

## **SECOND MARINE NITRATE TASK FORCE MEETING – 09 OCTOBER 2025**

### **Meeting Summary**

#### **Legal Position Update**

WG provided an update on the legal complexities of amending the habitats regulations, highlighting constraints due to lack of express powers and limited Senedd time. Retrospective solutions are uncertain, and alternative legislative routes are being explored. Further updates to be provided to the Taskforce when progressed and Ministers have been updated.

#### **Catchment Mapping & Technical Issues**

NRW clarified updates for catchment area mapping occur every 5-6 years. All agreed a need for clear, written guidance for planning authorities was still needed.

#### **Local Authority Updates & Casework**

Meetings between NRW and Local Authorities were welcome, have been positive and are helping ease some initial concerns. Carmarthenshire will meet NRW 24 October. A meeting will take place on 23rd October between WG, DCWW and NRW to further understand the potential headroom at both Gowerton and Llanelli treatment works.

#### **Data Sharing & Information Requests**

It was agreed that outside the Taskforce the request for written confirmation about areas outside of catchment areas would be discussed by NRW with individual LAs. PEDW requested that LAs keep flagging information re: live appeals with them.

#### **Nutrient Calculator & Guidance**

Agricultural information is still being collated. DTA guidance work is underway, with a workshop planned for December. Local authorities are encouraged to provide input on the scope and gaps. WG will share the scope with members.

#### **Nutrient Trading & Mitigation**

Agreement for Welsh Government to lead a national nutrient trading platform, with a focus group to be established. Concerns about policy conflicts (e.g., agricultural land use) and the need for legal templates were raised. Focus of the nutrient trading group will be practical action - e.g. identifying potential mitigation options, horizon scanning, what the increase in nutrients is likely to be over the next few years etc.

#### **Resourcing**

A funding envelope for this work was agreed by Welsh Ministers. Clear further detail is now needed from local authorities before grants can be provided. LAs will collaborate to provide that information, mindful of identifying opportunities for shared resources.

#### **Communications & Economic Impact**

CSHLG would be holding a roundtable with South West LA Housing leads in coming weeks. LAs were reminded that any companies who were already engaged with DBW may be able to agree a payment holiday if affected by this issue

## **Actions**

<b>Action</b>	<b>Owner</b>	<b>Date</b>
WG to continue exploring legislative options and update the group.	<i>[information redacted]</i>	Ongoing
LAs to share legal advice with each other where possible	<i>[information redacted]</i>	Ongoing
NRW agreed to explore implications of reviewing catchment areas	<i>[information redacted]</i>	23 October
Taskforce members to contact DCWW for any outstanding information/requests - including GIS layers.	<i>[information redacted]</i>	23 October
NRW to provide written information, if requested, to all LAs regarding discharge outside catchment areas, in line with information provided to Carmarthenshire.	<i>[information redacted]</i>	23 October
Welsh Government to provide Nutrient Calculator	<i>[information redacted]</i>	30 November
WG to provide the scope of the DTA work to LAs and LAs to suggest areas where they think there might be gaps	<i>[information redacted]</i>	23 October
Nutrient Trading Group - LAs/NRW/DCWW to advise WG of most appropriate representatives for the nutrient trading group	<i>[information redacted]</i>	17 October
Local Authorities to submit details on resourcing requirements	<i>[information redacted]</i>	16 October
A paper to be circulated regarding a possible policy caveat in relation to LDPs.	<i>[information redacted]</i>	23 October

Cabinet Secretary to send a letter to the Housing Sector – circulate to this group.	<i>[information redacted]</i>	ASAP
NRW to circulate their FAQs	<i>[information redacted]</i>	17 October
NRW to circulate their note of lessons learned from the Solent Visit	<i>[information redacted]</i>	17 October
WG, DCWW and NRW to consider future modelling needs for marine SACS and potential new nutrient neutrality requirements.	<i>[information redacted]</i>	Ongoing
Preparation for a greater discussion of economic impacts, particularly on SMEs, and potential support that may be effective.	<i>[information redacted]</i>	23 October
Group to ensure all ongoing issues have a clear home for future discussion as the task force concludes.	<i>[information redacted]</i>	Ongoing
LAs to consider joint meetings with NRW where possible due to staff resources.	<i>[information redacted]</i>	Ongoing

### **Next Steps**

- Next meeting to take place 23 October 2025
- Update to Ministerial group November (date TBC)

## **Attendees**

### Welsh Government

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### PEDW

- *[information redacted]*

### Natural Resources Wales

- *[information redacted]*
- *[information redacted]*

### Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water

- *[information redacted]*

### Local Authorities

- *[information redacted]* – Swansea
- *[information redacted]* – Pembrokeshire
- *[information redacted]* – Carmarthenshire
- *[information redacted]* – Carmarthenshire
- *[information redacted]* – Neath Port Talbot

### Pembrokeshire National Park

- *[information redacted]*