



Meeting Note

File reference	
Status	Final
Author	Iwan Davies

Meeting with	Welsh Government (WG)
Meeting date	11 th December 2012
Attendees (Planning Inspectorate)	Susannah Guest (SG) – Principal Case Manager Iwan Davies (ID) – Case Officer
Attendees (non Planning Inspectorate (PINS))	Jonathan Fudge (JF) – Policy Branch WG Theresa Davies (TD) – Decisions Branch WG
Location	Temple Quay House (boardroom)

Meeting purpose	Initial meeting to discuss the Planning Act 2008 regime in a Welsh context
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Summary of key points discussed and advice given	<p>The meeting opened with TD advising that WG would like to discuss issues surrounding the Recommendations set out in the document '<i>Towards a Planning Act: Ensuring the Planning System Delivers</i>' (Report to the Welsh Government by the Independent Advisory Group), which sets out the future delivery of planning services in Wales.</p> <p>From this point on discussions primarily focused on these Recommendations.</p> <p>Section 4 'Roles and Responsibilities' of the Report sets out recommendations on 'Decisions on National Infrastructure Projects' and it was these Recommendations (numbered 24 – 28) which formed the basis of the meeting.</p> <p>A summary of the Recommendations, and hence the main topics discussed at the meeting, are set out below:</p> <p>24. Decisions on Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) in Wales are made by the Welsh Ministers and that a model based upon the Planning Act 2008 should be considered in Wales and National Assembly approved national planning policies.</p> <p>25. Ancillary development approval related to NSIPs is brought within a Welsh infrastructure planning process.</p> <p>26. National infrastructure planning policies are prepared to</p>
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provide the basis for national infrastructure planning decisions.

27. The national infrastructure process is administered through the Welsh Directorate of PINS on behalf of Welsh Ministers.

28. Provision is made for the fee structure to recognise the resource implications for LPAs in their role as principal consultees, discharging of conditions and enforcement of approved Development Consent Orders (DCOs).

SG explained the principles of the 2008 Act and explained each stage of the process to **WG** in detail.

PINS referred **WG** to its series of published Advice Notes to assist them with understanding the process, in particular the following:

[Advice Note 8.1: How the process works](#)

[Advice Note 14: Compiling the Consultation Report](#)

[Advice Note 16: The developer's pre-application consultation, publicity and notification duties](#)

[Link to all Advice Notes](#)

Community Benefits Fund

WG enquired about PINS' position regarding the issue of Community Benefit Funds.

Following a brief explanation of how the funds can be administered/used **SG** advised that she would provide **WG** with advice that PINS have previously provided to an enquirer regarding this matter.

Below is the link to this query and the advice that was provided by PINS at the time:

[Scout Moor Onshore Wind Farm - Community Benefits Fund query](#)

Local Impact Reports

WG enquired about the content and timescales of Local Impact Reports.

This was explained in detail by **SG** and reference was made to the Advice Note on Local Impact Reports:

[Advice Note 1: Local Impact Reports](#)

	<p>Planning Performance Agreements (PPAs)</p> <p>Linked to Recommendation 28 (as set out above), WG queried the use of Planning Performance Agreements.</p> <p>SG advised that with regard to NSIPs, it is entirely a matter for local authorities how they choose to formalise working arrangements with applicants.</p> <p>SG also advised that a PPA had been used as part of the Hinckley Point C New Nuclear Power Station between the Applicant and District/County Councils (link below).</p> <p>Hinckley Point C New Nuclear Power Station - PPA</p> <p>A brief introduction to PPAs is set out in Advice Note 2 (see link below):</p> <p>Advice Note 2: Working together on nationally significant infrastructure projects</p> <p>Changes to Development Consent Orders</p> <p>WG enquired about the process of dealing with requests for amendments to developments once they are submitted. SG advised that this is set out in Schedule 6 of the Planning Act 2008 '<i>Changes to, and revocation of, orders granting development consent</i>'.</p> <p>SG also referred WG to the advice given on the Brig y Cwm energy from waste generating facility at Merthyr Tydfil.</p> <p>Below are links to the letters which addressed this matter at Brig y Cwm.</p> <p>Letter from IPC to Applicant - 14th July 2011</p> <p>Letter from DCLG to IPC - 28th November 2011</p> <p>The meeting closed with both parties agreeing that further meetings would be beneficial.</p>
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Specific decisions/ follow up required?	<p>The documents which PINS advised it would send to WG are provided by the above links.</p> <p>PINS/WG agreed that it would be beneficial to undertake further meetings in the future.</p>
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Circulation List	<p>Susannah Guest (PINS)</p> <p>Iwan Davies (PINS)</p>
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	Jonathan Fudge (WG)
	Theresa Davies (WG)