



Gwynedd Economic Partnership Steering Group

Date: 4th of July 2008
Time: 10:00 (Refreshments available from 09:45)
Location: Celtic Royal, Caernarfon

Attendees:

Members of the Steering Group or nominated alternates

Observers

Partnership Secretariat

Guests:

Gerallt Llewelyn Jones

Menter Môn



Ariennir a hwylusir Gweithredu
dros Gymunedau Gwledig gan
Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
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Gwynedd Economic Partnership Steering Group – 6 June 2008

LUNCH

PART ONE: BUSINESS MATTERS

01. Apologies
02. Expressions of personal interest
03. Minutes of 06 June 2008 Steering Group (enclosed – *blue paper*):
 - Correct and confirm
 - Any matter not appearing on the programme
04. Partnership Sub-Groups - report (enclosed – *Yellow paper*):
 - Llwyddo'n Lleol
 - Rural Development
 - Business Support
 - Community Regeneration
 - Skills
05. Wales European Programmes:
 - activity update (enclosed – *green paper*)

PART TWO: STRATEGIC MATTERS

06. Update on the Rural Development Plan – Presentation by Dylan Rhys Griffiths, Gwynedd Council (Background paper – Copy of a report on the RDP projects – enclosed - *lilac paper*)
07. Presentation by Gerallt Llewelyn Jones, Menter Môn – Annog Convergence application on behalf of the North West Wales Local Authorities (Priority 5 Theme 2 – Community Economic Development)
08. Update on the North Wales Development Strategy
09. Any other matter
10. Date and location of next meeting

Minutes of 06 June 2008 Steering Group

Gwynedd Economic Partnership Steering Group

Date: 6th June 2008
Time 13:00 - 16:00
Location: Galeri, Caernafon

Present

Private Sector Representatives

Dewi Lewis	<i>Chair</i>	Siop Dewi
Gwynedd Watkin		FUW
Tim Knight		Trawsfynydd Decommissioning Site
Geraint Wyn Parry		Cymdeithas Cyfieithwyr Cymru
Ann Lloyd Jones		Mid Wales Tourism
Evie Wyn Jones	<i>(Alternative)</i>	Busnes Eryri Cyf.
John Alan Morris	<i>(Alternative)</i>	J. Morris Consultants
Sian M. Williams		Griffith Williams a'i Gwmni
John Idris Jones		Magnox North Wales

Voluntary Sector Representatives

Bethan Russell Owen	Mantell Gwynedd
Catrin Lloyd Perry	Coleg Harlech WEA
Alex Badley	Gwynedd Cynaladwy

Community Sector Representatives

Father Deiniol	Yn Ein Blaenau
Godfrey Northam	Community Councils
Llyr Huws Gruffydd	Menter a Busnes
John Iscoed Williams	Trawsnewid

Public Sector Representatives

Emyr Williams	Snowdonia National Park
David Joyner	Bangor University

Invitees

Catrin Roberts	Welsh Assembly Government
John Adshead	Welsh Assembly Government

Secretariat Officers (Gwynedd Council)

Llyr B. Jones	Senior Economy and Regeneration Manager
Sian P Jones	Marketing and Customer Care Manager
Nia Davies	Policy and Performance Manager
Mirain Gwyn	Business Investment and Assets Officer
Rhys Evans	Principal European Officer
Gwenda Roberts	Business Services Officer

SECTION ONE: BUSINESS MATTERS

01. Apologies

It was noted that apologies had been received from: Trefor Wyn Jones (Welsh Assembly Government), Eiddwen Borland, Iola Williams (Careers Wales), Menna Jones (Antur Waunfawr), Jan Jones (Welsh Assembly Government), Sioned Rees (Welsh Assembly Government), James Goodman (North West Wales Management Centre), Lawrence Manley, John Lloyd, Fred Foskett (Gwynedd Business Network), Sian Lloyd Roberts, Nia Swann Bowden, Ann Owen, Colin Morris, Sioned Williams, Dylan Griffiths, Catrin Thomas and Iwan Trefor Jones (Gwynedd Council).

A revised programme was distributed to members.

It was noted that the Steering Group wished Sian Lloyd Roberts a speedy recovery following her recent injury.

02. Declaration of personal interest

None

03. Minutes of the last meeting 4th April 2008

Amend and Confirm

Any matter not appearing on the programme

Discussion:

- i. It was noted that Llyr Huws Gruffydd was present at the last meeting.
- ii. It was noted that an update on the Snowdonia Green Key had been received by the secretariat and would be circulated to members during the meeting.
- iii. It was noted that contact had been made with the Welsh Assembly Government regarding the targeted match funding pot and discussions are ongoing. It was reported that to date there is no change to the scoring method and there would be a further update at the Steering Group meeting in July.
- iv. It was noted that during the meeting the secretariat had circulated a revised list of projects proposed at the Gwynedd Council Development Scrutiny Committee Seminar (26th February 2008) which included contact details of lead officers for the individual projects.
- v. It was noted that comments on the draft Skills and Employment Strategy in Welsh were included in the papers for the meeting. The English version was circulated during the meeting.

Conclusions:

- vi. It was **agreed** to include Llyr Huws Gruffydd's name as an attendee at the last meeting
- vii. It was **agreed** that the minutes were correct.

Tasks:

- a) **Amend the minutes of the meeting held on 4th April 2008 to include Llyr Huws Gruffydd as attendee.**

Secretariat

asap

04. Partnership's Sub-groups

Discussion:

- i. It was noted that the Sub-group co-ordinators were unable to attend the meeting due to other commitments. Bulletins updating Steering Group members of Sub-group activity were circulated as part of the item report with the papers for the meeting. The report was presented by the Secretariat:

Discussion: Rural Development

- ii. It was noted that the Partnerships' responses to questions raised by the Welsh Assembly Government on Gwynedd's Rural Development Plan project applications were currently being prepared. It was noted that the timeframe to submit responses was short and that a Local Action Group meeting had been arranged for the following week.

