

Gwynedd Economic Partnership Steering Group

Date: 11 October 2007
Time 15:00 - 17:00
Location: Tudor Hall, Portmeirion, Penrhyndeudraeth

Present

Private Sector Representatives

Dewi Lewis	<i>Chair</i>	Siop Dewi
Gwynedd Watkin		FUW
Tim Knight		Trawsfynydd Decommissioning Site
Peter Clarke		Wales TUC
Geraint Wyn Parry		Cymdeithas Cyfieithwyr Cymru
Evie Wyn Jones	<i>(Alternative)</i>	Busnes Eryri Cyf.
John Alan Morris	<i>(Alternative)</i>	J. Morris Consultants

Voluntary Sector Representatives

Bethan Russell Owen		Mantell Gwynedd
Menna Jones	<i>Vice- Chair</i>	Antur Waunfawr
Catrin Lloyd Perry		Coleg Harlech WEA

Community Sector Representatives

Tad Deiniol		Yn Ein Blaenau
Godfrey Northam		Community Councils

Public Sector Representatives

Eiddwen Borland		Job Centre Plus
David Joyner		Bangor University

Advisors

Ann Rubij		Visit Wales
		Welsh Assembly Government

Secretariat Officers (Gwynedd Council)

Sioned Williams		Head of Economic and Regeneration Services
Dylan Griffiths		Strategic Planning and Funding Manager
Vivienne Pritchard		European Officer
Catrin Thomas		Community Regeneration Manager

SECTION ONE: BUSINESS MATTERS

01. Apologies

Noted that apologies had been received from: Rhys Davies (Camre Cymru), Wendy Crisp (Yr Hwylfan), Dafydd Iwan (Gwynedd Council), Dyfed Edwards (Gwynedd Council), Colin Morris (Gwynedd Council), Jan Jones (Welsh Assembly Government), Ruth Bacigalupo (Welsh Assembly Government), Trefor Jones (Welsh Assembly Government), Emyr Williams (Snowdonia National Park), Alison Williams (Theatr y Ddraig), Dafydd Iwan (Gwynedd Council), Alex Badley (Gwynedd Cynladwy), Merfyn Williams (Llanfrothen Community Council), Sian Pennant Jones (Gwynedd Council), Sian Lloyd Roberts (Gwynedd Council), Nia Swann (Gwynedd Council) and Karl James (Welsh European Funding Office).

02. Declaration of personal interest

None

03. Minutes of the last meeting 20 July 2007

Amend and Confirm

Any matter not appearing on the programme

Discussion:

- i. Noted that Godfrey Northam agreed to attend meetings of the Health, Social Care and Well Being Strategic Partnership on behalf on the Partnership on the understanding that he may not be able to attend all of the meetings due to other commitments.
- ii. Noted that the Business Sub-group are waiting for more detailed information on future grant and loan provision in Gwynedd before submitting a report to the Partnership.
- iii. Noted that the Welsh Assembly Government has extended the closing date for detailed Business Plans targeting funding from Rural Development Plan for Wales to the 30 November 2007.
- iv. Noted that the secretariat have been in contact with the Deputy First Minister's Office and will be preparing a full briefing on matters passed by the Steering Groups over the following weeks.
- v. Noted that the re-drafting of the North West Wales Spatial Development Strategy is ongoing and hopefully the work will be completed by the end of October. Concerns raised by Bethan Russell Owen that the concerns of Voluntary Sector have not been noted during the consultation process and particular reference was made to the disparity in linking the social economy to the research work. Dylan Griffiths reported that the drafting team are looking at this particular issue in its elementary form.
- vi. *Conclusions:*
- vii. Minutes **agreed** as a true record.

Tasks:

None recorded.

04. Partnership's Sub-Groups

Discussion:

- i. Noted that the Sub-Group co-ordinators were unable to attend the meeting due to other commitments.

Discussion: Llwyddo'n Lleol

- ii. Report on the outputs against the targets for the first quarter and the success of the project to date noted. 2nd quarter outputs are currently being collated and will be reported at the next meeting.
- iii. Noted that the road shows are currently taking place and this will impact considerably on increasing the targets particularly in respect of engaging individuals. Members interested in attending the road shows to contact Nia Swann.
- iv. Noted that the sub-group are considering ways of extending activity under the Wales Rural Development Plan and discussions are currently underway with Anglesey, Conwy and Denbighshire local authorities with the aim extending the project and targeting funding from the Convergence Programme.

Discussion: Rural Development

- v. Noted that the group has met on two occasions since the last Steering Group meeting and a series of meetings have been arranged to the end of November.

