

Y Gorllewin
a'r Cymoedd
Amcan 1
Crynodeb



West Wales
and the Valleys
Objective 1
Summary
Document

Dogfen Raglennu Sengl
ar gyfer y Cyfnod: 2000-2006

Single Programming
Document
for the Period: 2000-2006

Cynnwys

Cyflwyniad

Y Sefyllfa Sydd Ohoni yn y Gorllewin a'r Cymoedd

Ein Gweledigaeth ar gyfer y Gorllewin a'r Cymoedd

Hybu Datblygiad Busnes a Menter

Datblygu Amgylchedd Gystadleuol

I gefnogi Adfywiad Cymunedol

Hybu Cyflogadwyedd a Chymdeithas sy'n Dysgu

Cefnogi Datblygiad Gwledig a Defnydd Cynaliadwy o Adnoddau Naturiol

Rheoli rhaglen Amcan 1

Contents

Introduction

The Current Situation in West Wales and the Valleys

Our Vision for West Wales and the Valleys

Promoting Business Development and Enterprise

Developing a Competitive Environment

To support Community Regeneration

To Promote Employability and a Learning Society

To support Rural Development and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources

Managing the Objective 1 programme

Cyflwyniad

Ym mis Mawrth eleni daeth cadarnhad bod y Gorllewin a'r Cymoedd wedi eu derbyn ar gyfer statws Amcan 1, y lefel uchaf o gymorth rhanbarthol gan yr Undeb Ewropeaidd. Mae'r ddogfen hon yn grynoded o'r Ddogfen Raglennu Sengl (DRS) sy'n gosod fframwaith ynglyn gwario arian Amcan 1.

Lluniwyd y DRS gan y partneriaethau rhanbarthol ar gyfer Gorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd ac Ysgrifenyddiaeth y Tasglu Ewropeaidd. Nid yw'n nodi pa raglenni yn union fydd yn cael eu hariannu. Yn hytrach mae'n nodi pa fath o raglen a gweithgaredd a ddylai gael eu hariannu. Mae hyn yn galluogi cwmnau preifat, cyrff y sector gwirfoddol, awdurdodau lleol ac eraill i roi gerbron eu syniadau a'u prosiectau eu hunain sy'n cwrdd ag anghenion y DRS.

Mae'r DRS yn amlinellu pum prif faes ar gyfer gwariant. Hoffem wybod a ydych yn meddwl mai dyma'r rhai mwyaf pwysig ar gyfer gwella economi'r Gorllewin a'r Cymoedd. Byddem hefyd yn croesawu'ch barn ar sut mae rhannu adnoddau rhwng y pum maes yma.

Gellir cael copau llawn o'r DRS gan:

Stuart MacKinnon neu e-bost:

stuart.mackinnon@wales.gov.uk

Adran Materion Ewropeaidd

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru

Parc Cathays

Caerdydd CF10 3NQ

Anfonwch unrhyw sylwadau sydd gennych i'r un cyfeiriad erbyn 13 Medi.

Y Sefyllfa Sydd Ohoni yn y Gorllewin a'r Cymoedd

Mae'r Gorllewin a'r Cymoedd yn rhanbarth mawr ac amrywiol iawn sy'n cynnwys ardaloedd y cymoedd a'u poblogaethau uchel, dinas Abertawe ac ardaloedd gwledig mor wahanol Sir Ddinbych a Cheredigion. At ei gilydd mae'n cynnwys bron i 2 filiwn o bobl, dwy ran o dair o boblogaeth Cymru. Er gwaetha'r amrywiaeth mawr yma mae yna nifer o broblemau sy'n gyffredin i lawer o'r rhanbarth.

Mae'n ardal sydd wedi mynd yn dlotach o'i chymharu rhannau eraill o Gymru, gweddill y DU a'r cyfartaledd Ewropeaidd. Mewn rhai mannau mae diweithdra'n uchel ac mae diweithdra tymor hir wedi arwain at amddifadedd enbyd mewn nifer o gymunedau.

Bu dirywiad mawr yn y diwydiannau traddodiadol o buro olew i amddiffyn, mwyngloddio ac amaethyddiaeth.

Cymharol ychydig o gwmnau mawr a chanolig sydd yn y rhanbarth. Mae'r rhannau mwy gorllewinol o'r rhanbarth hefyd wedi methu denu cynlluniau gyda buddsoddiad mawr o'r tu allan. Mae cwmnau cynhenid y rhanbarth yn aml yn cynhyrchu nwyddau a gwasanaethau isel eu gwerth ac nid oes digon yn allforio nwyddau o'r ardal. Mae yna, fodd bynnag, graidd o gwmnau o faint canolig sy'n fodern ac yn edrych i'r dyfodol gydag addewidion o dwf pendant ac mae'r rhain yn enghreifftiau amlwg o bosibiliadau'r ardal.

Mae rhannau o'r rhanbarth yn anghysbell heb fawr o gysylltiadau cludiant da naill ai i rannau eraill o'r DU neu Ewrop neu oddi mewn i'r rhanbarth.

Mae rhagolygon gwael wedi peri i nifer o bobl ag addysg a chymwysterau da adael y rhanbarth. Er bod rhai o'r ysgolion, colegau a phrifysgolion yn cael canlyniadau da nid oes yna ddigon o gyfloedd i ddarbwyllo pobl i aros. Mewn ardaloedd eraill mae'r canlyniadau addysgol yn wael ac felly mae nifer o bobl ifainc heb y sgiliau i wneud gwaith crefftus sy'n cynnig

cyflog da.

Mae gwedd cymdeithasol yr ardal wedi dioddef yn dilyn blynyddoedd hir o ddirywiad economaidd. Er hynny mae'n dal i fod yn gryf mewn nifer o fannau. Mae'r nifer o bobl sy'n cymryd rhan mewn gweithgareddau gwirfoddol a chymunedol yn uchel o'i gymharu 'r cyfartaledd drwy Brydain ac mae gan yr ardal hunaniaeth ddiwylliannol gref gyda'r iaith Gymraeg yn amlwg, yn enwedig yn y mannau mwyaf gorllewinol.

Nodweddir yr ardal hefyd gan ei hamrywiaeth amgylcheddol unigryw. Mae'n cynnwys 3 Pharc Cenedlaethol a nifer o ardaloedd o harddwch naturiol eithriadol sy'n cynnig cyfle economaidd ac sydd yn adnodd i'w warchod ar yr un pryd. Mae hefyd yn cynnwys nifer o ardaloedd sydd wedi dioddef o sgil-ffeithiau'r diwydiant glo a diwydiannau eraill sydd angen cael eu hadennill er mwyn iechyd economaidd a chymdeithasol y cymunedau yr effeithiwyd arnynt.

Rhaid i unrhyw raglen a amcanwyd i adfywio'r Gorllewin a'r Cymoedd gydnabod bod y byd o'n cwmpas yn newid yn gyflym. Mae datblygiad economi byd - eang a thechnoleg sy'n newid yn sydyn yn golygu bod yn rhaid i fusnesau a'r rhanbarthau gystadlu drwy wneud y mwyaf o'u galluoedd unigryw eu hunain. Bydd yn rhaid i lawer o hyn gael ei sylfeini ar ddatblygu mathau newydd o fusnesau a seiliwyd ar wybodaeth ac ar godi lefelau sgiliau drwyddi draw.

Ein Gweledigaeth ar gyfer y Gorllewin a'r Cymoedd

Symbylwyd y rhaglen hon gan weledigaeth glir ar gyfer datblygiad y Gorllewin a'r Cymoedd yn y dyfodol fel rhanbarth Ewropeaidd egnol a hyderus sy'n edrych tuag at allan.

Wrth wraidd y weledigaeth y mae'r angen i roi datblygiad pobl y Gorllewin a'r Cymoedd yn gyntaf. Mae datblygu'r sgiliau a'r agweddau i alluogi'r rhanbarth i gystadlu fel economi flaengar ac i ddatblygu ysbryd o fenter ymhob sector o'r economi a'r gymdeithas yn ganolog i oresgyn y ddwy her o amddifadedd a bod ar yr ymylon sy'n nodweddu llawer o'r rhanbarth. Rhaid i'r rhaglenni yma wneud hynny mewn modd sy'n sensitif i'r amgylchedd ac i batrwm cymdeithasol yr ardal.

Gwireddir y weledigaeth hon drwy ddatblygu polisau a rhaglenni o dan 5 prif flaenoriaeth. Adlewyrchir yr egwyddorion yn y rhaglenni yma yn y Strategaeth Datblygu Economaidd Genedlaethol sy'n dylanwadu ar yr holl wariant datblygu economaidd o ffynonellau o'r DU a'r Undeb Ewropeaidd yng Nghymru.

Mae'r blaenoriaethau fel a ganlyn:

Yr angen i ddatblygu economi o ansawdd uchel, sy'n creu swyddi, sy'n arloesol ac sy'n cael ei gyrru gan wybodaeth; Rhaid i economi'r ardal fedru cystadlu o ran ansawdd, gan fanteisio ar bosibiliadau technolegau newydd i ddatblygu diwydiannau newydd a gwneud y rhai presennol yn fwy cystadleuol. Rhaid canolbwyntio'n bendant ar ddatblygu mentrau newydd a rhoi cefnogaeth i sectorau twf arbennig.

gweithlu crefftus, mentrus sy'n barod i addasu; Mae llwyddiant y rhaglen yn dibynnu'n fwy na dim ar allu pobl yr ardal i ddatblygu'r sgiliau a'r agweddau sydd eu hangen i reoli ac i elwa ar y gwelliannau yn sgil y broses o newid economiadd. Yn draddodiadol mae pob rhan o'r ardal wedi rhoi bri mawr ar lwyddiant addysgol; rhaid i'r rhaglen ddefnyddio ac ail-ddeffro'r traddodiad hwnnw i helpu i ddatblygu sgiliau, hyder ac uchelgais, yn arbennig ymysg pobl ifainc.

cymunedau byw, dyfeisgar ac anturus; Mae'r cymunedau gwledig a threfol yn y Gorllewin a'r Cymoedd wedi dioddef amryw o broblemau fel canlyniad i amddifadedd economaidd. Bydd yn rhaid i elfen allweddol o'r rhaglen olygu rhoi grym i gymunedau i arwain eu datblygiad lleol eu hunain ac i adeiladu partneriaethau gyda chyrff eraill ar eu telerau eu hunain i adfywio'u broydd.

