

Policy Forum for Wales Keynote Seminar
Infrastructure in Wales - progress, priorities and next steps for policy

Timing: Morning, Monday, 14th September 2015

Venue: Park Inn Hotel, Mary Ann Street, Cardiff CF10 2JH



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Agenda subject to change

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chair's opening remarks**
Glyn Davies MP, Member, Energy and Climate Change Committee, House of Commons
- 9.05 - 9.25 **Delivering the projects Wales needs by 2050: long-standing challenges for Welsh infrastructure**
Geoff Ogden, Chair, ACE in Wales and Director, Atkins
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.25 - 9.50 **'Infrastructure consenting and investment in Wales'**
Emma Harling-Phillips, Senior Associate, DLA Piper
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.50 - 10.15 **Delivering the Wales Infrastructure Investment Plan (WIIP) - progress so far and next steps**
Jane Hutt AM, Minister for Finance, Welsh Government
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.15 - 11.15 **Priorities for Welsh infrastructure**
- A transport system for economic growth*
Dr Andrew Potter, Reader and Programme Director, MSc International Transport, Cardiff University and Chair, Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport Cymru Wales
- Investing in renewable and low carbon energy sector*
Dr John Idris Jones, Energy Island Programme Director, Isle of Anglesey County Council
- Progress on superfast broadband*
Edward Hunt, Programme Director, Superfast Cymru, BT Group
- Green infrastructure: investing in flood and coastal management*
Dr Jeremy Parr, Head of Flood and Operational Risk Management, Natural Resources Wales
- Meeting demand for affordable and social housing*
Michael Owen, Chief Executive, Merthyr Valley Homes
- Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.15 - 11.20 **Chair's closing remarks**
Glyn Davies MP, Member, Energy and Climate Change Committee, House of Commons
- 11.20 - 11.50 Coffee
- 11.50 - 11.55 **Chair's opening remarks**
Jocelyn Davies AM, Chair, Finance Committee and Member, Cross-Party Group for Construction, National Assembly for Wales
- 11.55 - 12.55 **Investment and planning for infrastructure projects in Wales - the Planning Act, EU structural funds and devolved powers**
Are the M4 relief road and electrification of the Valleys Lines the right priorities for the new borrowing powers due to be devolved to the Welsh Government; what other projects should be considered now and looking further forward? Are the reforms outlined in the Planning (Wales) Act 2015, particularly extending ministerial powers over Developments of National Significance applications (DNS), likely to succeed in simplifying and quickening the development of infrastructure? In what ways could Welsh Government utilise their newly devolved power over stamp duty to encourage housing developments? Will the new City Region approach be effective in improving coordination of large-scale infrastructure projects and attracting funds to deliver them? What further steps can Welsh Government take to encourage private investment infrastructure? How can Welsh Government, local authorities and other parties involved ensure the priorities of the European Structural Funds investment for 2014-2020 deliver economic growth and attract further investment?
Katie-jo Luxton, Director, RSPB Cymru
Tim Bownes, Engineering Director, Port of Milford Haven
David Evans, Independent Consultant, Western Gateway
Ken Poole, Head of Economic Development, City of Cardiff Council
Rob Halford, Head of Planning and Strategy, Welsh European Funding Office
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chair's and Policy Forum for Wales closing remarks**
Jocelyn Davies AM, Chair, Finance Committee and Member, Cross-Party Group for Construction, National Assembly for Wales
Jonny Roberts, Associate Editor, Policy Forum for Wales