

The National Assembly for Wales' Environment and Sustainability Committee

1 Background

The Environment and Sustainability Committee has followed the creation and development of Natural Resources Wales, from the business case stage through to its creation and subsequent operation, and has undertaken various inquiries into aspects of this process. The Committee has decided to seek the views of stakeholders and the public to help inform this scrutiny session.

2 Purpose:

To inform Committee of ICE Wales Cymru's views in respect of Natural Resources Wales.

3 ICE Wales Cymru experience of working with and/or accessing services from Natural Resources Wales and how it is delivering its statutory functions.

3.1 ICE Wales Cymru engages with Natural Resources Wales (NRW) on an ongoing process and seeks to advise and inform their operations and functions.

3.2 ICE Wales Cymru considers that NRW is delivering its functions in a timely and purposeful way, considering the needs and requirements of the environment.

3.3 In particular respect of Flood Risk Management, ICE Wales Cymru considers that NRW is delivering its objectives and seeking to protect persons and property across Wales within the limits of available finance. In addition, NRW is seeking to work with the Welsh Government and stakeholders / Professional organisations to maximise the impact of the funds and seek additional resources.

3.4 It is considered that because of the link between the condition of infrastructure and economy (or economic growth), funds for infrastructure should be prioritised and consideration made for these funds to be ring-fenced with long term financial budgetary systems – beyond single year.

4 Conclusion

4.1 ICE Wales Cymru considers that NRW is delivering its statutory functions in a timely and efficient manner.

4.2 It is vital that continued investment into NRW's infrastructure continues. However, ICE Wales Cymru recognises the increasing demands on resources faces challenges.

Keith Jones Director, Institution of Civil Engineers Wales Cymru

6th March 2015

Notes:

- The Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) was founded in 1818 to ensure professionalism in civil engineering. It represents over 86,500 civil engineers in the UK and across the globe and has over 3600 members in Wales.
- ICE has long worked with the government of the day to help it to achieve its objectives, and has worked with industry to ensure that construction and civil engineering remain major contributors to the UK economy and UK exports.
- For further information visit: www.ice.org.uk and www.ice.org.uk/wales