cymdeithas deg a chyfrifol sydd 'i nod o roi cyfle cyfartal o ran mynediad i addysg, hyfforddiant a swyddi i'w holl aelodau; Yn draddodiadol gwelwyd yr ardal fel un yr oedd ei diwylliant yn golygu rhoi cefnogaeth y naill i'r llall a pharchu'r cyfle i ddysgu. Rhaid i'r rhaglen hybu cyfle cyfartal i addysg, hyfforddiant a chyflogaeth i bawb. Lle bo angen, bydd mesurau penodol yn cael eu cymryd i gynorthwyo pobl gydag anabledd, merched a lleiafrifoedd ethnig i gael defnyddio'r gwasanaethau yn l eu hanghenion arbennig.

dod ffyniant i bob rhan o'r Gorllewin'r a'r Cymoedd; Mae'n hollbwysig bod manteision y rhaglen yn cael eu taenu'n deg ar draws yr ardal. Bu bod ar yr ymyl yn ffactor amlwg mewn dirywiad economaidd ers yn rhy hir. Bydd datblygiad

economaidd a hyfywedd parhaol llawer o'r Gymru wledig angen cefnogaeth ar gyfer arallgyfeirio a moderneiddio diwydiannau traddodiadol y tir, yn enwedig ffermio.

Yn sail i'n gweledigaeth mae pedair thema sydd i'w gweld ar draws y rhaglen;

Cynaliadwyedd - sy'n gofyn am integreiddio graddol materion economaidd, cymdeithasol ac amgylcheddol mewn ymgais i gael datblygiad sy'n economaidd effeithiol, yn gymdeithasol dderbyniol a chyfrifol ac yn amgylcheddol iach.

Cyfleodd Cyfartal - mae hybu cyfle cyfartal yn gofyn am wneud i ffwrdd 'r rhwystrau sy'n cyfyngu ar allu'r unigolyn i gymryd rhan yn y bywyd economaidd. Rhaid i'r agwedd hon fynd i'r afael 'r rhwystrau sy'n seiliedig ar ryw, cenedl, anabledd, iaith a diwylliant.

Cynhwysiant Cymdeithasol - rydym eisiau darparu cyfleodd i bawb gael cymryd rhan lawn mewn gweithgaredd economaidd. Mae unigolion a chymunedau arbennig yn wynebu cyfres o broblemau a achoswyd fel rheol, yn uniongyrchol neu'n anuniongyrchol gan amddifadedd economaidd. Rhaid i bob rhaglen gwrdd ag anghenion y rhai sy'n wynebu gwaharddiad cymdeithasol.

Cymdeithas Wybodaeth - Mae manteisio ar y cyfleodd a roddir gan y Gymdeithas Wybodaeth yn hollbwysig i lewyrch yr ardal yn y dyfodol. Mae gan Dechnoleg Gwybodaeth a Chyfathrebu y potensial i ddileu'r costau a gysylltir fel arfer phellter, lleihau effeithiau bod ar yr ymylon a chyflwyno cyfleodd newydd pwysig ar gyfer datblygu economaidd a gwneud y gweithlu yn fwy crefftus ac yn fwy cyflogadwy. Mae gwireddu'r potensial hwn yn hanfodol os yw'r ardal i gael unrhyw obaith o leihau'r bwlch gydag economau ardaloedd craidd Ewrop.

Datblygwyd y rhaglen hon drwy broses bartneriaeth eang sydd wedi dibynnu nid yn unig ar sgiliau ac arbenigedd partneriaid ar draws y rhanbarth ond hefyd eu gobeithion a'u breuddwydion am ei llwyddiant. Mae'r partneriaethau yma wedi cynnwys y sector preifat, pob rhan o'r sector cyhoeddus, y sector gwirfoddol a grwpiau cymunedol. Ni ffurfiwyd y partneriaethau yma ar gyfer datblygu'r rhaglen yn unig ond byddant yn parhau ac yn datblygu drwy ei gweithredu a thu hwnt i hynny.

I gwrdd 'r weledigaeth hon rydym wedi dynodi pum amcan allweddol:

- Hybu Datblygu Busnes a Menter;
- Datblygu Amgylchedd Cystadleuol;
- Cefnogi Adfywiad Cymunedol;
- Hybu Cyflogadwyedd a Chymdeithas sy'n Dysgu;
- Cefnogi Datblygiad Gwledig a Defnydd Cynaliadwy o Adnoddau Naturiol

I gwrdd phob un o'r amcanion yma rydym wedi dynodi ystod o weithgareddau eang a fydd yn medru mwyhau effaith y Cronfeydd Strwythurol.

Hybu Datblygiad Busnes a Menter:

Mae'r Amcan hwn yn ceisio darparu rhaglenni cefnogaeth penodol o fewn yr ardal sy'n galluogi busnesau, rhai cynhenid a buddsoddwyr mewnol i ffynnu, i gynyddu gwerth nwyddau a gynhyrchir yn yr ardal a gwella eu gallu i gystadlu ar y llwyfan Ewropeaidd. Cyn belled ag y bo modd bydd hyn yn adeiladu ar arferion da presennol yn cynnwys y rhwydwaith Cyswllt Busnes.

