

Date • Dyddiad 7th November 2014

Your ref • Eich cyfeirnod

My ref • Fy nghyfeirnod

Telephone • Ffôn

Ask for • Gofynnwch am

Email • Ebost

01437 764551

Cllr Jamie Adams

Cllr.jamie.adams@pembrokeshire.gov.uk

BRYN PARRY-JONES, M.A. (Oxon)

Chief Executive

Dr. STEVEN JONES, B.A.(Hons), D.M.S., M.B.A., Ph.D., M.C.I.M.

Director of Development

Pembrokeshire County Council,
County Hall, HAVERFORDWEST,
Pembrokeshire, SA61 1TP

DX 98295 HAVERFORDWEST
Telephone 01437 764551

Prif Weithredwr

Cyfarwyddwr Datblygu

Cyngor Sir Penfro,
Neuadd y Sir, HWLFFORDD,
Sir Benfro, SA61 1TP

DX 98295 HWLFFORDD
Ffôn 01437 764551



Carl Sargeant – Minister for Natural Resources
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
Cardiff

Dear Sir,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit evidence into the general principles of the Planning Bill, as set out by the National Assembly for Wales Environment and Sustainability Committee.

Pembrokeshire County Council's Cabinet met to consider its initial response to the Planning Bill on the 3rd November 2014. At this meeting it was resolved that I should respond to this call for evidence on behalf of the Authority and also write specifically to you identifying the following concerns:

1 The Council is disappointed at the lack of regard to the Welsh language contained within the Bill and wish to echo the concerns of Cymdeithas yr Iaith and Carmarthenshire County Council regarding this omission. The Welsh language plays a key role in many of Pembrokeshire's communities and the planning system has an important part to play in ensuring that the language is both protected and promoted. The Planning Bill provides an opportunity to make the Welsh language a statutory consideration in the planning system, a failure to do so will be a wasted opportunity.

2. Some elements of the new proposals (for example the introduction of Developments of National Significance) will have extensive resource implications for Local Planning Authorities, in that substantial inputs to the application process will be required, but unsupported by planning fee income. It is important that any such new requirements involving local planning authority input are accompanied by improved resourcing, to sustain Development Management performance.

3. Whilst the Council supports the introduction of the Planning and Advisory Information Service (PAIS) (as noted in its previous response on the Positive Planning Consultation), it has concerns that as currently envisaged there may be too great a distance between PAIS and Welsh Government. It is important that this service embraces all of those involved in planning, including Welsh Government planners and Assembly Members.

4. In its response to the Positive Planning consultation the Council expressed its concern at the proposal that Local Development Plans would cease to be given any

weight, once the period for implementation of the Plan ended. This proposal remains in the Draft Bill. Whilst the Council appreciates the importance of all Authorities retaining up to date Development Plans, the proposals to cease giving any weight to LDPs after their adopted period appear to be an overly draconian attempt to ensure that up to date plans are produced. If Local Government re-organization does take place, the amalgamation of different Authorities who are at different stages in LDP production or review, might create a position where there are temporary gaps in the coverage of LDPs. To cease to give any weight to a policy document that might otherwise provide a useful guide for development proposals in an area during this time, appears short-sighted.

Pembrokeshire County Council is grateful for the opportunity to give oral evidence to the Committee regarding its initial representation, but regrets that due to resource limitations it will be unable to do so.

Many thanks again for the invitation to submit initial comments.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Adams', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jamie Adams, Pembrokeshire County Council Leader

Copy also sent to:

The Committee Clerk
Environment and Sustainability Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA