



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

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

**Dydd Mercher, 5 Tachwedd 2008
Wednesday, 5 November 2008**

Cynnwys
Contents

- 4 Cyflwyniad ac Ymddiheuriadau
Introduction and Apologies
- 4 Tystiolaeth i'r Pwyllgor ar Ddeiseb 'Pride in Barry'
Evidence to the Committee on the Pride in Barry Petition

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

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|--------------------|---|
| Christine Chapman | Llafur Labour |
| Jeff Cuthbert | Llafur Labour |
| Andrew R.T. Davies | Ceidwadwyr Cymreig Welsh Conservatives |
| Chris Franks | Plaid Cymru (yn dirprwyo ar ran Janet Ryder) The Party of Wales (substitute for Janet Ryder) |
| Gareth Jones | Plaid Cymru (Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor) The Party of Wales (Committee Chair) |
| Huw Lewis | Llafur Labour |
| David Melding | Ceidwadwyr Cymreig Welsh Conservatives |

Eraill yn bresennol
Others in attendance

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|------------------|--|
| Leighton Andrews | Aelod Cynulliad, Llafur (Y Dirprwy Weinidog dros Adfywio) Assembly Member, Labour (The Deputy Minister for Regeneration) |
| Paul Haley | Cadeirydd, Pride in Barry a'r prif ddeisebydd Chair of Pride in Barry and principal petitioner |
| Gareth Howe | Llywydd, Pride in Barry President, Pride in Barry |
| Jane Hutt | Aelod Cynulliad, Llafur Assembly Member, Labour |
| Ieuan Wyn Jones | Aelod Cynulliad, Plaid Cymru (Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog a'r Gweinidog dros yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth) Assembly Member, The Party of Wales (The Deputy First Minister and Minister for Economy and Transport) |
| Patrick Lewis | Cyfarwyddwr, Adfywio Strategol a Blaenau'r Cymoedd, Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru Director, Strategic Regeneration and Heads of the Valleys, Welsh Assembly Government |
| Eleanor Marks | Cyfarwyddwr Rhanbarthol, De Ddwyrain Cymru a Seilwaith, Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru Regional Director, South East Wales and Infrastructure, Welsh Assembly Government |
| Richard Shaddick | Rheolwr Adfywio, De Ddwyrain Cymru a Seilwaith, Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru Regeneration Manager, South East Wales and Infrastructure, Welsh Assembly Government |

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

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|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| Dan Collier | Dirprwy Glerc Deputy Clerk |
| Dr Kathryn Jenkins | Clerc Clerk |

Ben Stokes

Gwasanaeth Ymchwil yr Aelodau
Members' Research Service*Dechreuodd y cyfarfod am 9.31 a.m.
The meeting began at 9.31 a.m.***Cyflwyniad ac Ymddiheuriadau
Introduction and Apologies**

[1] **Gareth Jones:** Bore da, bawb, a chroeso i'r cyfarfod hwn o'r Pwyllgor Menter a Dysgu. Mae Jane Hutt yma fel Aelod Cynulliad y Barri yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog Rhif 10.43. Croeso i chi, Jane.

Gareth Jones: Good morning, all, and welcome to this meeting of the Enterprise and Learning Committee. Jane Hutt is here as the Assembly Member for Barry, in accordance with Standing Order No. 10.43. Welcome, Jane.

[2] Atgoffaf bawb i ddiffodd eu ffonau symudol ac unrhyw ddyfais electronig arall. Ni fydd angen inni gyffwrdd â'r meicroffonau yn ystod ein trafodaethau. Nid ydym yn disgwyl ymarfer tân, felly os bydd argyfwng, rhaid i ni ddilyn cyfarwyddiadau'r tywysyddion. Mae'r cyfarfod yn ddwyieithog ac mae clustffonau ar gael i dderbyn y gwasanaeth cyfieithu ar y pryd o'r Gymraeg i'r Saesneg ar sianel 1 ac i chwyddleisio'r sain ar sianel 0. Darperir cofnod o'r cyfan a ddywedir yn gyhoeddus.

I remind everyone to switch off their mobile phones and any other electronic device. There will be no need for us to touch the microphones during our deliberations. We are not expecting a fire drill, so if there is an emergency, we will need to follow the directions of the ushers. The meeting is conducted bilingually and headsets are available for you to receive interpretation from Welsh into English on channel 1 and to amplify the sound on channel 0. A record will be produced of all that is said publicly.

[3] Yr ydym wedi derbyn ymddiheuriadau gan Sandy Mewies a Janet Ryder, ond yr ydym yn croesawu Chris Franks, sy'n dirprwyo ar ran Janet Ryder.

We have received apologies from Sandy Mewies and Janet Ryder, but we welcome Chris Franks, who is substituting on behalf of Janet Ryder.

9.33 a.m.

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

[4] **Gareth Jones:** Yr wyf yn eich cyfeirio at y ddau bapur sydd eisoes yn ein meddiant: papur 1 gan y Gweinidogion a phapur 2 gan y deisebwyr. Fel y gwyddoch, y cefndir yw ein bod ni fel pwyllgor, ar gais y Pwyllgor Deisebau, yn craffu ar y materion a godir gan y ddeiseb 'Pride in Barry'. Cynhaliwyd cyfarfod cyhoeddus yn Neuadd Goffa'r Barri ar 8 Hydref i graffu ar y deisebwyr a'r awdurdod lleol ac i glywed barn trigolion lleol. Heddiw yw ail sesiwn ffurfiol y pwyllgor ar y mater hwn. Ceir cyfle pellach i gwestiynu'r deisebwyr ac i graffu ar y Gweinidogion sy'n gyfrifol am ddatblygu economaidd ac adfywio.

Gareth Jones: I refer you to the two papers that we have already received: paper 1 from the Ministers and paper 2 from the petitioners. As you are aware, the background is that we as a committee, at the request of the Petitions Committee, are scrutinising the matters raised by the Pride in Barry petition. A public meeting was held in Barry Memorial Hall on 8 October to scrutinise the petitioners and the local authority, and to hear the opinions of local residents. This is the committee's second formal session on this matter. There will be a further opportunity to question the petitioners and to scrutinise the Ministers responsible for economic

[5] Cyn i mi estyn croeso swyddogol, dylwn ychwanegu y bydd Kirsty Williams yn ymuno â ni ychydig yn hwyrach.

[6] Ar ran y pwyllgor, estynnaf groeso cynnes i'r Gweinidogion. Hoffwn ddiolch i chi am eich tystiolaeth ysgrifenedig, sydd eisoes wedi ei ddsbarthu i ni fel Aelodau. Estynnaf groeso arbennig i'r Dirprwy Weinidog dros Adfwyio ar ei ymddangosiad cyntaf gerbron y pwyllgor hwn. Yr ydym yn croesawu Ieuan Wyn Jones, y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog a'r Gweinidog dros yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth, Leighton Andrews, y Ddirprwy Weinidog dros Adfwyio, Eleanor Marks, cyfarwyddwr rhanbarthol, de-ddwyrain Cymru a seilwaith, Patrick Lewis, cyfarwyddwr adfywio strategol a Blaenau'r Cymoedd a Richard Shaddick, rheolwr adfywio de-ddwyrain Cymru a seilwaith.

[7] Gofynnaf i chi, Ddirprwy Weinidog, am gyflwyniad byr, o tua pum i 10 munud.

[8] **Y Dirprwy Weinidog dros Adfywio (Leighton Andrews):** Credaf fod y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog am ddechrau.

[9] **Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog a'r Gweinidog dros yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth (Ieuan Wyn Jones):** Yr wyf am wneud ychydig o sylwadau, ac wedyn bydd y Dirprwy Weinidog yn cwblhau'r cyflwyniad.

[10] Yr wyf yn falch o'r cyfle i gael dod yma gyda'r Dirprwy Weinidog. Yr ydym yn cael cyfle y bore yma i drafod cynnwys deiseb 'Pride in Barry' ac adfywio Bro Morgannwg. Gyda llaw, bydd yn rhaid i mi adael am 10.30 a.m. ar ei ben gan fod gennyf gyfrifoldebau eraill yn y gerddi coffa ym mharc Cathays, felly ni allaf aros yn hwy na hynny. Fodd bynnag, gobeithiaf y bydd y sesiwn hon wedi gorffen erbyn hynny.

[11] Fel y gwyddom, mae llawer o drafodaethau wedi bod yn y wasg, yn ogystal â nifer o lythrau, ynglŷn ag adfywio, ac adfywio Bro Morgannwg yn arbennig. Bydd y Dirprwy Weinidog yn cwrdd yn fuan â chabinet a swyddogion Cyngor Bro Morgannwg i weld y gwaith ardderchog a

development and regeneration.

Before I extend an official welcome, I should add that Kirsty Williams will join us a little later.

On behalf of the committee, I extend a warm welcome to the Ministers. I thank you for your written evidence, which has already been circulated to Members. I extend a particularly warm welcome to the Deputy Minister for Regeneration as it is his first appearance before the committee. We welcome Ieuan Wyn Jones, the Deputy First Minister and Minister for the Economy and Transport, Leighton Andrews, the Deputy Minister for Regeneration, Eleanor Marks, regional director, south-east Wales and infrastructure, Patrick Lewis, the director of strategic regeneration and Heads of the Valleys and Richard Shaddick, regeneration manager, south-east Wales and infrastructure.

I will ask you, Deputy Minister, for a short introduction, of about five to 10 minutes.

The Deputy Minister for Regeneration (Leighton Andrews): I believe that the Deputy First Minister will start.

The Deputy First Minister and Minister for the Economy and Transport (Ieuan Wyn Jones): I will make a few comments, and then the Deputy Minister will end the presentation.

I am pleased to be here with the Deputy Minister. We have an opportunity this morning to discuss the content of the Pride in Barry petition and the regeneration of the Vale of Glamorgan. By the way, I will have to leave at exactly 10.30 a.m. as I have other responsibilities at the memorial gardens in Cathays park, so I will not be able to stay any longer than that. However, I hope that this session will be concluded by then.

As we know, there have been many discussions in the press, as well as several letters, on regeneration and the regeneration of the Vale of Glamorgan in particular. The Deputy Minister will soon be meeting the Vale of Glamorgan Council cabinet and officials to see the excellent work that has

wnaed yn y Barri hyd yn hyn.

already been done in Barry.

