

6th November 2014

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

Severn Trent Centre
PO Box 5309
Coventry
CV3 9FH

Tel
Fax
www.severntrent.com
www.stwater.co.uk

Dear Sir/Madam

Call for Evidence- Planning Bill Wales

Severn Trent Water welcomes the introduction of a Planning Bill for Wales and its aim to move from a development control approach encompassed in the current arrangement to one that encourages and supports appropriate investment. We welcome a Bill that recognises the uniqueness of Wales and gives appropriate context for decision making.

As a deliverer of essential infrastructure that will be part of the required ingredients to meet Wales' economic, social and environmental goals, we see this Bill as an opportunity for the proactive consideration of water and waste water infrastructure. As part of any such consideration the cross boundary nature of and subsequent interdependencies associated with infrastructure provision and operation should not be underestimated. Whilst we will pursue this through the development of future frameworks and plans at this stage we feel it is important that the Bill acknowledges the cross boundary nature of infrastructure networks.

To this end we believe that in the approach to strategic infrastructure ministers should be able to take a broader view through the introduction of a process that deals with development of national significance.

We also see opportunities to reduce the unnecessary administrative burden for all parties when dealing with planning consent for essential infrastructure, which will speed up delivery of investment. An example of this would be expanding the permitted development rights for water and waste infrastructure.

As the steward of substantial rural catchment areas in mid Wales we welcome opportunities that could be introduced by this Bill around sustainable investment.

At this stage we are unaware of any unintended consequences of the Bill as forwarded or any potential barriers to implementation and support the ability for Welsh Ministers to make subordinate legislation.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Bullimore', written in a cursive style.

Gillian Bullimore
Business Manager
Severn Trent Water