



**Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru  
The National Assembly for Wales**

**Y Pwyllgor Menter a Dysgu  
The Enterprise and Learning Committee**

**Dydd Mercher, 8 Hydref 2008  
Wednesday, 8 October 2008**

**Cynnwys**  
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Cofnodir y trafodion hyn yn yr iaith y llefarwyd hwy ynndi yn y pwyllgor. Yn ogystal,  
cynhwysir cyfieithiad Saesneg o gyfraniadau yn y Gymraeg.

These proceedings are reported in the language in which they were spoken in the committee.  
In addition, an English translation of Welsh speeches is included.

**Aelodau'r pwyllgor yn bresennol**  
**Committee members in attendance**

Andrew R.T. Davies	Ceidwadwyr Cymreig Welsh Conservatives
Gareth Jones	Plaid Cymru (Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor) The Party of Wales (Committee Chair)
Huw Lewis	Llafur Labour
David Melding	Ceidwadwyr Cymreig Welsh Conservatives
Sandy Mewies	Llafur Labour
Janet Ryder	Plaid Cymru The Party of Wales
Kirsty Williams	Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru Welsh Liberal Democrats

**Eraill yn bresennol**  
**Others in attendance**

Alun Cairns	Aelod Cynulliad, Ceidwadwyr Cymreig Assembly Member, Welsh Conservatives
John Maitland Evans	Prif Weithredwr, Cyngor Bro Morgannwg Chief Executive, Vale of Glamorgan Council
Chris Fray	Pennaeth Datblygu Economaidd a Hamdden, Cyngor Bro Morgannwg Head of Economic Development and Leisure, Vale of Glamorgan Council
Chris Franks	Aelod Cynulliad, Plaid Cymru Assembly Member, The Party of Wales
Gareth Howe	Llywydd, 'Pride in Barry' President, 'Pride in Barry'
Jane Hutt	Aelod Cynulliad, Llafur Assembly Member, Labour
Mike Jones	Swyddog Arian Allanol, Cyngor Bro Morgannwg External Funding Officer, Vale of Glamorgan Council
Rob Quick	Cyfarwyddwr Adfywio Amgylcheddol ac Economaidd, Cyngor Bro Morgannwg Director of Environmental and Economic Regeneration, Vale of Glamorgan Council
Dave Williams	Prif Swyddog Adfywio, Cyngor Bro Morgannwg Principal Regeneration Officer, Vale of Glamorgan Council

**Swyddogion Gwasanaeth Seneddol y Cynulliad yn bresennol**  
**Assembly Parliamentary Service officials in attendance**

Dan Collier	Dirprwy Glerc Deputy Clerk
Dr Kathryn Jenkins	Clerc Clerk
Ben Stokes	Gwasanaeth Ymchwil yr Aelodau Members Research Service

*Cynhaliwyd y cyfarfod yn Theatr Neuadd Goffa'r Barri.  
The meeting was held in Barry Memorial Hall and Theatre.*

*Dechreuodd y cyfarfod am 9.30 a.m.  
The meeting began at 9.30 a.m.*

### **Cyflwyniad ac Ymddiheuriadau Introduction and apologies**

[1] **Gareth Jones:** Bore da, bawb. Mae'n 9.30 a.m. ac yn amser inni ddechrau ein cyfarfod. Estynnaf groeso cynnes i bob un ohonoch—Aelodau, tystion ac aelodau'r cyhoedd—i gyfarfod arbennig iawn o'r Pwyllgor Menter a Dysgu. Yr ydym yn falch iawn o fod yma yn Theatr Neuadd Goffa'r Barri ac, os caf ddweud, mae'r Barri yn dref nodedig iawn—ni wnaif ei galw'n dref hanesyddol, er ei bod yn hanesyddol. Yr ydym yn trin a thrafod dyfodol y Barri heddiw, ond fel cyn athro daearyddiaeth, yr wyf yn ymwybodol o bwysigrwydd y dref hon; dylai pob plentyn ysgol drwy Gymru benbaladr ddeall y cyfraniad y mae Barri wedi'i wneud, ar hyd y blynyddoedd, i ddatblygiad economaidd Cymru ac, wrth gwrs, Brydain hefyd.

[2] Estynnaf groeso cynnes i chi ac yr ydym yn hynod ddiolchgar am y croeso cynnes yr ydym wedi'i dderbyn—hyd yma, beth bynnag. Yr ydym yn arbennig o falch bod cynifer o aelodau'r cyhoedd yn bresennol. Cânt gyfle i gyfrannu gan fod sesiwn meic agored wedi'i amserlenni ar gyfer yn hwyrach y bore yma. Hefyd, rhywbeth sy'n wahanol i'r drefn arferol, ond sy'n cyd-fynd â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 10.43, yr ydym wedi caniatáu i dri Aelod Cynulliad—Jane Hutt, Chris Franks ac Alun Cairns—i fynychu'r cyfarfod hwn ac i gyfrannu fel ag y bo'n briodol. Croesawaf y tri ohonoch chi hefyd.

[3] Atgoffaf bawb i ddiffodd eu ffonau symudol ac unrhyw ddyfeisiau electronig eraill. O ran y meicroffonau, nid oes angen i chi sy'n eistedd wrth y bwrdd eu cyffwrdd o gwbl. Nid ydym yn disgwyl ymarfer tân, felly os clywn larwm yn seinio, bydd yn rhaid inni adael yr adeilad o dan gyfarwyddyd y tywysyddion. Fel yr ydych wedi clywed eisoes, mae'n gyfarfod dwyieithog ac mae clustffonau ar gael i dderbyn y cyfieithiad ar y pryd o'r Gymraeg

**Gareth Jones:** Good morning, everyone. It is 9.30 a.m. and time for us to start our meeting. I extend a very warm welcome to each of you—Members, witnesses and members of the public—to a very special meeting of the Enterprise and Learning Committee. We are very pleased to be here at the Barry Memorial Hall and Theatre and, if I may say, Barry is a very notable town—I will not call it a historic town, although it is historic. We are discussing the future of Barry today, but as a former geography teacher, I am aware of the importance of this town; every schoolchild throughout Wales should also understand the contribution that Barry has made, throughout the years, to the economic development of Wales and, of course, Britain too.

I extend a warm welcome to you and we are exceptionally grateful for the warm welcome that we have received—so far, anyway. We are particularly pleased that so many members of the public present. They will have an opportunity to contribute as an open-mike session is scheduled for later this morning. Also, something that is different to the usual procedure, but in accordance with Standing Order No. 10.43, we have allowed three Assembly Members—Jane Hutt, Chris Franks and Alun Cairns—to attend this meeting and to participate as appropriate. I welcome the three of you as well.

I remind everybody to switch off their mobile phones and any other electronic device. As far as the microphones are concerned, there is no need for those of you who are sitting around the table to touch the microphones at all. We are not expecting a fire drill, so if we hear an alarm, we will have to exit the building under the guidance of the ushers. As you have already heard, this is a bilingual meeting and headsets are available to receive the interpretation from Welsh into English on

i'r Saesneg ar sianel 1. Mae'r clustffonau hefyd yn chwyddleisio'r sain, os wnewch newid i sianel 0. Bydd cofnod o bopeth a ddywedir yn gyhoeddus.

channel 1. The headsets also work to amplify the sound, if you switch to channel 0. There will be a record of everything that is said in public.

[4] Yr ydym wedi derbyn ymddiheuriadau am absenoldeb gan Christine Chapman sy'n cadeirio cyfarfod yn y Cynulliad heddiw, a Jeff Cuthbert sy'n cadeirio pwyllgor ym Mrwsel heddiw. Nid oes unrhyw ddirprwyon, ond mae gennym dri Aelod ychwanegol beth bynnag, fel yr wyf wedi dweud eisoes.

There are apologies for absence from Christine Chapman, who is chairing a committee at the Assembly today, and Jeff Cuthbert who is chairing a committee in Brussels today. There are no substitutions, but we do have three additional Members, as I have already said.

9.33 a.m.

### **Tystiolaeth i'r Pwyllgor ar Ddeiseb Pride in Barry Evidence to the Committee on the Pride in Barry Petition**

[5] **Gareth Jones:** Mae dau bapur wedi'u cyflwyno i ni eisoes ac, yn fyr iawn, rhoddaf y cefndir i chi. Mae Pwyllgor Deisebau'r Cynulliad wedi gofyn i ni, y Pwyllgor Menter a Dysgu, graffu ar y materion a godwyd yn y ddeiseb Pride in Barry. Ar ôl trafodaeth ym mis Gorffennaf, penderfynodd y pwyllgor yn unfrydol gynnal cyfarfod cyhoeddus yn y Barri i dderbyn cyflwyniad o'r ddeiseb ac i graffu ar y rhanddeiliaid, er mwyn i ni allu cwestiynu'r holl fudd-ddeiliaid. Mae tair rhan i'r cyfarfod yn yr amser sydd ar gael rhwng yn awr a 11.20 a.m.. Mae'r rhan gyntaf yn gyfle i ddeisebwyr Pride in Barry wneud cyflwyniad—papur 1 yw'r ddeiseb ei hun. Croesawn y deisebwyr a diolchwn iddynt am eu cyflwyniad sydd wedi ei ddsbarthu i Aelodau eisoes.

**Gareth Jones:** Two papers have already been presented to us and, very briefly, I will give you the background to this. The Assembly's Petitions Committee has requested that we, the Enterprise and Learning Committee, should scrutinise the issues raised in the Pride in Barry petition. Following a discussion in July, the committee decided unanimously to hold a public meeting in Barry to receive a presentation of the petition and to scrutinise the key stakeholders, so that we could ask questions of all the interested parties. We have three sections to the meeting in the time available between now and 11.20 a.m.. The first part is an opportunity for the Pride in Barry petitioners—paper 1 is the petition itself—to make a presentation. We welcome the petitioners and we thank them for their presentation, which has already been distributed to Members.