Discussion: Business Support

- iii. It was noted that the group will meet next on the 1st July 2008.
- iv. The Steering Group recommended that there was a need to promote the success of the Business Development Pack – phase 2 in the County.
- v. The importance of grants to small businesses in Gwynedd and the concerns of Steering Group members in regard to future grants and benefits to businesses from the Convergence programmes was noted.
- vi. It was noted that the Welsh Assembly Government is intending to reorganise the Business Eye service and Steering Group members will receive an update at the next meeting.
- vii. A question raised in relation to the sustainability appraisal of business advice / grant selection was noted. This assessment is being undertaken on the current package and the Welsh Assembly Government is currently reviewing arrangements and this will be included in the new arrangements. Details to be circulated to Steering Group members.

Conclusions:

- viii. The report was **accepted**.
- ix. It was **agreed** for Steering Group members to receive an update on the Welsh Assembly Governments' reorganisation of the Business Eye service.
- x. It was **agreed** to circulate details in relation to sustainability appraisal arrangements.

Tasks:

- b) Update members on Welsh assembly Governments' reorganisation on the Business Eye service**

Colin Morris

4th July 2008

- c) Circulate details of sustainability appraisal arrangements**

Colin Morris

asap

05. European Programmes Update

Discussion:

- i. The request from Steering Group members for information on the 13 Expressions of Interest submitted from North West Wales to the Wales Ireland Programme 2007 – 2013 was noted.
- ii. The offer from David Joyner, who is a Steering Committee member on Priority 1 Themes 1 & 2 of the Wales Ireland Wales Programme 2007 – 2013, to provide an insight to members on the work that is being undertaken and on the processes involved in developing successful applications was noted.
- iii. The concerns of the Steering Group in regard to the approval of Convergence regional / national projects and the lack of clarity as to how these will deliver on a local level was noted. Secretariat agreed to report to the Steering Group once the information comes to hand.
- iv. Concerns were noted regarding the low percentage of private sector and third sector submissions to the Convergence programmes to date and the lack of information on opportunities within the larger regional bids that may benefit these sectors.
- v. It was noted that the expression of interest developed by Anglesey County Council on behalf of the North West Wales Local Authorities is moving to the business planning stage of the application process.

Conclusion:

- vi. It was **agreed** to receive information of the 13 North West Wales – Wales Ireland Programme 2007 – 2013 Expressions of Interest at the next Steering Group
- vii. It was **agreed** for David Joyner to give a presentation to the group on the work of the Steering Group for the Ireland Wales Programme 2007 – 2013.
- viii. It was **agreed** for the Secretariat to provide information of opportunities for delivery from Convergence programmes regional projects to the Steering Group.
- ix. The report was **accepted**

Tasks:

- Ch) Provide information on the 13 North West Wales Expression of Interests – Wales Ireland Programme 2007 -2013.**

Secretariat

by 4th July 2008

- d) David Joyner to give a presentation to Steering Group members**

David Joyner

To be arranged

dd) Provide information on opportunities for delivery from the Convergence Programmes

Secretariat

when available

06. Aftercare report

Discussion

- i. It was noted that WEFO have approved the use of the Partnership's Technical Assistance funding to aid and assist the sustainability of individual projects.
- ii. The explanation provided by Rhys Evans on the process involved in appointing the consultant's via Sell 2 Wales, in developing a framework and the methodology involved in matching the appropriate level of expertise to the needs of the individual sponsors was noted. A request by Father Deiniol for the list of names of the consultant's appointed together with the rate for the services provided was noted.
- iii. Emyr Williams' request for information on the retention of documents for the Objective 1 programming period and on closure of the West Wales and the Valleys 5b programme was noted.

Conclusion

- iv. It was **agreed** to circulate the list of the consultants appointed together with the rate for services provided and a copy of the brief outlining the field of work to be covered.
- v. It was **agreed** to forward developments on the closure of the Objective 1 and West Wales and the Valleys 5b programmes to Emyr Williams
- vi. The report was **agreed**

Tasks

e) Circulate list of consultants together with the additional information as agreed

Secretariat

asap

f) Forward details on the closure of Objective 1 and West Wales and Valleys Programmes to Emyr Williams.

Secretariat

asap

07. Reviewing the image and brand

Discussion

- i. It was noted that WEFO have approved the use of Partnership's Technical Assistance funding to update the image and brand of the Partnership.
- ii. The request from the Secretariat to appoint a representative from each sector of the Steering Group to form a working group to move forward the development of a new brand and image for the Partnership was noted. The brand and image will reflect the success of the partnership and look at this in the context of its future role.

- iii. Alex Badley commented on the need to relate the projects to the Objective 1 programme and to make people aware of this. Also there was a need to make it open so that individuals / groups can visit successful projects and talk to the sponsors involved and share good practice methods in developing projects.

Conclusion

- iv. It was **agreed** to review the partnership's image and brand and for the Secretariat to move forward with appointing consultants
- v. It was **agreed** for the Secretariat to appoint a member from each sector to take forward this work

Tasks

ff) Appoint Consultants to identify a new image and brand for the Partnership

Secretariat asap

g) Invite member for each sector on to the image and brand working group

Secretariat asap

08. Annual review of membership

Discussion:

- i. It was noted that a full report on review of membership will be presented at the Partnership's AGM in September and this will include any changes following approval (if successful) of the Rural Development Plan.
- ii. The Partnership agreed on David Joyner's representation on the Steering Group.
- iii. The Partnership agreed to ask Community sector members to select a member to replace Dyfed Edwards on the Steering Group from the alternative member list.
- iv. It was noted that the Partnership would be seeking a member from Gwynedd Council following the local elections in May.
- v. An error in the attendance table circulated with the report was noted, with members citing 28% as the correct figure for attendance at two meetings and not the 14% recorded. In light of this members recommended an intervention of 33% rather than 25% as the baseline for writing to full members regarding attendance at meetings.

Conclusion:

- vi. It was **agreed** for David Joyner to represent Bangor University on the Steering Group
- vii. It was **agreed** to contact Gwynedd Council for name of main and alternative representative on the Partnership.
- viii. It was **agreed** for the Community Sector to select a member from the alternative list to replace Dyfed Edwards.
- ix. It was **agreed** to send a letter to Full Members who have attended less than 33% of the Steering Group meetings.

