

NRW B B 82.14

Annex 4: Spatial Targeting for Social Benefit

Having objective spatial evidence to support decision making is a key component of programme development. Our Business Plan says that we will 'We will develop and manage a sound evidence base to support our strategic and operational decision making and inform decision making by others'. All of our social programmes need to focus on evidence-based geographical priorities to guide staff time and resource investment (recognising that we can't do everything everywhere) and ensure that we're generating the greatest possible benefits for our most disadvantaged communities. We need a consistent all-Wales approach to this work – and to link with and inform natural resource planning.

Given our increasingly scarce resources, there's a real need for us to prioritise where we focus and spend them. Our legacy bodies had all used and interrogated GIS data to develop methodologies and approaches to support decision making. These range from the green infrastructure planning work in Bridgend County Borough to flood risk management and identifying priority communities and woodlands in the Heads of the Valleys and Western Valleys Regeneration Areas - so we already have access to a great deal of data and are by no means starting from scratch. However, these approaches need to be integrated to reflect our NRM ecosystems approach, and developed to provide a consistent and easy to use methodology. This will be a key part of the NRM trial area work. The methodology and outputs will also be published and available for others (e.g. Local Authorities, Public and Third Sector organisations) to use (although access to some of the datasets may be restricted). The work will give us:

- A consistent, repeatable and adaptable NRW spatial prioritisation methodology in an Arc Toolbox format.
- Objective identification of areas of greatest need using existing GIS data
- The ability to provide data and evidence to other organisations through map browser or data download technologies.
- Focussed resource investment in areas of greatest need
- Identification of data and evidence gaps

The main aim of this work is to identify geographical priority development and delivery areas for NRW's three social programmes: community regeneration, outdoor recreation and access and education and sector skills – with a particular focus on the NRM trial catchment areas. The consultancy will be embedded in and managed by the Evidence and Tools work-stream of the Ecosystem Approach and Natural Resource Management (EA&NRM) Programme Board