

Ministerial Taskforce for the Valleys, 03 April 2017
Action Points

Taskforce members
Minister for Lifelong Learning and Welsh Language, Alun Davies AM (Chair)
Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure, Ken Skates AM
Ann Beynon, Chair of the Cardiff Capital Region Board
Jocelyn Davies, Former Deputy Minister for Housing and Regeneration
Andrew Diplock, Entrepreneur, Angel Investor and Advisor
Dr Chris Jones, Chair of the Cwm Taf University Health Board
Martin Mansfield, General Secretary, TUC
Professor Brian Morgan, Cardiff University
Fiona Jones, Director, DWP
Gaynor Richards, Director, NPT Community Voluntary Council
Jo Foster, Government and Business Relationship Leader, GE Aviation
Board members
Madeleine Brindley, Special Advisor
Huw Morris, Welsh Government, Group Director SHELL
Owen Evans, Welsh Government, Deputy Permanent Secretary for Education and Public Services
Maureen Howell, Welsh Government, Deputy Director, Equality and Prosperity
John Howells, Welsh Government, Director, Housing and Regeneration
Presenters
Rhodri Asby, Deputy Director, ERA EU Exit & Strategy Unit, Welsh Government
Gerwyn Evans, Head of Tourism Development, Welsh Government
Dr David Llewellyn, Managing Director of Blaengad Cyf
Andrew Osborne, Head of Countryside, Torfaen CBC
Guests
John Hogg – Head of Operations South East Wales, NRW
Taskforce secretariat
Lucy Hoddinott, Welsh Government

1: Welcome and Introductions

The Minister for Lifelong Learning and the Welsh Language (ARD) welcomed taskforce members to the fourth meeting. ARD updated members on the outcomes from public engagement events which had taken place so far and invited members to comment on the workstreams identified through this analysis. Members discussed the engagement and workstreams and agreed to attend workshops which would lead to the development of a delivery plan.

2: Valleys Mapping

A representative from the Welsh Government Knowledge and Analytical Services (KAS) department delivered a demonstration of a map of the valleys area which allows users to compare economic data, public service provision and planned transport developments across the area. Key discussion points included:

- The need to work with local authorities across the area, as well as City Deals, to share data and develop the map further.
- The importance of the map in identifying current gaps and possibilities for large scale projects such as the Metro.
- A place-based approach to interventions was important to assist the areas that needed them most.
- There was currently too much focus on the M4 corridor, although the taskforce acknowledged the importance of the M4 to businesses and discussed the physical constraints for businesses in some valleys communities.
- There was a need to ensure that money spent in the valleys was spent in the best way possible.

3: Environment – Multiple Benefit Delivery

Representatives from the environment and tourism sectors of the Welsh Government delivered a presentation which focussed on environmental benefits and tourism opportunities in the valleys. Key discussion points included:

- The need to target infrastructure supporting tourism opportunities which benefit local communities in the valleys.
- The need for better coordination between the National Trust, planning authorities and private sector to support investment and the development of tourism opportunities in valleys areas.
- The ways that green infrastructure and tourism could be utilised effectively in valleys communities to deliver jobs, renewables and community benefits.
- The importance of changing perceptions in regard to the type of jobs which could be available in the environment and tourism sectors.
- The potential opportunities for different revenue streams post-Brexit to fund environmental projects in areas such as biodiversity and water management.

4: Environment – Assets and Opportunities

David Llewellyn and Andrew Osborne delivered a presentation on work they did on the Valleys Regional Park project between 2007 – 2014. They also outlined the opportunities for a similar place-based approach to regeneration which would assist community led schemes and provide community benefits. Key discussion points included:

- The importance of working with local authorities to identify places which could be developed and make far-sighted decisions.
- The need for equity rather than equality when decisions were made. Strong governance was the only way to empower change, although collaboration was important governance was needed before anything could be achieved.
- There was a need to give communities the opportunity to develop their own ideas within a strategic framework.
- The opportunity to develop processing capacity in areas such as food, forestry and energy to provide a local supply chain.

Next meeting: 12 June 2017

Close.