

Marine Nitrates Development Taskforce – Meeting 3

23 October 2025

Overall summary

The third meeting of the Taskforce focussed on ensuring that previously established actions were progressing at pace, potential economic support for affected businesses, and future Local Development Plans.

Action Log & Progress Review

- Full review of actions, noting the number of completed actions and identifying ways to accelerate outstanding actions.
- Specific discussion on the Nutrient Calculator. This was confirmed to be on track, but any blockages would be immediately escalated.
- An early ongoing action to ensure that other existing groups are reviewed will be a focus of a future meeting and ensuring that the work of the Taskforce has clear ownership of any ongoing workstreams will be key.
- It was noted that the first meeting of the Nutrient Trading Task and Finish Group would be proposed for 6 November.
- Natural Resources Wales had completed their action to circulate the FAQ document. This was appreciated by members but raised some new questions, notably around elements that may be conflated or appear contradictory.

ACTION: Local Authorities agreed to coordinate a joint email to NRW with their queries, and NRW will respond and update the FAQ accordingly.

Legal Position

- An update on the ongoing legal work was provided, noting that advice is still being provided and questions from Ministers given further consideration. The legal position is being urgently pursued and further updates will be provided at the next meetings.

Economic Impacts & Business Support

- Welsh Government provided an overview of the current support available and engagement with potentially affected businesses. It was noted that there have been few direct business support requests related to nutrient issues, and that intelligence from the construction sector could present challenges. It was also

noted that a direct support intervention akin to covid type grants was not feasible in this context and for this situation.

- Local Authorities shared examples of the intelligence they have, noting that businesses often use Local Authorities as the first point of contact. It was agreed that sharing intelligence was vital to any potential intervention and would also allow further work to be commissioned from Constructing Excellence in Wales (CEW) if helpful. Specific actions to improve signposting and awareness of potential support were also agreed and will be delivered by the next Taskforce meeting.

ACTION: A “one pager” summary of access points to available business support routes to be created for response to requests

ACTION: A generic monitored contact email to be created and shared with LAs to provide specific feedback for proactive approaches to businesses needing support.

ACTION: Ongoing consider any further steps that could be taken proactively in response to developing position.

Local Development Plans (LDPs) & Mitigation

- Supported by a paper from Welsh Government, the group had a detailed discussion of implementing a policy caveat approach to Local Development Plans. This would prevent future LDPs from being stopped at the assessment stage due to nitrates. This was positively received by all, with some detailed discussion still required, particularly around ensuring inspectors were clear on the guidance and expectations.
 - **ACTION:** Welsh Government to develop the policy caveat approach based on the discussion. Welsh Government to consider written correspondence to assist Inspectors during the LDP assessment phase for nitrates-affected areas.

Communications

- The group discussed assisting internal and external communications within their organisations. It was agreed that a fuller note of the Taskforce meetings would be provided by the Welsh Government, to be shared with Ministers and Leaders alike.

Next steps

- The Taskforce would reconvene for its fourth meeting on 6 November, with significant focus on the implementation of effective mitigation measures, including reflections on the visit to the Solent.
- The Nutrient Trading Task and Finish Group will meet on 6 November.
- The next meeting of Ministers and Leaders should then take place the subsequent week, around or on 13 November.

Action	Owner	Date
First meeting of the Nutrient Trading Task and Finish Group to be set up – 6 November preferred date	<i>[information redacted]</i>	23 October
LPAs to coordinate a joint email to NRW with their queries on the FAQ. NRW to update accordingly.	LPAs / NRW	6 November
Further update on legal position to be provided	<i>[information redacted]</i>	6 November
A “one pager” summary of access points to available business support routes to be created for response to requests.	<i>[information redacted]</i>	6 November
A generic monitored contact email to be created and shared with LAs to provide specific feedback for proactive approaches to businesses needing support.	<i>[information redacted]</i>	6 November
Consideration of any further steps that could be taken proactively in response to developing position.	<i>[information redacted]</i>	Ongoing
Local Authorities to liaise with their Economic Development colleagues on potentially affected businesses. These contact points should be added to supporting advice and guidance.	Local Authorities	6 November
Welsh Government to develop the policy caveat approach to LDP assessments, incorporating Taskforce members’ feedback.	<i>[information redacted]</i>	6 November
Welsh Government to consider written correspondence to assist Inspectors during the LDP assessment phase for nitrates-affected areas.	<i>[information redacted]</i>	6 November

A paper to be circulated regarding a possible policy caveat in relation to LDPs.	<i>[information redacted]</i>	23 October
<p>All members to consider how to communicate the work of the Taskforce most effectively within their organisations and stakeholder groups.</p> <p>The Taskforce minutes and actions to be expanded to support this.</p>	<p>All</p> <p><i>[information redacted]</i></p>	Ongoing
Next meeting of the Ministerial Leadership Group to be scheduled for the week following the next Taskforce.	<i>[information redacted]</i>	6 November
NRW to circulate their note of lessons learned from the Solent Visit	<i>[information redacted]</i>	17 October

Attendees

Welsh Government

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

PEDW

- *[information redacted]*

Local Authorities

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

Pembrokeshire National Park

- *[information redacted]*

Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water

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

Natural Resources Wales

- *[information redacted]*