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
- Local Development Plans
  - Prepared by LPAs
- Delivery
  - Public and private
Using example of energy infrastructure
Energy Infrastructure

- Chapter 12 PPW updated in 2011
- Requires LPAs to
  - facilitate all forms of renewable energy development
  - consider the contribution their area can make plan positively for renewable energy projects
  - need to balance issues such as cumulative impact against the Welsh Government’s broader renewable energy aspirations
## Energy Infrastructure

### Scales of Development

Renewable and low carbon energy scales for planning purposes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scale of development</th>
<th>Threshold (electricity and heat)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strategic</td>
<td>Over 25MW for onshore wind and over 50 MW for all other technologies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Authority-wide</td>
<td>Between 5MW and 25MW for onshore wind and between 5MW and 50MW for all other technologies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub Local Authority</td>
<td>Between 50kW and 5MW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Micro</td>
<td>Below 50kW</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TAN 8: Strategic Search Areas
Technical Advice Note 8

- Published 2005
- Factually Updated 2011
- Covers all forms of renewable energy technologies not just onshore wind
- Strategic approach to major windfarm development seeking to cluster developments and hence restrict proliferation
- Based on a GIS sieve-mapping exercise to identify least constrained upland areas, 4% of Wales
- SSA maximum capacities identified in Garrad Hassan work
Consenting Issues

Fragmented responsibility depending on size of project

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Installation Size</th>
<th>Current Consenting Body</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&gt;50MW</td>
<td>UK Government, Secretary of State for Energy &amp; Climate Change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&lt; 50MW onshore</td>
<td>Local authorities &amp; Welsh Ministers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Evaluation of Consenting Performance of Renewable Energy Schemes in Wales, January 2013


  Of which:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>MW</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Consented</td>
<td>1290</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under construction</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operational</td>
<td>110</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refused</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In the system</td>
<td>1150</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2910</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Consenting Issues

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/anewapproach/?lang=en

• Public attitudes towards the planning system in Wales
  http://wales.gov.uk/topics/planning/planningresearch/publishedresearch/publicattitudes/?lang=en

• Delivery of Planning Services in Statutory Designated Landscapes in Wales
  http://wales.gov.uk/topics/planning/planningresearch/publishedresearch/statutorylandscapes/?lang=en

• Evaluation of Consenting Performance of Renewable Energy Schemes in Wales