



Who's Who in the Planning System

Who are the key players in the Planning System in Wales?

The planning system is administered by three levels of Government in Wales. The Westminster Government, the Welsh Government and Local planning authorities. The main duties and responsibilities of participants in the planning system are summarised below.

Westminster Government

- Updates and passes new primary legislation which is not devolved to the Welsh Government
- Determines certain planning applications, such as energy producing plants over 50 MW in capacity, although the Welsh Government is seeking these duties may be transferred to them

The Welsh Government

- Revises and prepares most Planning legislation and is currently drafting a new Planning Bill
- Publishes Planning Policy Wales and Technical Advice Notes
- Intends to refresh the Wales Spatial Plan by a new "National Development Framework"
- The Planning Minister determines planning applications that have been called in or recovered by the Welsh Government
- Responsible for the Planning Inspectorate
- Calls in Local Development Plans (LDPs) where intervention is necessary

Local Planning Authorities (Unitary and National Park Authorities)

- Prepare and adopt a Local Development Plan for their area
- Decide planning applications
- Enforce action against breaches of planning control
- Write Supplementary Planning guidance to elaborate specific policy issues
- Screening planning applications to determine whether an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is needed.

Planning Inspectorate

- Determines planning appeals, unless recovered by the Welsh Government.
- Deals with enforcement appeals
- Handles public inquiries into UDPs and called in planning applications
- Deals with highway orders and other cases

Other Statutory Consultees, such as Natural Resources

- Comment / provide advice on draft Local Development Plans, planning applications, planning policy and legislation changes

Wales Community and Town Councils,

**Interest Groups, such as the Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales
Members of the Public**

- Comment on consultation drafts of national planning policy, Local development plans, planning guidance and legislation changes
- Monitor and comment on proposed planning applications and Object/support planning applications
- Campaign against applications that are not in the public interest

**Advisory Organisations, such as individuals, Planning Aid Wales,
Environmental Law Foundation**

- Provide information and advice on the planning system to and community organisations

The Ombudsman

- Deals with complaints received where the Planning authority has not followed the correct procedure.

European Commission (EC)

- Develops European Union legislation (e.g. EIA/Habitats Directive/ Human Rights), policy and programmes (e.g. Objective 1, 2 and 3) that increasingly provide a framework for policy and practice in Wales
- Ensures that European regulations are complied with, for example, protecting conservation sites of European importance