
Infrastructure 37, Pembrokeshire County Council

Senedd Cymru | Welsh Parliament

**Pwyllgor Newid Hinsawdd, yr Amgylchedd a Seilwaith | Climate Change,
Environment, and Infrastructure Committee**

Bil Seilwaith (Cymru) | Infrastructure (Wales) Bill

Ymateb gan Cyngor Sir Penfro | Evidence from Pembrokeshire County Council

INDIVIDUAL CABINET MEMBER DECISION

Report of: Head of Planning Service

Date: 15th August 2023

Cabinet Portfolio: Planning and Housing Delivery

RESPONSE TO SENEDD CLIMATE CHANGE COMMITTEE CONSULTATION ON INFRASTRUCTURE (WALES) BILL

RECOMMENDATION:

That the attached response be submitted to Welsh Government by 18th August 2023.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION:

To provide comments to the consultation, specifically, (a) to encourage the simplification of the planning process; (b) To highlight to Welsh Government the need for clarity around the transitional arrangements; and (c) to encourage a reconsideration of the planning fee arrangements.

Welsh Government Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee

Pembrokeshire County Council (PCC) is supportive of the general principle of a new simplified consenting regime and recognises the efficiencies that this approach offers, particularly allowing LPA's to determine applications under 50MW.

PCC would also like to take this opportunity to highlight the impact that the planning fee arrangements through the current system for Developments of National Significance (DNS's) have had on Local Planning Authorities. Under the current system Local Planning Authorities only receive 20% of fee income from DNS applications, despite a significant workload associated with these. This has represented a significant loss of income to many LPAs across Wales. It is hoped that the development of new regulations to accompany the Infrastructure (Wales) Bill allow this key issue to be considered as providing Local Authorities with sufficient resource to support their work in feeding back on Infrastructure Consents is essential if local issues and impacts are to be properly considered.

It is understood that the Infrastructure (Wales) Bill is likely to be implemented by mid-2025. Transition arrangements will depend on what stage existing applications are in within the system. It would be very helpful if Welsh Government could ensure clarity for the transitional arrangements that will be applied to existing applications already lodged under separate existing regimes.