[6] Yr wyf yn deall y bydd Gareth Howe, llywydd Pride in Barry, yn gwneud cyflwyniad ac, os caf esbonio, bydd y cyflwyniad yn para hyd at 30 munud, ond ni fydd yn hwy na hynny, achos yr wyf yn derbyn bod y cyflwyniad yn bwysig, ond mae'n dra phwysig y caiff yr Aelodau'r cyfle i ofyn cwestiynau ac i graffu. Dyna yw diben y pwyllgor a'r cyfarfod hwn.

I understand that Gareth Howe, the president of Pride in Barry, will be making a presentation and, if I may explain, this presentation will take up to 30 minutes, but no more than that, because while the presentation is vital, it is very important that the Members have an opportunity to ask questions and to scrutinise. That is the purpose of the committee and today's meeting.

[7] Cyn imi wahodd Gareth Howe, llywydd Pride in Barry, y grŵp gyflwynodd y ddeiseb a'r wybodaeth inni, at y bwrdd, cawn gyflwyniad PowerPoint a thystiolaeth wedi ei

Before I invite Gareth Howe, president of Pride in Barry, the group that submitted the petition and the information to us, to the table, we will have a PowerPoint presentation

recordio gan Paul Haley. Felly, awn ar and recorded evidence from Paul Haley. So, awtopeilot, fel petai. we will now continue on autopilot, as it were.

[8] **Mr Haley:** My name is Paul Haley, and I am chairman of 'Pride in Barry'. I very much thank the Enterprise and Learning Committee for inviting to attend today to give evidence. Unfortunately, I must offer my apologies, as I cannot attend due a longstanding prior engagement. I am therefore submitting this presentation in the hope that it will provide you much of the background information that you need in hearing evidence today.

[9] I will give you a little background about 'Pride in Barry', then talk about regeneration in Barry to give you some kind of context, and then I want to make the case for proper funding for regeneration in Barry. When we set up the petition, we asked a selection of the town's business and community leaders to sign it, and what they signed up to was:

[10] 'that the Greater Barry Regeneration Programme should receive continuity and surety of proper adequate and timely funding for the next 10 years in order to continue investing for the future, and continue the good works and improvements made to date. The National Assembly for Wales is the beneficiary of revenue from the sale of land at Barry Waterfront, in the region of £60 million and we believe should commit to reinvest a large proportion of that money in Barry'.

[11] A certain and known funding stream will ensure that the Barry regeneration partnership board can properly plan a programme to meet the challenges of being Wales's largest town, through ensuring the provision of much-needed community facilities, roads and footpath linkages for greater access, social and environmental improvements, sustainable developments, educational opportunities, public art and heritage, tourism, and economic development.

[12] Barry has missed out on many European public funding grants, despite having areas of great social need. It has many development opportunities, but does not currently live up to its potential. The petition requests that the National Assembly for Wales enable the Barry community to:

[13] 'take ownership of its future, by setting it free from the cyclical nature of uncertain, centrally driven, grant funding competitions that do not empower local solutions to local problems, and enables a long term funding commitment solution which is commensurate with the monies to be received by the National Assembly for Wales through the sale of land at Barry Waterfront.'

[14] That is why we are here today.

[15] I will give you the background to 'Pride in Barry', and I will then talk about regeneration and the funding case. 'Pride in Barry' was established in 1994. It is a non-political association of voluntary organisations, authorities, and others who have joined together to improve the local environment. It was set up by the Barry Rotary Club because Associated British Ports, the Welsh Development Agency and the Vale of Glamorgan Council got together to form a partnership called Barry Action to try to transform the rundown former coal port in Barry. 'Pride in Barry' was established to provide a community response to the work of that partnership.

[16] Our purpose is to increase civic awareness, promote environmental improvements and enhancements, and to generate pride in the town. I certainly think that we have started to see that kick in and make a difference over the last four years. We are all from Barry, so we all believe passionately that Barry is a special place. It certainly is to us, and we want to keep it special for present and future generations. We appreciate Barry's environment and believe

that this makes it special. It is unique in that it has a seafront, beaches, and quite a lot of landscape and countryside in close proximity.

9.40 a.m.

[17] The community is special, as is the economy. However, we are all realists and we realise that Barry will not remain special by itself. It has faced, and continues to face, a lot of competition, some of which has been detrimental to Barry. The shopping areas in particular have suffered because of that. We also realise that consumers' standards and expectations rise and that we face competition, so we need to improve Barry. This is the crux of the matter, because we need to continue to improve and invest in new projects.

[18] 'Pride in Barry' is committed to taking an active role in any partnership to improve the town. We firmly believe in quality in design and the imaginative use of land. Quality landmark buildings should be created, and we need the restoration, regeneration, and renaissance of the rich heritage that remains around the dock area. We have undertaken some studies and work with the Design Commission for Wales to consider what work can be done in that regard.

[19] There is much to invest in for the future, and there has already been much investment: in the town hall, the library, King square, central park, and Holton road, with its public realm improvement. However, it could be said that none of those developments has achieved commercial success for traders in the area, because they have suffered for three years owing to the roads being dug up and so on, and they have not yet recovered from that. There is also the waterfront area. We think that we should be developing education and training facilities in Barry, and further environmental enhancements and improvements are required. We realise that it will require partnerships at all levels, which we very much encourage. Business and community links need to be developed, and there needs to be self help. In the early years of regeneration, it was quite clear that the people of Barry believed that the Welsh Development Agency was coming in and doing regeneration for them, not with them. That has largely been addressed over the years and people in Barry are taking ownership over what has been created. There was a big divide between the town and the dock, which is starting to close now. So, that tells you who we are, in 'Pride in Barry'.

[20] I will now give you a perspective of the regeneration project, because it does not hit the headlines as much as it should and many of you will probably not be aware of some of the information. More than 125 projects have taken place in the past 10 years. I will give you some of the key figures, which I will return to later. Some £47 million of public money has been used to pump-prime this project, which has helped to lever in £100 million-worth of private sector money. Barry is now the largest town in Wales. As a result of all that has been going on, in 2004, it experienced one of the largest house price growths in the UK.

[21] However, there is still more to do, because much of the money has gone into infrastructure, which is largely unseen by the public, although people drive above it all the time. There is still more to do, such as a marina, a university, which has been much talked about, and community and recreation facilities. The image also needs to be improved, and a lot of work is going on there.

[22] Under those headings, I will talk about the University of Wales Institute, Cardiff. There was a scheme to place a campus of UWIC onto the former Butlins site on Barry island, to develop a national university for tourism and leisure. There was a £24 million shortfall, so that project failed. A few months ago, a £17 million project was unveiled to develop Barry into a marina, but that money is just what needs to be spent on sorting out the lock gates. If we could not raise £24 million for the university, can we get £17 million for the marina?

[23] In the time that this has been going on, the public was promised a lot of community and recreation facilities that have just not transpired. In fact, you could make a case that we have fewer community and recreation facilities now—the Knap swimming pool has long gone, and, only a few months ago, the last remaining theatre in Barry closed.

[24] We have created ambassadors for Barry, to go out to sell the kinds of messages that I am delivering here. Some of the figures on this slide—and I will not go into all of them—are the kinds of things that we are asking our ambassadors to go out and talk about. The figures reveal that Barry experienced a large growth at the end of the eighteenth century and during the nineteenth century, because of the creation of a coal port, and it held some records. Barry was created to be the global access point to all the coal that was being mined in the Valleys. That is largely forgotten now, and I believe that Barry has missed out.

[25] The demise of the coal industry had a huge effect on Barry, and left a huge gap, which was largely filled by the chemical companies that came to town and by the tourism industry. As those industries have, in turn, shrunk in size, you can see in greater detail what is happening. Barry has one of the largest urban regeneration schemes in Europe at present. There are some stunning figures that relate to that, which I will share with you. Some 320 acres of land have been reclaimed and 10,000 linear yards of improvements have been made to roads. That has created some jobs, not just in construction, but permanent jobs. What all that means is that Barry now has a seafront that is linked to the town and is no longer divided by a dock. Therefore, with its proximity to Cardiff, Barry is in an attractive position to gain opportunities. There is a lot of brownfield land there available to be capitalised on.

[26] The next slide demonstrates an example of the kind of opportunities we can create. This slide shows Richard Brown, the chief executive of Eurostar, who has loaned a diesel locomotive to Richard Buxton of Cambrian Transport. That diesel locomotive will be working on the lines and will be named Pride in Barry, so that will, hopefully, extend our message all over Wales.

[27] We have created ambassadors, and you can see a few of their titles on this slide and on the next. One person who has recently been a great ambassador for Barry is David Davies, the swimmer, who has gone all over the world and, I say proudly, to Beijing. He is proud of the fact that he comes from Barry, and the frequently talks about it in the interviews that he gives.

[28] Let us talk about the funding issue now, because this is not just a recent issue. ‘Pride in Barry’ has been talking about this for more than four years, long before the potential to realise the value in the land was probably even thought about: 100 acres of waterfront land has just been sold jointly by Associated British Ports and the Assembly, because of the reclamation works that were done by the former Welsh Development Agency. How much of the money from that sale will be realised and reinvested in Barry?

[29] We started to raise this issue in February 2004. We started to raise our concerns because we saw that the funding for the Welsh Development Agency was being cut, and we were concerned about how that would affect the regeneration scheme. I was able to question the then Minister for economic development, Andrew Davies, about the potential for recycling and reinvesting the moneys from the sale of land back into Barry. I met the Minister on 21 June 2004. It was a strange meeting, because I went there to talk about the 100 acres, but he had been briefed inaccurately that there were only 7 acres, and he told me that I was completely wrong. Subsequently, he has been proven to be inaccurate, but the opportunity to correct that misstatement has never been taken.

[30] I questioned the First Minister on 12 January 2005 at a Cabinet meeting that took place in this very building, the Barry Memorial Hall and Theatre. I was assured that Barry was being treated in exactly the same way as anywhere else in Wales, but I believe that we are not



being treated in the same way as Newport and Swansea. They have had development corporations set up and they can therefore recycle funds back into their schemes.

