

## Gwynedd Economic Partnership Steering Group

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Date: 08 June 2007

Time 10:00 - 13:00

Location: Neuadd Craflwyn, Nantgwynant, Beddgelert

### *Present*

#### Private Sector Representatives

Dewi Lewis	<i>Chair</i>	Siop Dewi
Tim Knight		British Nuclear Group
Peter Clarke		TUC Cymru
Gwynedd Watkin		FUW
Evie Wyn Jones	<i>(Alternative)</i>	Busnes Eryri Cyf.
John Alan Morris	<i>(Alternative)</i>	J. Morris
Sian M. Williams	<i>(Alternative)</i>	Griffith Williams a'i Cwmni

#### Voluntary Sector Representatives

None present

#### Community Sector Representatives

Tad Deiniol	Yn Ein Blaenau
Godfrey Northam	Bethesda

Community Council

(On behalf of Community and Town Councils in Gwynedd)

Llyr Huws Gruffydd	Menter a Busnes	
Dyfed Edwards	Antur Nantlle	
Keneuoe Morgan	<i>(Alternative)</i>	Antur Penllyn
Chris Wright	<i>(Alternative)</i>	Snowdonia Active

#### Public Sector Representatives

Dafydd Iwan	Gwynedd Council
Eiddwen Borland	Job Centre Plus

#### Advisors

Ruth Bacigalupo	Department of Enterprise, Innovation and Networks Welsh Assembly Government
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Jan Jones	Department of Enterprise, Innovation and Networks Welsh Assembly Government
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Ieuan Ellis	Department of Education, Culture and Welsh Language Welsh Assembly Government
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#### Secretariat Officers (Gwynedd Council)

Sioned Williams	Head of Economic and Regeneration Services
Dylan Griffiths	Strategic Planning and Funding
Vivienne Pritchard	European Officer
Colin Morris	Senior Business Support Officer
Nia Swann	Llwyddo'n Lleol Development Officer
Esyll Rhys Jones	Senior Strategic Regeneration Officer

#### Invitees

Dr. David Joyner	University of Wales, Bangor
Keith Robertson	Welsh Assembly Government

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## SECTION ONE: BUSINESS MATTERS

### 01. Apologies

Noted that apologies had been received from: Geraint Parry (Cymdeithas Cyfieithwyr Cymru), Sian Hope (University of Wales, Bangor), Emyr Williams (Snowdonia National Park), Catrin Lloyd Jones (Coleg Harlech WEA), Ann Lloyd Jones (Mid Wales Tourism), Trefor Jones (Welsh Assembly Government), Ffiona Williams (Careers Wales), Menna Jones (Antur Waunfawr), Iwan T. Jones (Gwynedd Council), Ann Rubij (Welsh Assembly Government), Keith O'Brien (Snowdonia National Park), Wendy Crisp (Yr Hwylfan) and Sarah Finnegan-Dehn (Careers Wales).

Steering Group members congratulated Catrin Lloyd Jones, Coleg Harlech WEA on her marriage taking place today.

### 02. Declaration of personal interest

None

### 03. Minutes of the last meeting 20 April 2007

Amend and Confirm – see 08. AOB

Any matter not appearing on the programme

*Discussion:*

None recorded

*Conclusions:*

Minutes of the minutes **agreed** as to true record

*Tasks:*

None

### 4. Election of Vice Chair to the Partnership

*Discussion:*

i) Noted from the minutes of the meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> April 2007 that members would consider nominations for the position of Vice Chair at this meeting.

ii) No nominations received from members present. Reported that Menna Jones, Antur Waunfawr, Voluntary Sector representative was prepared to take the post of Vice Chair if no one else was interested. The nomination was considered, proposed by Dyfed Edwards and seconded by Gwynedd Watkin