Discussion: Business Support

- vi. Noted that the group met on the 17 September to discuss feedback from the Gwynedd Business Week and the Business Awards and the information to hand on financial provision to businesses over the period of the Objective 1 programme.
- vii. Noted that the group is still collating information on future grant and loan provision for Gwynedd and have identified gaps with regard to the Assembly Investment Fund and are seeking further information to gain a clearer picture before finalising a report for PEG. It is anticipated that the report will be completed for the next Steering Group meeting.
- viii. Noted that 840 applications by 655 businesses have been supported through the Gwynedd Business Development Package with grants totalling £1.28m released to businesses in the County meeting the targets / outputs of the scheme. Limited additional Funding of £X from WEFO secured to provide further support to businesses in Gwynedd – Steering Group members asked to pass on this message through their networks.

- ix. Issue noted regarding low take-up figures in Gwynedd relating to business advice and support provision in comparison with other areas in Wales. Sub-group have requested further information to assist them in assessing the situation and will update PEG on developments.
- x. Noted request for update on development at Parc Bryn Cegin, Bangor from the Welsh Assembly Government.
- xi. Noted concerns raised regarding the lack of business and industrial site spaces in Gwynedd and the resulting loss of investment into the County. Agreed to write to Deputy First Minister to highlight the situation and request investment for industrial and business sites in all areas of Gwynedd by the Welsh Assembly Government.

Discussion: Skills

- xii. Noted that the Skills Group is considering 3 main options outlined in the completed Business Plan for the South Gwynedd Vocational Skills Centre in consultation with stakeholders. Noted that a meeting will be taking place within the next fortnight with Richard Evans, Welsh Assembly Government looking at the sites. Frustrations within the process noted with reference made to the WEB report on vocational skills and vocational skills education which will not be reported until October 2008 and not being able to submit an application to the Convergence Programme until after this date.
- xiii. Noted that the Anglesey and Gwynedd 14-19 Network's are meeting jointly and the work is ongoing.
- xiv. Noted ongoing work of linking the economy with education, skills and training provision and in structuring the future agenda.

Conclusions:

- xv. Agreed to accept report on outputs 2nd quarter Llwyddo'n Lleol at next Steering Group meeting.
- xvi. Agreed to accept report on conclusions of Business Sub-group on support to businesses.
- xvii. Agreed on update from Business Sub-group on conclusions relating to low take-up figures in Gwynedd on business and advice provision.
- xviii. Agreed to write to DEIN / WAG requesting update on developments at Parc Bryn Cegin, Bangor
- xix. Agreed to write to the Deputy First Minister regarding the business and industrial sites situation in Gwynedd.

Tasks:

- a. **Report on the 2nd quarter outputs Llwyddo'n Lleol**

Nia Swann

November 2007

- b. Report on the conclusions of Business Sub-group on support to businesses**
Colin Morris **ASAP**
- c. Report on conclusions of Business Sub-group on low take-up figure in Gwynedd for business support and advice provision**
Colin Morris **ASAP**
- d. Write to DEIN / WAG requesting update on developments at Parc Bryn Cegin, Bangor**
Secretariat **ASAP**
- e. Write to Deputy First Minister regarding the business and industrial sites situation in Gwynedd**
Secretariat **ASAP**

SECTION TWO: STRATEGIC MATTERS

05 European Programmes Update

Discussion:

- i. Noted that WEFO officers were not present to report at the meeting as they were attending a training session on the new programmes .
- ii. Content of report presented to the Steering Group noted.
- iii. Concerns of the North West Wales Interreg Co-ordinators Group raised and noted regarding the loss of the local Development Officer post to a new role within WEFO and the role not being part of the SETs function.
- iv. Concerns noted regarding submission of project ideas and delay in these appearing on the WEFO website, the lack of clarity as to the process once they are submitted particularly in respect of any collaborative work that is expected to take place.
- v. Noted idea raised of developing an ideas bank in Gwynedd to aid collaboration on a local level. Noted that any funding coming into Gwynedd via Technical Assistance from the Convergence Programme would not include the promotion of the programme locally and the Secretariat would look into the possibility of developing an ideas bank.
- vi. Noted request to circulate membership of the PMC at the next meeting

Conclusion:

- vii. Concerns of The North West Wales Interreg Co-ordinators Group noted and supported.
- viii. Secretariat agreed to look into the possibility of developing an ideas bank for projects in Gwynedd.