[12] Mae ardal y Barri wedi elwa o fuddsoddiad sylweddol gan Awdurdod Datblygu Cymru gynt—Llywodraeth y Cynulliad erbyn hyn—a phartneriaid adfywio dros gyfnod helaeth. Mae'r buddsoddiad hwn wedi cael ei reoli drwy bartneriaeth weithredu y Barri, Associated British Ports, yr awdurdod datblygu a'r Llywodraeth drwy fenter ar y cyd. Mae hynny wedi sicrhau tua £50 miliwn ers 1994. Yn ychwanegol at hynny, cafwyd tua £100 miliwn o fuddsoddiad o'r sector preifat. Y buddsoddiad tymor hir hwn sydd wedi gwneud y Barri yn lle mor ddeniadol heddiw ar gyfer y gymuned, twristiaid a phobl fusnes.

The Barry area has profited from substantial investment by the former Welsh Development Agency—now the Assembly Government—and regeneration partners over a long period of time. This investment has been managed through the Barry action partnership, Associated British Ports, the development agency and the Government through joint enterprise. That has secured about £50 million since 1994. In addition to that, there has been about £100 million investment from the private sector. It is this long-term investment that has made Barry such an attractive place for the community, tourists and the business community.

[13] Mae'r buddsoddiad gan yr awdurdod datblygu gynt—fy adran i bellach—a chyngor Bro Morgannwg wedi cael ei ddefnyddio ar gyfer nifer o brosiectau allweddol. Mae hyn yn cynnwys rhan 1 prosiect glan y môr, lle mae tir wedi'i adennill ar gyfer gwasanaethu, ac wedi cael ei ddatblygu i safon uchel. Hefyd, gwelwyd ailddatblygu llwyddiannus neuadd y dref, trawsnewid ffordd Holton, pont Gladstone road, prynu nifer o safleoedd allweddol ar gyfer eu hailddatblygu, uwchraddio adeiladau allweddol, a'r gwelliannau i Ynys y Barri a'r rheilffordd ager.

The investment by the former development agency—now my department—and the Vale of Glamorgan council has been used for several key projects. This includes phase 1 of the waterfront project, where land has been reclaimed for servicing, and has been developed to a high standard. There is also the successful redevelopment of the town hall, the transformation of Holton road, the Gladstone road bridge, the acquisition of several key sites for redevelopment, the upgrading of key buildings, and the improvements to Barry Island and the steam railway.

[14] **Leighton Andrews:** The master planning period has now commenced, with input from the development consortium, the Vale of Glamorgan Council, Associated British Ports and Assembly Government officials, to deliver the 41 ha waterfront II development site. That project aims to change the image of Barry, and is set to become an exemplary model of environmental best practice. The commercial property being proposed will be developed to building research establishment environmental assessment method excellent standard, and the new homes, which will include 400 affordable homes, will meet the EcoHomes excellent standard. These proposals will provide a significant boost for the area, will ultimately secure £250 million of private sector investment and will create new employment opportunities through the commercial and leisure developments.

[15] With the announcement of the defence training review proposal, and the proposed aerospace park at St Athan, it is widely acknowledged that the current efforts will have to be widened to ensure that surrounding communities also benefit from these key projects. We will ensure that resources are targeted effectively in order to deliver the whole of this project. This process will be supported through the established local service board, the Ministry of Defence, the Welsh Assembly Government and the Vale of Glamorgan council project teams. Discussions are also taking place with neighbouring local authorities, to ensure that the benefits and impacts are fully known regionally. My officials are continuing to work with the Vale of Glamorgan council, and other regeneration partners, to deliver the vision for the greater Barry area, and all potential funding sources, including the private sector, are being

examined as part of this process.

9.40 a.m.

[16] The Assembly Government has several priorities across Wales and, in the current climate, faces several tough challenges. The capital receipts from the sale of sites and premises across Wales will be used to meet the business needs of the Assembly Government, so that investment can be made in less prosperous areas where private sector opportunities are limited. We believe that a partnership approach to the delivery of regeneration should continue, with the aim of contributing to the 'One Wales' objectives and in alignment with the priorities of the Wales spatial plan.

[17] I will end by saying that I spent the first 11 years of my life in Barry: I grew up there and I went to local schools. I grew up there because my family, like so many others, moved to Barry shortly after it became one of Wales's major coal-exporting ports. My grandfather and great-grandfather were coal trimmers in Barry docks. I have a personal pride in Barry, if I can put it like that. As I have said to the local Assembly Member, Jane Hutt, Barry continues to receive regeneration funding and will receive significant regeneration funding over the next two years, and I am sure that it will continue to receive regeneration funding in the future.

[18] **Gareth Jones:** Diolch i chi, **Gareth Jones:** Thank you, Ministers, for that Weinidogion, am y cyfraniad cryno ac effeithiol hwnnw. Yr ydych wedi concentrated on the important elements of the canolbwyntio ar elfennau o bwys o ran y petition and the concerns of Members. I now ddeiseb a phryderon yr Aelodau. Trof yn awr turn to the first question from David Melding. at y cwestiwn cyntaf gan David Melding.

[19] **David Melding:** I hope to be fairly robust in my questioning, but I genuinely want to thank the Deputy Minister for Regeneration and the Deputy First Minister for engaging with us on the issue of this petition. The Ministers are here to be scrutinised and, whatever the outcome, at least we cannot say that they did not come here to talk through or argue their case. I am sure that everyone will also have noted that if the Deputy Minister has not given a commitment, he has at least expressed a very confident expectation that Barry will receive regeneration funding in the years ahead. I think that we are all grateful to hear that.

[20] I will focus on the petition. First, on this issue of whether the receipts should be used only locally, I think that the Government has given a fairly robust response to that. You will not satisfy everyone and exceptions should sometimes be made, perhaps, but I do accept that there is a logic to the policy in terms of looking at that issue on an all-Wales basis and having to redistribute the receipts. I do not particularly want to engage on that issue very much.

[21] I want to ask the Ministers whether they feel that there is a special case in terms of Barry's position, in being a town that, in many ways, has a socioeconomic profile that is more like an area in the Valleys than an area in the Vale, to be frank. It does not lie in the convergence funding area—the former Objective 1 area—and it seems to me that the petition is saying that the funding streams that are available to Barry are somewhat limited as a result. The petitioners point to the situation in Swansea and Newport—particularly Newport, because it is somewhat analogous in terms of Barry's situation, in having to identify special funding streams. The Government's response on the issue of why Swansea and Newport can be treated exceptionally, but not Barry, is in paragraph 6. I know that there are officials here, but this has been signed off presumably by the Ministers, and I have to say that the argument there make a distinction without a difference. It says, 'This is why the exception has been made', and, fine, I think that you should make exceptions to a general policy, but I cannot see that paragraph 6, in any way, provides evidence as to why you cannot be exceptional in the approach that you take in Barry, should it require a funding stream, as you specifically note

that Newport did.

[22] I think that that is what the petition comes down to: the need for this funding stream. I suppose that your position could be that there is not a need for it and that, in the usual cycle, they should expect to receive support and that that would be fine, but the petitioners are obviously arguing for a longer-term position and the stability that that brings. I have to say that all the people to whom I have spoken think that there is a problem with identifying a funding stream, just as there was in Newport, and you came up with measures then to help the city. I am utterly unconvinced by the gobbledegook and bureaucratic jargon in paragraph 6. I hope to come back with a second question, Chair, should I catch your eye.

[23] **Gareth Jones:** Okay. Thank you, David.

[24] **The Deputy First Minister:** Actually, I think that paragraph 6 is quite clear. It deals with why a particular solution was proposed for Newport. I will preface that by saying that I fully understand the points that you make about the position of the Valleys. As you quite rightly point out, Barry is a town with problems and issues that need to be addressed, as everyone would acknowledge. The fact that it is outside a convergence area is not unique, because other parts in the whole of east Wales find themselves in a similar position. The fact is that Barry is outside the Objective 1 area but could well have been within the convergence area had it been geographically positioned. That needs to be acknowledged.

[25] Paragraph 6 makes clear that, in the case of Newport, there was a decision, which neither the Deputy Minister nor I were party to, or recognition at least of a particular issue with the creation of Newport Unlimited, an urban regeneration company. Once that urban regeneration company agreement was set up, it had the ability to recycle funds, which I think is acknowledged. As I understand it, there is no other situation anywhere else in Wales that is similar to that. I think that that is clear.

[26] In Swansea, it was done slightly differently, and Eleanor may be able to deal with some of this because she was the regional director for the south west before coming to the south east. In the early years, what tended to happen as I understand it was that there was a possibility to invest to develop the land. So, if money was raised, it could be used to offset the costs of developing the site, and used for things like servicing and infrastructure, provided that it was within the same financial year. However, in SA1 that is no longer the case, and it is treated now as any other regeneration project would be treated.

[27] I want to be clear to the committee that that is my understanding of paragraph 6. It seems fairly clear to me but I will ask Eleanor to confirm that that is the position.

[28] **David Melding:** Could I come in before the officials speak?

[29] **The Deputy First Minister:** Yes, certainly.

[30] **David Melding:** With the greatest respect, Deputy First Minister, that answer was completely about processes. Let us look at the outcomes. Swansea and Newport needed extra help and they got it. I do not want to gainsay that—good for them. As a native of Swansea, I am particularly pleased for it, and the development is excellent. It has had a great impact. The petitioners have said that Barry also needs extra help. If you wanted to, you could find a process to do that, could you not?

[31] **Leighton Andrews:** May I?

[32] **The Deputy First Minister:** Yes.

[33] **Leighton Andrews:** I will just make a couple of comments on this. I do not think that this is a process issue. Newport Unlimited was established in 2003 in a particular form, and it involved investment from a number of partners. Let us not forget that Newport City Council committed £10 million to the creation of that urban regeneration company, which is the only one in Wales. It has done good work, and we are currently looking at its status in respect of its quinquennial review. I certainly do not want to set any hares running in Newport, so let me emphasise that we think that it has done good work in its time. I think that the question that you ask is really whether there are any regeneration funds available to Barry. The answer, as I said in the opening remarks, is clearly 'yes'. We are investing roughly £1.9 million over the next two years in regeneration projects in Barry.

9.50 a.m.

[34] We have invested significant sums in the regeneration of Barry in recent years. My officials continue to explore further ways to engage with the Vale of Glamorgan Council on the regeneration of Barry, and a meeting took place with representatives of the council only last week. There are a number of revenue sources, although it is quite true that Barry is not within the convergence area. However, there are other funds available from my department and we are in the process of establishing other funds. As you will know from my announcement a few weeks ago, we are looking to establish a significant urban development fund, under JESSICA, the joint European support for sustainable investment in city areas scheme. It will take some time to establish, as I said, but there are a number of funds from which regeneration projects can be resourced in Wales.

