



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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National Infrastructure Commission for Wales meeting notes: 22 October 2024

Notes from the meeting of the commission on 22 October 2024, Bute Park Conference Centre, Cardiff.

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Contents

Present (<https://www.gov.wales#162586>)

1. Welcome and declarations of interest. (<https://www.gov.wales#162588>)

2. Housekeeping (<https://www.gov.wales#162590>)

3. Future Work Programme Updates (<https://www.gov.wales#162592>)

4. Year 4 Discussions (<https://www.gov.wales#162594>)

5. NICW Review (<https://www.gov.wales#162596>)

6. NICW Strategy (<https://www.gov.wales#162598>)

7. Commissioner Review and Succession Planning
(<https://www.gov.wales#162600>)

8. Commissioner Meeting Schedule (<https://www.gov.wales#162602>)

9. Annual Report / NICW Away Day / Comms Workshop
(<https://www.gov.wales#162604>)

10. Future Site Visit Plans (<https://www.gov.wales#162606>)

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Present

NICW

Dr David Clubb, Chair
Dr Jenifer Baxter, Deputy Chair
Helen Armstrong, Commissioner
Aleena Khan, Commissioner
Nick Tune, Commissioner
Eluned Parrott, Commissioner

Secretariat/Welsh Government

Stuart Ingram, NICW Secretariat
Nicola Britton, NICW Secretariat

Apologies

Dr Eurgain Powell, Commissioner
Steve Brooks, Commissioner

1. Welcome and declarations of interest.

The Chair welcomed Commissioners to the meeting with a check-in, celebration of success, declarations of interest, safety and futures moment.

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Safety Moment

The recent train collision in Mid Wales was discussed.

It was also discussed about the need for board members to be able to make difficult decisions and encouraging an awareness of being a board member actually means.

Futures Moment

Jenifer Baxter report she had recently met Michael Sheen who was really encouraging about the NICW Future Essay's project and how it can bring arts and infrastructure together.

Declarations of Interest

No new declarations were received.

2. Housekeeping

Action Tracker

The action tracker was noted. This would be discontinued as actions are recorded within meeting notes and generally resolved quickly.

Notes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of previous meeting were approved.

Secretariat Report

The Secretariat report was noted.

Invitations to Events

On the 28 November, David Clubb will be participating in ICE and CBI events. Jenifer Baxter is also attending the CBI event.

Commissioner Updates

None given

Consultation responses/ policy updates

None

3. Future Work Programme Updates

Year 1 Renewable Energy Report

A meeting with Rebecca Evans is in diaries for 16 December. A pre meeting to

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that will be held between relevant Commissioners. David Clubb will email WG officials ahead of the meeting asking for an update on the National Energy Plan. DC to email Community Energy Wales to ask for an update.

Year 2 Flood Research

A successful launch event was held on 17 October. There was good communications and engagement held around the publication of the report. A pre-meet with the Deputy First Minister had also been encouraging and positive. David Clubb will write to WG Officials requesting a separate meeting to discuss how the report will be handled.

Year 3 Climate Change Communication

The Engaging Communities project has held its first Project Reference Group. The inception report has been agreed. 3 anchor community organisations will be used to facilitate engagement in Grangetown.

The Resilient Infrastructure project will hold its first Project Reference Group next week.

The 2 consultants are meeting regularly to liaise on progress and findings.

IWL Conference

NICW have committed to being a sponsor of this event and can send 4 delegates. David Clubb, Jenifer Baxter, Aleena Khan and Helen Armstrong expressed an interest in attending.

Futures Map

Inception meeting has been held and stakeholders are currently being scoped for invitation. Additional suggestions were made for potential invites, particularly from young people / younger professionals. These would be passed on to SOIF

Actions

- DC to write to WG Officials on Energy and Flooding (separately). DC to ask Community Energy Wales for an update on the sector.
- Aleena Khan and Helen Armstrong to confirm their attendance at the Skills Conference.
- David Clubb / Nick Tune to pass on additional ideas for stakeholders for Futures Event to SOIF

4. Year 4 Discussions

Further discussion on the Year 4 topics was held. It was concluded that a project around infrastructure long term futures but additionally linked to an assessment of current infrastructure issues leading to 'asks' of the new Welsh Government in 2026 and a future NICW work programme.

Actions

- David Clubb / Secretariat to consider scoping this out further and will report to future meetings / the NICW away day

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5. NICW Review

It was noted that 2 Commissioner questionnaires were outstanding, but this is being resolved. It was report that the review is a little behind schedule due to resource issues. Stakeholders will be surveyed shortly. The Secretariat is due to meet Internal Audit colleagues for an update soon.

6. NICW Strategy

This has been published on the NICW website.

7. Commissioner Review and Succession Planning

Advice will be going to the Cabinet Secretary shortly on the Commissioner reviews and extending terms of service. It was noted that any public appointments process for new Commissioners would need to commence in early 2025 in order to meet the timescales involved.

8. Commissioner Meeting Schedule

It was concluded that NICW meetings would change to Friday mornings from January 2025

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Action

- Secretariat to move meeting times and arrange accommodation etc.

9. Annual Report / NICW Away Day / Comms Workshop

It was agreed that the NICW Away Day would take place on Friday 6 December, preferably in Cardiff Bay. Annual report video filming would also take place that day.

Action

- Secretariat to make arrangements for the away day and liaise with Equinox and video producers to co-ordinate the day.

10. Future Site Visit Plans

The next NICW meeting will take place during the site visit to Bannau Brycheiniog which is confirmed on the 21/22 November. The site visit will include a dinner with local stakeholders, a visit to a farm to witness natural flood management techniques and an opportunity to witness / take part in engagement with young people of futures thinking.

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