Tasks:

- Ng) Contact Gwynedd Council for name of main and alternative representative on the Partnership**
Secretariat asap
- h) Select member from the alternative list to replace Dyfed Edwards**
Members of the Community Sector asap
- i) Send a letter to Full Members who have attended less than 33% of the Steering Group meetings.**
Members of the Community Sector asap

SECTION TWO: STRATEGIC MATTERS – INFRASTRUCTURE FOR BUSINESS

09. Presentation by Siân P Jones, Customer Care and Marketing Manager, Gwynedd Council - The Council's Estate

Discussion:

- i. The presentation on the Council's Estate was received, a copy of the presentation is in Appendix 1.
- ii. It especially referred to:
 - a. High levels of occupancy and a shortage of sites.
 - b. An increase of 10% in the number of enquiries during the last year.
 - c. Units and land sold.
 - d. Improvements to the Council's Estate through Objective 1 funding.
 - e. The fact that private investment follows the A55 corridor.
- iii. Father Deiniol enquired about the consultation process before selling the Old Station in Felinheli. Siân noted that the Council's Property Unit and Local Members had been part of the consultation and that a report had been made on the site showing that the maintenance costs were likely to be very high. Father Deiniol noted that the track alignment goes past the site and that it should be protected, as is noted in the Track and Journey strategies.
- iv. Alex Badley stated that he believed that the Steering Group had agreed to correspond with the Council asking for the Partnership to be consultees in a case where the Council would be disposing of its assets. It was agreed that the Secretariat would correct the minutes.
- v. Nia Davies, Gwynedd Council, referred to the fact that a number of employment sites were identified in the Unitary Development Plan and that this will be the base for identifying them in the Local Development Plan. It was noted that the plan promotes small developments on village fringes and with private investment some can progress.

Conclusions:

- vi. **Accept** the presentation

Tasks:

I) **Check the minutes for a decision on correspondence for disposal of assets**

Secretariat

asap

10. Presentation by John Adshead, Welsh Assembly Government – National and North West Wales Context

Discussion:

- i The presentation on the National and North West Wales Context was received, a copy of the presentation is in Appendix 2.
- ii In particular it referred to:
 - An investment of £16m in North Wales through the DE&T business plan, with 75% being invested in the Convergence area
 - Challenges and Opportunities for the area
 - Wales Property Framework
 - The need to spread growth towards the West
 - Joint working with the Private Sector to further the progress of Units and Land.
- iii The need to ensure 'Fibre Speed' connection for the employment sites to correspond with investments in the first phase of the Convergence programme was discussed. It was noted that such facilities are vital for businesses to be able to compete in the modern world.
- iv Father Deiniol stated that he was unhappy with what was referred to in the presentation including the model for distributing growth and that he was not completely happy with the consultation on the Spatial Plan in the North. John Adshead said that the DE&T were aware of the concerns, that they were being discussed internally and a meeting had been arranged to try and respond to the concerns.
- v Bethan Russell Owen said that she was concerned that too much emphasis was being placed on centralising growth at the expense of villages and rural areas. John Adshead referred to the fact that they were hoping to develop a pilot project in the Llŷn area, looking especially at rural regeneration, including the use of technology.
- vi Alex Badley said that he was pleased at the reference in the presentation to the present financial squeeze with the fragile situation in the economy. John Adshead noted that help was to be had through Finance Wales within the new programme. Dewi Lewis remarked that in his role as Senior Development Portfolio Leader, he was keen to discuss opportunities further with Finance Wales. He would be keen to invite Siân Lloyd Jones to come to a meeting of the Steering Group in the future.

Conclusions:

- vii **Accept** the presentation
- viii **Support** the request to ensure a 'Fibre Speed' connection to employment sites.

- ix **Note** the concern about the Spatial Plan consultation process and the model for distributing growth.
- X **Support** the offer to invite Siân Lloyd Jones to a meeting of the Steering Group

Tasks:

LI) Correspond with the Wales Assembly Government about 'Fiber Speed' connections

Secretariat asap

m) Invite Siân Lloyd Jones, Welsh Assembly to a meeting of the Steering Group

Secretariat When available

11. Presentation by Catrin Roberts, Welsh Assembly Government – Mid Wales Context

Discussion:

- i. The presentation on the Mid Wales Context was received, a copy of the presentation is in Appendix 3.
- vii In particular it referred to:
 - The objective of the Mid Wales Spatial Plan
 - Employment sites in Meirionnydd and Recent Developments were outlined.
 - Llanbedr Airfield, where it was noted that the open tender process had been used and that a company from the private sector had been successful in their efforts to buy it.
- ii. The presentation was discussed, and the rate of lettings in Meirionnydd and the Convergence plans in the Mid Wales area were referred to. It is intended to develop plans in the future to take advantage of the Convergence funding that is available.
- iii. An update was given by Llyr B Jones, Senior Economy and Regeneration Manager, Gwynedd Council, referring to the Framework for Land and Employment Property in Gwynedd. He said that Unitary Development Plan had identified sites and that the inspector's report is central to further developments.
- iv. Anne Lloyd Jones suggested that the Steering Group state their support for the purchasers of Llanbedr Airfield. The motion was supported unanimously though Alex Badley said that he had slight doubts about the sustainability of the plan and of the industry.
- v. All the discussions were summarised by Dewi Lewis in three elements:
 - The need to spread growth.
 - The need to ensure comprehensive infrastructure and sites across the area
 - Ensure that 'Fibre Speed' is available in the employment sites.

Conclusions:

- vii. **Accept** the presentation
- viii. **Note** the update given by Llyr B Jones on the Framework for Land and Property Employment in Gwynedd.
- ix. Agree to the suggestion of a **Statement of Support** for the purchasers of Llanbedr Airfield.

Tasks:

n) **Statement of Support for the purchasers of Llanbedr Airfield.**

Secretariat asap

10. Any other business

Discussion:

- i. Father Deiniol stated he was very concerned that the responses to the Spatial Plan consultation had not been listed. He added that he was suspicious as to whether the responses had reached their journey's end and included in the consultation. Bethan Russel Owen added that she believed there was a substantial problem with the consultation. She also stressed the importance of 3rd sector input. Alex Badley added that he was doubtful about the Sustainability Assessment attached to the Spatial Plan. It was agreed that the observations should be brought to the attention of the Minister and John Adshead and Catrin Roberts promised to express Members' concern to the Assembly Government and to report back as soon as possible.
- ii. Father Deiniol referred to the Sustainable Regeneration Strategic Framework for Central Wales, especially the reference to priority actions for Blaenau Ffestiniog. He was unhappy at what had been noted. Dewi Lewis gave consent for a statement on behalf of Yn Ein Blaenau to be distributed and the Steering Group was asked to show support for the statement (a copy of the statement is in Appendix 4). The Members gave their support for the document. Dewi Lewis pointed to a reference to 'Blaenau Freight Terminal' in a consultation paper published by Network Rail.

