

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TRANSPORT COMMITTEE**

**Date:** 11 May 2005  
**Time:** 9.00 - 12:30  
**Venue:** National Assembly, Cardiff Bay  
**Title:** ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TRANSPORT MINISTER'S REPORT

**Economic Overview**

1. Please refer to the Quarterly Economic Report EDT2 06-05(p2) and Quarterly Statistical Bulletin EDT2 06-05(p3).

**Supporting Business**

2. **European Structural Funds Programme:** The £3 billion milestone has now been reached for total project investment in Wales, as a result of the European Structural Funds Programmes 2000–2006. This represents over £1.2 billion of European grant committed to 2,389 projects and the creation and safeguarding some 106,040 gross jobs in Wales.
3. **Knowledge Bank 4 Business (KB4B):** Initially operating on a pathfinding basis, the KB4B will provide tailored solutions for businesses that have the ability to grow rapidly and make a real difference to the prosperity of Wales. Following the announcement in March that Glenn Massey was being seconded to the Welsh Assembly Government as launch director to the Knowledge Bank, I am pleased to report excellent progress is being made and we're on course to deliver in the summer. I look forward to announcing further details of this exciting initiative over coming months.
4. **Regional Aid:** At its 9 March 2005 meeting the Committee asked for clarification on the process through which the European Commission would determine the status of the Assisted Areas, in the context of its stated aim of achieving co-terminosity with Structural Fund areas post 2006.
5. This question has been put to DG Competition via UKREP and the position has been clarified. DG Competition has indicated it is the intention to use the same GVA data for the purposes of determining the Assisted Areas as will be used for Structural Fund purposes. So, should an early decision be reached upon Structural Funds using 2000-2002 GVA figures, DG Competition would use the same figures for the review of the Regional Aid Guidelines. The Commission is determined to have complete consistency between the two policies.
6. **Welsh Electronics Forum:** On 25 April, I held one of my periodic informal meetings with industrial representatives of the Welsh Electronics Forum.

During a very useful open exchange, skills issues featured prominently in the discussions.

### **Establishing Wales in the World**

7. **Silver Telecom:** I am pleased at the recently reported international success of Newport-based Silver Telecom and the company's signing of an agency agreement in Japan. Silver Telecom is a fine example of innovative, cutting edge technology from Wales creating an impression on the global stage. The company has been receiving strong support from WalesTrade International's Japan representative over an extended period of time. This demonstrates the value of the Welsh Assembly Government 's decision to create an overseas network for business support.

### **Encouraging Innovation**

8. **Nano and micro-tech projects:** Two projects in Wales will receive more than £4m funding to harness the commercial potential of micro and nano-technology, estimated to be worth £1,000bn globally by 2013. The UK Laser micro-machining Centre (UK-LMC, a partnership between the University of Wales, Bangor and Exitech) is being established as a provider of high precision laser services. The UK-LMC will receive grants totalling £2.4m from the Assembly Government and DTI to help industry exploit the benefits of laser micro-processing methods in emerging micro and nano- technology applications. The UK-LMC will develop and provide innovative and improved laser-based methods for creating a new generation of products.
9. The Manufacturing Engineering Centre (MEC) at Cardiff University will receive grants totalling £3.8m to investigate innovative ways of developing products, including medical diagnostic equipment. The grants will enable the MEC to underpin the development of a range of applications including medical diagnostics, bio- compatible materials, optical display systems and micro or nano-robotics.
10. Emerging nano-technologies offer a wide range of exciting new applications. This significant funding will help develop and exploit cutting edge ideas in a wide range of areas, from IT and medical applications, to major developments in environmental analysis, communications, military equipment and the aerospace industry. In funding these important projects we will ensure that Wales plays a vital part in developing a new network of micro and nano-technology facilities, and support Welsh companies to use these emerging technologies to turn innovative ideas into successful businesses.

## Promoting ICT

11. **Broadband Wales Programme:** A survey commissioned by the Broadband Wales Unit and undertaken by ORC has revealed almost three-quarters of large SMEs have adopted broadband internet access. The SME Broadband Support Scheme has made a significant contribution towards this figure.
12. As part of Broadband Wales' ongoing marketing and communications strategy a series of booklets have been produced on 'How to get broadband'. The booklets will be distributed to all key audiences through conferences, events and presentations. Copies will be circulated to Assembly members, European MEP's and Welsh MP's in Westminster.

## Improving Transport

13. **Galileo:** I am delighted that Wales has been nominated by the UK Government as the location for hosting the Galileo Supervisory Authority. We have also been invited to submit an article on the Welsh aerospace industry and vision for Galileo for the official booklet to celebrate the launch of the first satellite in November 2005.
14. **Welsh Transport Forum:** On 14 April both the Deputy Minister and I attended a meeting of the Welsh Transport Forum. The Forum brings together a wide spectrum of interests in transport matters. On this occasion discussion focussed on Road User Charging and Smartcards. A copy of the minutes will be placed on the Welsh Assembly Government's website in due course.
15. **Wales Transport Strategy:** On 21 April I met with the WLGA and representatives of the Transport Consortia to discuss the development of the Wales Transport Strategy and regional transport planning. It was agreed to set up a small working party, attached to the Joint Assembly Government WLGA Transport Group, and charged with beginning work on drafting the Wales Transport Strategy.
16. **Alternative Fuels Workshop:** Opened by the Deputy Minister on 10 May at the Angel Hotel Cardiff. The Workshop is part of the project - included in the Top Ten commitments in the Sustainable Development Action Plan, to investigate the benefits and barriers to promoting the uptake of alternative fuels in Wales, such as biofuels, biogas, natural gas and hydrogen. Delegates were provided with a summary of the latest research and their views sought on the barriers, practical actions, and costs associated with implementation of a strategy for Wales.

**17. Cambrian coast line:** The normal Arriva Trains Wales service of the Cambrian rail line (the Cambrian coast line) following the landslip near Fairbourne was restored on Sunday 1 May following completion of repair works to the damaged line.

### **Jobs and Investment News**

**18. Superhanger:** I was delighted to join the First Minister in opening the new £77 million Superhanger at the Aerospace Wales Business Park in St Athan on 14 April. I am already hugely encouraged with news that engineering specialists S&C Thremofluids - whose customers include Rolls Royce and British Aerospace, are coming to St Athan.

19. The Superhanger is a real coup for Wales and a genuine asset to our competitive aerospace sector. A sector that already contains 6 of the world's top 20 aerospace companies and boasts 10% of the UK repair and maintenance business. World class facilities such as the Superhanger, alongside a highly skilled workforce supported by first class training and academic institutions will help us to not just consolidate our position but to capitalise on further global growth potential.

**20. Corus Port Talbot Caster:** The First Minister and I attended the official opening of the new continuous caster at Corus' Port Talbot works on Wednesday 4 May 2005. The First Minister unveiled a commemorative plaque and launched the first cast sequence of this important £70m+ investment that will increase Port Talbot steel production capacity by 1m tonnes per year (tpy) to 4.7m tpy.

21. Corus investments in Wales amount to more than £1.3 billion over the last 12 years, and in 2004/05 alone some £212m has been invested in its operations at Port Talbot, Llanwern, Shotton & Trostre. It continues to be the largest manufacturing business in Wales, with an estimated 25,000 people directly and indirectly reliant on Corus for their employment. This latest investment continues to demonstrate Corus' commitment to its steel businesses in Wales and the benefits of the capital investments will strengthen its role as the major player in Welsh manufacturing.

**22. Cyfartha Retail Park:** On 27 April I opened Cyfatha Retail Park in Merthyr Tydfil. This £35million; 23,600 m<sup>2</sup> development represents a significant landmark in the continued regeneration of Merthyr. Leading retailers already on site include B&Q, Next, JJB, and Boots amongst others. In bringing over 500 jobs to the area it is precisely the type of investment integral to building prosperity and stimulating economic growth in the South Wales Valleys.



**EDTC ACTION OUTSTANDING****EDTC2- 05- 05 20 April 2005**

**EDT Minister agreed to circulate data on the split between jobs growth in the private and public sector in Wales and showing comparisons with the rest of the UK**

**Public and private sector employment changes in Wales and the UK<sup>a</sup>**

*Numbers in thousands*

		1999 (b)	2004 (c)	Change	Percentage change
Wales	Public sector	338	363	26	7.6%
	Private sector	870	940	70	8.1%
	Total	1,207	1,303	96	8.0%
	<i>Public as percentage of public and private</i>	28.0%	27.9%	-0.1%	-/-
United Kingdom	Public sector	6,120	6,797	676	11.1%
	Private sector	20,791	21,230	439	2.1%
	Total	26,912	28,027	1,115	4.1%
	<i>Public as percentage of public and private</i>	22.7%	24.3%	1.5%	-/-

Source: Labour Force Survey

(a) The employment levels given exclude the small numbers of people for whom public / private sector status was not known.