[35] We are happy to engage properly with the Vale of Glamorgan Council and I have to say, Chair, that I welcome the tone that David Melding has adopted this morning, which is in marked contrast to that which I have heard in earlier weeks in the local media in Barry and at this committee. I think that there is now an appreciation that there was never any intention to create a limited number of strategic regeneration areas or to exclude Barry from participating in regeneration funding. So, at least, on that score, we seem to have made some progress.

[36] **Gareth Jones:** We have identified a key issue here. Two or three other Members want to come in on this issue, but I call Andrew R.T. Davies first.

[37] **Andrew R.T. Davies:** I wish to clarify something about the process. David alluded to, we received evidence of it, and the council felt strongly about it. In response to a question that I put to the First Minister in Plenary, he said that he perceived that the regeneration of Newport and Swansea had gone very well, but that the Vale council did not invest in the urban regeneration of Barry. However, at the evidence session that we held in Barry, the chief executive of the council highlighted the regeneration programmes that the council has participated in, and I could quote him, but it would take an inordinate amount of time. Do you recognise the First Minister's statement that the council has not engaged with the process of regeneration in Barry, or, to be fair to the council, do you recognise that it has engaged and agree that there is a perception among the people of Barry that they are being neglected by the Welsh Assembly Government?

[38] **Leighton Andrews:** The people of Barry are patently not being neglected, because we have invested significant sums in Barry over recent years. You raise the issue of Newport again, but I have not seen a proposal from the Vale of Glamorgan Council to put up £10 million towards the creation of an urban regeneration company for Barry.

[39] **Andrew R.T. Davies:** Newport Unlimited is part funded by the Welsh Assembly Government.

[40] **Leighton Andrews:** Newport Unlimited was created with an investment from

Newport City Council, the former Welsh Development Agency and the Welsh Assembly Government. I have not seen any proposal along those lines from the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

[41] **David Melding:** Deputy Minister, your own paper contradicts you in paragraph 9. Of the £50 million that has been invested by the partnership, it shows that £13.5 million came from the local authority.

[42] **Leighton Andrews:** That does not contradict me. What I said was that I have not seen a proposal from the Vale of Glamorgan Council to make a similar investment in creating an urban regeneration company as that which came from Newport council.

[43] **David Melding:** So, you are back to the process again.

[44] **Leighton Andrews:** The process was raised by your colleague Mr Andrew R.T. Davies.

[45] **David Melding:** We are focusing on outcomes.

[46] **Leighton Andrews:** I am responding to the question that was asked on the process.

[47] **Gareth Jones:** Let us hear from the Deputy Minister, because it is a crucial issue, and we need clarity on this particular point.

[48] **The Deputy First Minister:** I made reference to a sum of £50 million that had been invested up to now, and paragraph 9 makes it clear that, as things stand, historically, £27 million was contributed by the former Welsh Development Agency, £1.5 million or thereabouts by my department, £13.5 million by the Vale of Glamorgan Council, another £6 million by other Government departments and funding streams, and there is also a contribution from the lottery. The important issue going forward, which is what the petitioners refer to, is that the Vale must consider its regeneration strategy in light of the wider area of the Vale, and the council's official who appeared before the committee gave quite an interesting answer in clarifying that point. The council could not invest only in Barry. Mr Quick, the official who appeared before the committee, said that the council set a budget each year of about £0.5 million to contribute to regeneration. I think that Huw Lewis questioned him on that, and Mr Quick said that it was specifically for Barry because we had to bear in mind that the council also has to find sums for other communities and areas in the Vale. That is exactly what we are saying.

[49] As a Government, we are saying that, when you have money for regeneration, the general rule is that you do not recycle money in a particular area, but look at the whole programme across Wales, of which Barry will form a part. What the Deputy Minister is saying is that Barry will form a part of that, but not in the precise way in which the petition has asked. It is not possible for a Government to make policy in that way, but we are saying that, where there is genuine need—and the Deputy Minister has made this clear—there will be an allocation of sums. To be blunt, we are adopting the same procedure and attitude as the council. In other words, it has to look at the whole of the Vale, and, in our case, we have to look at the whole of Wales. Therefore, you cannot allocate one sum specifically to one area without a wider analysis of the whole country.

[50] **David Melding:** You do accept, presumably, that the funding streams for the Swansea and Newport projects, which are roughly analogous, were clearer and more predictable? Do you accept that or not? That is what the petitioners say.

[51] **Leighton Andrews:** I think that specific commitments were given with regard to

Newport Unlimited, but, as I said in answer to Andrew R.T. Davies, they were dependent upon an initial investment of a very specific sum by Newport council. I think that we can get hung up—

[52] **David Melding:** I think that we have now happily conceded that £13.5 million—

[53] **Leighton Andrews:** I never disputed the figure of £13.5 million. What I am talking about is a process going forward. The petition is about the process going forward, and not about what has happened in the past. We are open to conversations with the Vale of Glamorgan Council about the regeneration of Barry. Indeed, our officials are already engaged in that, and we are already spending money on the regeneration of Barry. The only people who do not seem to believe that we are spending money on the regeneration of Barry are the Welsh Conservatives.

[54] **David Melding:** We have not said that. Deputy Minister, you do not help your cause by being so—

[55] **Leighton Andrews:** You have said that, actually.

[56] **David Melding:** I have concentrated—

[57] **Leighton Andrews:** With respect, Chair, I would like to answer that question.

[58] **Gareth Jones:** Order.

[59] **David Melding:** I started by conceding the point that the Deputy First Minister made about the need for an all-Wales approach. [*Interruption.*] I find that insulting, I must say.

[60] **Leighton Andrews:** I can quote to you—

[61] **Gareth Jones:** Order. This demonstrates how inflammatory it can be when people refer to politics around this table, which is something that we rarely do, actually, Deputy Minister. Such a statement does not help.

[62] **Leighton Andrews:** Sorry, Chair. All I was doing was referring to comments made in the local media by Conservative Assembly Members.

[63] **David Melding:** He is not quoting me.

[64] **Gareth Jones:** Speaking personally, and I am sure for other Members around this table, we do not really take an interest in local media per se. There are key issues here that need to be clarified, and that is all that we are stating. In view of the alleged accusation that the Vale has not been involved in this investment, we have had an e-mail from the chief executive to the effect that the council takes issue with that view. He said,

[65] ‘With reference to para 8 of the memorandum I would question the statement that the Council has not invested in the site assembly etc. of the Waterfront. The Council and its predecessor bodies played a key role in applying for and supplementing grant aid for the two road accesses into the Waterfront, namely Gladstone Bridge and No. 2 Dock Bypass (Ffordd-y-Mileniwm). It was the threat of using the Council’s CPO powers in respect of the bridge which eventually pushed Railtrack (now Network Rail) in cooperating with the Council’.

[66] In other words, it is establishing a case. For my benefit, as Chair, I would like to know whether you accept that there has been this engagement or involvement. It may not be a specific process such as the one that you identified in Newport, but I think that we need to

understand that there has been some involvement. That is my understanding of the issue, and I would welcome your response to that.

10.00 a.m.

[67] **Leighton Andrews:** As the Deputy First Minister said a moment ago, I do not think that we dispute that the Vale of Glamorgan Council has, in the past, invested significant sums itself.

[68] **The Deputy First Minister:** That is acknowledged in our evidence.

[69] **Gareth Jones:** Let us move on, but Chris wants to ask a question on this.

[70] **Chris Franks:** I welcome the Deputy Minister's commitment to continue the regeneration process, but I did not quite catch whether he said £1.5 million over two years or £1.5 million for each of those two years. Could you clarify that for me, Deputy Minister? Could you also specify what the money will be applied to?

[71] However, my reading of this is that the Assembly Government has made a profit out of regeneration in Barry, and I would be interested to hear you comment on that. Further, as I understand it, unsold assets—primarily land—continue to be available to the Government. Perhaps at the moment, given the current market, those assets cannot be realised, but over time, they might once again become valuable. They are literally on the waterfront. So, I would like your view on what will happen to those assets and on their potential value. Despite what you said about continued regeneration moneys being available, I also underline the great concern that Barry feels, namely that the scope and volume of regeneration funds are limited. Barry does not have the advantages of other sources of funding. How can you address that problem?

[72] **Leighton Andrews:** On continuing investment, we are investing £1.9 million over the next two years in the Thompson street footbridge and in the infrastructure works in the innovation quarter, and a contribution of £1 million of that money goes to the pump house and envelope works.

[73] On the general issue of regeneration spend, there is a significant development opportunity in the Vale of Glamorgan in respect of the defence training academy, as I said in my opening remarks. Among the challenges with which we must engage, as must the Vale of Glamorgan Council and other partners, is that of ensuring that the regeneration opportunities of that—which are not simply about place, but also about people—flow through to the communities that need to see that regeneration benefit. There is a danger that we return here to an old-fashioned view of regeneration, which is simply about land reclamation and property development. Our strategic approach to regeneration is not just about place, but also about investing in people.

[74] If you were to rest an approach to regeneration simply on the basis of those areas that had land receipts to be made use of, you would not have a strategic approach, but an opportunistic approach to regeneration in Wales, because only those areas with such receipts could be beneficiaries.

[75] Finally, we need to consider the fact that it would be unwise, particularly in the current climate, to see your entire regeneration strategy built on a process of land receipts. That would be very unwise. I am very grateful that, at the beginning, David Melding conceded the logic of our approach in respect of receipts.

[76] **David Melding:** I did not concede that. I said that—

[77] **Gareth Jones:** We will not go into the semantics at this point. I think that we have all understood the points being made here, subtle or otherwise. Ieuan, did you want to come in?

[78] **The Deputy First Minister:** I do not think that there is anything particularly unusual in how the Government, historically and currently, is looking at the sale proceeds of land. The sale proceeds go back to the Government receipts and are then distributed according to the policy that we have adopted for things like regeneration. It does not happen any other way, apart from the examples quoted. It is certainly not true of SA1, as things currently stand. Those proceeds are then reallocated by the department to a range of proposals, and they will no doubt form part of the resources that will be available to the department when it looks at the future needs of Barry and its regeneration. Apart from the examples quoted, historically, it has never been the case throughout the rest of Wales that you allocate a specific sum from the receipts of a specific sale to a specific area. What happens is that the money goes into the pot and is redistributed. Just as the Vale council needs to consider the needs of the whole of the Vale when it decides on its regeneration, so it is for us with the whole of Wales.