Conclusion:

- iii. **It was agreed** to express the Members' concern about the Spatial Plan
 - iv The Members **agreed** to support the Yn Ein Blaenau statement
- o) **Send a letter to the Minister to voice the concerns of the Steering Group Members on the growth distribution model, the consultation process and the Sustainability Appraisal linked to the Spatial Plan.**

Secretariat asap

Date of next Steering Group meeting – 04 July 2008

S U M M A R Y O F T A S K S

- a) **Amend the minutes of the meeting held on 4th April 2008 to include Llyr Huws Gruffydd as attendee.**
Secretariat asap
- b) **Update members on Welsh assembly Governments' reorganisation on the Business Eye service**
Colin Morris 4th July 2008
- c) **Circulate details of sustainability appraisal arrangements**
Colin Morris asap
- Ch) **Provide information on the 13 North West Wales Expression of Interests - Wales Ireland Programme 2007 -2013.**
Secretariat by 4th July 2008
- d) **David Joyner to give a presentation to Steering Group members**
David Joyner To be arranged
- dd) **Provide information on opportunities for delivery from the Convergence Programmes**
Secretariat when available
- e) **Circulate list of consultants together with the additional information as agreed**
Secretariat asap
- f) **Forward details on the closure of Objective 1 and West Wales and Valleys Programmes to Emyr Williams.**
Secretariat asap
- ff) **Appoint Consultants to identify a new image and brand for the Partnership**
Secretariat asap
- g) **Invite member for each sector on to the image and brand working group**
Secretariat asap
- ng) **Contact Gwynedd Council for name of main and alternative representative on the Partnership**
Secretariat asap
- h) **Select member from the alternative list to replace Dyfed Edwards**
Members of the Community Sector asap
- i) **Send a letter to Full Members who have attended less than 33% of the Steering Group meetings.**
Members of the Community Sector asap

l) Check the minutes for a decision on correspondence for disposal of assets

Secretariat asap

LI) Correspond with the Wales Assembly Government about 'Fiber Speed' connections

Secretariat asap

m) Invite Siân Lloyd Jones, Welsh Assembly to a meeting of the Steering Group

Secretariat When available

n) Statement of Support for the purchasers of Llanbedr Airfield.

Secretariat asap

o) Send a letter to the Minister to voice the concerns of the Steering Group Members on the growth distribution model, the consultation process and the Sustainability Appraisal linked to the eSpacial Plan.

Secretariat asap

Partnership Sub-Groups

Partnership Sub-groups

MEETING:	Gwynedd Economic Partnership Steering Group
DATE:	4 July 2008
PURPOSE:	To update Members on the activities of the Partnership's Sub-Groups.
RECOMMENDATION:	Note the contents of the report
AUTHOR:	Sioned E. Williams Head of Economy and Regeneration Service

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Five sub-groups have been designated by the members of the Steering Group to assist them in their activities. The purpose of this report is to update the members on the activities of the Sub-Groups in the period since the last meeting of the Steering Group

2. Llwyddo'n Lleol Operational Sub-group

- 2.1 The latest activity report can be found in Annex 1, which refers to the Convergence application.

3. Rural Development Sub-group

- 3.1 Following the announcement that all projects that were part of the Partnerships' proposals for the Rural Development Plan have successfully assessed by the Welsh Assembly Government, a presentation is to be had in Item * Part 2 – Strategic Matters that will outline the projects and the next steps.

4. Business Support Sub-group

- 4.1 Members will receive a verbal report due to the fact that the Sub-group meeting is to be held on the 1st of July, therefore no paper attached.

5. Skills Sub-group

- 5.1 Members will receive a verbal report from the Skills Sub-group that met on the 23rd of May, therefore no paper attached.

6. Community Regeneration Activities

- 6.1 There is no activity report this time.

7. Recommendation

- 7.1 Partnership Members to support the contents of the report.

Annex 1

12 Llwyddo'n Lleol



BULLETIN (July 2008)

Name of Partnership:

Gwynedd Economic Partnership (Llwyddo'n Lleol Sub Group)

Date of Meeting:

n/a

Main Action Points from meeting:

n/a

Matters for the attention of the steering group:

- 1. Llwyddo'n Lleol Application – Convergence**
 - 1.1 We have recently held a meeting between the four counties (Anglesey, Gwynedd, Conwy and Denbighshire) in order to coordinate a response to WEFO's comments regarding our Expression of Interest, and we are now working to complete the document and re-submit it.
- 2. Visit to Sandfields Youth Enterprise Centre, Port Talbot**
 - 2.1 We have recently visited Sandfields Youth Enterprise Centre in Port Talbot in order to develop an application for a Skills and Enterprise Centre in partnership with PEG's Skills Sub Group. A report regarding the visit will be submitted to the Skills Sub-Group in the next few weeks.
- 3. 2008/09 Outputs Against Targets**
 - 3.1 The external partners will be presenting their outputs for Quarter 1 08/09 by Mid July, and we will therefore report back on outputs in the next meeting.

Any matters relevant to other partnerships (note which):

none

Coordinator's Name:

Nia Swann Bowden

Phone Number:

01286 679774

Email:

NiaSwannBowden@gwynedd.gov.uk

Person responsible for the minutes:

Nia Swann Bowden

Wales European Programmes

European Programmes Update

MEETING:	Gwynedd Economic Partnership Steering Group
DATE:	4 July 2008
PURPOSE:	Update the Partnership Members on the implementation of the European Programme 2000 – 2006 and on the development of the European Programme 2007 – 2013.
RECOMMENDATION:	Note the report's contents
AUTHOR:	Sioned E. Williams, Head of Economic and Regeneration Service

1. Introduction

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Partnership Members briefly on the implementation of European Programmes 2000 - 2006 and on the development of European Programmes 2007 - 2013, specifically:

- West Wales and the Valleys Objective 1 Programme 2000 - 2006
- Wales – Ireland Territorial Co-operation Programme 2007 - 2013
- West Wales and the Valleys Convergence Programme 2007 - 2013
- Wales Rural Development Plan 2007 – 2013

2. Objective 1 Programme

2.1 Aftercare:

The Partnership's Secretariat role and responsibilities to provide advice and support to Objective 1 project managers in Gwynedd continue. Members' attention is drawn to Appendix 1 where a list of the Consultants that have been included on the framework for the Aftercare Consultancy Service and the brief can be found, as referred to in June meeting of the Steering Group.