(b) 12 months ending February 2000

(c) 12 months ending February 2005

**Employment changes in Wales and other UK countries/English regions<sup>a</sup>**

		<i>Numbers in thousands</i>			
		1999 (b)	2004 (c)	Change	Percentage change
North East	Public sector	275	307	32	11.8%
	Private sector	759	778	19	2.5%
	Total	1,034	1,085	52	5.0%
	<i>Public as percentage of public and private</i>	26.6%	28.3%	1.7%	-/-
North West	Public sector	678	782	103	15.2%
	Private sector	2,281	2,310	30	1.3%
	Total	2,959	3,092	133	4.5%
	<i>Public as percentage of public and private</i>	22.9%	25.3%	2.4%	-/-
Yorkshire and the Humber	Public sector	520	592	73	14.0%
	Private sector	1,690	1,735	44	2.6%
	Total	2,210	2,327	117	5.3%
	<i>Public as percentage of public and private</i>	23.5%	25.5%	1.9%	-/-
East Midlands	Public sector	405	466	61	15.1%
	Private sector	1,559	1,561	2	0.1%
	Total	1,964	2,027	63	3.2%
	<i>Public as percentage of public and private</i>	20.6%	23.0%	2.4%	-/-
West Midlands	Public sector	504	551	47	9.3%
	Private sector	1,890	1,899	9	0.5%
	Total	2,394	2,450	56	2.3%
	<i>Public as percentage of public and private</i>	21.1%	22.5%	1.4%	-/-
Eastern	Public sector	541	612	71	13.0%
	Private sector	2,054	2,109	55	2.7%
	Total	2,595	2,720	125	4.8%
	<i>Public as percentage of public and private</i>	20.8%	22.5%	1.6%	-/-
London	Public sector	744	782	38	5.1%
	Private sector	2,553	2,642	89	3.5%
	Total	3,297	3,425	127	3.9%
	<i>Public as percentage of public and private</i>	22.6%	22.8%	0.3%	-/-
South East	Public sector	797	873	76	9.5%
	Private sector	3,170	3,167	-2	-0.1%
	Total	3,966	4,040	74	1.9%
	<i>Public as percentage of public and private</i>	20.1%	21.6%	1.5%	-/-
South West	Public sector	500	559	59	11.8%
	Private sector	1,821	1,864	43	2.3%
	Total	2,321	2,423	102	4.4%
	<i>Public as percentage of public and private</i>	21.5%	23.1%	1.5%	-/-
England	Public sector	4,963	5,524	561	11.3%
	Private sector	17,777	18,065	288	1.6%
	Total	22,740	23,589	849	3.7%
	<i>Public as percentage of public and private</i>	21.8%	23.4%	1.6%	-/-
<b>Wales</b>	<b>Public sector</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>363</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>7.6%</b>
	<b>Private sector</b>	<b>870</b>	<b>940</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>8.1%</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1,207</b>	<b>1,303</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>8.0%</b>
	<i><b>Public as percentage of public and private</b></i>	<b>28.0%</b>	<b>27.9%</b>	<b>-0.1%</b>	<b>-/-</b>
Scotland	Public sector	617	686	68	11.1%
	Private sector	1,660	1,726	66	4.0%
	Total	2,277	2,412	134	5.9%
	<i>Public as percentage of public and private</i>	27.1%	28.4%	1.3%	-/-
Northern Ireland	Public sector	202	223	22	10.7%
	Private sector	485	500	14	3.0%
	Total	687	723	36	5.3%
	<i>Public as percentage of public and private</i>	29.4%	30.9%	1.5%	-/-
<b>United Kingdom</b>	<b>Public sector</b>	<b>6,120</b>	<b>6,797</b>	<b>676</b>	<b>11.1%</b>
	<b>Private sector</b>	<b>20,791</b>	<b>21,230</b>	<b>439</b>	<b>2.1%</b>
	<b>Total</b>	<b>26,912</b>	<b>28,027</b>	<b>1,115</b>	<b>4.1%</b>
	<i><b>Public as percentage of public and private</b></i>	<b>22.7%</b>	<b>24.3%</b>	<b>1.5%</b>	<b>-/-</b>

Source: Labour Force Survey

- (a) The employment levels given exclude the small numbers of people for whom public / private sector status was not known.
- (b) 12 months ending February 2000
- (c) 12 months ending February 2005

**EDTM to provide the date for reinstating the Cambrian Rail line following the landslide near Fairbourne**

- Reopening the Cambrian rail line (the Cambrian coast line) following the landslip near Fairbourne is the responsibility of Network Rail. Understand they have work well in hand and anticipate a re-opening in early May.