[31] A lot of correspondence followed, which also set objectives for us, and we have jumped through all the hoops. We set up, with the Vale of Glamorgan Council, a regeneration partnership board and we identified a strategic plan with objectives and priorities. At around the same time, we were consulted as part of a Wales Audit Office improvement study on regeneration, in May 2005. That report made recommendations that bore out what we were saying, namely that the annual cyclical funding pattern did not aid anybody involved in regeneration because such projects can take years to come to fruition. We then met Gareth Hall and Karen Thomas of the WDA in June 2005 and came away from that meeting realising that Barry would be competing with the Heads of the Valleys area for its own funding. There followed a lot more correspondence. The First Minister then welcomed the recommendations in the Wales Audit Office report and told us that Barry was a high priority. We have been receiving lots of encouragement and warm words from various people since that time.

9.50 a.m.

[32] In November 2005, the Barry regeneration partnership board produced a strategy with priorities and came up with a lot of vision-type things and projects that sit under those priorities, which you can see on these slides: 'Barry: A great place to live', 'A rising star', 'A learning town', 'A great place to work and to grow a business', and so forth.

[33] The message is that the regeneration board has been in place for some time. The strategy is in place and our priorities are identified, but the key thing missing is the funding stream. So, there is a lot on the wish list, but nothing can progress or be sensibly planned, and no commitments can be made.

[34] I am a member of the regeneration board, along with a number of non-executives who represent various aspects of the community, and we, as a board, have continually raised the issue of funding. We have had various unsatisfactory answers over the two years since the board was formed, and it is only in the last six months that an admission was made by an official that no moneys from the sale of the waterfront land would be allocated to Barry. It became a real battle to get that recorded in the minutes of the regeneration board meeting because that was the first time in four years that anyone had publicly admitted that the money was not coming to Barry.

[35] In October 2007, I came along to the Assembly to make a presentation to Assembly Members and there were quite a few present. That was quite a good opportunity for me to make a similar case to this one. The Deputy First Minister stood up and responded to what I had said and gave us more encouraging warm words. However, since that time, I have not received any reply or response. Officials sometimes come to the regeneration board meetings, but they have still not agreed on a costed regeneration plan for Barry. The Vale of Glamorgan Council has a draft delivery plan but Assembly officials will not approve it as there is no funding and they do not wish to commit themselves.

[36] There are many things on the wish list that people would like to see being done. Although there are only 200 signatures on the petition, I think that we could have easily got an awful lot more. For example, the editorials of our local newspapers have encouraged us and wished us well on many occasions. They are probably doing so again today in the knowledge that this meeting is taking place. It has become of huge interest in Barry because, for many of those four years that I have mentioned, it was not public knowledge that there was quite so much wealth in the land of the waterfront and that that money would not come to Barry.

[37] Even more recently, we have had some more misleading answers and warm words. A question was asked to the First Minister on 10 June 2008, as is recorded in the Record of Proceedings, to which the First Minister replied:

[38] ‘I have had a dialogue with Paul Haley about this issue’.

[39] Since that time, I have written to the First Minister to ask him when exactly that dialogue took place. The response that I had, after some three months, did not answer the question, so I believe that the Assembly has been misled.

[40] Let us now look at the Barry balance sheet. The expenditure that I mentioned earlier is some £47 million of public money that pump-primed the whole thing. In asking various questions through the Assembly, I have got some answers, although they were quite difficult to obtain. A sum of £14.5 million has already been received from land sales, and the very recent land sale by ABP and the Assembly to a consortium of builders, such as Persimmon, Wimpey and Barratt, has produced an income of £60 million, of which the Assembly has received £35 million. So, if you add up the figures, you see that the Assembly is a net beneficiary from Barry. When it talks of its £47 million-worth investment, it is failing to tell the public that it is taking £50 million out. It is taking £3 million more out of Barry than it has put in.

[41] So, what are we asking for? It is quite simple: no more uncertainty, and no more warm words. We are judging people by their action rather than their deeds. We are calling for a line of funding for Barry. It is no good our coming to compete for funds on an annual basis—projects take longer than that to be delivered.

[42] Therefore, we are asking for Barry to receive its fair share of the moneys. We are not asking for all of the moneys—just a fair share. We suggest that £20 million, over 10 years, would be sufficient to allow us to finish the job and do it well. We also want the ability to call those moneys forward if a particular project merited taking a larger slice of that money. We suggest that we should be moving forward in partnership in getting this job done, rather than wasting an enormous amount of time—four years as well as your time in being here today to take evidence. We should not be in this situation, but it is the only way that we feel that we can get some answers to the questions that have been raised.

[43] I want to leave you with a simple message, which is from the founding fathers of Barry, which is very apt:

[44] ‘Do not be afraid of change for its own sake, and so long as what is good and fine in our inheritance is not carelessly cast aside, change there must, perforce, be. If we today in 1884 were to set our face against the bold and imaginative transformation that have been proposed for this community, there would be no great town of Barry in 1984.’

[45] That is the challenge. Are we going to be the generation that squanders the inheritance? I do not want to be a member of that generation, and that is why I am presenting this case. I ask you to think hard about not funding Barry; that is not something that should happen. You must—[*Inaudible.*].

[46] Finally, I remind you that Barry is a Valleys town by the sea. We have shared the same coal industry-related issues in common with the Heads of the Valleys areas. Therefore, surely, if there is a fair society, Barry should receive a fair share of moneys generated from land sales to address its social deprivation issues, because there are wards in Barry that are among the worst in terms of the deprivation index in Wales. Social justice is not just about the redistribution of moneys and ignoring fairness, it is also about doing the right thing, which is what we ask you for today. Thank you very much for taking this evidence.

[47] **Gareth Jones:** On behalf of the committee I thank Paul Haley, in his absence, for preparing that presentation. I apologise for the poor quality of parts of it, but certainly not for the content, because that has spelt out to us, as Members, what the issue is.

[48] I now ask Gareth Howe to add anything to that presentation before Members start asking questions.

[49] **Mr Howe:** Thank you, Chairman. My name is Gareth Howe and I was the founding chairman of 'Pride in Barry', and I am now its president. I am here this morning as a pretty inadequate substitute for Paul Haley.

[50] You have had a very persuasive presentation from Paul Haley, and I do not want to go over all of that with you. I just want to say that we feel that Barry and the Valleys towns came into being for the same reason, which is coal, and when that trade disappeared, the effect on Barry was as devastating as it was on anywhere else in the Valleys. Fortunately, we have, in recent years, seen a degree of regeneration in Barry that has been extremely effective. There would have been a time, some years ago, when we would have doubted whether that was a possibility. However, it has happened and we are extremely grateful for that.

[51] We now feel strongly that it would be desperate if that start was allowed to wither and not taken to fruition. We also feel strongly that we should be allowed to recycle a sensible proportion of the funds that the sale of Barry land has produced for the Assembly Government in order to complete that development. The town of Barry would feel it an immense injustice if it were unable to continue to take to fruition the regeneration that has happened so far and if it was allowed to wither and die.

10.00 a.m.

[52] **Gareth Jones:** Thank you. The first question is from Andrew R.T. Davies.

[53] **Andrew R.T. Davies:** [*Inaudible.*] and particularly Paul Haley's evidence. I have had the pleasure of hearing it twice, as I am also a member of the Petitions Committee, which handled this petition initially. My question has three parts.

[54] At the conclusion of the presentation, you spoke of a need for £20 million to pump-prime the development. What sort of feel does 'Pride in Barry' have of the level of private initiatives that could be pump-primed to co-sponsor that sort of money? Very often, when Government is looking to put money in, it also wants to see a level of private initiative. Is there any feel for how much private money might be attracted to Barry if that £20 million came forward?

[55] The whole drive of Paul's presentation was about partnership and, in a question that I put to him in Plenary, the First Minister touched on the difference between Swansea and Newport. He said:

[56] 'The difference between the local authorities in, for instance, Newport and Swansea and that in Barry is that, in the case of Newport and Swansea, the local authorities invested money in urban regeneration and therefore could expect to share in some of the benefits when the regeneration went well... but the Vale of Glamorgan Council did not invest in the urban regeneration of Barry.'

[57] Would you care to comment on the level of work that the council, in partnership with your good selves, has been conducting here in Barry? The First Minister gave the impression that the council had not launched any initiatives, when the presentation clearly says that, at

one point, Barry was the largest urban regeneration project in Wales.

[58] **Mr Howe:** I might find difficulty in answering some of those questions. You are going to be hearing from representatives of the Vale of Glamorgan Council after this, and they are probably better equipped to tell you the answer to the question of how much the council has done to contribute to this.

[59] **Andrew R.T. Davies:** I would like to hear about your feel for the partnership approach. Could you confirm that there definitely has been this partnership approach?

[60] **Mr Howe:** Again, it is regrettable that Paul is not here today, because he has been deeply involved in that personally, and I have not, so I cannot answer that in any sensible sort of way. All I can do is draw your attention to the fact that the original £47 million investment has levered in another £100 million of private investment, and we would see no reason why investment that comes forward now should not be equally successful in leveraging in private investment to back it up.

[61] **Andrew R.T. Davies:** So, the £47 million attracted £100 million of private investment.

[62] **Mr Howe:** Yes.

[63] **Gareth Jones:** On the question relating to partnership, we are inviting Paul Haley in to the Assembly on 5 November, so we can ask him that question then. Are you satisfied with that, Andrew?

[64] **Andrew R.T. Davies:** Yes.

[65] **Gareth Jones:** It is now over to you, Jane Hutt.

[66] **Jane Hutt:** As the Assembly Member for the Vale of Glamorgan, I am delighted to welcome everyone from the Enterprise and Learning Committee here. As the president of 'Pride in Barry', Mr Howe, you have a very significant role to play and, as the Chair says, this is a notable and historic town, and we need to ensure that we move forward on the regeneration.

[67] I have been working over recent months and years to try to take this agenda forward. In recent weeks, I have had an assurance from Leighton Andrews that there will be a regeneration statement on Tuesday, and that is going to be very important, and that the Welsh Assembly Government will be spending £1.9 million. It is very important, as Paul has said—and I back the petition all the way—that the money is put on the table and that we know how we are going to move forward.