Tasks:

f. Look into developing an ideas bank

Secretariat

ASAP

g. Circulate membership of the PMC to Steering Group

Secretariat

November 2007

06. Wales Rural Development Plan 2007 to 2013 – presentation on the proposals and discussion

- i. Presentation by Dylan Griffiths received on Gwynedd's proposals and preparational work undertaken to date under the Wales Rural Development Plan.
- ii. Noted that the closing date for Business Plans has been extended to 30th November 2007. Members reminded of the background and the work being undertaken by the Rural Development Sub-group.
- iii. Noted that the Rural Development Sub-group met twice in September, and will meet again in October and November, working on behalf of the Partnership in preparing a detailed Business Plan to include individual project applications for identified activities to target available funding for the 2007 – 2010 period.
- iv. Noted the following identified activities presented for consideration and comment from the Steering Group:

Axis 3 proposals

- **Creating an enterprising culture (Llwyddo'n Lleol)**

- developing confidence through sessions and activities targeted to specific groups.
- facilitating the process of recognising opportunities to venture within rural communities and stimulating ideas for enterprise by individuals / groups to respond.
- providing small scale support (bursary) to trial ideas for enterprise / tasting and experiencing (thus preparing individuals and groups to take advantage of the support available by means of the enabling fund).

- **Rural Enterprise Enabling Fund (up to £1000)**

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

- individuals / companies (new businesses or new ventures by existing businesses)
- groups within the communities (existing community groups or informal groups of interest).
- **Provision of practical support to venture in fields which relate to themes within Local Development Strategy. Provision of finance linked to commitment to receive further assistance such as training.**
- **Gwynedd Product Project:**
 - Ensuring the greatest value from Gwynedd's unique characteristics and maximising the economic advantage to the county's residents.
 - 'Physical' product: assisting Gwynedd producers (food, crafts, arts, manufacturers etc) within fields relating to the Local Strategy themes to increase the value of their output.
 - Local Supply Chains: promoting and increasing effectiveness of local supply chains by making the connections between producers, suppliers and retailers, restaurants hotels etc.
 - Visitor information points – developing rural post offices / retail outlets / community centres to be local tourist information points (places to stay, local circular walks, local heritage etc)
 - Developing economic advantages that derive from Gwynedd's unique qualities (nature, landscape, heritage, culture, history, language etc) by developing the local 'product / offer'.

Axis 4 proposals

- **Promoting change in the rural economy through innovation:**
 - transforming the rural economy by facilitating change in traditional industries and promoting the creation of economic advantage through new activities.
 - Facilitating individuals and clusters of individuals to trail new innovative opportunities by setting up a fund to reduce risk associated with venturing into new fields along with a suitable structure to spur individuals and support and assist them to succeed.
 - Targeting: local produce, environmental enterprises and renewable energy
- v. Noted comments made regarding including workplace experience opportunities and ways of incorporating the skills of older people into the identified activity proposals and the development strategy.

Conclusion:

- vi. The proposed activities were **agreed**

- vii. **Agreed** to forward Steering Group comments to the Rural Development Sub-group

Tasks:

- h. **Forward comments to the Rural Development Sub-group**

Secretariat

ASAP

07. Date and location of the next Steering Group meeting

- i. **23rd November 2007 agreed** as date of next Steering Group meeting to consider and approve Gwynedd's detailed Business Plan and individual project applications targeting funding from the Rural Development Plan for Wales in readiness for submission by the 30th November 2007.
- ii. **11th January 2008 agreed** as date of Steering Group meeting.

08. Any Other Business

Discussion:

- i. Copies of the Gwynedd Health, Social Care and Well-being Strategy 2008 – 2011 Consultation Document circulated to Steering Group members and members informed that there will be a short presentation at the next meeting.

Conclusion:

- ii. Steering Group Members agreed to receive a presentation from the Gwynedd Health, Social Care and Well-being Strategy Co-ordinator.

Tasks:

- i. **Invite Gwynedd's Health, Social Care and Well-being Strategy Co-ordinator to the next Steering Group meeting.**

Secretariat

ASAP

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

- a. **Report on the 2nd quarter outputs Llwyddo'n Lleol**
Nia Swann November 2007

- b. **Report on the conclusions of Business Sub-group on support to businesses**
Colin Morris ASAP

- c. **Report on conclusions of Business Sub-group on low take-up figure in Gwynedd for business support and advice provision**
Colin Morris ASAP

- d. **Write to DEIN / WAG requesting update on developments at Parc Bryn Cegin, Bangor**
Secretariat ASAP

- e. **Write to Deputy First Minister regarding the business and industrial sites situation in Gwynedd**
Secretariat ASAP

- f. **Look into developing an ideas bank**
Secretariat ASAP

- g. **Circulate membership of the PMC to Steering Group**
Secretariat November 2007

- h. **Forward comments to the Rural Development Sub-group**
Secretariat ASAP

- i. **Invite Gwynedd's Health, Social Care and Well-being Strategy Co-ordinator to the next Steering Group meeting.**
Secretariat ASAP