*Conclusions:*

iii) Steering Group **agreed** Menna Jones as the Partnerships new Vice Chair

*Tasks:*

**a) Inform Menna Jones of the Steering Group decision.  
Secretariat**

**asap**

05. Partnership's Sub-groups

*Discussion: Llwyddo'n Lleol*

- i). Noted that the application to the Enterprising Britain competition has been unsuccessful.
  - ii). Success of the 'Dragon's Den' event noted with a number of groups taking part. Winners of the event Sarnau Young Farmers Club with Ysgol Eifionnydd in 2<sup>nd</sup> place.
  - iii). Noted that the discussions have taken place with members of the North West Wales Skills and Enterprise Steering Group looking at the opportunities to extend the Llwyddo'n Lleol project across North West Wales.
  - iv). Further to a request made at the last Steering Group meeting the outputs of the 2006 /07 programme were reported to the Steering Group. Noted that further updates on progression with targets will be reported to the Steering Group on a quarterly basis.
  - v). Results of the focus group meetings reported to the Steering Group and a copy of the report circulated to members with the papers for the meeting. The following observations were noted:
    - effort required in attracting young people to work in the growing outdoor activity sector.
    - the need to work on re-educating people in order to change perceptions regarding opportunities in Gwynedd.
    - Concerns raised regarding the success of the Llwybro scheme as it appears from the report that young people are not looking on the website.
    - Agreed that the findings in the report provide a useful start point in identifying a work programme, which will give direction to operational steps that need to be taken.
- Discussion: Business Support*
- vi). Verbal report by Colin Morris. Noted that the additional Objective 1 funding successfully drawn would soon close and that there would no longer be any funding available to support local businesses from the funding in Gwynedd.
  - vii). Reported that since 2003 £1.3m has been released in grants to 462 businesses in Gwynedd.
  - viii). Noted that 27 events took place during Gwynedd Business Week (21 – 25<sup>th</sup> May), over 6,500 programmes were circulated, 200 people attended the Business Awards Evening with 12 awards categories attracting 71 applications from all parts of Gwynedd. A report on the Business Week is being prepared. Success of the week noted particularly in showcasing what is happening in Gwynedd and what is possible. The intention of profiling the 12 award respondents was discussed, one each month to highlight the success throughout the year.
  - ix). Reference made by Godfrey Northam to Hywel Williams' photograph appearing in the Gwynedd Business Week programme. It was explained that agencies and organisations in Gwynedd were invited to hold an event and that Gwynedd

Council were not responsible for arranging events. Gwynedd Council acknowledged that the photograph should not have appeared and apologised if the photograph appeared misleading.

- x). Noted that Ioan Thomas has been elected PEG Business Sub-group chair for the next twelve months. Noted that sub -group members had received a report from the Welsh Assembly Government in relation to the completed review into the Business Support sector in Gwynedd (General Support for Business contract), the reported outcomes of the review include: 428 people have received information, advice or support; 93 new businesses established; 488 established businesses have received information, support or advice; 167 jobs created and 104 jobs safeguarded. Copy of the full report available on request.
- xi). Noted that £12m in tourism grants have been released to Gwynedd' s businesses over the last 10 years resulting in the creation of 930 jobs and attracting £58.5m in private sector investment.
- xii). Noted an application for more representatives from the PEG private sector attend Business sub-group meetings.
- xiii). Noted that information regarding Regional Selective Assistance programme had been received the day prior to the meeting.  
*Discussion: Skills*
- xiv). Verbal report by Sioned Williams. Noted that the Meirion / Dwyfor vocational skills centre pilot business plan was being considered by the sub-group and Sian Lloyd Roberts would report on developments at the next Steering Group meeting.
- xv). Noted that work is continuing on the Nuclear Skills Academy in co-operation with Anglesey County Council looking at the relationship between Trawfynydd and Wylfa and engineering skills in the vocational skills sector.
- xvi). Noted that work is continuing with Careers Wales and other partners to assess the needs and employment opportunities of the developments that are taking place in Bangor and Caernarfon in the retail sector to ensure that the appropriate skills are available.
- xvii). The importance was noted of the need to bring local producers in contact with retailers in Gwynedd and Steering Group members were reminded that this was one of the main priorities identified in Gwynedd's application to the Rural Development Programme  
*Discussion: Rural Development*
- xviii). No further developments recorded regarding the group
- xxiv). Reported that that information is expected on the Local Development Strategy and for the Business Plan Guidance to be available before the end of June.  
*Discussion: Community Regeneration*  
No further developments noted

*Conclusions:*

- xxiv) Members to be updated on the development of the work programme at the next Steering Group meeting.

- xxv) Noted that further full discussion will take place at the PEG Steering Group in September on the future of the grants package / mix of packages to support business in Gwynedd following discussion with the Business sub-group.
- xxvi) Steering Group members congratulated all involved on the success of the event.
- xxvii) Agreed to write to the PEG Business Sector Steering Group members requesting additional members to attend sub-group meetings.
- xxviii) Recommended that the information be considered by the Business sub-group and a report is prepared for the PEG Steering Group .

*Tasks:*

- b) **Report on outputs of Llywddo'n Lleol programme**  
Nia Swann Quarterly
- c) **Report on the Llwyddo'n Lleol Work Programme**  
Nia Swann asap
- d) **Report on possible future means of supporting businesses financially**  
Sioned Williams /Colin Morris September 2007 meeting
- e) **Breakdown of sectors that have received support from the tourism grants**  
Colin Morris September 2007 meeting
- f) **Write to PEG Steering Group Business Sector representatives requesting nominations to the Business Sub-Group**  
Secretariat asap
- g) **Report on the Regional Selective Assistance Programme**  
Colin Morris asap
- h). **Report updating members on developments of the Meirion / Dwyfor vocational skills centre pilot business plan**  
Sian Lloyd Roberts September 2007 meeting