[68] One of the important points about Barry is that it is one town. There are issues around disadvantage and deprivation, but the link between, say, the waterfront regeneration and the rest of Barry is critical. We know about the difficulties when Dan Evans left Holton Road, for example. We have the wonderful new library and the Kings Square town hall regeneration and, indeed, Assembly Government money is going into the Holton Road redevelopment, but there is still a challenge in terms of being one town—linking the waterfront to the town, and to our Communities First areas, such as Castleland and Gibbonsdown.

[69] From the 'Pride in Barry' perspective, would you like to say more about how we should drive these plans forward to ensure that we make those important links between the regeneration and the economic potential of the waterfront, as well as Barry as a whole?

[70] **Mr Howe:** That is a difficult question to answer quickly. The work that has gone on so

far has had an immense effect on Barry as a whole. We started off with an area of immense industrial dereliction, as a result of the collapse of the coal trade and in the number of ships coming to Barry. That area has now been redeveloped in a more attractive way, and we need to build on that and go forward with the remainder of the development, to create a more rounded effect than has been achieved so far. That is critical to our future development.

[71] **David Melding:** Reference has been made to the fact that the Deputy Minister is reviewing the regeneration strategy and that an announcement is due. We are asking this question in advance of that, and it is difficult to anticipate what is likely to happen. However, it has been reported that there are to be nine strategic locations for regeneration assistance from the Welsh Assembly Government, but that you fear that Barry will not be one of them. Given that you have outlined in your presentation the excellence and community-based nature of 'Pride in Barry', what discussions have you had with the Deputy Minister on the regeneration review? Has he come here, or have you gone to see him? What discussions have you had to inform the review, as one of the key community groups involved in regeneration?

[72] **Mr Howe:** As I understand it from Paul, there have been no discussions. He felt strongly that the comment by the First Minister that a dialogue had taken place was incorrect—it simply had not happened. It was one of the things that he was disappointed about: that dialogue, which he had hoped for, did not happen.

[73] **Alun Cairns:** Thank you, Mr Howe. The presentation was excellent and its argument was strong. I sense an enormous amount of frustration, and possibly even anger, in relation to many of these issues, particularly funding. As has been said, there will be an announcement next Tuesday on which towns are likely to receive the greatest sums of investment. If Barry is not one of those towns, what future is there for 'Pride in Barry'? I know that you have been working for some time with the local authority and the other bodies that have been mentioned. People involved with 'Pride in Barry' have given a great deal of commitment, free of charge. What future does 'Pride in Barry' have without the regeneration funding?

[74] **Mr Howe:** I think that 'Pride in Barry' probably operates on two levels. On one level, it wants to communicate with the people of Barry and to encourage them to develop their pride in this remarkable town. It has done that in a number of ways, through various award schemes and so on that it has sponsored.

10.10 a.m.

[75] Then, above that, it has been felt that 'Pride in Barry' has a job to do in representing the ordinary people of Barry in a specific way. People feel it could be a watchdog to ensure that what is happening in Barry, those things that are desperately important to the town, can produce the greatest benefit for the town. So, that level of activity by 'Pride in Barry' would suffer considerably if we did not get this funding. However, other 'Pride in Barry' activities would roll on.

[76] **Chris Franks:** It is worth putting on record the huge efforts made by 'Pride in Barry' over the years. Those of us who have been associated with it, particularly with Paul, know about their dedication. I realise that you are in a difficult position because you are not Paul, but I am pleased that we will see him next month.

[77] Could you explain to committee members, who might not be familiar with the economic situation in Barry, the financial opportunities that do or do not exist for the town, if it is not one of the regeneration areas? It is worth noting that we are not in a convergence area. Few European grants are available as they are limited to Communities First areas. So, once you strip those out, could you explain to the committee what is left if the bid advocated by 'Pride in Barry' is not agreed to? What other alternatives are there?

[78] **Mr Howe:** I am not qualified to answer that question. It would be better if you asked the Vale of Glamorgan representatives that when they come before you. If this line of funding were not made available, it would have a devastating effect on the completion of the very considerable regeneration work that has taken place in Barry. It would be incredibly sad if, having achieved so much, we suddenly found ourselves having to say, 'That is it' and we could not take the work to its sensible conclusion.

[79] **Chris Franks:** I think that you have answered the question well, actually.

[80] **Janet Ryder:** I represent north Wales and, as such, am not as au fait with the points that you have raised this morning as other Members around this table may be. For me, regeneration has always been about striking a balance between improving and creating pride in the built environment in which we live and developing the social structures needed to support the communities that have to live in that built environment. Can you explain to me, as someone who does not know the background to your case, what 'Pride in Barry' does? I can see what you have done to affect the built landscape of the town, but what have you done to support the development of the communities that live within it? Does the new learning centre form part of these plans for the development of Barry?

[81] **Mr Howe:** I will give you two or three examples of what has happened. In the early stages of 'Pride in Barry', fly-posting was a problem in Barry; it was intrusive and all over the place. We were active in dealing with that. We also established an award scheme, and invited organisations to submit things that they had done to improve the social and built environment in Barry for the possibility of winning a 'Pride in Barry' award. That was a successful exercise and we probably had approaching 20 entries for that scheme.

[82] Bringing it more up to date, we are currently hoping to get a blue plaque scheme off the ground. Barry has produced many people who have been effective and well known in their fields, but who are probably unknown in Barry itself these days because they have moved away. I expect most of you will be familiar with the English Heritage blue plaque scheme, whereby a plaque is placed on a building associated with a person of considerable distinction. We are working on that at the moment, and it will come to fruition in the next few months.

[83] **Gareth Jones:** Thank you very much for that.

[84] **David Melding:** I have some suggestions.

[85] **Gareth Jones:** Fine. I thought that you might want to come in on that, David. [*Laughter.*] We have one or two ourselves. The next question is from Kirsty Williams.

[86] **Kirsty Williams:** Mr Howe, in the presentation, great play was made on the ability to draw in private investment on the back of the public investment that was available in the early part of the regeneration scheme. The presentation said that you felt confident that such private investment could be secured again. Do you agree that we are now perhaps operating in a very different financial climate when it comes to private sector investment? Have you given any thought to how the current economic climate might affect the potential for private investment in any regeneration project in Barry?

[87] **Mr Howe:** The events of the past few weeks certainly will not help, but it is an impossible question to answer, if you do not mind my saying so, because we do not yet know the general effect that this will have. One cannot but think that it will not be helpful, but let us hope that we can get through it.

[88] **Kirsty Williams:** Do you think that that increases the necessity for the Welsh

Assembly Government to act in the case of Barry in improving public financing?

[89] **Mr Howe:** Thank you for making that point. Yes, I think that it does.

[90] **Gareth Jones:** If there are no further questions, on behalf of committee members, I thank you, Mr Gareth Howe, for your attendance. We know that you have stood in this morning, and you have responded magnificently to our questions. Thank you for sharing your enthusiasm with us, and your obvious knowledge in this area. We look forward to the next meeting on 5 November in the Assembly. Diolch yn fawr.

[91] Symudwn ymlaen at ail ran yr eitem hon, sef Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, sydd wedi paratoi papur ar ein cyfer. Gwahoddaf gynrychiolwyr Cyngor Bro Morgannwg i'r bwrdd. We will move on to the second part of this item, namely the Vale of Glamorgan Council, which has prepared a paper for us. I invite the representatives from the Vale of Glamorgan Council to the table.

[92] Will you come forward, please?

[93] Estynnwn groeso cynnes iawn i chi. Gyda ni mae John Maitland Evans, prif weithredwr Cyngor Bro Morgannwg. Gyda'r prif weithredwr, yn y cefndir, mae Rob Quick, cyfarwyddwr adfywio amgylcheddol ac economaidd; Chris Fray, pennaeth datblygu economaidd a hamdden; Mike Jones, swyddog arian allanol; a Dave Williams, y prif swyddog adfywio. We extend a very warm welcome to you. With us, we have John Maitland Evans, the chief executive of the Vale of Glamorgan Council. With the chief executive, in the background, are Rob Quick, director of environmental and economic regeneration; Chris Fray, the head of economic development and leisure; Mike Jones, external funding officer; and Dave Williams, principal regeneration officer.

[94] Yr ydym wedi derbyn eich papur. Mae papur 2 gan yr Aelodau, ac maent wedi cael y cyfle i ddarllen y dystiolaeth ysgrifenedig. Yr ydym yn dra diolchgar am hynny. Ar sail y ffaith ein bod wedi cael golwg ar y dystiolaeth ysgrifenedig, a wnewch roi cyflwyniad byr o ryw bump i 10 munud, Mr Evans, fel ein bod yn cael amser wedyn i ofyn cwestiynau? We have received your paper. Members have paper 2 before them, and they have had the opportunity to read the written evidence. We are extremely grateful for that. Given that we have looked at your written evidence, would you please give a short presentation of around five to 10 minutes, Mr Evans, so that we have time to ask questions afterwards?

[95] **Mr Evans:** Thank you, Chair. Welcome to Barry, where the sun always shines. Hopefully, after today, it will also be a place where the money flows. [*Laughter.*] I will go through the paper briefly. I am happy to take any general questions, but my colleagues are here to deal with the difficult questions.

10.20 a.m.

[96] The purpose of the paper is set out in paragraph 1. The crux of what we want from the Assembly is set out in paragraph 2. In his opening remarks, the chairman recognised the historical legacy in Barry. He is a former geography teacher and I am a former geography student, so we have that link. The crux is the second point in paragraph 2 and I make no apologies for reading it out:

[97] 'That having regard to the Wales Spatial Plan, the Welsh Assembly Government commits as a matter of urgency to develop and fund an agreed 3-year rolling Delivery Plan to ensure that Barry reaches its full potential as a key settlement within South East Wales as a

whole and in the Strategic Opportunity Area based around St Athan.’

[98] In my opinion, there is little point in public bodies producing plans if they are not going to make them happen. So, that is very much the crux of our case.