Gweithgareddau allweddol ar gyfer cefnogaeth yw:

Cyllid ar gyfer sefydlu cwmnïau newydd a datblygu busnesau presennol. Bydd hyn yn cynnwys cronfeydd wedi eu targedu ar gyfer cwmnïau bychain a hybu cronfeydd cyfalaf menter i ostwng methiannau busnes a chynyddu'r cyllid sydd ar gael ar gyfer buddsoddi.

Cefnogaeth i Fentro. Mae'r gweithgareddau yma yn cynnwys cefnogaeth a hyfforddiant i'r rhai sy'n mentro o'r newydd a

chynlluniau yn y system addysg i annog pobl ifainc i gychwyn eu busnes eu hunain.

Cefnogaeth i Arloesi. Mae'r gweithgareddau yma yn cynnwys arian i gefnogi datblygu busnesau technoleg uchel ac i gefnogi ymchwil a chydweithrediad rhwng busnesau, colegau a phrifysgolion. Bydd y rhaglen yn adeiladu ar gynlluniau fel y Cynllun Technoleg Rhanbarthol ac yn ehangu arnynt ac yn ceisio cynyddu'r nifer o raddedigion mewn technoleg sy'n gweithio mewn busnesau yn yr ardal.

Gwella Sgiliau o fewn busnesau. Bydd arian ar gael i hybu sgiliau busnes a rheoli mewn busnes, hyrwyddo hyfforddi a datblygu sgiliau mewn cwmnau bychain a galluogi gweithwyr i ennill sgiliau lefel uwch a fydd o gymorth i godi cynhyrchiant. Bydd datblygu sgiliau a fydd o gymorth i gwmnïau fanteisio ar gyfleoedd allforio yn cael blaenoriaeth uchel.

Datblygu'r Economi Gymdeithasol. Rhoddir cefnogaeth i sefydliadau yn yr economi gymdeithasol a fydd yn medru darparu gwasanaethau a chyfleoedd gwaith i gymunedau ar y cyrion. Bydd hyn yn eu galluogi i weithio'n fwy effeithiol ac i ymestyn i ystod ehangach o sectorau.

Cefnogaeth i'r Gymdeithas Wybodaeth. Mae'r elfen hon yn y rhaglen yn golygu hybu defnydd technolegau newydd mewn busnesau, darparu'r hyfforddiant angenrheidiol, datblygu gwell dealltwriaeth o sut y mae TGC yn gwneud rhywun yn fwy cystadleuol a chefnogaeth i fusnseu sy'n dymuno elwa ar fanteision TGC.

Cefnogaeth i Sectorau sy'n Tyfu. Bydd y rhanbarth yn tyfu os yw busnesau cynaliadwy o safon uchel yn datblygu ar draws yr ardal. Rhoddir cefnogaeth i sectorau a brofwyd bod ganddynt botensial am dwf uchel drwy wasanaethau cefnogol wedi'u targedu, cysylltiadau penodol chyrrff addysgol a chefnogaeth ar gyfer datblygu canolfannau arbenigedd.

Datblygu Amgylchedd Gystadleuol:

Mae'r Gorllewin a'r Cymoedd wedi dioddef ers tro o unigrwydd a gwasanaethau gwael fel canlyniad i'w safle ddaearyddol. Bydd yn bwysig datblygu rhwydwaith fewnol y rhanbarth i ganiatau gwell mynediad i farchnadoedd a swyddi ac i alluogi'r rhanbarth i ddatblygu fel uned economaidd gydlynol.

Dyma'r mathau o gefnogaeth a fydd yn allweddol:

Rhwydwaith Cludiant Mewnol; bydd hyn yn golygu datblygu gwell mynediad drwy reilffordd a ffordd i briffyrdd fel yr M4 a'r A55 yn ogystal chysylltiadau rhyng-ranbarthol. Rhaid i ni hefyd gefnogi cynlluniau sy'n ceisio integreiddio effeithiau gwhanol fathau o drafnidiaeth. Rhaid dangos manteision economaidd clir ar gyfer prosiectau unigol.

Rhwydwaith Ynni Mewnol; rhoddir cefnogaeth i brosiectau ynni adnewyddadwy ar lefel leol, cynlluniau i wella effeithlonrwydd ynni a mesurau i wella cysylltiadau lleol 'r prif safleoedd cynhyrchu.

Rheolaeth Amgylcheddol; rhoddir cefnogaeth i fesurau i adennill tir diffaith, ailgylchu gwastraff a hybu defnyddio dwr yn effeithiol.

Rhwydwaith Telegyfathrebu Mewnol; Byddwn yn ceisio cefnogi prosiectau sy'n llenwi'r bylchau yn y rhwydweithiau telegyfathrebu presennol a gwella mynediad i gyfleoedd TGC ym mhob rhan o'r rhanbarth. Bydd ardaloedd gwledig a arferai gael eu cau allan o'r lefel uchaf o dechnoleg yn cael blaenoriaeth.

Darparu Safleoedd; Bydd y rhaglen yn cefnogi darparu safleoedd ac adeiladau i fusnesau lleol a buddsoddwyr mewnol; bydd hyn yn cynnwys darparu'r rhwydwaith fewnol leol angenrheidiol a chefnogi adfywio trefi a phentrefi yn yr ardaloedd dirywiedig.

I gefnogi Adfywiad Cymunedol:

Mae nifer o gymunedau yn y Gorllewin a'r Cymoedd wedi cael eu difetha'n economaidd a chymdeithasol fel canlyniad i amddifadedd. Rhaid i raglenni wedi eu targedu helpu'r cymunedau tlotaf i ymateb i'w hanghenion eu hunain a datblygu prosiectau adfywiad.