**EDTM to provide information on the provision of 7 sprinter trains for use by Arriva and why this solution was used rather than Arriva's original proposal to provide 22 new turbostar trains as alleged in the Western Mail**

- This is a matter for Arriva Trains Wales and the Strategic Rail Authority. The rolling stock being used under the Welsh Assembly Government's initiative to alleviate Valleys overcrowding – where already 1800 extra seats are available across the morning and afternoon peaks, with a further phase or capacity becoming operational in June – was leased under an investment about which I issued a Written Statement on 3 March.

**EDTM to report on the safety arrangements for the Royal Welsh Show in relation to access between the youth field and the main site and on who would be funding any necessary arrangements, particularly in relation to lighting.**

- Temporary lighting rigs are to be accommodated on verges that the young farmers and the Show organisers may between them decide to procure. Assembly Government will undertake any necessary minor works to prepare appropriate sites for them.
- The area will again be covered with a temporary 30mph speed limit (it is normally derestricted). It has also been arranged for a trailer mounted Variable Message Signs signs to be present during the show to warn southbound A470 traffic that pedestrians may be in the road

**EDTM to seek information from the Minister for Environment, Planning and Countryside on whether effective arrangements were in place for disposing of waste under the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment directive**

- The DTI have set out a tender on a project to estimate the current volume of type of WEEE arising from private households in civic amenity sites



across the UK. Assembly Government officials will work closely with DTI on the findings of this project.

- The UK Government has outlined its proposals for a National Clearing House (strongly supported by stakeholders in the last consultation) that will allocate separately collected household WEEE to producers from civic amenity sites and some retailer-led facilities based on their market share. It is the producers who will be responsible for arranging and financing the disposal, recycling and recovery of their WEEE allocations.
- The WEEE Directive requires Retailers/distributors to provide free take-back to enable customers to return WEEE free of charge when buying a like for like product. In order to meet their obligation many retailers will join an approved retailer compliance scheme. Retailer compliance schemes will be expected to provide WEEE collection services UK wide. Government expects shortly to conclude talks with the British Retail Consortium on the funding of a retail compliance scheme, including support for upgrades of civic amenity site facilities for the separate collection of WEEE. This will establish an UK wide collection network.

### **EDTM to provide a note to the Committee on the process in place with CCW for environmental impact assessments for wind turbines**

- The note below covers the EIA process, its application, and the role of CCW including what they consider when assessing an EIA, with particular emphasis on birds:

#### **Environmental Impact Assessment**

##### **Description**

EIA is a procedure that must be followed for certain types of project before they can be given development consent. The procedure is a means of drawing together in a systematic way an assessment of a project's likely significant environmental impacts. It enables environmental factors to be given due weight along with economic and social factors in the decision making process.

##### **Application**

EIA is mandatory for certain project types. But, for the majority of project types the need for EIA is considered on a case-by-case basis according to the likelihood of "significant environmental effects". In general, EIA will be needed in three main types of cases:

- For major developments which are of more than local importance;
- For developments that are proposed for particularly environmentally sensitive or vulnerable locations; and
- For developments with unusually complex and potentially hazardous environmental effects.

Only a small percentage of proposed development is subject to EIA.

NOTE: Even if EIA is not required, the impact of the development upon the environment is a material consideration for the lpa, in deciding whether to grant consent.

### **Procedure**

Public bodies with statutory environmental responsibilities (including CCW) have a role to play at each stage of the EIA procedure.

#### **1) Deciding Whether EIA is Required**

Developers can decide themselves that EIA is required or can ask the local planning authority (lpa) for an opinion. Lpas should seek the views of the bodies with statutory environmental responsibilities before reaching an opinion on EIA, but they are not bound by their views.

#### **2) Deciding the Scope of Environmental Statements (ESs)**

The developer is responsible for preparing the ES but it should be a collaborative exercise involving early discussion with the lpa, statutory bodies like CCW and other bodies that have an interest in the likely environmental effects (such as the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds). One of the main emphases of EIA is the need for consultation at the site selection stage, so that the environmental merits of practicable alternatives can be considered. The better and earlier the consultation, the better position the developer will be in to modify the project to mitigate adverse impacts.

If the developer so requests it, the EIA Regulations provide for the lpa to scope the ES. The lpa is required to consult the developer and the statutory bodies before giving its scoping opinion, but it is not bound by their views.