[99] Paragraph 3 sets out some robust and independently sourced indicators of economic and social health. As you can see from those measures, while a lot has been achieved in Barry, a lot remains to be done. Paragraph 4 identifies the fact that successful regeneration requires consistency of purpose and a funding commitment. Part of the difficulty with Barry is that the levels of funding have been relatively lower and there is increasing uncertainty as to what will happen in the future. Some members of the committee have already alluded to the sources of funding drying up. In anticipation, Mr Franks—and I still want to refer to him as councillor Franks, but it is plain Mr Franks now—raised the question as to what our position would be with these funds drying up. It is, quite simply, that we have no other sources of funding, other than the limited resources of the council. This is what makes it so essential that money comes in from the Assembly. Assisted area funding and European funding have dried up and a lot of the useful schemes that have come from the Assembly, such as the physical regeneration fund, have also dried up. We are on the fringe of the competitiveness area, and I think that the funds from that source are far more limited than those for convergence areas. If we get anything from that source, it will be very limited.

[100] Paragraphs 6, 7 and 8 set out the historical context. I will not dwell on those, other than to point out a number of factors. The council and its partners have been successful in stimulating regeneration for three factors: clear strategies, good project management—in the past, we had a dedicated WDA project manager, which was extremely useful—and a level of outside investment, which has been crucial. Midway through paragraph 7, we make the point that the process of regeneration is only partially completed and requires input from all sectors of the Welsh Assembly Government to ensure that it continues into the future. We mention the delivery plan at the end of paragraph 8, which is the current document that is in abeyance, in limbo, awaiting this announcement, and I believe that you all have copies of it. Should you have any questions on its content, we would be happy to answer them.

[101] Paragraphs 9, 10 and 11 give you a flavour of the vision and the strategic framework that we have for the town, and some of the beacon projects that we have identified. I think it fair to say that, while the council will continue to make appropriate investment, if these projects are to be realised, substantial outside input and from the Assembly will be required. One particular issue that is quite topical at the moment is that of the airport and access to Barry. I cannot really overemphasise the competitive disadvantage that Barry faces in the absence of good strategic road links to the M4 and south Cardiff. We were very fortunate to reopen the railway line, but that is just part of a total package that we need to deliver.

[102] The concluding paragraph, No. 13, emphasises the fact that we as a council have project capability, and that we have a good track record of successfully managing change. I am confident that, if the money comes, we will use it effectively, and not just for the town’s benefit, but for the benefit of the community as a whole and for the benefit of south-east Wales.

[103] I cannot overemphasise the importance of this delivery plan coming forward. It is unfortunate, to say the least, that this review is happening. Certainly, our perception—and perception can become reality—is that holding this review behind closed doors in the Assembly has added to a sense of frustration and a great deal of potentially damaging speculation about the future of Barry. My colleagues have had regular discussions with Assembly officials, who, understandably, are reluctant to say anything. At the very least, we hope that next week’s statement by the Minister will be good news for Barry. If not, the news will be disastrous for the town.



[104] In summary, we recognise the fact that Barry shares a range of socio-economic conditions with comparable towns in the Valleys. From a personal viewpoint, I am well qualified to note those comparisons as, for the first 40 years of my life, I lived in the Rhondda, and for the past 30 years, I have worked in Barry. I would emphasise that those periods overlap, and you should not take them together. [*Laughter.*]

[105] We have problems at a time when funding is tight and, as a council, we are less concerned about where the money comes from. We need outside assistance and, given the absence of other sources of funding, direct investment from the Assembly is, to the best of our knowledge, the only source of funding that there can be.

[106] I have gone through the case very briefly and I hope that that covers the main points.

[107] **Gareth Jones:** Thank you. You have emphasised key points that the members of this committee will need to follow up, perhaps not today, but certainly on 5 November when we will have the opportunity to scrutinise the Deputy First Minister. I now invite David Melding to ask the first question.

[108] **David Melding:** Following up the last thing that you said, John, about not being bothered about how the funding stream is found, just that one is needed, I think that there has been a sense of hiding behind some of the rules in terms of sale of land and the policy, which I completely understand, as it is, absolutely, policy to use that on a national basis. However, Barry's strategic problem since 2000 is that it is an Objective 1 town—as we used to say—that lies outside an Objective 1 area. It would qualify for European structural funds if it were looked at as a town, but it is too far south, basically. Also, other policies, such as that of making assisted areas contiguous with the Objective 1 areas, as they were, meant that we lost that funding stream as well. That has left too much ground for the council to make up in terms of the resources it can marshal.

[109] I remember a debate in the Assembly's early years about this whole issue, in which there was a general consensus that Barry was probably the principal town that suffered most in terms of qualifying for European moneys because it lies outside the Objective 1 area.

10.30 a.m.

[110] It was a difficult challenge to grapple with, and I sympathise with the Welsh Assembly Government in having to deal with the problem that that created as it could not, obviously, have a little island of Objective 1 down in Barry, as that was simply not allowed by European regulations; I accept that completely. However, in terms of the policy response, we still do not have this funding stream six or seven years later. Therefore, I know how frustrated you are that you have not been able to identify that. What are the options? If you were to find funding of £2 million, do you have any business partnership or could you use the new flexibility in getting businesses to agree to higher rating values in return for certain projects? What sort of burden would that place on businesses? Is it utterly unrealistic, and do you feel that it is fair that you should even have to look in that area?

[111] To follow up on the regeneration review, we will know what the situation is in the meeting in November. I must say that I have tabled written questions, but I did not get very direct answers, which was perhaps understandable at the time because the review was ongoing. Have the political leaders of the council—there has been a recent change in the regime so it may relate to the previous one—had any direct contact with Welsh Assembly Government Ministers and the Deputy Minister for Regeneration in particular? We know that there has been no contact between 'Pride in Barry' and the Deputy Minister. If there has been no contact at the political level between the Minister and the leader or Cabinet member in the

council with responsibility for economic regeneration, what contact has there been between officials? Have officials sought your views as part of the review that is going on, so that you have had a clear way of influencing the current review, or have you just been desperately playing catch-up and sending the odd letter because you are not being consulted in what would be more regular procedures?

[112] **Mr Evans:** There are quite a number of questions here. To break them down, I think that one question related to sources of funding contributions by the private sector, there was a question about political contact and a question about contact at an officer level. If I can deal with the first two questions, perhaps my colleague can deal with the third. On sources of funding, I cannot overemphasise the fact that, without Welsh Assembly Government direct investment, there is very little else on the table other than what the council can muster. There is a huge range of pressures on the council covering its basic range of services; those of you who live locally will be familiar with the money that is going into the school investment strategy. Many of the problems that we face are common to councils generally.

[113] One of the difficulties—Kirsty Williams referred to the current situation in terms of the general economy—is that I do not think that we can look to the private sector at the moment to provide the level of investment and some of the support that would have happened in the past. For example, as a council we are quite adept at obtaining contributions via section 106 agreements, as I believe they are still called. If the developments are not happening and do not take place on phase 2 of the waterfront, the money will not be there for environmental improvements and to continue the road networks. So, there are serious limitations in terms of funding.

[114] With regard to political contact, historically we have welcomed the support of the Assembly Members—Jane Hutt and David Melding have been very active in terms of creating lines of discussion, and there is a meeting with Leighton Andrews shortly. I am taking it as a good sign that he is coming to give us good news, but you never quite know these days. We also benefit from the fact that Chris Franks, as an ex-Barry councillor, is very familiar with the problems and a clear advocate of the Vale of Glamorgan in the Assembly. Perhaps Rob can help with the question on contact with officials.

[115] **Mr Quick:** Certainly. To introduce myself, I am director of environmental and economic regeneration for the Vale of Glamorgan Council. With regard to discussions with officials, there have been a number of discussions and in many ways there have been parallel discussions. We have active and regular discussions with officials on issues such as the spatial plan, which seems, as the chief executive has already said, to emphasise Barry's strategic role in south-east Wales as a key settlement and within the package of development possibilities on the back of St Athan.

[116] Therefore, one set of discussions emphasises the importance of Barry and how important it is, not just a Barry itself, but to south-east Wales, but we have a parallel set of discussions about the specifics of delivering that, and, to put it bluntly, there is little of those discussions. We are basically told that a review is taking place and that we must wait for the outcome of that review. We are frustrated, because we are pushing, if that is the right word, the case of Barry through the spatial plan, but when it comes to the specifics of delivery, there is very little discussion. So, there is disappointment that we have not been able to have a formal, proper debate with officials on the funding issues, as opposed to the broader spatial plan issues.

[117] **Gareth Jones:** I believe that Kirsty wants to come in on that specific point.

[118] **Kirsty Williams:** On your inability to influence the review, is that a frustration that just the Vale of Glamorgan Council faces, or do you think that that is a frustration that local

authorities across Wales have faced in trying to feed into and influence the review?

[119] **Mr Evans:** It is a general frustration, and I believe that Steve Thomas of the WLGA has written expressing local government's concern that this review is vital, not just for the Vale and Barry, but for Welsh local authorities generally.

[120] **Gareth Jones:** That point has been well emphasised, and we look forward to the Minister's response on that particular issue. Is there anything further to add?

[121] **Mr Evans:** I would like to demolish the myth that the council has not invested in Barry. I have two lots of information: information that was produced by the former area development manager of the WDA south division, which is headed 'Barry Action: Principal Expenditure and Outputs 1995-2005'. In that period, the Welsh Development Agency invested £27.3 million; the council invested £13.5 million; sources of funding from the special development scheme, the local regeneration fund and the physical regeneration fund came to £5.2 million; and £1.3 million came from the lottery, and that came directly, not as the result of a ticket. I want to highlight the fact that two recent schemes have been completed. The first is the town hall, King Square and Central Park restoration, which has been a huge boost to the centre. The total cost of that scheme was £10.5 million, towards the cost of which the council paid nearly £8 million. The other scheme is the recent public realm improvements to Holton Road, with a total cost of £2.2 million, towards which the council has contributed more than £0.5 million.

[122] **Gareth Jones:** Thank you for that information. Sandy Mewies has the next question.