Bydd cefnogaeth yn cael ei rhoi i:

Gyfranogaeth a Phartneriaeth Cymunedol; Bydd cyllid yn cefnogi hyfforddiant a chefnogaeth i fudiadau cymunedol, dadansoddiad o anghenion cymuned a gwella mynediad i wasanaethau i gymunedau ar yr yrrion.

Cynlluniau yn cael eu harwain o'r gymuned; rhoddir cefnogaeth i brosiectau datblygiad cymunedol a chyfleusterau a fydd yn gwella gwedd ac amgylchedd gorfforol a chymdeithasol cymunedau.

Mesurau i leihau Dieithrwech Cymdeithasol; rhoddir cefnogaeth i brosiectau sy'n cynyddu mynediad i ddysgu anffurfiol a darparu cyngor ac awgrymiadau i bobl nad oeddent yn derbyn gwasanaethau canolog. Bydd hybu bywyd iach i bobl ifainc hefyd yn cael cefnogaeth.

Hybu Cyflogadwyedd a Chymdeithas sy'n Dysgu:

Mae nifer y bobl sy'n gweithio yng Ngorllewin Cymru a'r Cymoedd yn llawer is nac yn nifer o ranbarthau eraill y DU. Mae hyn yn ganlyniad i lefelau uchel o ddiweithdra a lefelau hyd yn oed yn uwch o salwch tymor hir. Rhaid i'r rhaglen helpu pobl nad ydynt mewn gwaith i ddatblygu'r sgiliau a'r hyder i ddychwelyd i waith. Mae datblygu sgiliau allweddol a hybu dysgu trwy fywyd hefyd yn rhan bwysig o ddatblygu cyflogadwyedd a gweithlu mwy crefftus. Os yw'r rhanbarth hon i flodeuo rhaid i'r rheini sy'n gweithio barhau i ddatblygu eu sgiliau drwy gydol eu bywyd gwaith.

Bydd y rhaglen yn cefnogi gweithgareddau i;

Hwyluso Mynediad Merched i'r farchnad waith; rhoddir cyllid i ddarparu mwy o gyfleusterau gwarchod plant fforddiadwy ac i roi cyngor ac arweiniad i ferched o bob cefndir sy'n gobeithio dechrau neu ail-ddechrau gweithio neu sy'n ceisio symud i feysydd gwaith llai traddodiadol yn cynnwys swyddi mewn technoleg uchel.

Hybu Cyflogadwyedd; rhoddir cefnogaeth i brosiectau a fydd yn "llenwi'r bylchau" mewn rhaglenni O Les i Waith (e.e. i weithwyr hyn), darparu hyfforddiant ac arweiniad i bobl ddi-waith a thargedu pobl ifainc sydd mewn perygl o roi'r gorau i'w haddysg. Rhoddir sylw arbennig i fynd i'r afael i'r problemau sy'n wynebu pobl anabl sy'n chwilio am waith.

Ehangu Mynediad i Ddysg; bydd cyllid yn cefnogi cynlluniau i ddarparu mwy o ganolfannau dysgu hawdd mynd iddynt, sy'n hybu dysgu teuluol a datblygu sgiliau allweddol. Rhoddir blaenoriaeth i wneud y rhain yn fwy hyblyg. Rhoddir blaenoriaeth arbennig i helpu'r bobl hynny sy'n rhoi'r gorau i bob dim sy'n ymwneud dysgu wrth adael yr ysgol.

Datblygu Hyblygrwydd a Sgiliau Oes; Rhoddir cefnogaeth i gynorthwyo dysgwyr i ganfod swyddi sy'n addas i'w sgiliau, annog pobl i barhau i ddysgu trwy gydol eu bywyd gwaith, a darparu cyrsiau a chyfleusterau sy'n galluogi hyn i ddigwydd.

Cefnogi Datblygiad Gwledig a Defnydd Cynaliadwy o Adnoddau Naturiol

Mae tipyn go lew o'r rhanbarth yn wledig. Mae wedi dioddef o fod ar yr ymylon ac o'r argyfwng difrifol mewn amaethyddiaeth dros y blynyddoedd diwethaf. Mae Amcan 1 yn cynnig cyfle pwysig i ail-adeiladu ac arallgyfeirio'r economi wledig, tra'n defnyddio'i hamgylchedd naturiol arbennig mewn dull cynaliadwy.

Rhoddir cefnogaeth i weithgareddau a fydd yn

Rheoli Newid Amaethyddol; bydd cefnogaeth yn helpu ffermwyr i arallgyfeirio ac addasu eu busnesau, hybu cynlluniau penodol i ychwanegu gwerth i gynnyrch fferm mewn meysydd megis bwyd organig a chig coch a darparu cyngor busnes pwrpasol a chynlluniau hyfforddi i ffermwyr.

Cefnogi Coedwigaeth a Datblygu Coetiroedd; Rhoddir cefnogaeth i fusnes gan ddefnyddio coed neu hyrwyddo twristiaeth a chyfleoedd hamdden mewn coetiroedd. Bydd cyllid hefyd ar gael ar gyfer hyfforddiant perthnasol ac ymchwil a datblygiad.

