

**Policy Forum for Wales keynote seminar:
The future of infrastructure planning in Wales**

Timing: Morning, Monday, 18th March 2024

*****Taking Place Online*****

Draft agenda subject to change



- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Chair to be announced
- 9.05 **'Building a stronger, greener economy in Wales as we make maximum progress towards decarbonisation'**
Jack Pugsley, Associate Director, Planning, Savills
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.25 **Priorities for addressing Wales' most pressing infrastructure development challenges**
Skills and resourcing issues / Obtaining consent / Overcoming the planning application backlog / Delivering system improvement
Suzanne Crouch, Construction Project Director, National Grid
Mike Simmons, Development Manager, Major Projects and Planning Obligations, Pembrokeshire County Council
Allan Pitt, Associate, Cities Planning and Design, Arup
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.20 **Chair's closing remarks**
Chair to be announced
- 10.25 Break
- 10.35 **Chair's opening remarks**
Chair to be announced
- 10.40 **Stakeholder perspectives on proposed reform**
Implications for stakeholders and the rollout of significant infrastructure projects / Priorities for streamlining the consenting process / Creating greater certainty for applicants / Moving towards delivering upon wider net zero ambitions
Ben Burggraaf, Chief Executive Officer, Net Zero Industry Wales
Ben Lewis, Project Director, Bute Energy
Cathryn Tracey, Director, Planning and Compulsory Purchase, Burges Salmon
Victoria Jenkins, Associate Professor, Hillary Rodham Clinton School of Law, Swansea University
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.40 **Implications for the environment and communities**
Safeguarding environmental protection standards / Ensuring development and land use is in the public interest / Maintaining high levels of local authority and public engagement
Eleri Davies, Head of Onshore Development, Wales and England, RWE Renewables
Dr Jonathan F Dean, Trustee, Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales
Stephen Humphreys, Partner, Energy and Infrastructure, Ashfords
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.25 **The current infrastructure consent process in Wales and the future of Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects**
Victoria Robinson, Chief Planning Inspector, Planning and Environment Decisions Wales
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 **Chair's and Policy Forum for Wales closing remarks**
Chair to be announced
Tiernan Phipps, Policy Forum for Wales