[79] **Gareth Jones:** Credaf ichi egluro'r pwynt hwnnw. Yn sicr, mae safbwynt y Llywodraeth yn glir ar y mater hwnnw. Rhaid inni dderbyn mai dyna'r safbwynt, a dyna sy'n arwain at y strategaeth ac sy'n bwydo'r polisïau. Yr wyf yn sicr i Chris Franks gael ymateb i'r materion a godwyd ganddo. Yr wyf am symud ymlaen yn awr a throi at yr Aelod lleol a'r Gweinidog, Jane Hutt.

Gareth Jones: I think that you have clarified that point. The Government's position is certainly clear on that issue. We must accept that that is the position, and that leads to the strategy and feeds in to the policies. I am sure that the points that Chris Franks raised have been addressed. I wish to move on now, and so we turn to the local Member and the Minister, Jane Hutt.

[80] **Jane Hutt:** I want to thank the committee for visiting Barry and for hearing the evidence, and not just from Pride in Barry, whose petition I support, but also from the Vale of Glamorgan Council. I believe that partnership is the way forward, as the Deputy First Minister and the Deputy Minister for Regeneration both said.

[81] To pick up on the points about process, partnership does require planning, so there is process as far as that is concerned, but the planning has to lead to our desired outcomes. It is clear to the petitioners that we need to give Barry a fair share of moneys, and that point came out in the Pride in Barry petition presentation. That can be done if we have the plans in process and the commitment to the plans in process.

[82] Let us return to the submission that the Vale of Glamorgan Council made when you came to Barry. Its representatives identified six beacon projects, and I have since met the cabinet member and Rob Quick, and I told them, 'You have to move forward by getting the plan for your priorities in place'. This is about their stating the Vale of Glamorgan Council's priorities and asking how we can work with them.

[83] I seek assurances from the Deputy First Minister and the Deputy Minister that they are now happy to move forward to plan on the basis of a planning agreement, and to look at these beacon projects, some of which are already being moved forward, such as the airport access and M4 link and phase 2 of the Barry waterfront development. One of the Vale of Glamorgan Council's key priorities for Barry is the marina development at No. 1 dock. It would be helpful to hear how we can progress that priority, and the Barry town centre Holton road action plan. Those are two clear projects that we can move forward to plan for the outcomes that I am sure everyone around this table seeks, with fairer shares of funding for Barry. It would be helpful to hear from the Ministers how we can progress.

[84] I have mentioned two projects, but this is about how I can be convinced as the local

Member that a plan for Barry is now under way. We are meeting, of course, later this month, and I thank Leighton for coming to the meeting with the Vale of Glamorgan Council and Pride in Barry. How can we, and the committee, be assured that we will make progress on addressing the key priorities that could lead to a fairer share of moneys for Barry?

[85] **The Deputy First Minister:** I will deal specifically with the issue of the marina, and perhaps the Deputy Minister can deal with the wider issue.

[86] My understanding is that there is potential for a marina at Barry No. 1 dock, and that has been reviewed by interest groups, including the council, as Jane mentioned, Associated British Ports, the waterfront housing consortium, Barry Yacht Club and others. A business case is being worked up for that development and we understand that that issue is being raised up the agenda. Without making a commitment today, as a Government, we will say that, when the business case is ready, it will form part of the decision-making process that will be taken forward by the Deputy Minister.

10.10 a.m.

[87] **Leighton Andrews:** I welcome the invitation to return to Barry later this month, and I will be meeting with the local Member, Jane Hutt, and a number of the interested organisations, including the council, when I do. Last year, I visited Barry at the invitation of the local Member of Parliament, John Smith, and I am keen to engage with the regeneration process in Barry, and my officials are taking part in that process.

[88] **Gareth Jones:** Thank you very much for the question and the response, because it summarises what this issue is all about: fairness, being positive about Barry, and the petitioners getting some confidence in the process and the way forward.

[89] **Jeff Cuthbert:** I was not present at the meeting in the memorial hall in Barry, so I did not have the advantage of taking part in that discussion. Nevertheless, having read the papers, I see that paragraph 22 talks about the defence technical academy. Barry is the nearest town of any size to the site of that development, so can you talk a little more about the anticipated benefits that there would be for Barry particularly as a result of that huge investment, as I imagine that it would be significant? I accept that it will also benefit the whole of Wales, but I expect there to be concentrated local developments and, if there is any feel for what they might be, I would be grateful to hear about it.

[90] I read about the comparisons with Valleys communities in the paper, and the three of us on this side of the table represent Valleys constituencies. While I accept that there is a link between Barry and Valleys communities as exporters of coal, I am not so sure whether I accept that the link extends to deprivation as a whole in the Valleys. I accept that there are parts of Barry that could be as disadvantaged as Valleys communities—as are parts of Cardiff—but it is not disadvantaged as a whole. That is emphasised by the fact that it is not part of the convergence area, as was mentioned, although it is part of the competitiveness area, which has, I accept, a much smaller pot of money. Nevertheless, has any consideration been given by Pride of Barry or the local council to making a bid for competitiveness funding?

[91] **The Deputy First Minister:** On the defence technical academy, we were encouraged by the comments of the UK defence Minister, which confirmed that phase 1 of the project is still on course. The paper makes it clear that that will represent a significant investment in the area. We also should not underestimate the adjoining development of the aerospace park, which is also a significant investment, but which tends to get overlooked because we talk so much about the impact of the defence technical academy. However, the aerospace park is a significant investment that will bring a number of high-quality jobs to the area. Looking at the

whole project, this investment will act as a catalyst, bringing forward several other improvements that will benefit the wider community. Consultants are currently looking at how to address some of the transport issues surrounding the airport, the training academy and the aerospace park. There are a number of ways in which we can address those, such as the proposals on which we have been consulting for the airport link road.

[92] However, the defence training academy and the aerospace park will also demand a significant transport response, because of the sheer size of the project, and we are looking at significant investments to ensure that the transport infrastructure can cope with that. It is very significant, so the whole area will benefit. By ensuring that these investments are properly linked into the transport network, the wider area will benefit significantly from the improved transport infrastructure and, probably, from new public transport initiatives.

[93] **Leighton Andrews:** To add to that, specifically on the regeneration side, I have already asked for a discussion on the regeneration benefits of the defence training academy to be held at the next meeting of our internal regeneration board, which I chair, that will take place in the new year. It is clear to me that, where we have major opportunities such as this, we must ensure holistically that our most deprived communities are receiving the benefits from the investment. Those benefits can be in terms of training and skills—through the job opportunities that are created, ensuring that the communities are able to benefit from local labour opportunities—through to transport, housing and other issues that the Deputy First Minister has raised. I cannot specifically answer your question, Jeff, because I cannot speak for Pride in Barry or the Vale of Glamorgan Council, as to whether they have submitted a bid for competitiveness funding, but we will come back to you with a note on that point, if we may.

[94] **Gareth Jones:** To move on, Huw, do you have a specific point?

[95] **Huw Lewis:** It is more a general observation on what has gone on.

[96] **Gareth Jones:** I will ask Andrew to come in first then.

[97] **Andrew R.T. Davies:** This is a new point. I thank the Ministers for coming along this morning; it is much appreciated. As a member of the Petitions Committee, I had the pleasure of hearing a presentation on this petition—it seems a lifetime ago—in February, and since joining this committee, of taking evidence at the memorial hall in Barry. I have three points to raise with both of you, and I appreciate that your time is running out this morning, Deputy First Minister. First, the perception, whether real or artificial, is that Barry is somehow neglected in terms of redevelopment and regeneration. The Deputy First Minister addressed the Assembly last autumn when the sale of the land came to fruition. Chris Franks asked a question on this a little earlier—although I do not think that he got an answer—but to stop this perception permeating future sales, can you give us a feel of what sort of land bank currently remains available to you in Barry that might be used for future regeneration or that might recreate this perception, should the same situation arise? The Mole is one example that has been highlighted. Can you give us a feel for the type of area you have available at present?

[98] Secondly, in our evidence session at the memorial hall and in the written and verbal evidence that Paul Haley gave the Petitions Committee, there was a perception of disengagement from your good selves, as Ministers, and the Welsh Assembly Government. Hearing all the titles that have been mentioned in today's meeting, and I include myself and other elected Members in this criticism, people living in Barry must feel that this is like a Monty Python sketch: 'This is so-and-so, this is so-and-so, and this is so-and-so.', but when they get to the end of the line there does not seem to be much happening as a result of those titles. Therefore, can you give us a feel for the level of engagement that is going on with the

council? I know that you touched on it earlier. In terms of the review of regeneration that is currently ongoing, the council has highlighted that it, along with other councils, has made strong representations to you, but that it has felt almost shut out of the negotiations over the reformulation of the new funding formula that you will be bringing forward.

[99] **Leighton Andrews:** You have just heard an example of where the problems have been created, Chair. No-one has been shut out of this process; indeed, only a couple of weeks ago, I was speaking at a conference organised by the WLGA, with representatives of the Vale of Glamorgan Council in the audience, and I specifically offered them the opportunity to ask me about the regeneration strategy, but they did not bring forward a question. I am perfectly happy to meet with the Vale of Glamorgan Council, and the local Assembly Member is making arrangements for that to happen. I am perfectly happy to meet with Pride in Barry, and, again, I think that the local Assembly Member is making arrangements. [*Interruption.*]

10.20 a.m.

[100] To finish my point, if I may, because that was a long question, one of the great benefits of this committee hearing is that it engages in this process in a rather more responsible language than I have read from one of Andrew R.T. Davies's colleagues, who said that to learn that Barry had been missing out was a devastating blow—

[101] **David Melding:** Whom do you mean?

[102] **Leighton Andrews:** It was Alun Cairns, Assembly Member.

[103] **Gareth Jones:** Point of order—we are coming to a crucial part of our discussion, and, with due respect to you, there is no need to refer to ongoing external matters. We are getting to the crux of the matter, and my understanding as Chair is that there is engagement. Andrew R.T. Davies referred to the perception of engagement; it may be the wrong perception, who knows? However, he used the word 'perception'.

[104] It is becoming clear that there is engagement, and that is a positive for all of us. I ask you all to continue along positive, supportive lines regarding that engagement and future developments—you have already mentioned the exciting prospect of Metrix, and there will be future partnership engagement that is vital to all aspects of this, across the political divide. Let us focus on Barry and be clear about what is happening.

[105] **Leighton Andrews:** I accept that, and I am happy to be clear, but, on the issue of perception, perception is coloured by the language used by Members of the National Assembly for Wales, both in previous meetings of this committee and in the local media. I was responding to that.

[106] **Andrew R.T. Davies:** I must take the Deputy Minister to task. Among our papers we have a note from the chief executive of the council, and this is a scrutiny session—we base our questions on the evidence that we have received, and this is evidence from the council itself:

[107] 'The Welsh Assembly Government has been advised of the Council's concerns over the lack of involvement of local authorities in the current review'.