2.2 Publicity:

The Partnership continues to operate proactively in order to ensure positive publicity locally for the Programme. An article and advert appeared in the Western Mail on the 11th June on behalf of the Economic Partnership referring to the success of the Objective 1 Programme in Gwynedd.

3. Wales / Ireland Territorial Co-operation Programme

3.1 The Wales Ireland Programme 2007 – 2013 was officially launched in Llandudno on the 7th December 2007. The first call for applications closed on 18th January. It is understood that 52 expressions of interest have been presented during the first call with 13 of these coming from the North.

Members will receive further information on the projects in the meeting. It is foreseen that there will be a call for applications twice a year, with the next one programmed to start in July.

- 3.2 Members are reminded that anyone who is interested in the programme should contact the Northern Development Officer – Roger Seddon in WEFO on 01492 542594 or roger.seddon@wales.gsi.gov.uk

4. Convergence Programme

- 4.1 It is understood that 15 projects have been approved so far across the ERDF and ESF elements of the programme. Members' attention is drawn to the fact that this includes 9 projects for the ERDF element (corresponding to 10.5% of the funding available) and 6 for the ESF element (corresponding to 8.1% of the available funding)

4.2 Below is a list of the plans that have been approved by the programme so far, together with the main sponsor and the value of the projects. Members' attention is drawn to the fact that information on implementing the plans is uncertain, as information about the plans is still unclear.

ERDF

- Knowledge Exploitation Capacity Development – (DE&T) = £22.8m
- Knowledge Transfer and Commercialisation – (DE&T) = £22.7m
- Enterprise – Business Start up – (DE&T) = £28.0m
- Centre of Excellence for Welsh Food – (Furnace Farm) = £5.8m
- 2 JEREMIE projects – Finance Wales – (WAG DE&T) = £119.0m
- Project supporting Social Enterprises – (Wales Co-operative Centre) = £7.0m
- 2 Technical Assistance Projects linked to the SET's – (DE&T a CGGC) = £10.0m

ESF

- Skill Build – (DCELLS) = £37.0m
- Modern Apprenticeships – World Class Skills – (DCELLS) = £70.0m
- Modern Apprenticeships – Higher Level Skills – (DCELLS) = £3.5m
- Want 2 Work – (Job Centre Plus) = £32.8m
- 2 Technical Assistance Projects linked to the SET's – (DE&T a CGGC) = £10.0m

4.3 The preparation work at Gwynedd and North Wales level is progressing as agreed in the Development Scrutiny Committee's Seminar on 26 February.

4.4 Strategic Frameworks:

All the ERDF Strategic Frameworks now have 'approved' status on the WEFO website. All the ESF Strategic Frameworks also have 'approved'

status. It is understood that activity appears to be developing faster through the Themed Frameworks than the Spatial Frameworks.

- 4.5 Members' attention is drawn to the possibility that physical regeneration funds could be available for Blaenau Ffestiniog and Barmouth through Priority 5 Theme 1 being the Spatial Strategic Framework – Sustainable Regeneration. This is as a result of the reference to the two towns in the Strategic Objectives noted within the Framework for the Central Wales Spatial Area. Members are reminded that any project must be part of an integrated regeneration strategy. The revised Framework can be seen by following the link below;
<http://www.wefo.wales.gov.uk/resource/CentralSRFramework-Agreed1806084653.pdf>
- 4.6 Project Information Forms
822 Project Information Forms from various agencies and organisations have been recorded on WEFO's website so far. 260 applications for expression of interest forms are understood to have been presented to WEFO, of these 144 have been presented for decision. It appears that 23% of these are from the Assembly, 35% from Local Authorities, 15% from the private sector and 27% from the 3rd Sector.
- 4.7 Members attention is drawn to the fact that information on the plans presenting Expressions of Interest are available on the WEFO website through the link below:

<http://www.wefo.wales.gov.uk/resource/Projects-approved-and-EOIs-submitted-for-website2600.pdf>
- 4.8 Memorandum of Understanding
Members' attention is drawn to the fact that Conwy, Denbighshire, Gwynedd and Anglesey Councils signed a significant agreement on Friday 20 June to collaborate on the Convergence Programme as well as other key European programmes.
- 4.9 The Memorandum of Understanding will ensure that the four counties work together to ensure that north west Wales makes the most of the opportunities that will come in the wake of these programmes.
- 4.10 The agreement was signed by the Leader and Chief Executive of each local authority and the intention is to ensure that joint projects are implemented effectively through the Convergence and Interreg programmes.
- 4.11 Guidance was given by the Welsh European Funding Office that areas should work together in order to develop Convergence projects. The Councils hope that signing the agreement will enable them to meet the requirements and implement the important projects that have already been identified.
- 5. Wales Rural Development Plan**

5.1 Information was received on 20 June that all the plans that were part of the Partnership's proposal for the Rural Development Plan have been successful in the Assembly Government's assessment of plans. There is a presentation in Item 06 within Part 2 – Strategic Matters, which will outline the plans and discuss the next steps.

6. Recommendation

6.1 That the Partnership Members receive the contents of the report.

Background Paper RDP Projects

Rural Development Plan 2007 - 2010: Gwynedd Proposals

MEETING:	Gwynedd Economic Partnership Steering Group
DATE:	23 November 2007
PURPOSE:	To receive the support from members to the contents of Gwynedd's proposed projects and business plan for the Rural Development Plan during the period 2007 – 2010
RECOMMENDATION:	Support the projects and business plan for the submission to the Welsh Assembly Government
AUTHOR:	Sioned E. Williams Head of Economy and Regeneration Service

01. BACKGROUND

01.1 As members are aware, alongside of the Convergence Programme (successor to Objective One) and the Territorial Co-operation Programme (successor to Interreg 3) the Rural Development Plan will be one of the main European Programmes operating in Wales during the period 2007 to 2013.

01.2 The Plan is implemented through the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD). It is not part of the structural European structural funds (ERDF and ESF).

