

NRW/Welsh Government Transition Planning Meeting notes

Attendees

██████████ (MS) - National Resources Wales

██████████ (MC) - National Resources Wales

██████████ (LTD) – Welsh Government

██████████ (BC) – Welsh Government

██████████ (KB) – Welsh Government

██████████ (EG) – Welsh Government

Points to raise at next Defra meeting

- Governance discussions have been focused on high-level, political governance, some thought needs to be given to day-to-day governance.
- ACTION- MS to send Defra papers on monitoring and evaluating transition plan to MC

Asset resilience framework

- Asset resilience is separate to supply level and drought resilience. NRW favours implementing an asset resilience framework.
- It would require companies to fully map and assess their assets and develop asset management plans.
- It would set a common standard for assets, ensuring they adhered to planning standards to facilitate an accelerated planning process.
- IWC to engage with National Infrastructure Commission for Wales as there may be an overlap in work.
- Some aspects of infrastructure are reserved powers.

RAPID

- RAPID is a joint initiative by Ofwat, EA, and DWI to support large-scale, nationally strategic water supply schemes. Most major projects in PR24 fall under RAPID, with governance expected to follow national direction.
- Governance is expected to evolve with Defra considering a national systems planner. RAPID operations will continue during the transition, but regional planners may have a reduced role, following the recommendations of the IWC Report.
- Although NRW and NE provide advisory input, stakeholders clarified that RAPID's operational remit is limited to England
- A Welsh national planner would need to coordinate with them.
- Ofwat urging RAPID to be more involved in Wales.

Cross-border collaboration

- Ensure United Utilities can fund within their WINEP.
- England need to engage with NRW regarding United Utilities' assets in Wales and vice versa.
- Regulators on both sides of the border would need to engage with respective environmental regulators, just as they do presently with EA.
- Impact assessment needed for requesting Welsh water companies step back from Water Resources West.

Green Paper

- This series of meetings will be used to test the Green Paper.
- Uncertain whether it will be a Green Paper or a Consultation as incoming government can't be constrained or pre-empted.

Transition Plan

- There could be a delay to Defra's transition plan.
- Consideration being given to whether to do a high-level chapter-based Transition Plan rather than a detailed joint one now.

Timelines

- Defra amending SPS for Ofwat England in December 2025.
- Welsh Government deadline for SPS is 5 February 2026 as the Senedd must be given 40 days opportunity to repeal it before approving it.
- Welsh Government timelines unconfirmed and unapproved.
- ACTION- BC to organise meeting with water companies and regulators after half-term to go through Transition Plan and timeline to provide direction and certainty.