



# Outline

- Who does what
- Approach to infrastructure planning
- Example of energy infrastructure
- Tackling the issues
- Conclusions



# Who does what?

- Welsh Government
  - Executive led by Labour Cabinet of 11 Ministers
  - Post March 2011 Referendum secured law making powers
- 25 Local Planning Authorities
  - Comprising: 22 Unitary Authorities
  - 3 National Park Authorities

# Approach to Infrastructure planning in Wales

- Wales Spatial Plan 2008
- National planning policy
  - Planning Policy Wales, first issued in 2002
  - Technical Advice Notes including spatially specific advice
  - Guidance and toolkits
- Local Development Plans
  - Prepared by LPAs
- Delivery
  - Public and private



[www.wales.gov.uk](http://www.wales.gov.uk)

# Energy Infrastructure

## Scales of Development

Renewable and low carbon energy scales for planning purposes

Scale of development	Threshold (electricity and heat)
Strategic	Over 25MW for onshore wind and over 50 MW for all other technologies
Local Authority-wide	Between 5MW and 25MW for onshore wind and between 5MW and 50MW for all other technologies
Sub Local Authority	Between 50kW and 5MW
Micro	Below 50kW



# TAN 8: Strategic Search Areas





# Evaluation of Consenting Performance of Renewable Energy Schemes in Wales, January 2013

- 73 Renewable Energy Projects (>5MWs) submitted 2005 – 2012

Of which:

	MW	%
Consented	1290	
Under construction	60	50
Operational	110	
Refused	300	10
In the system	<u>1150</u>	<u>40</u>
Total	2910	100

# Consenting Issues

[www.wales.gov.uk](http://www.wales.gov.uk)

Average Yearly Decision-Making Times by Technology (April 2005 – Feb 2012)

# Consenting Issues

- Wind Farm clustering in SSAs
- Evidence that LPAs are finding it difficult to deliver timely decisions
- Need for timely and appropriate input from Statutory Consultees
- NSIP Ancillary Development & Associated Consents - not generally part of the DCO process

# Tackling the Issues: Towards a Planning Bill

- Support for LPAs on-going – technical and financial
- Rationalised statutory consultees – Natural Resources Wales (formerly CCW, EAW and FCW)
- Evidence gathering complete
- Planning consultation package to issue in December
- Planning Reform Bill – introduction to National Assembly June 2014
- Royal Assent 2015

# Conclusions

- Planning legislative framework has got more complex
- Expectation that LPAs should determine full range of TCPA applications may not be appropriate
- Need to balance democratic input and local accountability with the need for leadership and taking difficult decisions in the wider public interest and for the longer term
- Delivery has got harder against increased public mistrust of decision makers etc.
- Can't legislate for culture change
- Need champions making the case for new infrastructure and change



# Evidence Base

- Towards a Welsh Planning Act: Ensuring the Planning System Delivers  
<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/planning/planningresearch/publishedresearch/towardsawelshplanningact/?lang=en>
- A New Approach to Managing Development in Wales: Towards a Welsh Planning Act  
<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/planning/planningresearch/publishedresearch/anewaproach/;jsessionid=38D83BD51DC97635A54A04F02F139AC6?lang=en>
- Public attitudes towards the planning system in Wales  
<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/planning/planningresearch/publishedresearch/publicattitudes/;jsessionid=38D83BD51DC97635A54A04F02F139AC6?lang=en>
- Delivery of Planning Services in Statutory Designated Landscapes in Wales  
<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/planning/planningresearch/publishedresearch/statutorylandscapes/;jsessionid=38D83BD51DC97635A54A04F02F139AC6?lang=en>
- Evaluation of Consenting Performance of Renewable Energy Schemes in Wales  
<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/planning/planningresearch/publishedresearch/evaluation-of-consenting-performance-of-renewable-energy-schemes/?lang=en>