[123] **Sandy Mewies:** Thank you for your interesting presentation and for an interesting plan. This is a nice day out, because the sun is shining. I have visited Barry in recent times, and I visited it 20 years ago, and an enormous amount of work has been done here. It is a credit to everyone involved. You fairly made the point that there are other areas such as this, which have lost their Objective 1 and Objective 2 funding and are scrabbling around for funding sources. I note and understand perfectly why your presentation is south-Wales based, whereas the Assembly has to look at the area that I represent—Flintshire in north Wales—north Wales as a whole, west Wales, mid Wales and so on, as you, as an authority, will always have to take a pan-authority view of what goes on. I have two points to make. The Deputy First Minister, Ieuan Wyn Jones, wrote to the Chair of the Petitions Committee. I am not sure whether you have received this letter—have you?

[124] **Gareth Jones:** Pertaining to the £14.5 million?

[125] **Dr Jenkins:** It is publicly available.

[126] **Sandy Mewies:** So, you will have seen the letter where the Deputy First Minister makes the point—and this is a simple way of doing it—that whereas 'Pride in Barry' would like to see the capital receipts from here going directly back into Barry, that is not general policy.

10.40 a.m.

[127] You tend to take a strategic view, and, in the Welsh Assembly Government's case, that is over Wales as a whole. You have to prioritise and make decisions. Do you agree with the proposition that all capital receipts should go back to the area where they originate and that that should be policy? Once you set the precedent, is that what you would continue with? I am sure that you take decisions with the view that you will put money into one area because it needs it when perhaps another area does not. First, do you think that this should be a policy decision—that, if we generate capital receipts, the money should go back to the area? It is the

point that the Minister makes in the letter. I do not know whether you have seen it.

[128] Secondly, I think that you have a very exciting plan. You have done a lot of work through section 106 agreements to achieve some of your aspirations. However, quite a lot of the proposals in this draft are listed as ‘funding source not known’. Is that the gap that you are hoping to fill with this commitment of £2 million per year, or are you saying that, although you have put them in the plan, you have no idea where that money comes from, or that you would like that to come from a regular funding source—that you could achieve it by Welsh Assembly Government giving money regularly?

[129] **Mr Evans:** If I start, perhaps Rob can answer the second question. I think that you are right; one of your difficulties is that you have to take a balanced view across the whole of Wales. It will be very interesting to see, when this announcement is made, how many of those areas lie outside the Objective 1 or convergence funding areas, because I appreciate that there are other parts of Wales that have similar problems to Barry.

[130] On the question of capital receipts going back into specific areas, in this particular case it would be very useful, but I would have to be perfectly honest and say that something like that would be very difficult to deliver, practically. As a council, we raise funds from a variety of sources in the Vale, and that money is then spent to best effect within the Vale as a whole. It is not earmarked for specific areas, which is why I made the point at the beginning that I am less concerned where the money comes from, provided that it comes into Barry and that Barry gets its fair share as a town of 50,000. I liked David Melding’s comment that it is an Objective 1 area outside Objective 1. I think that Rob could probably answer some of the questions on the delivery plan.

[131] **Mr Quick:** I will just refer to the funding gap issue that you mentioned. As you rightly said, we have a delivery plan, which is an important asset as far as the case of Barry is concerned. We have a track record of harnessing whatever funding is available to Barry albeit that there have been relatively few sums available. We have talked about the physical regeneration fund this morning. While that fund was in existence we utilised it extensively. Therefore, there is good evidence that we will go out to get as much funding as possible.

[132] You are quite right; in the delivery plan, we have had to identify significant areas of mystery—if that is the right word—in terms of funding sources. We felt that it was important to get the priorities right and agree those and then go to the funding sources and into the bidding process with those priorities clearly set. Section 106 has been mentioned this morning. I deal with that sort of issue on a daily basis. As the chief executive and others have said this morning, there is a substantial private sector interest in Barry, particularly in terms of the housing development of the remaining part of the waterfront.

[133] However, it is clear from the current economic situation—and Kirsty Williams raised this issue—that not only the Vale of Glamorgan Council but other authorities can rely less and less on section 106 funding as a source of getting public good out of some of these projects. Inevitably, we are coming back to the table of the Welsh Assembly Government, in a sense, to look for more significant funding for some of those areas that we have not yet identified funding for. The big message from me is the need for consistency of funding, which is almost more important than the actual amount of funding. We would like to agree with you and your officials a consistent level of funding for Barry and agree a basis on which that can be spent over the next five, 10 or 15 years.

[134] **Gareth Jones:** I will just interject on that point. It is not so much an agreement with ourselves, because we have no power in that way. However, we have the democratic power to present, as you are presenting to us, a fair argument for making progress with the Welsh Assembly Government, hoping to impress and make inroads in that way. That is the crux of

our existence and rationale.

[135] The letter to which Sandy referred is in the public domain because it was a response from the Minister to the Chair of the Petitions Committee, Val Lloyd. The point has been acknowledged by Mr Evans that the Minister and the Welsh Assembly Government have to take this pan-Wales view.

[136] Alun Cairns apologises that he must leave because he has another pressing engagement. Please accept his apology.

[137] Are you happy with that, Sandy?

[138] **Sandy Mewies:** That was fine, thank you. You answered my question.

[139] **Gareth Jones:** Janet, do you want to come in on a specific point?

[140] **Janet Ryder:** I just want to follow up on something that came up earlier. You listed the investment that has gone in, including the £5.8 million that you have been granted by the National Assembly towards the learning centre as part of the development plan. Do you count that £5.8 million as part of that ongoing funding, or is it over and above any regeneration funding that you would be expecting?

[141] **Mr Evans:** That is very recent; it is over and above basically.

[142] **Andrew R.T. Davies:** Thank you, gentlemen, for your evidence this morning. I will touch on a few points. The paper shows the proactive nature of the way that the council has recently engaged in development, and in particular the survey that was undertaken on Holton Road, which shows that it has come off the bottom of the league table of high streets in Wales to a position of number 24 out of 28. So, the trajectory is upwards, and that is only the start of the development.

[143] If this money does not come through for the development projects that have been started, what type of town of Barry would we be seeing in 10 years' time? The 10-year plan is for £20 million to come through—and if it comes through, we have seen what is possible from the evidence given by 'Pride in Barry' and yourselves—but if the receipts are not there to support your development, that good work will start to go backwards. Many people say that Barry is living in the shade of the Metrix development that is proposing to come to Saint Athan in the Vale of Glamorgan. Do you, as a council, in your economic development plans, see that happening and that the Metrix development will lift Barry through if the money does not come through to redevelop the town?

[144] Can you also give me a taste of what sort of difficulties you face as a result of being unable to engage in negotiations with the Welsh Assembly Government with regard to what will be announced on Tuesday and the implications of that for your development plan, because you have private sector investors who look on a UK basis? I appreciate that other Welsh councils have been in the same boat as you, but when these big developers are looking to develop, they want clarity and to be able to go forward in a decisive mode. Have you any firm evidence that people are just walking away—irrespective of the current financial climate—out of frustration at the way that the delivery of this has been handled?

[145] **Mr Evans:** Again, that is quite a number of questions, so perhaps I can start and Rob can then come in. With regard to the type of town that Barry will be without the investment, it will probably not become, but degenerate into the sort of place that continues to grow as a residential settlement, but the heart of the town will diminish. Good mixed investment is required. We have already seen the closure of the Dan Evans department store. We have been

successful in attracting new developments, but without that investment, the heart of the town will diminish. The difficulty is that people will look outside of Barry to meet their basic needs and it will become a forgotten town. I am not answering your questions in order, but as my memory best assists me.

[146] **Andrew R.T. Davies:** What is the aspiration for Holton Road? It went from position 28 to 24 on the league table of high streets. Surely you have a plan to get it to a particular number on that league table; I look to you to tell me.

10.50 a.m.

[147] **Mr Quick:** The plan for Holton road is to keep as many shoppers in Barry as possible. The big problem that we have with Barry is that we are on the edge of the capital city and near out-of-town shopping areas, such as Culverhouse Cross. The big plan for Holton road was to improve the physical environment and, in doing so, to introduce a range of uses to the town centre, not just retail uses but cafes, restaurants and so on, to retain more of the spending power and the spending population in Barry. In doing that, we will hopefully creep up this league table, from twenty-eighth place, as we were originally, to twenty-fourth, back to where we should be, which is somewhere in the teens for a town the size of Barry. So, it starts with physical regeneration. It is not just about physical regeneration, as it is also about economic and social regeneration, but the physical base is very important, and those are the aspirations for the regeneration of the town centre and the Holton road area.

[148] **Mr Evans:** Paragraph 10 of the evidence sets out our ambition for Barry under the various headings, and the town centre is one of the beacon projects. We have an action plan that will require investment to be realised. Progress is good, but, for a town of 50,000, to be in twenty-fourth position is not good. We are in the lee of Cardiff; we do not have the good road links from the motorway, and so Barry will struggle.

[149] On Metrix, who knows? It seems from the press that there is a degree of certainty, but, to some extent, you must bear in mind that, job-wise, the Metrix project will probably replace what has been lost with the Defence Aviation Repair Agency.

[150] We see Barry not just as part of this strategic opportunity area, which includes the Metrix project, but as playing its role as a major settlement in south-east Wales. Rob has been in more detailed discussions with Metrix. Perhaps you could give a view on that, Rob.

[151] **Mr Quick:** The Metrix project is great news, not just for this part of the world but for south Wales and Wales generally. I have been having discussions with the Ministry of Defence and with Metrix, and they are very focused on delivering the scheme. We are talking about huge sums of money: billions of pounds. We are a long way off from harnessing the wider economic and social benefits of the decision, and that is why we need to have a sensible, agreed, consistent delivery plan, agreed with the Assembly Government. It now seems likely that the Metrix project is going to happen and, that being the case, we need to build on it and ensure that all the benefits of it are brought to the nearest town and indeed to the region generally. So, the Metrix project is great news, but we need to add to it.

[152] **Andrew R.T. Davies:** It could be Bridgend though.

[153] **Mr Quick:** Exactly, yes—and part of it will be Bridgend. I am not saying that the Metrix development will only and should only benefit Barry; I am saying that we need to have a mature attitude to it. Our job as a local planning authority and highway authority is to deliver the Metrix proposal, and we are working well with colleagues, including the Assembly Government, on that. The next layer of issues with Metrix, as far as I am concerned, is bringing the regional benefits to Bridgend but also to Barry, and that is why we

need some funding available in Barry—as there will be in Bridgend, because of its status in terms of convergence funding—to realise those benefits this side as well as on the other side.