[108] I put the question quite legitimately, not politically. I know that you have aspirations to take on the leadership of your party—

[109] **Gareth Jones:** I must call the meeting to order. We must have order on this issue. This is not about one-upmanship—this is about Barry. As members of the Enterprise and

Learning Committee, we must give some positive guidance to those people who are getting mixed messages. Yes, the press get things wrong sometimes, as we all know. Forget the mixed messages out there, and let us focus on the engagement between the Welsh Assembly Government, the Vale of Glamorgan Council and the petitioners. Then we can take a positive step forward this morning. That is my appeal from the Chair: do not revert to one-upmanship.

[110] **Leighton Andrews:** I am happy to respond about local authorities. However, I want to make one point on this issue of perception, and then I will stop. Misleading statements were not just made in the media, but at a previous meeting of this committee.

[111] On the question about local authorities, I have regular meetings with the Welsh Local Government Association. I met with it in June, and in mid-October, to discuss our approach to regeneration. I have spoken at four conferences held by the WLGA and other organisations over the past six to eight weeks, and I have explored the issue of our approach to regeneration. Local authorities have been in the audience in some cases, and the WLGA has been on the same platform. We have discussed this, and they have had the opportunity to raise issues with me. In addition, the Cabinet committee on regeneration, skills and economic inactivity had a full discussion on regeneration in July, and its minutes are published on the Welsh Assembly Government website. It is difficult to see how we could be more transparent. Our minutes are published, we discuss the issues with the WLGA, and we have meetings on regeneration with local authorities at their request—so the entire process is open for people to engage with us.

[112] **Gareth Jones:** Thank you. I sympathise with the task and the challenge that the Welsh Assembly Government faces. I am sure that Andrew mentioned in his question that the Assembly Government inherited compartmentalised systems that do not quite integrate. That is how people perceive this, as Andrew said—as a Monty Python sketch. However, that is not the fault of the Welsh Assembly Government. My point is that I would like to see clarification and simplification, so that we understand exactly what regeneration is about. I know, Minister, that you are pulling out all of the stops to clarify these issues in our communities—Barry being one of them, obviously.

[113] **Andrew R.T. Davies:** May I seek an answer to my question about the land bank?

[114] **Gareth Jones:** Yes, you had a question about the land bank and the assets. This is a question that was also raised by Chris Franks.

[115] **The Deputy First Minister:** Paragraph 4 of the paper that we provided to the committee notes that, when the joint initiative was established between Associated British Ports and the Welsh Development Agency, the total land bank was 190 acres, known as the Barry waterfront. Some of that was developed or sold off in the first phase. I do not think that the amount of land left has been noted here. Can we give an idea of the amount of land that is left to be developed in that land bank?

[116] **Mr Shaddick:** We have some land, but not large areas.

[117] **Andrew R.T. Davies:** Is it around 50 acres?

[118] **Mr Shaddick:** It is in different plots. The innovation quarter is around 10 acres, some of which has been developed. There is land at a separate site, which is known as the EWS depot, which is probably around another 10 acres.

[119] **Andrew R.T. Davies:** Could an inventory be provided?

[120] **Mr Shaddick:** Yes, we can provide that.

[121] **The Deputy First Minister:** Rather than trying to add it up as we go along, we will provide a note to the committee setting out the amount of land left. It was originally 190 acres; some of that has been developed, and we will provide a note regarding what is left.

[122] **Gareth Jones:** We would appreciate that. We also understand that it is a difficult time to make predictions in view of what is happening in the economic field. I believe that we have a final question from Huw Lewis.

[123] **Huw Lewis:** I will try to make it a concluding point. I have listened to the discussions carefully—for the second time, when you take into consideration our meeting in Barry—and I wonder what useful proposals, constructive points and conclusions the committee can put into the mix to help to move things along. I do not think that that is tremendously clear at the moment, because I do not think that we have discovered any kind of governmental problem as regards the attitude of the Assembly Government's regeneration efforts towards Barry. I do not think that there is a fundamental conspiracy to do Barry down. When you look at the fact that £150 million has already gone into regeneration projects in the Barry area, despite what has been said about convergence funded areas and the Heads of the Valleys strategy areas and so on, most communities in Wales would look at £150 million with envious eyes. I would have thought that, in the Heads of the Valleys area, for example, only Blaenavon and perhaps Ebbw Vale are getting anywhere near that kind of figure as yet, and they are not there yet; they have several years to run before they reach anything like that level of investment.

[124] I also worry what it would mean as a precedent, if we go with this line of the value in land and the recycling locally of value in land. First, it distinguishes between areas of Wales where the private sector is interested in the value of land and areas where it is not so interested. That could lead us to a two-tier system of regeneration if the precedent was leapt upon by other communities in Wales. Some would go motoring ahead because they happen to have land of value that the private sector wants to get involved with, but that is just not the case for some other communities. I object to the idea that the Assembly Government is making profit out of regeneration. The Ministers, with the best will in the world, do not go off and spend the £3 million on parties, tea and buns; this money is precisely what is required for regeneration projects in a balanced way across the whole of Wales. That is the point that the Ministers have been making. The use of language is not helpful and does not help the petitioners' case. We need to cool down the discussion.

10.30 a.m.

[125] The Deputy Minister also made the point that putting all of your eggs in the basket of land value at the moment is not quite such a good idea as it might have seemed 12 months ago. So, I return to the question: what useful proposals can the committee make to help this process along, in order to help Barry and to secure good, sound regeneration policies over the next few years? The arguments before me point to the fact that there is value, perhaps, in learning as much as possible from innovative models of financing regeneration. Barry has done well, in my view, because it has been able to attract particular private sector investment. Perhaps there is a model from which we can learn, for example, Newport—*[Inaudible]*—Barry could learn from in terms of building on that private sector advantage that it has.

[126] The answer does not lie in ring-fencing land values as an instrument for leveraging in more resource. That will not work, because it unbalances regeneration work as we would like it to progress across the rest of the country. I think that it is crude and that, in the current climate, it probably would not work anyway. However, there is clearly an advantage in Barry in terms of private sector investment. So, what do people think of that? I cannot see that there is more, in a constructive sense, that the committee could propose as a conclusion.

[127] **Leighton Andrews:** I will answer that briefly. I hope that the committee takes from this morning's evidence the fact that we are committed to the regeneration of Barry and to continuing proper dialogue with those bodies that are interested in the regeneration of Barry, such as Pride in Barry, which is a perfectly proper and respectable non-party—indeed all-party—organisation.

[128] Huw has touched on some interesting issues regarding private sector support, which were explored in detail at our first Wales regeneration summit two weeks ago. That summit had over 300 attendants, including many from the private sector. We are seeing some interesting initiatives. For example, the proposed JESSICA fund would require a private sector partner and that is part of the process that we are developing. Some of the best regeneration initiatives that we are currently seeing come from organisations that have developed as community housing mutuals, such as RCT Homes, which has significant private sector investment. We are open to new approaches and to dialogue with Pride in Barry, the Vale of Glamorgan Council and with local stakeholders, and we will continue to be committed to the regeneration of Barry.

[129] **Gareth Jones:** On that positive note, I thank you for your attendance and thank Assembly Members for engaging with you in what has been quite a robust scrutiny session, to say the least. However, I also believe sincerely that we have got to grips with certain key areas about which there was, and possibly still is, concern. However, you have clarified the situation for us. There will be a report, as you know, from the committee. On the points raised by Huw, it is up to Members to include those in the report or otherwise. I thank you again for your attendance and for engaging with us in this way.

[130] Symudwn ymlaen at ail ran yr eitem ar ddeiseb 'Pride in Barry'. Yr ydym eisoes wedi cyfeirio at bapur 2 gan y deisebwyr. Estynnwn groeso cynnes i gynrychiolydd y deisebwyr, sef Paul Haley, cadeirydd a phrif ddeisebydd 'Pride in Barry'. Gyda Paul, yn annisgwyl, mae Gareth Howe; yr ydym yn hynod falch o'i weld. Bu i ni gyfarfod yn y Barri beth amser yn ôl. Gareth Howe yw llywydd 'Pride in Barry'. We will now move to the second part of the item on the Pride in Barry petition. We have already referred to paper 2 from the petitioners. I extend a warm welcome to the representative of the petitioners, Paul Haley, chair and main petitioner of Pride in Barry. Paul is accompanied, unexpectedly, by Gareth Howe; we are extremely pleased to see him here. We met in Barry some time ago. Gareth Howe is president of Pride in Barry.

[131] Yr ydym yn ddiolchgar am y wybodaeth yr ydych eisoes wedi'i chyflwyno inni yn ysgrifenedig ac am y cyfarfod a gafwyd yn y Barri. Gofynnaf i chi am gyflwyniad o hyd at ryw 15 munud i symud pethau ymlaen. Trof atoch chi, Paul Haley, i wneud y cyflwyniad ar ran deisebwyr 'Pride in Barry'. We are grateful for the evidence that we have already received from you and for the meeting that was held in Barry. I ask you for a short presentation of up to 15 minutes to move things on. I turn to you, Paul Haley, to make the presentation on behalf of the Pride in Barry petitioners.

[132] **Mr Haley:** As I was unable to attend the earlier hearing, I would, on behalf of Pride in Barry, like to thank the committee for taking an electronic presentation as my evidence to you. I would also like to thank our president, Gareth Howe, who so ably deputised for me.

[133] On reading the transcript of that meeting, I realised that many points were raised by committee members that needed a more detailed explanation, and I have included that in a paper in response to the committee.

[134] I will mention a few of the most important points in this statement, but, first, I wish to

change some of the evidence that Pride in Barry has referred to; the reason for that is that much of our evidence has come from answers to questions by Ministers on Barry regeneration and from officers who have attended as members of the Barry regeneration partnership board. The paper submitted by the Minister and his officials to the committee has, in paragraph 9, given a complete breakdown of public sector investment in Barry. We understood that the Assembly had invested £47 million in Barry regeneration, which enabled us to calculate a £3 million profit, given the £50 million return through the land receipts. However, having dismissed the contribution made by the Vale of Glamorgan Council in paragraph 8—that dismissal was also made in the Senedd on Tuesday, 10 June 2008 in a response to a question in which the First Minister said that the Vale of Glamorgan Council did not invest in the urban regeneration of Barry—it now transpires that the Vale of Glamorgan Council's contribution of the sum of £13.5 million is added into the Assembly's figures. Furthermore, nearly £1.4 million of lottery money is also included. If we now recalculate the sums using these new figures, and exclude the Vale of Glamorgan Council and the lottery contributions, the £3 million profit delivered to the Assembly was considerably understated previously by Pride in Barry. The figure now shows a profit of £14,951,000—that is nearly £15 million made by the Assembly as clear profit from the regeneration of Barry, or to put it another way, that is £300 for every resident.

