

Session 4 – Learning Exchange

The final session of the day was a feedback session. The following points were made:

- The day has been a tremendous networking opportunity.
- It appears to be a local view that a mechanism is necessary in order to allow a two way input into the Marine Bill's spatial planning system.
- Overlap between land planning and marine spatial planning needs to be avoided, any overlap would simply be intensified on the coast.
- Ports and harbours need to be better represented in the Marine Bill than they are in the consultation document.
- Is it possible to re-name the bill as the 'Coastal and Marine Bill' as some people agreed that marine concerns were hijacking the real issues they face?
- The consultation document is very long and in order to have received the most out of the day it was necessary to have read the document before hand. Due to the time constraints it may have been better to have spent more time on what is in the Marine Bill proposals and less, but more effective discussion.
- Many of the comments today were regarding local planning. Dave Bench said that nationally he has found that local planning issues are more of a concern at a sub regional level. The next stage of the consultation process should help alleviate some concerns over local planning.

Dave Bench commented that the day had been a valuable experience because it has allowed him to hear different views to those expressed at other consultation events. He looks forward to receiving the delegates' responses. All feedback will be used to inform the process.