06 Gwynedd Economic Partnership representatives on other Partnerships

- i). Dylan Griffiths presented the report. Noted that there is a change in membership arrangements for the Children and Young People Strategic Partnership, confirmation that PEG Steering Group members are happy for Gwynedd Council's, Head of Economy and Regeneration Service to be the liason person between the Gwynedd Economic Partnership and the Children and Young People Strategic Partnership.
- ii). Nominations requested for alternative member to Godfrey Northam on the Health, Social Care and Well Being Strategic Partnership  
*Conculsions:*
- iii). Members **confirmed support** to Gwynedd Council's Head of Economic and Regeneration Services as the liason person between the Gwynedd Economic Partnership and the Children and Young People Strategic Partnership.

*Tasks:*

- i). **Confirm the Gwynedd Economic Partnership's support to the Head of Economic and Regeneration Services as liason person to the Children and Young People Strategic Partnership.**  
Secretariat asap
- j). **Nomination of PEG Steering Group member as alternative to Godfrey Northam on the Health, Social Care and Well Being Strategic Partnership Members** asap

07 Gwynedd Economic Partnership's response to the Gwynedd Together Partnership Assessment Framework

*Discussion:*

- i). Dewi Lewis presented the report on PEG's response to the Partnership Assessment Framework.  
*Conculsions:*
- ii). PEG Steering Group Members **agreed** on the content of the report.  
*Tasks:*  
None

SECTION TWO: STRATEGIC MATTERS

08 Europe Direct

*Discussion:*

- i). David Joyner was welcomed. Presentation received on the North West Wales 'Europe Direct' Centre, currently being set up in partnership between Bangor University, Gwynedd Council, Anglesey County Council and Conwy Council. The aim of the NWW Europe Direct Centre is to provide EU information and advice to the general public, agencies, organisations and local businesses and act as a focus in the region for events and in raising the profile of the sub-region. A dedicated web-site will be set up. The Centre will be one of six centres in Wales.
- ii). Developments to date include: Steering Group established; George site, Bangor University identified as the location for the Centre; processs of appointing a co-ordinator underway (PEG Steering Group members informed that the funding package is limited and resources available will only cover one full time post and that the University library will provide basic cover); Centre launch planned for 19<sup>th</sup> September at CAST.
- iii). The importance was noted of raising awareness that the service will be available and of working with established partnerships and networks in the region to disseminate information, providing regular bulletins and targetting specific groups to make them aware of the information available once the Centre is established.
- iv). The importance was noted that the library service in the three counties would play a significant role in the development of the information service, making use of the available technology to enable people to access the information across the sub-region.

- v). The importance was noted of having a clear focus for the Centre, in establishing a brand and in developing a work programme. Work on a wider partnership level is needed to ensure the success of the Centre. Request from Jan Jones supported for the co-ordinator of the Spatial Plan European sub-group (when appointed) to become a member of the Europe Direct Steering Group.
- vi). The importance was noted of ensuring that the person appointed as co-ordinator has the relevant skills and specialist expertise required, particularly in EU sectoral funds and EU policy developments, adding value to the service provided by the local authorities where the focus and available resources are concentrated on the EU Structural Funds.

*Conclusions:*

- vii). Development of the Europe Direct Centre welcomed by the Steering Group

*Tasks:*

**k). Forward PEG Steering Group Comments to the Europe Direct Steering Group.**

**Secretariat**

**asap**

**09 Spatial Matters**

*Discussion:*

- i). Dylan Griffiths presented the report. The Steering Group were updated on developments since the last Steering Group meeting of the North West Wales Spatial Development Strategy, Mid Wales Key Settlements Study and Area Regeneration Schemes.
- ii). Jan Jones reported that North West Wales Development Strategy is slightly delayed due to wider work being undertaken on the Strategic Environmental Assessment.
- iii). *Conclusions:*
- iv). Content of the report **agreed** and noted

*Tasks:*

None

**10 European Programmes in Wales**

*Activity Report*

- i). Dylan Griffiths presented the report. The Steering Group were updated on developments since the Steering Group meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> April on the implementation of European Programmes 2000 – 2006 and on developing European Programmes 2007 – 2013.
- ii). Reported that ERDF Convergence Programme 2007 – 2013 is expected to be approved by the European Commission early next month. ESF Programme scheduled for approval by the European Commission in September.

- iii). Report prepared by the Welsh European Funding Office circulated to members and reported by Dylan Griffiths. The report provides an update on the situation regarding a number of projects in Gwynedd.
- iv). Noted that WEFO are continuing to work with Cymad projects to resolve issues. Concerns raised regarding the impact this was having on some of the communities in which the projects are based and it is hoped that the situation will be resolved soon.
- v). Noted that the Rural Life Centre, Bala project is having problems with recruiting 4 posts and has re-advertised posts four 4 times. Agreed to publish details of the posts on the Llwyddo'n Lleol website to raise awareness of the posts and opportunities in the area.

