08 January 2013

Re: Vibrant and Viable Places - A New Regeneration Framework

I am writing as the Vale of Glamorgan AM, in response to the above consultation to highlight the success of regeneration support in Barry to date, and the need to continue the regeneration investment as part of your commitment to delivering more focused, strategic outcomes.

Highlights of the Barry regeneration Area Programme include the establishment of the St Athan-Cardiff Airport Enterprise Zone and Cardiff Airport Task Force, chaired by the First Minister, which place this programme in a wider regional economic context.

£1 million of public realm improvements in the town centre and £2.8 million investment for the Castileland Renewal Area residential face-lift programme, have demonstrated the importance of a more focused and strategic approach to regeneration with collaboration driven across Welsh Government as a result of Programme for Government objectives. With ministerial leadership from yourself, there has also been strong engagement with Welsh Government, Education, Local Government, Skills, Health and Business Ministers.

I would also like to highlight the relevance and importance of the approval of a new Cluster arrangement for Communities First in Barry.
I know that there is also significant wider public and private sector interest in Barry with Welsh Government funded delivery of an Extra Care facility by an RSL and the funding of the West Quay Medical Centre via the Health and Social Services portfolio.

Private sector engagement and investment in the regeneration of Barry Waterfront, is also a key contribution to Barry’s regeneration, with planning permission granted for a new, direct road link to Barry Island which would also serve a large scale mixed-use development of a brownfield site. (Your recognition of the importance of Barry Island as a key destination for the region is also very welcome).

This sits alongside the Welsh Government’s investment in the Innovation Quarter with the provision of business offices, workshops, training centre, refurbishment to the historic Pump house and the new private sector funded Premier Inn and Restaurant.

I support the Vale Council’s view that in Barry, there is a great deal more to achieve with continued Welsh Government intervention, to add value to existing policy commitments and progress already made, and to contribute greatly to the region.

The Vale Council is well placed to lead public and private sector engagement to ensure the synergies are fully exploited in accordance with your refreshed and revised objectives for demonstrable outcomes of the regeneration of Barry as part of the wider region of South Wales.

With very best wishes

yours sincerely

[Signature]

JANE HUTT AM (VALE OF GLAMORGAN)