

Policy Forum for Wales Keynote Seminar: Reforming the planning system in Wales

Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 16th June 2015

Venue: Cardiff Marriott Hotel, Mill Lane, Cardiff CF10 1EZ



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Agenda subject to change

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chair's opening remarks**
Peter Black AM, Member, Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee and Finance Committee, National Assembly for Wales and Spokesperson for Local Government, Heritage, Housing and Finance, Welsh Liberal Democrats
- 9.05 - 9.30 **Implementing the Planning Bill**
Elizabeth Dunn, Partner, Burges Salmon
- 9.30 - 10.30 **Assessing likely effects of planning system reform - balance, efficiency and local impact**
Overall, do provisions in the Planning (Wales) Bill have the potential to improve the attractiveness of Wales as place to invest? Does the Bill, and its proposal for a National Development Framework for Wales, adequately balance the need to encourage development whilst addressing environmental factors and the concerns of local communities? What would be the effect of the proposed merger of Local Planning Authorities on performance or the authority's ability to reflect local concerns? Would the plans to set out infrastructure priorities in the National Development Framework, the introduction of cross-boundary Strategic Development Plans and giving Welsh Ministers powers to approve 'Projects of National Significance', speed up the development of key infrastructure in Wales? What will be the key challenges for instilling the Welsh Government's aim of a more collaborative and comprehensive pre-application planning process, and how should these be addressed? What will be the likely impact of proposals to 'speed up' the appeals process? Will plans for Welsh Government to directly intervene in poor performing Local Planning Authorities result in a greater focus on prompt dealings with applications?
Elwyn Thomas, Chief Executive, Planning Aid Wales
Michael Carrick, Chief Executive Officer, Aventa Capital Partners and Chief Executive and Chief Spokesperson, Head of the Valleys Development Company
Mike Webb, Planning Officer, RSPB Cymru
Mark Harris, Planning and Policy Advisor for Wales, Home Builders Federation
Questions and comments from the floor with **Elizabeth Dunn**, Partner, Burges Salmon
- 10.30 - 10.35 **Chair's closing remarks**
Peter Black AM, Member, Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee and Finance Committee, National Assembly for Wales and Spokesperson for Local Government, Heritage, Housing and Finance, Welsh Liberal Democrats
- 10.35 - 11.05 Coffee
- 11.05 - 11.10 **Chair's opening remarks**
Jonny Roberts, Associate Editor, Policy Forum for Wales
- 11.10 - 11.40 **Planning Bill for Wales - what it means for Local Development Plans**
Tony Thickett, Director of Wales, Planning Inspectorate
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.40 - 11.55 **The importance of good design in the planning process**
Professor Richard Parnaby, Professor of Architecture, University of Wales Trinity Saint David and Chartered Member, Royal Society of Architects in Wales
- 11.55 - 12.55 **Improving design for new developments: standards, processes and reform**
Has Technical Advice Note (TAN) 12 - which sets out guidelines for good design - led to an improvement in the quality of planning applications with regard to sustainability and accessibility? Should Design and Access Statements be reformed and if so how can Welsh Government make changes in order to encourage improved design standards in planning applications? How should the Planning Advisory and Improvement Service (PAIS) and the Design Commission for Wales be utilised by Local Planning Authorities and developers to ensure good design and accessibility are built into proposals at the pre-application stage? What further steps should be taken to ensure applications protect architectural heritage?
Eifion Bowen, Head of Planning Service, Carmarthenshire County Council
Rhian Davies, Chief Executive, Disability Wales
Tony Mulhall, Associate Director Land Professional Group, RICS
Elgan Jones, Casework Officer, SPAB and Architect, Purcell
Questions and comments from the floor with **Richard Parnaby**, Professor of Architecture, University of Wales Trinity Saint David and Chartered Member, Royal Society of Architects in Wales
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chair's and Policy Forum for Wales closing remarks**
Jonny Roberts, Associate Editor, Policy Forum for Wales