#### **3) Preparation of the ES**

Having given an opinion that EIA is required, the lpa must notify the statutory environmental bodies and they are then statutorily required (upon request) to provide the developer with any information, in their possession, which is likely to

be relevant to the preparation of the ES. Statutory bodies are not required to undertake research or carry out surveys on behalf of the developer. Developers should also consider whether to consult other non-statutory bodies, when preparing an ES.

#### **4) Adequacy and evaluation of the Environmental Statement (ES)**

The lpa must consult the statutory bodies on the planning application and on the adequacy of the ES. The “environmental information”, as defined in the EIA Regulations, that the lpa must take into account before reaching its decision as to whether to grant consent, includes the views of the statutory bodies. If necessary, the lpa has the power to require the applicant to provide further information, if the information submitted is insufficient to enable a proper evaluation of the project’s likely environmental effects.

Further discussion with the applicant may be necessary to consider comments made by the consultation bodies and amendment to the proposals to meet objections that have been made.

#### **EIA and Windfarms**

EIA is not required for all wind farms though, in practice, most are subject to EIA. Onshore wind farms require planning permission and the relevant EIA Regulations which apply to development proposals are The Town and Country Planning (**Environmental Impact Assessment**) (England and Wales) **Regulations** 1999. Offshore wind farms in Welsh territorial waters require consent under either the Electricity Act 1989 or the Transport and Works Act 1992. Applications made under the 1992 Act may require EIA in exactly the same way as onshore wind farms. The relevant Transport and Works EIA regulations have virtually the same requirements as the Planning EIA regulations.

Under section 36 of the Electricity Act, the DTI is responsible for considering consent applications for power stations (including wind farms) with a capacity of more than 50MW onshore and 1MW offshore. The role of the Countryside Council for Wales in scoping for and considering the impact of these projects is broadly similar to that described above. In addition, offshore projects also require a licence under the Food and Environment Protection Act 1985. (CCW will also have a part to play in consideration of licence applications.)

#### **CCW and EIA**

As statutory consultees to the Assembly Government (and to Local Authorities, and other licensing Authorities e.g. DTI and Defra) CCW are closely involved in the planning process, and provide advice on likely environmental impacts of any proposed development be it on or off shore.

CCW is involved at all stages of the EIA process including the screening, scoping, environmental statement (ES) review, agreement of any mitigation or compensation packages (if any adverse impact is anticipated), agreement of post-construction monitoring package. Throughout this process, CCW encourages ongoing discussion with developers to ensure that adequate survey and monitoring is undertaken, any likely impacts can be minimised, and any amendments to proposed development can be accommodated sooner rather than later.

Ornithological impacts of wind turbine developments are of particular concern. These impacts can arise through:

- **Disturbance** \* so that birds are displaced by the presence of turbines from areas that they would normally use for feeding, breeding or roosting
- **Habitat loss** \* direct habitat loss arising through construction of turbines and associated infrastructure; and 'sterilisation' of areas if birds are no longer able to use an area due to a barrier effect created by turbines.
- **Mortality** \* arising from collision with turbines blades or associated infrastructure.

Minimisation of these impacts can be addressed at two scales; at the strategic, large scale identifying areas for wind farm development, and execution of targeted site-based environmental impact assessments. As an example of the former approach CCW gave advice on the DTI's Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the second round of offshore wind farm developments. This looked at the strategic placement of offshore wind farms within three areas (North West, Thames Estuary and the Greater Wash) off the UK coast. Identification of sites suitable for development of offshore wind farms took into account a suite of factors, including extent of ornithological interest present in each area. Thus a coastal exclusion zone some 8-13km from the coast was established in each of the three areas to take account of and protect wintering seabird interest.

CCW have also been involved in discussions on SSAs and the development of TAN 8.

At the site-based level when EIA is required, CCW expect any developer to address potential impacts of disturbance, habitat loss, and mortality in detail, for any proposed wind farm development, on shore or offshore. The details of this assessment have to be agreed with CCW during the scoping stage. This identifies what ornithological interest may be impacted by the proposed development, and what surveys will be undertaken to assess the extent of that ornithological interest and associated likely impact.

CCW have worked with the DTI and Crown Estate to standardize survey methods and requirements for offshore wind farms and are currently working with RSPB to draft generic guidance on survey requirements for onshore wind farm EIA's in Wales. This guidance will ensure that any EIA uses approved survey methods, and has adequate data sample sizes.