Cryfhau Cymunedau Gwledig; Bydd cyllid ar gael ar gyfer cynlluniau sy'n hybu datblygiad economaidd cymunedol gan gynnwys cefnogaeth i fusnesau newydd, mentrau cymdeithasol a gwasanaethau lleol sydd o dan fygythiad. Rhoddir cefnogaeth hefyd i ddatblygu a hyfforddi sgiliau a chynlluniau trafnidiaeth lleol.

Hybu Rheolaeth Cefn Gwlad Gynaliadwy; Bydd cyllid ar gael i brosiectau sy'n hybu defnydd sensitif o amgylcheddau

arfordirol a chefn gwlad a hyrwyddo eu potensial ar gyfer twristiaid. Rhoddir cefnogaeth i ffermio bridiau cynhenid prin ac i wella ansawdd cynefinoedd dwr croyw. Bydd cyllid hefyd i hybu arferion amaethyddol sy'n sensitif i'r amgylchedd ac i annog dulliau cynladwy o ffermio pysgod.

Rheoli rhaglen Amcan 1

Yn y Gorllewin a'r Cymoedd mae gennym bellach ddeng mlynedd o brofiad o reoli rhaglenni'r Gronfa Strwythurol. Rhaid i ni gadw ac adeiladu ar yr arbenigedd hwn, ond gwneud newidiadau i gwrdd heriau newydd. Hyd yma, rhoddwyd cyllid i brosiectau unigol a oedd wedi gwneud cais am gefnogaeth mewn cystadlaethau rheolaidd. Mae i'r system hon rai manteision. Ond mae nifer o'r sefydliadau yr ymgynghorom ni nhw wedi cytuno bod angen i ni gymryd agwedd mwy strategol a chydlynol yn y dyfodol. Bydd hyn yn ein galluogi i dargedu gweithredu lle y mae ei angen fwyaf ac i weld yn gliriach ac yn gyflymach a ydi'r camau sy'n cael eu cymryd yn cael yr effaith ddisgwyliedig.

Yn y dyfodol, r ydym yn cynnig symud tuag at system wedi ei seilio ar becynnau o brosiectau sy'n cynnig agwedd gydlynol, integredig i angen penodol. Gallai'r pecynnau yma weithio ar lefel genedlaethol, ranbarthol neu leol.

Mae datblygu gweithdrefnau monitro a gwerthuso a llunio tablau ariannol yn dyrannu arian rhwng yr ardaloedd gwahol hefyd yn disgwyl cael eu cwblhau.

Byddem yn falch iawn gael eich barn ar ddyrannu cyllid ac ar gynigion ar gyfer gweithredu.

Introduction

In March this year it was confirmed that West Wales and the Valleys had qualified for Objective 1 status, the European Union's highest level of regional aid. This document is a summary of the Single Programming Document (SPD) which sets out a framework how the Objective 1 money will be spent.

The SPD has been written by the regional partnerships for West Wales and the Valleys and the European Task Force Secretariat. It does not say exactly what programmes will be funded. It instead says which types of programme and activity should be funded. This allows private companies, voluntary sector bodies, local authorities and others to come forward with ideas and projects of their own that meet the SPD's aims.

The SPD highlights five main areas for spending. We would like to know if you think these are the most important for improving the economy of West Wales and the Valleys. We would also like to hear your views on the distribution of resources between these five areas.

Full copies of the SPD are available from:

Stuart MacKinnon or e mail:
stuart.mackinnon@wales.gov.uk
European Affairs Division
National Assembly of Wales
Cathays Park
Cardiff CF10 3NQ

Please send any comments you have to the same address by 13 September

The Current Situation in West Wales and the Valleys

West Wales and the Valleys is a large and diverse region that covers densely populated valleys areas, the city of Swansea and rural areas as diverse as Denbighshire and Ceredigion. In all it includes almost 2 million people, two thirds of the population of Wales. Despite this diversity there are a number of problems common to much of the area.

It has been getting poorer relative to other parts of Wales, the rest of the UK and the European average. In some areas unemployment is high and long term unemployment has led to severe levels of deprivation in many communities.

Traditional industries ranging from oil refining to defence, mining and agriculture have faced severe decline.

There are relatively few large and medium sized firms in the area. The more westerly parts of the region have also largely failed to attract large inward investment projects. The region's indigenous firms often produce goods and services of low value and too few export goods from the region. There is however a core of modern outward looking medium sized firms in the area with strong growth prospects who offer clear examples of the region's potential.

Parts of the area are physically isolated with few good transport links either to other parts of the UK or Europe or within the region.

Poor prospects have led many well educated and qualified people to leave the region. Although some of its schools, colleges and universities produce good results opportunities are too few to persuade many people to stay. In other areas educational results are poor and do not equip many young people for skilled work that offers good wages.

The social fabric of the area has suffered from long years of economic decline. Nevertheless it remains strong in many areas.

The numbers of people engaged in voluntary and community activity are high compared to the UK average and the area has a clear, strong cultural identity, with a strong presence, especially in more westerly areas, of the Welsh language.

The region is also noted for its unique environmental mix. It contains 3 National Parks and many areas of outstanding national beauty which offer both an economic opportunity and a resource to be protected. It also contains many areas which have suffered from the side effects of mining and other industries which need to be reclaimed for the economic and social health of affected communities.