*Comment gathering process on Convergence Programme Strategic Frameworks*

*Discussion:*

- vi). Dylan Griffiths presented the report. The report outlined a three step system of raising awareness and capturing comments from Gwynedd during the consultation process of the Convergence Programme Strategic Frameworks

*Conclusions:*

- vii). System of gathering comments on Convergence Programme Strategic Frameworks **agreed and adopted.**

*Tasks:*

- I). **Publish details of job opportunities available the Rural Life Centre, Bala on the Llwyddo'n Lleol website**  
**Nia Swann** **asap**

11 Developing the outdoor activity sector in Gwynedd

*Discussion:*

- i). Keith Robertson was welcomed. Presentation received on development of the outdoor sector in North West Wales, the value of the sector to the local economy, examples of good practice in Europe and America, and the opportunities for Gwynedd.
- ii). Verbal report by Dafydd Iwan on coastal development in Brittany. Reported that the area has experienced population growth and an increase in GDP in a short time based around developing the maritime sector. Purpose built centres in coastal areas provide structured education to children, recreational opportunities and a social and economic focus within these communities, safeguarding the population by stemming the flow of young people from the area and protecting the language. Full report on the visit and conclusions to be presented to PEG in near future.
- iii). Reported that discussions on developing the outdoor activity sector are currently underway with partners in the sub-region, looking at the opportunities and in identifying priorities for development.
- iv). Importance noted of making young people aware of the opportunities and the need for role models within the sector; capitalising on Gwynedd's Unique

Selling Points – language and culture; and on opening up access to countryside and coastal areas.

*Conclusions:*

- v). Steering Group members **agreed** to receive a report on schemes identified to support the development of the outdoor activity sector in Gwynedd.
- vi). Steering Group members **agreed** to receive a full report for discussion on the outcomes of the fact finding visit to Brittany

*Tasks:*

- m). **Circulate report on schemes identified to support the development of the outdoor activity sector in Gwynedd to Steering Group members**

**Secretariat**

**asap**

- n). **Circulate report on outcomes of the fact finding visit to Brittany to Steering Group members**

**Secretariat**

**asap**

## 12 Any other business

- i). Date of next Steering Group meeting – dependant on the publication of Strategic Frameworks and the opening of the ERDF Convergence Programme – Steering Group members to be advised at the earliest opportunity.
- ii). Update on developments on the Conwy Valley Railway – reported by Tad Deiniol
  - Amend ‘misleading’ in minutes recorded Item 3iv) 20<sup>th</sup> April minutes, reference was made to the delay in infrastructure development in Bangor / Holyhead of the North West Wales Railway and the question was raised at the Welsh Assembly Government committee meeting. Complaint against Andrew Davies AM will be considered by Brian Gibbons AM noted. Sale of sidings at Blaenau Ffestiniog noted – Tad Deiniol to forward information to Gwynedd Council.

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

- a) **Inform Menna Jones of the Steering Group decision regarding her selection as Vice Chair of PEG.**

Secretariat

asap

- b) **Report on outputs of Llywddo’n Lleol programme**

Nia Swann

Quarterly

- c) **Report on the Llywddo’n Lleol Work Programme**

Nia Swann

asap

- d) **Report on possible future means of supporting businesses financially**

- Sioned Williams /Colin Morris September 2007 meeting
- e) **Report on the breakdown sectors that has received support from the tourism grants**
- Colin Morris September 2007 meeting
- f) **Write to PEG Steering Group Business Sector representatives requesting nominations to the Business Sub-Group**
- Secretariat asap
- g) **Report on the Regional Selective Assistance Programme**
- Colin Morris asap
- h). **Report updating members on developments of the Meirion / Dwyfor vocational skills centre pilot business plan**
- Sian Lloyd Roberts September 2007 meeting
- i). **Confirm the Gwynedd Economic Partnership's support to the Head of Economic and Regeneration Services as liason person to the Children and Young People Strategic Partnership.**
- Secretariat asap
- j). **Nomination of PEG Steering Group member as alternative to Godfrey Northam on the Health, Social Care and Well Being Strategic Partnership**
- Members asap
- k). **Forward PEG Steering Group comments to the Europe Direct Steering Group**
- Secretariat asap
- l). **Publish details of job opportunities available at the Rural Life Centre, Bala on the Llwyddo'n Lleol website**
- Nia Swann
- m). **Circulate report on schemes identified to support the development of the outdoor activity sector in Gwynedd to Steering Group members**
- Secretariat asap
- n). **Circulate report on outcomes of the fact finding visit to Brittany to Steering Group members**
- Secretariat asap
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