01.3 Within the Rural Development Plan, there are four 'Axis' of activity:

- Axis 1: Increasing the ability of the agriculture and forestry to compete
- Axis 2: Improving the rural environment
- **Axis 3: Improving the quality of life in rural areas and diversifying the rural economy**
- **Axis 4: Support for innovative, co-operative, cross sector and collaborative rural development projects derived from communities ("Leader" methodology)**

01.4 The Welsh Assembly Government intends to implement Axis 1 and Axis 2 on a national level, but applications from local partnerships (on a local authority level) to implement Axis 3 and Axis 4 in their areas were invited. The are two steps to the application process.

- **STEP ONE:** Presentation of a Local Development Strategy and local operating procedures for the period 2007 – 2013 (30 March 2007)
- **STEP TWO: Presentation of a detailed "Business Plan" and individual project applications for the first half of the programme: 2007 – 2010 (30 November 2007)**

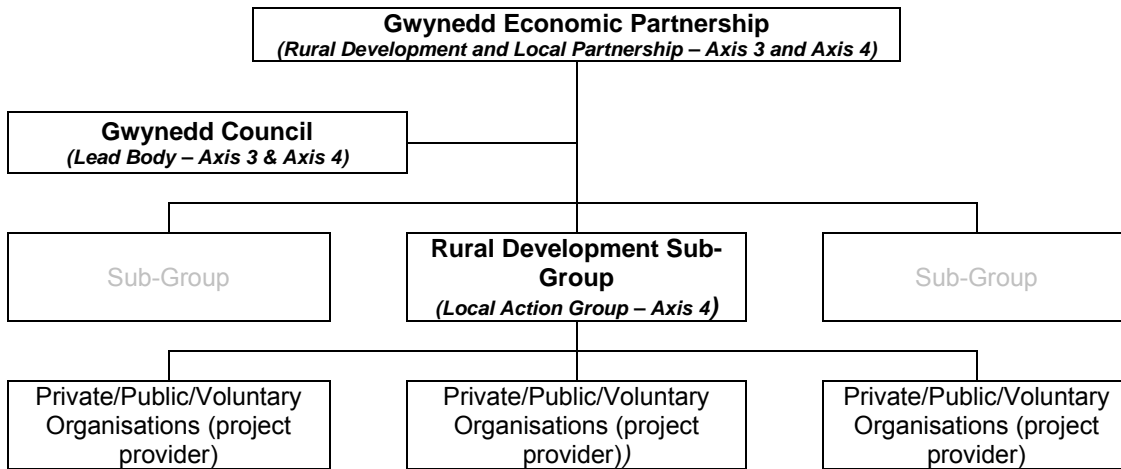
- 01.5 An application for the first step of the application process was presented by Gwynedd Council on behalf of Gwynedd Economic Partnership on 30 March 2007. The Economic Partnership received confirmation that Gwynedd had succeeded in the first step of the application process from the Welsh Assembly on 30 July 2007 along with a invitation to present an application for the second step of the application process by 30 November 2007.

02. GWYNEDD LOCAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

- 02.1 It was recognised early in the process of considering how to implement the Rural Development Plan in Gwynedd the importance of ensuring that the programme is integrated with local priorities with no duplication of existing provision.
- 02.2 To ensure the input of stakeholders into the process of identifying local priorities, a workshop was held by the Partnership on 08 January 2007. Members and alternates from the Partnership's Steering Group (2006 and 2007 – 2010) were invited alongside members of the Llwyddo'n Lleol Partnership, members of the Menterra project Steering Group, Gwynedd Council's Cross-departmental Regeneration Team and other key individuals. Those attending the workshop were asked to provide opinions on the main challenges facing rural Gwynedd, the main measures to be included in the Local Development Strategy and the main local target groups.
- 02.3 Alongside results of the workshop, a number of recent studies were considered including a commission from ESYS on the likely changes to the competition of the Gwynedd economy, and the conclusions of the Gwynedd Together Partnerships Gwynedd Tomorrow study. As a result, the following primary themes were identified for the Local Development Strategy:
- **Entrepreneurship**
 - **Local products**
 - **Environmental enterprises**
 - **Renewable energy**
 - **Creative industries**
- 02.4 In addition, it was agreed that **developing community capacity, supporting farming families, developing a positive image of Gwynedd and opportunities for the tourism sector** were relevant matters which should be considered as crosscutting themes in relation to each of the above.
- 02.5 It was agreed that all the main themes would be considered in relation to Axis 3 of the Rural Development Plan but, as resources were limited in Axis 4, they should be concentrated on the areas of **local products, environmental enterprises** and **renewable energy** as these field provided scope for the implementation of innovative projects, the promotion of co-operation and the development of schemes operational across the themes.

03. IMPLEMENTING THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN IN GWYNEDD

- 03.1 In addition to the Local Development Strategy, the guidance for Step 1 in the application process noted the need to identify the following:
- **Local partnership** to manage and implement Axis 3 and to be responsible for the achievement of the Local Development Strategy; and,
 - **Local Action Group (LAG)** to develop, manage and implement Axis 4 of the programme, contributing to the achievement of the Local Development Strategy.
- 03.2 The Partnership has already agreed that its Steering Group should undertake the role of being the Local Partnership for Gwynedd for the purposes of the Rural Development Plan. It is noted in the Assembly's guidance that the Local Action Group for Axis 4 can be an independent organisation for developing and implementing and co-ordinating activities within the Axis or the Group can lead on the development and co-ordination of activities contracting other organisations to realise the projects.
- 03.3 In the case of a number of Counties across Wales, where the Leader Programme has been operational, there are suitable rural development organisations (e.g. Menter Môn on Anglesey) already in existence which can take responsibility of Axis 4 on behalf of the local partnership. However, no suitable organisation now exists in Gwynedd, therefore a new Local Action Group has been established as a Sub-Group to Gwynedd Economic Partnership (the Rural Development Sub-Group).
- 03.4 The membership of the Sub-Group includes specialists from relevant organisations and it has led on the development on the content of Gwynedd's applications for the Rural Development Plan between 2007 and 2010. They will co-ordinate activities and manage contracts with external organisations to operate the projects should the applications be successful. It is believed that this structure will provide clear co-ordination and communication between the Partnership and the Action Group and will provide an opportunity to take advantage of the expertise which exists within organisations in Gwynedd.
- 03.5 It is also required that a lead body be identified to support the Partnership and the Local Action Group by providing a range of services including a secretarial function, support for the development of the implementation of projects, providing guidance for projects seeking support, monitoring individual projects and monitoring the Local Development Strategy as a whole. Gwynedd Council's board has already agreed in principle to offer the Council as the lead body of implementation of the Rural Development Plan in Gwynedd. A further report will be presented to the board on 18 December 2007.
- 03.6 Some resources will be provided by the Rural Development Plan to support the fulfilment of the above functions (technical support) and it is intended to make the most of the Council's current resources and experience gained in implementing the Objective One programme and administering the Local Regeneration Fund. Further details are provided later in the report.
- 03.7 The implementation structures are summarised in the diagram below:



04. SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSED GWYNEDD PROJECTS 2007 - 2010

- 04.1 After the invitation from the Welsh Assembly Government to present applications for the Rural Development Plan's second stage in July 2007, the Rural Development Sub-Group has met on 6 occasions to lead on the development of Gwynedd's proposals for the period 2007 to 2010 which has also been regularly reported to the Partnership's Steering Group seeking Members input as projects have evolved. The projects are based upon the results of the Rural Development Workshop held in January 2007 and the development of the themes identified within the Local Development Strategy
- 04.2 The resources available from the Rural Development Plan are not huge (see below) the members of the Rural Development Sub-Group were keen to ensure a structurous development across projects which:
- struck a balance between being practical and realistic while striking a balance by being ambitious (it should be noted that application process is competitive)
 - meeting the strategic requirements of the Economic Partnership
 - providing opportunities for individual organisations in Gwynedd to gain access to resources to implement the desires and ideas which have arisen from communities

RDP Budgets (estimates based upon assumptions)

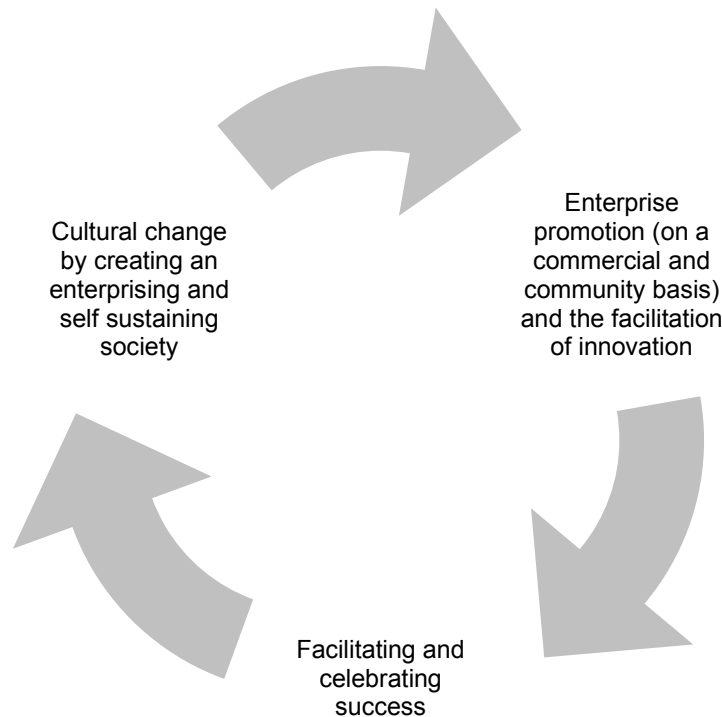
€ = £ 0.67

Axis 3	€	£ 109,000,000.00			
		£ 73,030,000.00			
18 areas	£	4,057,222.22	per area		
7 years	£	579,603.17	per year	x3	£ 1,738,809.52
Administration @ 15%	£	86,940.48	per year	x3	£ 260,821.43
IMPLEMENTATION	£	<u>492,662.70</u>	per year	x3	<u>£ 1,477,988.10</u>

Axis	€	£ 45,000,000.00			
		£ 30,150,000.00			
18 areas	£	1,675,000.00	per area		£ 5,025,000.00
7 years	£	239,285.71	per year	x3	£ 717,857.14
Administration @ 20%	£	47,857.14	per year	x3	£ 143,571.43
IMPLEMENTATION	£	<u>191,428.57</u>	per year	x3	<u>£ 574,285.71</u>

TOTAL Axis 3 & Axis 4 £ 2,052,273.81

04.3 To ensure sustainable long term change in Gwynedd's rural areas, the projects were considered part of a process to facilitate success and promote cultural change.



04.4 To meet the Partnership's ambitions, the Rural Development Sub-Group recommends to the Steering Group that 6 projects are presented to the Welsh Assembly Government:

Axis 3

- Creation of an enterprising culture (Llwyddo'n Lleol)
- Rural enterprise enabling fund
- Gwynedd productive communities

Axis 4

- Promoting change in the rural economy through innovation: agricultural and/or forestry primary produce and the derivatives
- Promoting change in the rural economy through innovation: not agricultural produce (local products and renewable energy)
- Promoting change in the rural economy through innovation: environmental

04.5 Activity costs summary:

Cynllun / Project	Echel 3 / Axis 3	Echel 4 / Axis 4	Cydariannu / Match Funding	CYFANSWM COST / TOTAL COST
Llwyddo'n Lleol / <i>Llwyddo'n Lleol</i>	£ 534,400.00	£ -	£ 133,600.00	£ 668,000.00
Cronfa Galluogi / <i>Enabling Fund</i>	£ 780,000.00		£ 720,000.00	£ 1,500,000.00
Cymunedau Cynhorchiol / <i>Productive Communities</i>	£ 560,000.00	£ -	£ 152,000.00	£ 712,000.00
Arloesi (amaeth) / <i>Innovation (agriculture)</i>	£ -	£ 308,550.00	£ 117,450.00	£ 426,000.00
Arloesi (dim amaeth) / <i>Innovation (not agriculture)</i>	£ -	£ 143,800.00	£ 56,200.00	£ 200,000.00
Arloesi (amgylchedd) / <i>Innovation (environment)</i>	£ -	£ 143,800.00	£ 77,360.00	£ 221,160.00
CYFANSWM / TOTAL	£ 1,874,400.00	£ 596,150.00	£ 1,256,610.00	£ 3,727,160.00

