard to vulnerable groups in society.	<i>Promote the maintenance and enhancement of human health, and minimise the adverse effects on any vulnerable groups in particular?</i>	Regulating – climate, water and air quality, hazards, waste assimilation, noise regulation Cultural – nature & wildlife appreciation, recreation & tourism, tranquillity
14. To promote good governance.	<i>Support integrated decision making and collaboration across marine and terrestrial interfaces and boundaries?</i> <i>Promote engagement in marine planning?</i> <i>Support continued research and policy development in marine planning?</i>	

