

IPC Infrastructure Planning Commission

Meeting Note

File reference	None
Status	FINAL
Author	Owain George / Eleri Davies

Meeting with	Welsh Government (WG)
Meeting date	13 September 2011
Attendees (IPC)	Ian Gambles (Director of Operations) Mark Wilson (Case Leader) Karl Hardy (Head of Knowledge and Information) Eleri Davies (Bilingual Case Officer) Owain George (Bilingual Case Officer)
Attendees (non IPC)	Matthew Quinn (Director of Environment and Sustainability) Rosemary Thomas (Deputy Director of Planning) Ron Loveland (Deputy Director of Sustainable Energy and Industry Wales) Jasper Roberts (Deputy Director of Waste and Local Environment Quality) Chris Lea (Sustainable Futures)
Location	IPC Offices, Temple Quay, Bristol

Meeting purpose	Liaison meeting between IPC and WG
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Summary of outcomes	<p>IPC provided an update on the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) and IPC integration programme within the context of the Localism Bill. It is envisaged that the commencement date for the new integrated body (PINS 2012) will be 1 April 2012. Sir Mike Pitt has been appointed as Chief Executive of PINS 2012 and Directors Designate have also been appointed. The position of Chief Planning Inspector will be advertised shortly. IPC advised that transitional arrangements for nationally significant infrastructure project (NSIP) applications are to be issued by the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG).</p> <p>In respect of operations in Wales, the IPC advised that the National Infrastructure directorate will continue to deal with NSIPs. It was noted that one of the benefits of IPC-PINS integration is that the PINS presence in Cardiff offers practical opportunities for supporting NI operations in</p>
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Wales which go beyond those currently available to the IPC.

WG provided an overview of internal structural changes and outlined the programme to integrate the Environment Agency Wales (EAW), the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) and the Forestry Commission Wales (FCW) into a single environment body as part of the Natural Environment Framework. It is expected that the vesting date for this new body will be in April 2013.

IPC provided a map of IPC projects in and around Wales, and an overview of recent outreach and engagement work. The IPC provided an overview of recent developments in the Brig Y Cwm Energy from Waste (EfW) application and the Mid Wales Grid Connection projects. IPC confirmed that it had not (to date) received notification of a potential project for the proposed grid connection to serve Wylfa, Anglesey.

IPC advised that developers have raised issues surrounding Special Category Land and engagement with the WG on this matter. The IPC emphasised that exercising their consenting functions should not prejudice WG's role as a statutory consultee on IPC projects. The alignment of consenting is relevant to all IPC projects (not just Wales) and it is for the applicant to work out the mechanism for obtaining all the required consents. Consenting bodies will also need to work out their internal structures for dealing with these consents. The IPC is carrying out work internally on this matter and is liaising with statutory consultees including the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and CCW on a series of annexes to accompany IPC Advice Note 11 'Working with public bodies in the infrastructure planning process'.

WG welcomed the IPC's internal review and suggested that a workshop on various consenting regimes would be useful.

IPC asked WG to clarify the role and position of the Design Commission for Wales (DCfW). **WG** provided an overview of the function of DCfW and its advisory role to Local Authorities. WG advised that developers should be made aware of DCfW; funding for DCfW's design review service was not centrally provided and would need to come from customers.

WG provided an update on the planning regime in Wales following the referendum. The Natural Environment Framework (NEF) was discussed together with the National Infrastructure Plan which would sit within the

	<p>NEF.</p> <p>IPC advised that it will give evidence to the National Assembly for Wales Environment and Sustainability Committee's Inquiry into Energy Policy and Planning in Wales in October. IPC and WG exchanged copies of the evidence they have each submitted to this Committee. WG advised that a report from the Committee is expected in January.</p>
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Record of any advice given	None
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Specific decisions/follow up required?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrange next WG/IPC Liaison meeting for January 2012. • IPC to liaise with Tim Peppin (Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA)) and Alan Sotherby (Planning Officers Society for Wales (POSW)) to explore possibility of attending a future meeting to provide an overview of the IPC process.
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Circulation List	Attendees