04.6 Summary of results (incomplete):

- Number of micro enterprises financially supported 130
- Number of micro enterprises advised and supported 185
- Number of individuals or groups receiving support to develop new business ideas (pre-start) 85
- Number of people taking part in training 1,000
- Number of new jobs created 101
- Number of new jobs safe-guarded 194
- Number of new enterprises 102
- Number of agricultural holdings introducing new products or new technology 60

05. AXIS 3 PROJECTS

05.1 Axis 3: *Improvement of quality of life in rural areas and diversification of the rural economy*

- Supporting farming families to diversify to alternative activities
- Support for the creation and development of small businesses
- Promotion of tourism activities
- Basic services to the economy and population
- Village renewal and development
- Protection and upgrading of rural heritage
- Training and information for economic actors
- Development and use of skills

05.2 **Creation of an enterprising culture (Llwyddo'n Lleol):**

Aim: Promoting cultural change through promotion and facilitation of enterprise in rural communities

Period: April 2008 to December 2010

Cost: £668,000

Matchfunding: EAFRD £534,400
Gwynedd Council £133,600

Activity outline:

- confidence raising through sessions and activities targeted to individual groups
- promotion of the process of identifying opportunities to venture with rural areas and the creation of ideas for enterprises by individuals / groups in response
- small scale support (bursary - £1,000) to trial ideas for enterprise / tasting and enterprise tasters / experience (preparing individuals and groups to take advantage of the support available through the enabling fund)

05.3 **Rural Enterprise Enabling Fund:**

Aim: Promote and enable enterprise in rural communities

Period: April 2008 to December 2010

Cost: £1,500,000

Matchfunding: EAFRD £780,000
Applicants (underwritten by Gwynedd Council) £700,000
Gwynedd Council £20,000

Activity outline:

- Establishment and implementation of a source of financial assistance and practical support (training, mentoring etc) to facilitate rural enterprise by:

- individuals / companies (a new business or a new venture by an existing business)
- groups within communities (an existing group or informal community of interest)
- Practical support for enterprise in the fields which relate to the Local Development Strateg’s themes. Provision of grant (50% of up to £10,000) commitment to receive formal assistance such as training.

05.4 Productive Communities:

Aim: Increasing the benefit rural communities in Gwynedd derived from the counties unique products and assets

Period: April 2008 to December 2010

Cost: £712,000

<i>Matchfunding:</i> EAFRD	£560,000
Public (underwritten by Gwynedd Council)	£106,000
Gwynedd Council	£20,000

Outline of activites:

- ‘Gwynedd Offer’ – ensuring the maximum benefit from Gwynedd’s unique characteristics, increasing economic advantage to the county’s residents – including the establishment of 12 local information points
- Local Products: support for Gwynedd’s producers (food, craft, arts, manufacturing etc) relating to themes within the local strategy to increase the value of their output
- ‘Theatr y Gwyllt’ – establishment of 3 digital observation points for wildlife, natural attractions etc

06. AXIS 4 PROJECTS

06.1 *Axis 4: Support for innovative, co-operative, cross-sectoral and collaborative rural development schemes derived from the bottom up (“Leader” methodology)*

- Partnership activities among stakeholders
- Area identity and new product development
- Natural environment
- Sustainable rural services
- Outdoor activities and tourism development and welfare

06.2 **Promoting change in the rural economy through innovation: primary, agricultural and/or forestry produce and derivatives**

Aim: Establishment of a common framework for the promotion and facilitation of innovation by individuals and, primarily, common interest groups

Period: April 2008 to December 2010

Cost: £426,000

Matchfunding: EAFRD £308,550
Applicants (underwritten by Gwynedd Council) £53,750
Gwynedd Council £63,700

Activity Summary:

- Initial research into the opportunities
- STEP 1: engaging and committing stakeholders – idea production
- STEP 2: practical and financial support for the development and trialling of ideas
- STEP 3: assistance to commercialise new ideas

06.3 Promoting change in the rural economy through innovation: Non agricultural products (local products and renewable energy)

Aim: Establishment of a common framework for the promotion and facilitation of innovation by individuals and primarily, common interest groups

Period: April 2008 to December 2010

Cost: £200,000

Matchfunding: EAFRD £143,800
Applicants (underwritten by Gwynedd Council) £27,000
Gwynedd Council £29,200

Activity Summary:

- Initial research into the opportunities
- STEP 1: engaging and committing stakeholders – idea production
- STEP 2: practical and financial support for the development and trialling of ideas
- STEP 3: assistance to commercialise new ideas

06.4 Promoting change in the rural economy through innovation: Natural environment and land management

Aim: Establishment of a common framework for the promotion and facilitation of innovation by individuals and primarily, common interest groups

Period: April 2008 to December 2010

Cost: £199,300

<i>Matchfunding:</i> EAFRD	£143,800
Applicants (underwritten by Gwynedd Council)	£62,500
Gwynedd Council	£14,860

Activity Outline:

- Initial research into the opportunities
- STEP 1: engaging and committing stakeholders – idea production
- STEP 2: practical and financial support for the development and trialling of ideas

07. GWYNEDD BUSINESS PLAN 2007 - 2010

- 07.1 As noted previously in the report, there is some provision available through the Rural Development Plan for the costs associated with the administration and implementation of the programme within the local area.
- 07.2 The provision available is based upon a proportion of the costs of individual projects (15% in the case of Axis 3 and 20% in the case of Axis 4). Matchfunding is not required for these activities.
- 07.3 Currently, the proportion of Gwynedd's proposed activities corresponds to £511,252 (£341,820 from Axis 3 and £169,432 from Axis 4)
- 07.4 Gwynedd's draft business plan is enclosed at Annex 1 of the report. Confirmation of the details of the plan are dependent upon the final costs of individual projects and it is proposed that a team be established to implement the programme in Gwynedd and that a budget provided for costs associated with maintaining Gwynedd Economic Partnership and implementation of the project:
- Co-ordinator
 - 2 x field officer
 - Monitoring Officer
 - Support Officer

08. RECOMMENDATION

- 08.1 That Members of the Steering Group support the individual projects to be presented to the Welsh Assembly Government by 30 November 2007.
- 08.2 That Members of the Steering Group delegate the rights to the Secretariat officers to continue to develop the applications until presentation.
- 08.3 That Members of the Steering Group support the intentions of the Business Plan, delegation derived to the Secretariat officers to continue to develop the Plan until it is presented.