Any programme aimed at revitalising West Wales and Valleys must recognise that the world around us is changing fast. Globalisation of the economy and rapidly changing technology means that businesses and regions must compete by exploiting their own unique capabilities. Much of this will need to be based on developing new forms of knowledge based businesses and in raising skill levels across the board.

Our Vision for West Wales and the Valleys

This programme is driven by a clear vision for the future development of West Wales and the Valleys as an outward looking dynamic and confident European region.

At the heart of our vision lies the need to put development of the people of West Wales and the Valleys first. Developing the skills and attitudes to allow the region to compete as a modern advanced economy and to develop an entrepreneurial spirit in all sectors of the economy and society is critical to overcoming the twin challenges of deprivation and peripherality which characterise much of the region. These programmes must do so in a way which is sensitive to both the environmental and social fabric of the region.

This vision will be realised by developing policies and programmes under 5 main priorities. The principles in these programmes are reflected in the National Economic Development Strategy which informs all economic development spending from both UK and European Union sources in Wales.

These priorities are:

The need to develop a high quality, job-creating, innovative and knowledge-driven economy; The economy of the region must be able to compete on quality, exploiting the potential of new technologies to develop new industries and improve the competitiveness of existing ones. There must be a major focus on the development of new enterprises and support for particular growth sectors.

a skilled, enterprising and adaptable workforce; The programme's success depends above all on the ability of the people of the region to develop the skills and attitudes required to manage and reap the rewards from the processes of economic change. All parts of the region have traditionally placed a high premium on educational attainment; the programme needs to utilise and revive that tradition to help develop skills, confidence and ambition, especially among young people.

vibrant, resourceful and enterprising communities; Both rural and urban communities in West Wales and the Valleys have suffered a range of problems as a result of economic deprivation. A key element of the programme must involve empowering communities to lead their own local development and build alliances with other bodies on their terms to regenerate their areas.

an equitable and responsible society which aspires to fill equality of opportunity of access to education, training and jobs for all its members; The region has traditionally been seen as one whose culture valued both social solidarity and acquiring greater access to learning. The programme must promote equal access to education, training and employment to all. Where necessary specific measures will be taken to help people with disabilities, women and ethnic minorities to access services according to their particular needs.

spreading prosperity across all parts of West Wales and the Valleys; It is vital that the benefits of the programme are spread equitably across the region. Peripherality has been a major factor in economic decline for too long. The economic development and continued viability of much of rural Wales will require support for diversity and modernisation of traditional land based industries, especially farming.

Our vision is underpinned by four themes which cut across the programme;

Sustainability - which requires the progressive integration of economic, social and environmental issues in pursuit of development that is economically efficient, socially acceptable and responsible and environmentally sound.

Equal Opportunities - promoting equality of opportunity requires the breaking down of barriers which limit the ability of the individual to participate in economic life. This approach needs to tackle barriers based on gender, ethnicity, disability, language and culture.

Social Inclusion - we want to provide opportunities for all to participate fully in economic activity. Particular individuals and communities face a series of problems usually caused, directly or indirectly by economic deprivation. All programmes need to be geared to the needs of those facing social inclusion.

Information society - The exploitation of the opportunities afforded by the Information Society are vital to the region's future prosperity. ICT has the potential to eliminate the costs traditionally associated with distance, reducing the effects of peripherality and opening up important new opportunities for economic development and developing the skills and employability of the workforce. Realisation of this potential is essential if the area is to stand any chance of reducing the gap with the economies of the core regions of Europe.

This programme has been developed through an extensive partnership process that has drawn upon not only the skills and expertise of partners across the region but also their hopes and aspirations for its success. These partnerships have involved the private sector, all areas of the public sector, the voluntary sector and community groups. These partnerships are not just for developing the programme but will endure and develop throughout its implementation and beyond.

To meet this vision we have identified five key objectives:

- To promote Business Development and Enterprise;
- To develop A Competitive Environment;
- To support Community Regeneration;
- To Promote Employability and a Learning Society;
- To support Rural Development and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources

To meet each of these objectives we have identified a range of broad activities which can maximise the impact of the Structural Funds.

Promoting Business Development and Enterprise;

This Objective seeks to provide specific support programmes within the region which allows businesses, both indigenous and inward investors to flourish, to raise the value of goods produced in the region and increase its ability to compete on a European stage. As far as possible this will build on existing good practice including the Business Connect network.

Key activities for support are:

Finance for the establishment of new firms and development of existing businesses. This will include targeted funds for small firms and the promotion of venture capital funds to reduce business failure and increase finance available for investment.

Support for Entrepreneurship. These activities include support and training for new entrepreneurs and initiatives in the education system to encourage young people to start their own businesses.

Support for Innovation. These activities include funds to support the development of high technology businesses and to support research and co-operation between business, colleges and universities. The programme will build and expand upon initiatives such as the Regional Technology Plan and seek to increase the number of technology qualified graduates working

in businesses in the region.

Improving Skills levels within businesses. Funds will be available to promote business and managerial skills in business, promote training and skills development in small firms and to allow workers to gain higher level skills which will help raise productivity. The development of skills which help firms take advantage of export opportunities will be a top priority.

Developing the Social Economy: Support will be provided to organisations in the social economy which can provide services and work opportunities to marginalised communities. This will enable them to function more efficiently and spread into a wider range of sectors.