[154] **Mr Evans:** You mentioned the attitude of private developers. In paragraph 3 of the evidence, we quote from the employment land study undertaken on behalf of the council, which concluded that certainly the commercial property market views Barry as a lower quality and lower value location. That is the sort of difficulty that we are facing. We have alluded to some of the developments that may take place on the waterfront. From our experience over the years, we know that, when times are tough nationally, if developers proceed, they are usually trying to drive down the quality of schemes, and the council will not allow that. However, it will constrain development taking place. We do not want to see low-quality development in Barry; we want to see good quality development that makes a contribution, not just to the development site itself but to the town as a whole.

[155] **Andrew R.T. Davies:** I have a question for ‘Pride in Barry’ on the First Minister’s assessment, and I heard in a previous answer that you wanted to demolish that. You have given us a taste of what the council has been doing, and I would say that you have been proactive in reading the papers. First, is it fair to compare Barry with Swansea and Newport? Secondly, is the First Minister right in his assumption that you have not been doing anything on urban regeneration? Is that what the record shows?

[156] **Mr Evans:** I think that the assumption is wrong, and I would hope that our presentation, and the figures that we have given you, contradict that assumption. In terms of Swansea and Newport, I would not get too carried away with size; Newport is slightly bigger, but it has the huge advantage of being on the right side of Cardiff. It is not in a convergence area, but it is at the heart of the competitiveness area.

[157] **Andrew R.T. Davies:** It gets two thirds of its money from the Assembly, does it not?

[158] **Mr Evans:** Precisely. You could say that, historically, we had a similar, semi-unofficial arrangement with the Welsh Development Agency over the period that we have referred to. That focused on the joint venture for the redevelopment of the docks, but the council and its local partners were successful in expanding its impact to the town itself. Again, Swansea is in a much more fortunate position. So yes, if the Assembly Government were prepared to treat us like Newport and Swansea, we would settle for that; we would be more than happy. It is the relationship that Newport and Swansea enjoy with the Assembly Government that prompted ‘Pride in Barry’ to lodge the petition in the first place. We are certainly envious of Swansea and Newport.

[159] **Mr Quick:** Comparisons with other towns are always difficult. You all represent different parts of Wales, and they all have regeneration needs. We are not saying that Barry should be given priority over other places. We are saying that Barry should be given the priority that it deserves, and the reference document, as far as I am concerned, is the spatial plan. That is the document that the Assembly Government sees as its business plan, in effect. There has been an independent assessment of the role of all the major settlements in south-east Wales as part of the progression of that document, and it clearly identified Barry as a key settlement for the future of south-east Wales. All we are asking for is the wherewithal to deliver that policy, rather than to be pushed to one side in regeneration investment terms.

[160] **Gareth Jones:** Thank you for covering a number of points there. I now turn to the local Member, Jane Hutt.

[161] **Jane Hutt:** For the benefit of David and committee members, I wanted to confirm that Leighton Andrews is coming, as the chief executive said, to meet with council chiefs and ‘Pride in Barry’ in November. I received a letter from him, which I am happy to share with all

committee members, dated 30 September. Not only does it give a commitment to come to Barry, but it also states that it is open to the Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council to bring to him any proposals that it has for Barry in the future. That is a very positive message.

[162] I am meeting Rob Quick and the cabinet member on Friday to discuss that very letter, because we must grasp every opportunity to take this forward, as we have discussed this morning. There have been valuable contributions from the Vale council and ‘Pride in Barry’. I will briefly ask about your six beacon projects: what do you feel is the priority at the moment? We await the consultation results on airport access and M4 linkage, and enhancements to the Vale of Glamorgan line. A lot of money has come through the transport plan, with the regeneration of Barry Docks station. I note the proposals of the South East Wales Transport Alliance, which have a bearing on Barry. I personally think that we need a half-hourly service linking Cardiff and Barry with St Athan and Bridgend. I will shortly be meeting with the Association of British Ports and Paul Haley from ‘Pride in Barry’ about the marina development. We also have the Barry town centre, Holton road action plan. The priorities will have to be costed in order to move this forward, and it would be helpful to have some feedback on the priorities in our rolling plan for your beacon projects.

11.00 a.m.

[163] **Mr Evans:** I am not sure that we rated the beacon projects in terms of a hierarchy. I can only give a personal view on the importance of transport to any settlement—not just private transport, but also public. We are grateful for the investment in reopening the line, but I agree with Jane that it would be good to have more frequent services. However, from my point of view, notwithstanding the importance of revitalising the town centre, the key project is improved strategic road access—not just to the M4, but to south Cardiff as well. I appreciate that that requires big investment from the Assembly Government.

[164] **Gareth Jones:** I have two further requests, from Chris Franks and Huw Lewis, but I believe that David Melding has a succinct point to make.

[165] **David Melding:** As a committee member and a former resident of Barry, I just want to put on record the outstanding development that is the library regeneration project. It is an exemplar, not only of regeneration, but of how to provide a wonderful new library, and it should be emulated, and probably will be, across Wales. I just wish that Penarth had as good a facility. Perhaps we should reflect on that. Although the library in Penarth is in a fine building, the facilities at Barry library are outstanding, and the way that the new wing reflects the old building, the way that the old building has been brought in, with the gallery space and the mayor’s parlour, is highly imaginative. It shows what can be done when the resources are available, because it is quite clear that the partnerships exist to deliver that kind of quality project.

[166] **Gareth Jones:** I apologise for a mistake earlier—Kirsty also wants to contribute. Chris is next.

[167] **Chris Franks:** We touched earlier on section 106 agreements. I would like to hear your views on the prospect of raising money through such agreements in future. From recollection, the Vale has attracted about £1.5 million in section 106 agreements; I do not think that there is much scope, given the current climate, to gain much more from that, although I would like to hear your views. John, you touched on the importance of a direct route to the M4 and to south Cardiff, and, as you are aware, there is a public consultation exercise under way regarding direct links to the motorway. What is the council’s preferred route: a, b or c? As an additional question, we have enjoyed the regeneration process over the last 10 years, and it has involved a huge amount of partnership working. That can be a challenge. Could you explain who the various partners are, and what you have achieved



together? I hope that you will demonstrate that there has been co-operation and that the whole has been greater than the sum of the parts.

[168] **Mr Evans:** Perhaps we can all come in on this. Certainly, with regard to section 106 agreements, the potential of that to provide money is going to be increasingly limited; if developments are not being done, we will not get the money, so I think that that source will almost dry up. In terms of the current consultation, the council's position was that it welcomed the proposals to improve strategic access, but, in terms of the three routes, it recognised that there were environmental consequences to all of them and so did not come to a definitive conclusion on any of them, but asked the Assembly to be fully involved in evaluating those consequences before a preferred route was identified. In terms of partnership working, it has been successful in Barry. Rob is probably better equipped to identify the range of people who sit on the partnership board.

[169] **Mr Quick:** As explained earlier, we have set up the Barry regeneration partnership board, which has been established for some years. It consists of a number of individuals who represent organisations from the private, public and voluntary sectors as well as from the council and the Welsh Assembly Government. I think that the mix has been useful, because we have had some robust debates on the priorities, as far as Barry itself is concerned, and as a result of those debates we have developed what you have in front of you this morning, namely the delivery plan, which is probably one of the better delivery plans produced by a local authority because it is specific in terms of our aspirations for Barry and also drills down from that to make specific proposals about what we would like to spend our money on subject to funding sources coming forward. So, the partnership has been successful. We are looking to develop it even further, but, as with all partnerships, the amount of engagement and interest will decline if there is nothing to do and that is part of our problem with funding—we have to continue to engage the partners and community and so on by demonstrating that the money is there to deliver some of these projects in Barry. That is why this morning's debate is particularly crucial.

[170] **Gareth Jones:** Thank you. There is a specific point on the preferred route.

[171] **Andrew R.T. Davies:** On the preferred route, and extending it, as you mentioned the links going east into Cardiff, if it were a matter of 'either/or', which would be the better development option: the airport relief road or better links through Dinas Powys?

[172] **Mr Evans:** If you turn off the cameras, I will give you an opinion. I have a personal view that I am not prepared to share publicly, but I think that we have one on the table and that is the bird in the hand, hopefully, so I would not want to muddy the waters by speculating on an alternative.

[173] **Gareth Jones:** We will leave that there then, and turn to Kirsty.

[174] **Kirsty Williams:** I think that we have established that the ability to draw in private finance will be limited, certainly in the near to medium future. We have also clearly debunked the assertion by the First Minister that the council has not been participating in regeneration. So, I would like to explore that further. I know that it is early days with regard to the local government settlement, which will be announced following yesterday's budget, but generally, across Wales, that settlement is 2 per cent below inflation. Therefore, however well the Vale of Glamorgan fares among the 22 authorities, I suspect that it will not be a particularly great settlement for you. Do you have any early indications about what the budget settlement may or may not do for your regeneration budget?

[175] **Mr Evans:** I am not too familiar with yesterday's announcement, but I think that it proposed 2.8 per cent for local government. That is a lot less than goes into the health service.

That is irrelevant to you, but I felt that I had to say that. I am not sure that the announcement referred to the settlement in terms of the capital moneys that will be available, because regeneration, as far as the Vale has been concerned, has been a mix of revenue contribution and capital investment, so I am not sure what that says. I am not a great fan of private finance initiative, but it is a source of funding investment in Wales. In the absence of that, you have prudential borrowing, but that has to be met on a regular basis by revenue contributions if the council's revenue is not increased to absorb the extra payment. So my initial reaction was that the settlement did not make for particularly good reading, particularly for a council that wants to regenerate what is, if not Wales's largest town, certainly south Wales's largest town because of—and I alluded to this earlier—the competing pressures on statutory services. Education and social services probably take up 65 to 70 per cent of our revenue spending. In the past, we have been able to allocate money by pump-priming and leveraging in other money and Rob and his department have been adept at putting that money to good effect. However, as Rob rightly said, if the money is not coming from outside, our resources will be stretched to breaking point.

11.10 a.m.