After completion of the EIA, an ES is submitted to the relevant authority and CCW provide an assessment of the ES in their role as statutory consultees. Thus CCW provide advice on whether they agree or disagree with the findings of the ES, whether they think the development is likely to have an effect on any existing or proposed site within the Natura 2000 network and protected through the Habitat Regulations and whether they think the proposal should be approved. It is then up to the relevant authority to make a decision, based upon the opinion presented by CCW, other statutory consultees and also taking into account representations from other stakeholders.

**EDTM agreed that his officials would talk to Corus officials on the issues they have raised surrounding the Gateway Project**

- The concerns that Corus raised regarding the timetable for commissioning and completion of the Masterplan Study were fully addressed at the last meeting of the Northern Gateway Task and Finish Group, and all parties have now agreed the timetable.
- Corus' concerns that the policies in the emerging Unitary Development Plan (UDP) would not provide sufficient scope for the Masterplan to explore the full range of uses that might be appropriate to this brownfield site have also been resolved. It has been agreed that the Masterplan will be an important consideration in informing the development of the UDP through its Proposed Modifications Stage later this year.

**EDTM to seek advice from the Education Minister on how the Sector Skills Councils will engage with the aerospace industry.**

- SEMTA is the Sector Skills Council responsible for Science, engineering and manufacturing technologies. As part of SEMTA's ongoing and increasing work towards Sector Skills Agreements, thirteen Sector Strategy Groups have been set up to fully represent the skills and productivity needs of Science, Engineering and Manufacturing Technologies sectors throughout the five stages of consensus. Five 'Pathfinder' groups, Automotive, Bio-science, Marine, Electronics and Aerospace are leading the way whilst working in partnership with the remaining eight groups covering SEMTA's 'footprint'.

- A comprehensive matrix has been completed by all groups, highlighting the short, medium and long-term skills and productivity issues within the sector. Each group is now about to embark on the second stage of discussion looking at current and future activity and needs, which in turn will lead to an action plan being developed for each sub-sector.
- Additionally SEMTA are working with the Credit and Qualification Framework for Wales and Airbus are heavily involved with getting non-accredited training recognised via the credit frameworks. Airbus has commented on the Sector Skills Agreement so far. SEMTA will shortly be meeting with other representatives of the Aerospace industry to allow them to comment also.

### **EDTM to update the Committee on how the RSA grant premium for employing the economically inactive will be marketed.**

- Officials are in discussions with JobCentre Plus regarding the most effective way to market the scheme. In addition, officials will be meeting Grant Advisors to explain the new premium and how it will work in relation to grant applications

### **WEFO officials agreed to provide Members with the tables of outputs that go to the monitoring committees with their next report to Committee**

- WEFO will ensure that the tables of outputs provided to PMC members will be included in the next Structural Funds Quarterly Report prepared for EDTC to be held on the 14th July

### **EDTM to provide further analysis on private sector involvement in the structural funds programmes**

- WEFO is working on the paper and will endeavour to provide the figures for the next EDTC.

### **EDTM to provide progress reports on Heads of the Valley Strategy as the programme rolls out**

- Will be provided as and when appropriate.

### **EDTM to provide a full list of wards involved in the Heads of the Valley programme**

### **Electoral division based definition of Heads of Valleys area**

### **Rhondda Cynon Taff**

Aberaman North  
Aberaman South  
Aberdare East  
Aberdare West/Llwydcoed  
Cwmbach  
Ferndale  
Hirwaun  
Maerdy  
Mountain Ash East  
Mountain Ash West  
Penrhiwceiber  
Pen-y-waun  
Rhigos

**Merthyr Tydfil**

Bedlinog  
Cyfarthfa  
Dowlais  
Gurnos  
Merthyr Vale  
Park  
Penydarren  
Plymouth  
Town  
Treharris  
Vaynor

**Caerphilly**

Aberbargoed  
Argoed  
Bargoed  
Darren Valley  
Gilfach  
Moriah  
New Tredegar  
Pontlottyn  
Twyn Carno

**Blaenau Gwent**

Abertillery  
Badminton  
Beaufort  
Blaina

Brynmawr  
Cwm  
Cwmtillery  
Ebbw Vale North  
Ebbw Vale South  
Georgetown  
Llanhilleth  
Nantyglo  
Rassau  
Sirhowy  
Six Bells  
Tredegar Central and West

**Torfaen**

Abersychan  
Blaenavon  
Pontnewynydd  
Snatchwood  
Trevethin