Support for the Information Society; This element of the programme involves promoting the use of new technologies among business, provision of the necessary training, developing a greater understanding of how ICT aids competitiveness and support for businesses wishing to exploit the benefits of ICT.

Support for Growing Sectors; The region will grow if high value, sustainable businesses develop across the area. Support will be given to sectors which are proven to have high growth potential through targeted support services, specific links with educational bodies and support for the development of centres of expertise.

Developing a Competitive Environment:

West Wales and the Valleys have long suffered from isolation and poor services due to their geographical position. It will be important to develop the infrastructure of the region to allow better access to markets and jobs and to allow the region to develop as a coherent economic unit.

Key activities for support are;

Transport Infrastructure; this will involve developing better access by rail and road to main routes such as the M4 and A55 as well as intra regional links. We must also support initiatives which seek to integrate the effects of different types of transport. Clear economic benefits must be demonstrated for individual projects.

Energy Infrastructure; support will be given to local level renewable energy projects, schemes improving energy efficiency and measures to improve local connections to main generation sites.

Environmental Management; Support will be given for measures to reclaim derelict land, recycling waste and promoting efficient use of water.

Telecoms Infrastructure; We shall seek to support projects which fill in gaps in the existing telecoms networks and improve access to ICT opportunities for all parts of the region. Rural areas previously excluded from the highest level technology will be a priority.

Provision of Sites; The programme will support the development of sites and premises for local businesses and inward investors; this will include provision of the necessary local infrastructure and support urban and village renewal in run-down areas.

To support Community Regeneration:

Many communities in West Wales and the Valleys have suffered economic and social blight as a result of deprivation. Targeted programmes must help the poorest communities respond to their own needs and develop regeneration projects.

Support will be provided for;

Community Participation and Partnership; Funding will support training and support for community organisations, community needs analysis and improve access to services for marginalised communities.

Community led Initiatives; support will be given to community development projects and facilities which improve the fabric and physical and social environment of communities.

Measures to reduce Social Exclusion; Support will be given to projects which increase access to informal learning and provide advice and counselling to people excluded from mainstream services. Promotion of healthy lifestyles for young people will also be supported.

To Promote Employability and a Learning Society;

The numbers of people working in West Wales and the Valleys are far lower than in many other regions in the UK. This is due to both high levels of unemployment and even higher levels of long term sickness. The programme must help people not in work to develop the skills and confidence to return to work. Developing key skills and promoting learning throughout life also form a major part of developing employability and a more skilled workforce. If the region is to prosper those at work must continue to develop their skills throughout their working lives.

The programme will support activities to;

Ease the Access of Women into the labour market; funds will be provided to provide increased and affordable childcare facilities and to provide advice and guidance for women from all backgrounds looking to enter or re-enter work or seeking to move into non-traditional areas of work including high technology related jobs.

Promote Employability; support will be given to projects which "fill in the gaps" in Welfare to Work programmes (e.g. for older workers), provide training and guidance for unemployed people and target young people at risk of dropping out of education. Special attention will be given to tackle the problems faced by disabled people looking for work.

Widening Access to Learning; funds will support initiatives to provide more easily accessible learning centres, which promote family learning and the development of key skills. Increased flexibility of delivery will be a priority. Particular priority will be given to helping those people who stop all involvement in learning when they leave school.

Developing Adaptability and Skills for Life; Support will be given to aid learners find jobs related to their skills, encourage people to continue learning throughout their working lives, and to provide courses and facilities which enable this to happen.

To support Rural Development and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources

Much of the region is rural. It has suffered both from peripherality and the severe crisis in agriculture over the last few years. Objective 1 offers an important opportunity to rebuild and diversify the rural economy, whilst utilising its outstanding natural environment in a sustainable way.

Support will be given to activities which

Manage Agricultural Change; support will help farmers to diversify and adapt their businesses, promote specific schemes to add value to farm produce in areas such as organics and red meat and provide tailored business advice and training schemes to farmers.

Support Forestry and Woodland Development; Support will be given to businesses using wood or promoting tourism and recreational opportunities in woodland. Funds will also be available for related training and research and development.

Strengthen Rural Communities; Funds will be available for initiatives promoting community economic development including support for new businesses, social enterprises and threatened local services. Support will also be given to skills development and training and local transport schemes.

Promote Sustainable Countryside Management; Funds will be available to projects which promote sensitive use of coastal and countryside environments and promote their tourism potential. Support will be given to farming of rare native breeds and to improve the quality of fresh water habitats. Funds will also promote environmentally sensitive agricultural practice and encourage sustainable methods of fish farming.

Managing the Objective 1 programme

In West Wales and the Valleys we now have ten years of experience of managing Structural Fund programmes. We must preserve and build on this expertise, but make changes to meet new challenges. Until now, funds have been awarded to individual projects which have applied for support in regular competitions. This system has some advantages. But many of the organisations we have consulted have agreed that we need to take a more strategic, co-ordinated approach in future. This will enable us to target action where it is most needed and see more clearly and quickly whether the actions being taken are having the impact that they should.

In future, we propose moving towards a system based on packages of projects which offer a coherent, integrated approach to a specific need. These packages could operate at a national, regional or local level.

The development of monitoring and evaluation procedures and the writing of financial tables allocating money between the different areas also remain to be completed.

Your views on both the allocation of finances and proposals for implementation would be very welcome.