[135] We are astonished that officials have not sought to correct the figures that were misstated in our presentation to Assembly Members on 9 October 2007, at the Petitions Committee meeting on 24 April 2008, at the previous hearing on 8 October 2008 or in the evidence presented today. Why is that? According to the Barry regeneration board minutes, Richard Shaddick was present at board meetings on 23 October 2007, 10 December 2007 and 3 March 2008. All of those meetings discussed the delivery plan and the involvement of the Assembly Government. The meeting on 23 October 2007 referred specifically to the Pride in Barry presentation at the Senedd a week earlier.

[136] The figure of £15 million profit that I have just referred to certainly adds some weight to what Pride in Barry has been calling for in its petition, which brings me on to what Pride in Barry has asked for. That differs considerably from what the ministerial paper asserts is asked for by Pride in Barry. It is incorrect to state that we have asked for a sum of £2 million per annum over a 10-year period in the petition. It is also incorrect to state that we have asked for direct funding from Barry waterfront phase II capital receipts. As the chief executive of the Vale of Glamorgan Council said in his submission to this committee, we do not care where the money comes from, just that we get the money needed to complete the job.

[137] Our petition was carefully worded and crafted with great care and precision. Pride in Barry asked for a long-term funding commitment solution commensurate with the land sale moneys. We suggested that £20 million over 10 years was an indication of the kind of sums required. However, that was in the final slides of our presentation and is not within the wording of the petition itself, which is what we are here to debate; it was merely a view to give context to the discussion. We did not say anything about capital receipts being ring-fenced either, and most certainly have never asked for all the land receipts to be recycled.

10.40 a.m.

[138] Why have our views and demands been repeatedly misrepresented? In our view, paragraphs 2, 6, 7, 24 and 25 of the ministerial response are inaccurate and misleading, and can not be offered under the term 'evidence'. We hope that this is not an attempt to mislead this committee.

[139] What we have asked for continually is fairness. I will now tell you where the £20 million figure came from, which will probably surprise Members, officials and the Minister. It was a figure that the Welsh Development Agency suggested to the Barry regeneration

board members, prior to the demise of the WDA, of the public sector investment that would be required to complete the second phase of waterfront II. Therefore, it is not Pride in Barry's figure but the Assembly's own figure that we have used, which the chief executive of the Vale of Glamorgan Council confirmed to the last hearing appeared about right. Have we heard any reasons from the Assembly as to why that figure is incorrect?

[140] What we have asked for in the wording of our petition is in accord with the recommendations made by the Wales Audit Office's August 2005 report on regeneration. That report's recommendations were accepted by the First Minister, and recently cited as actively responding to the WAO 2005 report by the Deputy Minister for Regeneration in his oral statement of 14 October 2008. Our petition wording reflected the report's recommendations, namely recommendations 3, 4, 5 and 6. I will not go into them in great detail, other than to say that empowerment to deliver long-term regeneration strategies, simplified funding, clarity and enabling local needs to be addressed are all part of the wording of the report's recommendations, and are reflected in our petition's words. Having accepted the report's recommendations, the Assembly has to address the Pride in Barry petition in the light of that acceptance, or appear inconsistent.

[141] Paragraph 7 of the ministerial response appears at odds with that acceptance. The response suggests that regeneration funding will disrupt budget planning and programme delivery on an annual basis, and that current financial guidance permits only a three-year rolling programme. However, the WAO report recommendation calls for clear, long-term 10-year strategies. There is obviously some way to go before the Assembly can say that it has responded to and implemented those 2005 recommendations.

[142] Over the years since that report, Pride in Barry has attempted to have a meaningful dialogue on long-term funding to ensure that the Barry regeneration programme continues. I referred earlier to a response made by the First Minister in the Senedd. During that same response, the First Minister told Members that he had had a dialogue with me. This week, I have received a response from the First Minister to my question as to when this dialogue took place. This is the second response, as he did not address my question the first time, so I asked again. His response was that he saw little point in debating what constitutes a dialogue, and furthermore sees little point in meeting Pride in Barry.

[143] Recommendations 2 and 3 of the WAO's report on regeneration, which the First Minister has accepted, suggest that communication with local community partnerships is key to strategic delivery. We continue to invite Ministers to work with us, and to meet to discuss issues that we consider important enough to warrant a meeting at least once in four years. So, for the record, the record is wrong, and we hope that that can be corrected.

[144] In our evidence at the first hearing, we reported that we had put in place all the right structures. We have a regeneration board, a regeneration strategy and an action delivery plan. All this has been achieved with the involvement of Assembly officials, who have been involved in board meetings that approved the strategy and the action plan, and who now sit with the Minister presenting an inaccurate paper that recommends no funding. We mention in our response to points raised by David Melding potential conflicts of interest; in our view, this is a glaring one. We would question how Assembly officials, who will be able to attend future Barry regeneration board meetings, can have any credibility with partners.

[145] You will know from our petition and all our evidence that the missing part is the funding element, which is vital and the reason why we presented this petition, but there are other things that the Assembly could be doing to help Barry. In response to the points raised by Jane Hutt, we believe that the Assembly could do much more to assist Barry regeneration by locating Assembly sponsored public bodies on Barry waterfront. Barry is Wales's largest town and we do not have any Assembly sponsored bodies located anywhere in Barry. That

would be at virtually neutral cost, if Barry were seen as a location to place such a body, once that decision to relocate had been taken. That would be a real joined-up approach to regeneration that we would welcome.

[146] In summary, our case has been about continuing the highly successful Barry regeneration programme. It has seen the successful completion of over 125 projects and has levered in over £100 million of private sector funds. It could also produce a further £250 million of private sector investment if, and when, the housing market revives, which might not be for some time. Further investment in regeneration will be required to complement the £250 million private sector investment in the waterfront. As I have already pointed out, it has produced £15 million worth of net profit for the Assembly so far.

[147] As we said in our response to Andrew R.T. Davies, the Assembly still retains a financial interest in land at Barry waterfront, including a piece of land that is known as ‘The Mole’. That land is very necessary for the development of a marina and will thus produce further large funds for the Assembly. We believe that a regeneration programme that produces potentially £350 million of private sector moneys and considerably over £15 million profit to the public sector gives an investment-to-return ratio that is unlikely to be matched or beaten anywhere else in Wales, and probably the UK. On value-for-money grounds, we would argue that Barry is a fantastic investment and will continue to be so.

[148] Where are all the community facilities that were promised to the public? Where will these facilities come from? It is highly unlikely that section 106 will get moneys from developers who paid way over the market rate for the land, paying twice as much as other developers. Without a continuing funding commitment, community facilities will not be built and the opportunity will be lost. While we might say what a great success the Barry regeneration programme has been to date, there are many parts of our community that will question what it has delivered for them, such as the many local football teams that use the Colcot sports centre, which is in a terrible condition, and the Barry sea cadets who are about to be evicted from Ministry of Defence premises outside the town, which are being sold to a developer to build more houses, and the many users of community facilities attached to churches that are closing at a very fast rate, and those who have moved onto the waterfront who do not have a pub, a restaurant or a community hall. If community facilities were created and modernised, Pride in Barry is convinced that local groups would benefit and continue to offer all sorts of hobbies, interests and social community-focused support activities. That would be the hidden benefit of regeneration and is at least as important as marinas and other projects. We agree with what we have just heard from the Minister, that it is about investing in people, and we welcome that. Pride in Barry will continue to represent the community and ask the vital question, ‘Where are these community facilities?’. As you can no doubt appreciate, we are very passionate about Barry. We would ask that the committee supports our endeavours to have community-led regeneration through the proper funding of Barry regeneration. I am happy to take any questions related to Pride in Barry’s petition.

[149] **Gareth Jones:** Thank you very much for that, Paul. You referred to what is on record, but you have now had this opportunity to clarify certain issues and obviously that has been duly recorded. I will now turn to Jeff Cuthbert.

[150] **Jeff Cuthbert:** Thank you for the oral presentation and the additional paper that we have received. Like you, I was not present at the meeting at the Barry Memorial Hall and Theatre, so I do not have the benefit of that discussion, but I do understand your passion for Barry, as I feel passionate about my part of Wales, the constituency of Caerphilly. I just want to put to you the points that I put to the ministerial group earlier. You made the point, which is quite true, that you are not part of the convergence area and you were not part of Objective 1, but you are part of the east Wales competitiveness area. I just wonder, because it does not refer to it in anything that I have seen, whether you have considered making bids to that fund,

which I acknowledge is a much smaller pot than the convergence fund, but is nevertheless worth about £75 million to £80 million in total across Wales. Have you considered that and, if so, what response have you received? There is also the issue of the defence technical academy. I had always thought that it was called the defence training academy, but in this paper it is called the technical academy; however, I think we are talking about the same thing. Have you carried out any assessment of how you could benefit from that huge level of investment over the next few years?

10.50 a.m.

[151] **Mr Haley:** Thank you for that question. I have no knowledge of what the competitiveness fund is. Pride in Barry is just a volunteer organisation made up of people in Barry. Where the funding comes from is probably a question for the Vale of Glamorgan Council with regard to that funding pot. From the answers that we heard earlier, it is clear that there is now some sort of dialogue going on to look alternative sources of funding. However, that is not something that Pride in Barry would necessarily get involved in, because we do not apply for funding. We do not have any money.

[152] With regard to the defence training academy, we are very aware of the potential impact that it could have on the whole of south-east Wales. As a former employee at the Defence Aviation Repair Agency, I am very aware of the value of aviation repair and technical Ministry of Defence issues in that area. We have not got to the stage of engaging with the defence training academy because, as you are probably aware, it has taken some considerable time and negotiations between Metrix and the Ministry of Defence, and they have not previously engaged with the community as much as they are starting to do now. They were in the phases of winning the bid and negotiating the terms of that bid. However, one public meeting has been held, which we attended, and we are therefore beginning to understand how Metrix wants to work with the greater community area. However, it is too early at this stage to set out a quantifiable plan for what that is going to deliver.

[153] **Jeff Cuthbert:** Thank you for your answers. On the issue of competitiveness funding, I will make a suggestion—because you mentioned convergence funding and Objective 1, its predecessor—that you investigate whether that may be a source of funding. It would have to be match funded, but you should investigate that yourself directly, by contacting the Welsh European Funding Office, or via the council. You understand that I am not offering any assurances that any such bid would be successful, but it is something that you might wish to explore.

