NRW/Welsh Government Transition Planning Meeting notes

Attendees

[redacted] (MS) - National Resources Wales

[redacted] (MC) - National Resources Wales

[redacted] (RJ)- National Resources Wales

[redacted] (LTD) – Welsh Government

[redacted] (BC) – Welsh Government

[redacted] (EG)– Welsh Government

Next Defra meeting

- Next meeting with Defra on 11 November 2025 will focus on streamlining business plans.
- ACTION – LTD to attend and take notes for BC who is unable to attend

Green Paper

- Draft WG Green Paper to be sent round for comment later today. The document will be shared via One Drive to allow for collaborative commenting. If a concern around messaging needs to be raised, please add a comment instead of using tracked changes. It was requested tracked changes be avoided unless correcting a mistake. Comments to be returned COP 10 November 2025.
- Green Paper to be shared with the DFM and special advisor before being sent for translation at the end of next week to allow it to be ready for publication in December before Senedd recess.
- Aim is to publish WG Green Paper the first week of December alongside Defra's White Paper.
- NRW will provide a formal response to the Green Paper consultation. WG will then publish a summary of responses before pre-election period commences.
- ACTIONS – MS to send round Green Paper for comment with a return date of 10 November 2025. MC to distribute Green Paper to key stakeholders in NRW.

Transition plan

- Defra has delayed Transition Plan until February 2026.
- Transition plan to be drafted and finalised over the next six weeks.
- It will set transitional not long-term direction for business planning for PR29.
- ACTIONS – MS to arrange a hybrid workshop on how to transition to PR29 and the role of a systems planner in Wales. RJ to identify differences in NRW and EA's role in preparation for workshop. RJ to send lessons learned from PR24 to BWJ and MS.

Directions

- PR forum needed for high-level decisions and to set direction for regulatory obligations.
- NRW would need to be given a formal direction from WG to create a new systems planner. Legislation is likely to be required in the future to facilitate this.

Resourcing

- Defra has instructed EA to pause certain activities to create capacity for IWC work. NRW unable to do the same. Resourcing for IWC is an amber risk for NRW.

Working with UK Government

- WG and NRW to work with Defra on cross-border principles.
- Information sharing from EA and WFD essential for policy steer and cross-border consistency.
- WG, NRW and Ofwat to meet to provide direction for industry regulators.

Purpose of meetings

- It was agreed that these meetings will continue after Defra meetings conclude.