[176] **Huw Lewis:** First, I just wanted to congratulate all the partners concerned with the regeneration of Barry on the work done so far—£147 million being levered in from various sources is a real achievement and I doff my hat to you. I know that David was quite right to say that it is unfortunate, in many ways, that Barry did not achieve the Objective 1 status that it probably would have got had the geography of Wales been different. However, let us not get too carried away with that, because I can tell you that the total Objective 1 draw-down for the physical regeneration of Merthyr, in my constituency—as compared to £147 million—was just £3 million and in Rhymney, the other part of my constituency, it was nil. So, Objective 1 does not necessarily confer physical regeneration breakthroughs on an area. I can safely say from that experience that you have been doing something right for Barry. I am also assuming that the value of the land on the waterfront location was a great asset that Barry took advantage of—and other towns just do not have such assets. Good work has been done thus far.

[177] I will now come to the question. Essentially, as far as I can see, the request from 'Pride in Barry', backed by your local authority, is for some £2 million a year over 10 years in a constant stream of funding, as it believes that that is what is required to continue the work on the physical regeneration of Barry, which has been going on for the past few years. Given that such a commitment is being called for from the Assembly, I assume that the local authority has thought through a similar commitment. Very simply put, my question is this: what would your physical regeneration budget commitment be to Barry over the next 10 years if it were balanced by the Assembly supplying £2 million a year?

[178] **Mr Quick:** On the council's contribution, we put a set budget each year of about £300,000 to £0.5 million into regeneration, which we then use to lever in funding from other sources. On top of that, we will then put in specific sums of money from various operational budgets. So, for instance, my directorate will put operational money in, to add to grant funding for schemes such as the improvement of Holton road. It is not just a case of having one block of funding, although there is one block of funding of up to £0.5 million a year to spread broadly within Barry. There is then a series of sums of money that we take out of operational budgets to add to the various sources of grant funding that we get from other sources.

[179] **Huw Lewis:** Do you not think that there is a discrepancy here in the expectations? There is an expectation that the Assembly will commit to a decade of steady-stream funding support, but the local authority is not prepared to do the same.

[180] **Mr Quick:** I think that the base sum of money that I talked about, the £0.5 million, is actually in the budget every year—

[181] **Huw Lewis:** Is that for Barry?

[182] **Mr Quick:** Yes. It is specifically for Barry because you have to bear in mind that we also have to find sums for other communities and areas in the Vale of Glamorgan. For instance, we put money into the rural regeneration strategy, although that is not for the debate this morning. I think that, quite rightly, we have put aside a significant amount of money specifically for Barry but, if we were to have this meeting in Penarth, Cowbridge or any of the other communities in the Vale of Glamorgan, people would be envious of the substantial and predictable commitment of moneys given to one town, which, to put it bluntly, does not apply elsewhere within the Vale of Glamorgan.

[183] **Mr Evans:** I think that that demonstrates the importance of having an agreed delivery plan, so that all partners know the others' respective commitments. This is one difficulty that we face. We have produced the document and it has a lot of good projects in it, but there is financial uncertainty. I think that the Member makes a good point that it behoves the council to provide the same level of commitment. I appreciate that it is a matter for the Executive, and not for this committee, but, if the outcome is that the Assembly wants certainty from the council, we can certainly give it.

[184] **Gareth Jones:** On that note, I conclude this part of our session. I thank you and your colleagues who are in attendance for addressing the issues and for conveying to us the key elements and points pertaining to 'Pride in Barry'.

[185] Yr ydym yn hynod ddiolchgar. We are most grateful.

11.15 a.m.

### **Sesiwn Meic Agored i'r Cyhoedd Public Open-mike Session**

[186] **Gareth Jones:** Mae rhan olaf ein cyfarfod y bore yma i ymwneud â deiseb 'Pride in Barry' yn gyfle i'r cyhoedd gyfrannu drwy ofyn cwestiynau neu ddatgan barn am y mater hwn. Mae amser yn ein herbwn braidd, ond byddwn yn falch o glywed oddi wrth unrhyw aelod o'r cyhoedd. Bydd yn anodd inni ateb cwestiynau, ond byddwn yn eu gwerthfawrogi. A oes rhywun am ddweud gair?

**Gareth Jones:** This last part of this morning's meeting to deal with the 'Pride in Barry' petition is an opportunity for the public to contribute by asking questions or stating opinions about the issue. Time is against us somewhat, but we would welcome comments by members of the public. It will be difficult for us to answer any questions, but we will appreciate them nonetheless. Does anyone wish to say something?

[187] **Gareth Jones:** I see that a gentleman wishes to contribute. Could I ask you please to introduce yourself?

[188] **Mr Moore:** I am Neil Moore, a councillor in the Vale. I was born and bred in a mining village and, about 30 years ago, like the coal, I came to Barry. I have been a Vale councillor for 20 years. Primarily, my experience in the authority is in economic development and finance, and I have held various roles during my years as a councillor.

[189] I want to emphasise the fact that the local authority has been proactive in spending money, and it has used its money wisely. In answer to Huw's question about whether there is a commitment to development, I can tell him that, yes, there is. One thing that the council has

done, and will continue to do, is ensure virement to schemes of vital importance. That is the truth, and I am glad that the myth has now been dispelled. We have spent a tremendous amount of money with partners on economic regeneration. Indeed, one thing that pumped the development was the council's own initiative of building what is now called the Gladstone bridge, as well as the Millennium way into the dock development, which was also a council scheme.

[190] We have spent money over the years, and we still have a lot of schemes to go. The financial climate is currently against us, obviously, and the developers on the waterfront will probably slow down, which means that, as a result, section 106 money and so on will be less than it would have been. However, we still need that commitment from the Assembly.

[191] Kirsty asked a question about money coming in. We do not get a great amount under the standard spending assessment formula; we are one of the lowest funded.

[192] **Kirsty Williams:** You should see Powys's.

[193] **Mr Moore:** Well, we are. Even though we have that, we have put our council tax up—it is the only other revenue that we have—to as high a level as we possibly can, and we still do not spend our SSA allocation, because we cannot fund it through the revenue support grant or the council tax. So, to do this regeneration work, it is clear that we need the extra money. As was said, we have now lost all the other funding regimes, and, if the proposed funding is not forthcoming, it will represent a retrograde step for Barry.

[194] **Gareth Jones:** Are there any further comments or opinions?

[195] **Mr Evans:** I hope that I am not repeating myself, but other councillors, such as councillor Bertin—

[196] **Gareth Jones:** I was going to conclude by referring to the letter that the committee has received from councillor Bertin. I just wish to allow an opportunity for others to make any statements of opinion or whatever.

[197] I see that there are no more contributions, and so I will conclude the open-mike session by reading councillor Richard Bertin's letter to us, as it sums up why we are here in Barry as a committee this morning. The letter is to me as Chair of the committee.

11.20 a.m.

[198] 'As I am unable to attend the public meeting in Barry on 8 October, I would like to make written representation on why I feel that a large proportion of the revenue received by the Assembly from the development of Barry waterfront should be reinvested in regeneration projects within the town. Having considered this matter, I am of the opinion that Barry should take receipt of at least part of this money as it has high pockets of deprivation in an area which is often seen as very affluent. Failure to do this would not help the local economy, would not enable the town to continue to grow and prosper and would not provide aid for the much needed improved economic, social and health services for the area. I would request that you take this into account when considering this matter and ask that you put back some of the money into the area it is coming from.'

[199] I believe that that sums up the nature of what has been presented to us and the information gleaned by members of the committee today. We have referred to the all-Wales picture, but I believe that 'Pride in Barry' and the representatives of the Vale of Glamorgan Council have presented a real picture of what Barry is about, but also of the challenges facing Wales today in its regeneration programme. You have highlighted the issues, and we will all

go away—whichever areas we represent—enriched by that information and your answers to this scrutiny session. I cannot prejudge the outcome of the review, but these are very important issues, and I can guarantee that, as members of this committee, we will pursue those to the best of our abilities.

[200] Diolch yn fawr iawn i chi i gyd am Thank you all for participating in this session, gymryd rhan mewn sesiwn a fu'n allweddol which was of key importance. bwysig.

11.22 am.

### **Y Mesur Prentisiaethau Drafft—Ymateb i'r Ymgynghoriad Draft Apprenticeships Bill—Consultation response**

[201] **Gareth Jones:** I roi'r cefndir, ar 23 Medi, fel Aelodau buom yn craffu ar y 23 September, as Members, we scrutinised Dirprwy Weinidog dros Sgiliau a the Deputy Minister for Skills and chynrychiolwyr CBI Cymru mewn perthynas and representatives of CBI Wales on the content of the draft apprenticeships Bill. The Mae'r cyfnod ymgynghori ar y Mesur yn consultation on the Measure closes today, as gorffen heddiw, fel y gwyddoch, ac mae you know, the House of Commons Pwyllgor Arloesedd, Prifysgolion, Innovation, Universities, Science and Skills Gwyddoniaeth a Sgiliau Tŷ'r Cyffredin— Committee—*[Interruption.]* Order. *[Torri ar draws.]* Trefn.

[202] Can you please leave the room quietly? Do not let me get into my headmaster mode. *[Laughter.]*

[203] Caiff yr adroddiad terfynol ei lunio yn The final report will be produced later, but nes ymlaen, ond mae'r adroddiad interim ger the interim report is before you. There is now eich bron. Mae cyfle i chi yn awr roi an opportunity for you to comment on it, sylwadau arno, cynnig gwelliannau neu ei propose its amendment or accept it. dderbyn.

[204] Are there any views on the report? I see that everyone is content. We have already referred to the fact that we will meet to pursue the petition on 5 November, when there will be an opportunity to scrutinise the Deputy First Minister and Minister for Economy and Transport, Ieuan Wyn Jones, and to meet with the petitioners again. Next week, we will be meeting back in the Senedd, and we shall start at 9 a.m. which is a fairly early start for us, but you know why that is the case.

[205] Dyna ddiwedd y cyfarfod. Diolch. That brings this meeting to a close. Thank you.

*Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 11.24 a.m.  
The meeting ended at 11.24 a.m.*