[154] **Mr Haley:** Thank you very much. We will definitely explore anything that comes out of this meeting.

[155] **David Melding:** We heard in evidence from the Ministers that special approaches were taken with regard to the redevelopment and regeneration in Swansea with SA1 and in Newport. It seems that the gist of your case is that you wanted something similar, but that you feel frustrated that you have not been able to engage with the Ministers. I do not want to get drawn into what constitutes a dialogue and so on, but it seems that you feel that you have not had access to Ministers to put your case or, presumably, to officials. The Deputy Minister for Regeneration rebutted that very strongly. He feels that it has been a very transparent process. Please describe to us what sort of opportunities you have had to make your case. What do you say to those who would argue that exceptional approaches were taken in Newport and Swansea, but that you cannot do that everywhere, because, otherwise, every regeneration project would try to do that? I would therefore ask why it is especially important in Barry.

[156] **Mr Haley:** I was interested to hear the debate earlier. Pride in Barry was formed in 1994 when the Welsh Development Agency and Associated British Ports in the Vale formed

Barry Action. We were formed to provide the community response. As to why a regeneration board was never set in Barry, I do not know. I do not even know whether it was possible to set up a regeneration board in 1994; we have not got to the bottom of that. Over the past four years, we have tried to research whether it would benefit Barry to set up a regeneration board, but we did not find much information on that that was helpful. We have gone through this process of looking at all avenues, and it is great that there is this petitions process that has allowed us to have this wider debate. As I have said previously, we have had many warm words over the last four years. We have met Ministers. We have not met the present Ministers, but we had a meeting with the previous Minister, Andrew Davies. It was a very unsuccessful meeting because he believed that the Assembly only had an interest in seven acres of land at Barry waterfront, which was incorrect, as time has shown.

[157] We have tried to have dialogues and meetings to discuss the way forward. The reason why we got involved in the process, and why we have deflected all our resources, for four years, into lobbying for this continued funding, has not been made clear. The whole reason was that we had a meeting with the chief executive of the Welsh Development Agency who said that Barry would not have any more funding, which alarmed us because when the Barry regeneration programme first started we were told that it was a 20 to 25-year programme. However, when we were reaching the end of the first 10 years we were suddenly told, 'The funding is going to stop'. That is why Pride in Barry has spent four years focusing on trying to establish which funding streams it is going to come from. Talk to any project manager and you will find that you can keep coming up with dream lists of projects, but if you do not know whether any money will ever come, what is the point? Funding is one of the key components of running projects and programmes. Therefore, that is what we have done.

[158] We would have much rather have had someone tell us four years ago, 'Don't worry, boys; you will continue to receive regeneration funding', which is what we have heard today, and, 'Yes, to funds to Barry', which we have also heard today. We have not heard that in four years. If we had heard that, we would not have spent four years wasting our time on this; we would instead have focused on delivering regeneration, which is what we should all be doing if we are to believe in the concept of partnership.

[159] **David Melding:** To put a positive construction on what the Minister said, and the Welsh Assembly Government's paper, it seems that the Government does not want to be in a position where it gives a sort of 10-year commitment to a long-term programme. It would rather look at regeneration projects with a three-year cycle and be more piecemeal, because you get better value for money, in its view, from that. If that is what transpires, but Pride in Barry and regeneration in the Barry area is successful in these funding applications over the years, given that they would be piecemeal, could your objectives still be met? How crucial is it to have some form of long-term strategic commitment? It seems to me that you could get there step by step, could you not?

[160] **Mr Haley:** There is a long-term action plan for what needs to be delivered in Barry. The danger, if you do it piecemeal, is that the strategy does not get delivered because you tend to fit the projects around the grant stream. For example, you might decide that a building is of historic merit and want to convert it into a museum or perhaps a business centre, but you might have to make it an arts centre because the pot of money available is for arts centres. Therefore, you are not delivering the strategy; what you are delivering would be dictated by wherever the money comes from. We have a strategy, and we think that we have a clear idea of what needs to be delivered over the next 10 years; and we need to know that there will be funds that will enable that to happen and we can then actually deliver what is required rather than what the grants enable. I think that there is a distinction.

[161] **Andrew R.T. Davies:** Thank you for coming in again this morning, gentlemen. This last part of evidence gathering is to bring a degree of clarity to your position, because,

ultimately, this is about the petition rather than, perhaps, the global concept of regeneration, which could be subject to a separate investigation. Your petition was about Barry getting its fair share of regeneration money that may have been unlocked or activated through land sales, not, as you quite rightly pointed out, the entire amount. Whether that fair share is worked out according to a formula based on population, deprivation or whatever, I would suggest that it goes back to what you said earlier, Paul, about your conversation with the chief executive of the Welsh Development Agency, who said that regeneration money would never come to Barry.

11.00 a.m.

[162] When you have such a compelling statement from the head of regeneration, that is, what was the WDA, that activates civic groups such as yours to suddenly say, 'We're not going to allow our town to go down that route.' The couple of sentences that you put in—from my perspective in any case, but I am sure it is the case for other Members—suddenly brought a degree of clarity with regard to where we are going. I used the analogy—and you might have felt this when you have gone around trying to get answers—when I was speaking to the Minister that it almost like a Monty Python sketch, in that you are going endlessly from title to title, shaking hands incessantly with all these different people, and, all of a sudden, you get to the end of the line, and there appears to be nothing there. I would be grateful to hear your view of the processes that you have been put through to try to get the answer that the communities in Barry want and of how you as a civic society could formulate a better process of getting clarity into the argument that you are trying to seek answers to.

[163] You have this partnership, the officials were in committee this morning, and we heard that there was £20 million over 10 years, which is £2 million every year. Again, these were not your figures, and they were not the council's figures; they were the WDA's figures. Having that partnership group, the Welsh Assembly Government, into which the WDA has been subsumed, has started to distance itself from that funding formula for the regeneration of Barry. Is that causing you concern for the long-term goal of regeneration, irrespective of what the Ministers say? The decision will ultimately be a political one as to what money comes to Barry, because that is what Ministers are for; they are charged with making the decision. Are they distancing themselves from that formula, which was ultimately a Government formula for Barry?

[164] **Mr Haley:** There were so many questions there; I will see whether I can recall them all and answer them.

[165] With regard to the process that we have been through, I would say that we have jumped through every hoop that has been put before us. At various stages, as we have gone down this route and as we started to ask the questions about how we can ensure continuity of funding for Barry's regeneration programme, the response would come, 'You need to set up a regeneration board.' So the Vale council set one up, and it invited Pride in Barry to sit on it as non-executives with other various representatives of the community.

[166] The next hoop for us to jump through was being told that we needed a strategy, so URBED was commissioned to draft one, and it is mentioned in the report. URBED conducted a large study and consultation exercise, and it helped to frame the strategic direction for regeneration under some fairly broad headings. Next we were asked to come up with an action delivery plan. So, under those broad headings are various projects, and they have been assessed to show how they meet the strategic objectives. We did all that.

[167] The final thing was to ask, 'Where's the money to go along with that?'. During that whole process of coming up with the board, the strategy and the action plan, Assembly Government officials have been part of the Barry regeneration board, and they have attended

meetings, met the people involved and been present to actually approve, with the rest of us, the strategy and the action plan. So, some quite misleading statements have been made about ‘There needs to be x, y and z.’ For at least two years, there has been a delivery plan for Barry. It exists, it tells you what the projects are, and it even gives some figures.

[168] With regard to the relationships, it would be fair to say that the relationship between Pride in Barry, the regeneration board and the officials has changed noticeably since the days of the WDA. Our relationship previously was with a dedicated project officer from the WDA side, who would meet us, phone us and keep in regular contact with us, because he saw the involvement of the community as being a vital part of the equation. It is fair to say that that type of relationship does not exist anymore. I am trying desperately to recall any phone calls that I have ever received from an Assembly Government official since the WDA vanished, so let us say that there were two, just in case there have been any, although I really cannot think of any.

[169] **Andrew R.T. Davies:** Does that reflect a mindset shift across other areas that the Welsh Assembly Government, rather than the WDA, is now responsible for with regard to regeneration? I am sure that you speak to other civic groups who may deal with similar projects in their own towns and who may have seen that change in the partnership board, or is it specific to Barry?

[170] **Mr Haley:** I can talk only about Barry. Instead of having a dedicated project officer, as we had with the Welsh Development Agency, the regeneration responsibilities are now split across all departments within the Assembly Government. So, who do you actually talk to? Someone does come along, but I sent a few e-mails a few months ago to the person that I was told was the manager only to find that he had moved on, as had various other officials. So, that continuity of officials has also changed somewhat. To be fair to the officials, they are in a different position than they were in the WDA, because the WDA had specific responsibilities for development and regeneration. Officials now act as go-betweens and are trying to keep everyone happy—Pride of Barry, the Vale of Glamorgan Council and Ministers. They are put in a position where they approve a plan but they know that they will not be able to put any funds against it. So, it is difficult from their perspective and it may be something that needs to be looked at, to ask whether the process is as effective as it was four or five years ago. I would say a resounding ‘No, it is not.’

[171] **Andrew R.T. Davies:** Is there a distancing from the original plan, namely £2 million over 10 years, which gives a total of £20 million, which was a WDA plan? Are you seeing a distancing from that model, which means that, although regeneration will go on, it will be a far smaller regeneration project that you will be looking at ultimately?

[172] **Mr Haley:** I do not hear any recognition of this longer term funding commitment, which is what that £20 million does; it says ‘Yes, we will commit to the next 10 years.’ We are moving towards a piecemeal approach that says ‘We will fund you if it fits whatever the criteria may be at the moment.’, and that is in competition with everywhere else I suppose. We heard the Minister talk earlier about Barry continuing to receive regeneration funds, but is that just a broad statement that applies to anywhere in Wales? Will we be in a competitive position—

[173] **Andrew R.T. Davies:** He is not going to make the statement that you are not going to get it though is he?

[174] **Mr Haley:** I have had statements and letters in the past of that nature. There are warm words about the Government supporting the aims of regeneration in Barry, but there is never an answer about what that tangibly means.

[175] **Christine Chapman:** I was not at the last meeting because I had to sit on another committee, so this is the first time that I have had a dialogue with anyone about this issue. Before I ask my question, I agree with a number of my colleagues about this talk of the precedent, which alarmed me slightly. When we talk about fairness, there are many communities across Wales that have not had fairness at all. I am not saying that Barry does not need to have that regeneration money, because I think that it does, but we are in a different political time to 1994. Decisions were made then that many people were unhappy with, and I hope that things are starting to even out to address the inequalities that we have across Wales, particularly in those communities that may never articulate those concerns, so I hope that things are changing. I pay tribute to the work that you are doing, because you are championing the community and I wish you all the best in that.

[176] We have heard much about partnership, lack of dialogue and lack of communication. It is slightly confusing for me, because I am a complete outsider—you know it best because you were there in the community. There have been many reassurances from the Welsh Assembly Government and you must scrutinise those, but what will you take away from today's meeting? Will you do things differently as a result of this open dialogue and discussion? What do you suggest that the committee could do to support you in the future? We have mentioned a few things that may change, but are there any particular lessons about things that you wish to do differently as a result of this meeting?

11.10 a.m.

[177] **Mr Haley:** Thank you for the support that you have given us. To return to the wording of the petition, we ask for fairness—fairness of funding. We are not asking for the ring-fencing of the money from capital receipts; we are just highlighting the kind of moneys that have been involved in this to give some context. We are asking for fairness and an ability to allow us to continue this. We need to remember that there are 100-plus acres of brownfield undeveloped site in the middle of Barry that are likely to remain like that for five or six years, until the housing market picks up.

[178] The general comment that I would make about the committee's support is that the petitioning process, which has led to our coming here, has given Pride in Barry a voice that was being stifled. So, we have to say 'Thank you very much' for a process that allows small community groups such as ours to come here and create a big noise, as we know we have done through this process. Even if you make no recommendations on this, we know that we have raised the needs and issues relating to Barry loudly in this building and have caused two Ministers to come here today to answer questions about that and to realise its importance. In itself, that is a win for us.

[179] If you are asking for more general advice about regeneration across Wales, it is important that you give community groups confidence that they can play an active role in what is happening. Only 18 months ago, Pride in Barry was being held up as an exemplar for community regeneration groups, and I hope that our shouting over the past few months has not forced Ministers to change that opinion. The one thing that I would say is that it is important that the community is actively involved in regeneration and feels that regeneration is being done with it, and that it is not a case of developers moving in and doing things that take value from the community and its land. You must remember that the waterfront in Barry tells the story of Barry's birth, so it is important to the community and contains the heritage of Barry.

[180] What else could you do? As the Minister recognised in his oral statement, regeneration is about more than funding streams. We recognise that, but there are many other decisions that can be taken to help, and I highlighted in my statement the fact that Barry does not seem to have any kind of Assembly Government body. If you go around Wales, you find

business parks, such as in Caerphilly, where Health Commission Wales is an anchor tenant, and the Government ombudsman is in Pencoed. There are several business parks with an Assembly Government body as an anchor tenant, which gives the private sector confidence. There are other such things that could be done. Why not put Barry on a list of future possible locations for Assembly Government bodies? As Rob Quick said in his previous presentation, Barry is in the dark shadow of Cardiff, and it is often overlooked, yet it has 100-odd acres of land that could be used. So, other things can be done, it is not just about this money.

[181] **Gareth Jones:** Thank you, Paul. Last but not least, I call on Chris Franks.

[182] **Chris Franks:** It is clear from your evidence that you are not seeking all the receipts, but a stream of investment over 10 years. I do not think that you are particularly concerned about the source, and I do not think that there is any point in rehashing how much has been put in by whom at this stage, as we have heard all that. However, the key message is that there are opportunities to regenerate Barry and you are looking for commitments from the Government to provide adequate funding.

[183] My second point is that there seems to be a big difference between your evidence and that of the Deputy Minister. Leighton Andrews seemed to be confident that there were ample opportunities for engagement with you, the Vale of Glamorgan Council and other operators, but you seem to say the exact opposite. This committee needs to address that in a broader sense, over and above the case of Barry, but would you like to comment on improving the lines of communication with Ministers and the relevant civil servants, which you also expressed concerns about?

[184] **Mr Haley:** Essentially, we asked for a continuing stream of funding to fulfil the promises that were made to the community, going back to 1994, of a 20 or 25-year programme that would deliver all sorts of benefits, such as sports fields. That is what was promised but those benefits have still not materialised. So, that is what we are looking for.

[185] On opportunities, our evidence probably appears to be negative, but we recognise that some fantastic work has been done so far, and it is the success of the first 10 years that makes us want to carry on and fulfil the potential in Barry over the next 10 years. We are looking for that commitment.

[186] As to what could be done to improve dialogue, I think that we need a proper, clear policy on regeneration, so that people can see how it all knits together. I know that the spatial plan will try to do that, and that, last year, there was some success in getting Barry recognised as a key settlement in the spatial plan, but perhaps it is a timing issue, and perhaps things will improve as the spatial plan develops and links into the strategic plans of various boards. That might be one way of improving communication.

[187] However, I return to a comment that I made earlier, namely that the Government must recognise that the community is a key partner in this, and whatever policy or process emerges must recognise that. You cannot talk the language of partnership, but then ignore your partners when it suits you. If there is a message to give, it is about valuing the community and the role that it can play in the regeneration process.

[188] **Gareth Jones:** Thank you. In my concluding remarks, I must say that Christine Chapman was right to ask what you have gained from this meeting, and from the meeting that we held in Barry. As Members, we appreciate your good words in response. We care about the democratic process in Wales, and I was glad to hear how much that is appreciated by dedicated members of our communities such as you. However, it is also right for us as Members to ask what we have learned from this episode, and I feel that we have learned a lot. The buzzword has been 'clarity'. That was what we were seeking, and I believe that certain

issues have been clarified for us. I am fairly positive about that, although I am always the optimist, but you pointed out areas of concern where there had not been a meaningful interpretation of what Pride in Barry was about. I am pleased that you have pointed out that it is really about representing the community, but also about making things happen, and ensuring that warm words translate into delivery.

11.20 a.m.

[189] Your point about the commitment of funding is difficult over 10 years, or whatever, but that is up to the Welsh Assembly Government to respond, after it has looked at it. However, I totally agree that we need the delivery to be made identifiable, as it were, so that you know that you can then monitor the progress. I have seen a transformation in our discussions today, in that we have taken the sting out of what has not been the best political involvement. I am not blaming any sides whatsoever. We have now brought it into the right, proper political arena. There will be a case here for things to be put right in our communities in regeneration terms. I take a positive view of the fact that the Deputy Minister will be visiting Barry to look at what has happened and he will look to the future. So, there will be a commitment that will be in the proper political arena without any misinterpretation or misconception of what is happening.

[190] So, I am grateful to you. I am sure that I speak on behalf of members of this committee when I thank you for having come forward in this way and sharing our concerns, because, as Christine Chapman pointed out, these are issues that affect not only Barry, but also communities throughout Wales. Barry is important to us. I said that at the meeting in Barry, and I can assure you that all the geography pupils whom I have taught know of the importance of Barry. I am reminded every time I travel through Llandinam on the A470 of David Davies, and I wonder whether he is still looking at that delivery plan. I hope that good things will come of the meetings that we have had. Before I turn very briefly to Members, I am reminded that I have to thank you for your presentation and wish you all the best with Pride in Barry. We will take things further in a brief deliberation now.

[191] Diolch yn fawr iawn i'r ddau I thank you both very much.
ohonoch.

[192] Following the meetings that we have had, it is up to you as Members to say either that we will go ahead with preparing a report covering all the aspects that we have deliberated and discussed, or that you feel that further work is needed.

[193] **David Melding:** We can move now to a report—not at this meeting, or we will need to go into private session. It should be very focused. There are some outcomes that will be a bit more contentious, which is why we will need to hammer them out in private. We need to agree an approach that the whole committee can sign up to. We all accept that there are particular issues, but we have also heard about the importance of a strategic approach, and an all-Wales approach, in distributing assets. I completely agree with the points made by Huw, Christine, and Jeff that some communities would be very disadvantaged if the only aspect of regeneration that they got was land that they could sell in their own communities. So, there are thorny issues, but we should have a short report that we can send to the Welsh Assembly Government. I hope that that will be the outcome that we can agree.

[194] **Jeff Cuthbert:** I agree with that. If we could have a draft report, we could consider it in private, reach some form of agreement and go forward in that way. That seems to be the most practical way forward, bearing in mind our overall timetable.

[195] **Gareth Jones:** We can highlight some of the more generic issues that you raised.

[196] **David Melding:** We can highlight some of the issues that we have identified and deliberated.

[197] **Gareth Jones:** Very well, if Members are satisfied with that.

[198] **Andrew R.T. Davies:** May I just raise a point? It is not to do with the report, but it looks at the outcome of what we achieved in the public session. There was some criticism in Barry about the open-mic session, because very few people were aware that the Enterprise and Learning Committee was meeting in Barry or that they could come along to contribute. Could the committee clerk prepare a paper that shows how these things are promoted in the local community, because I am sure that this will not be the last petition that we deal with? We might need a formal process that advertises what the committee is doing, because there is little point in going out to the community if the community is unaware that we will be there.

[199] **Gareth Jones:** The clerk wishes to respond to that point.

[200] **Dr Jenkins:** We worked with the Assembly Parliamentary Service's external communications department, which has undergone considerable reconfiguration over the past 12 months. Considerable efforts were made to encourage participation by its new outreach team, which is not yet fully staffed, such as taking 200 posters to put up around the area. However, that was done at a late stage. We, as officials, have had a formal debrief meeting between services to discuss what can be done differently in the future. We have a report of our debrief meeting, which we can share with Members in confidence, if that is of interest. As always, we hope to improve on the services provided to Members for the future, and it is a part of our mission to improve public engagement with the democratic process and the scrutiny process, as carried out in this committee.

[201] **David Melding:** Andrew makes an interesting point, although we should say that there was good attendance at the meeting, but it was from the stakeholders whom you would perhaps have expected to be there.

[202] **Jeff Cuthbert:** I was about to make a similar point. I was not at the meeting, so I do not know what the size of the audience was. However, when we went to Carno, which is a smaller community, all the formalities were carried out, of putting up posters, communications, and so on, but it was really down to the pressure group in Carno to spread the word, which is what it did. So, I suspect that, in this case, Pride in Barry—or the stakeholders, as you call them—spread the word to get people there, and you cannot really do much without that.

[203] **Gareth Jones:** Diolch am eich **Gareth Jones:** Thank you for your sylwadau. comments.

[204] They are important points for us to bear in mind. With your views on providing and drawing up a report, I declare that the meeting is closed. Diolch yn fawr.

Daeth y cyfarfod i ben am 11.27 a.m.

The meeting ended at 11.27 a.m.