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Dirprwy Brif Weinidog /Deputy First Minister



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Eich cyf/Your ref
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National Assembly for Wales
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During the debate for the National Transport Plan in Plenary on 27 April, I promised to write to you about some of the issues you raised.

You asked about the A465 Heads of the Valleys Road, and specifically about local businesses benefitting from the scheme. As well as the benefits arising from improved accessibility once the scheme is complete, investment in the dualling of the A465 also offers an opportunity to maximise investment within the local community through procurement, employment and community involvement. We have a strong commitment to delivering the maximum economic and social benefit for all the investment we make. The procurement of large capital projects such as road improvements provide an opportunity to deliver not only transport-related enhancements but also significant wider community benefits.

All of our road scheme contracts include social clauses requiring contractors to provide employment opportunities to local people. This provides an opportunity for a wide range of local contractors and businesses to benefit from this investment and delivers the maximum economic and social benefits for Wales. By employing local people wherever possible, money invested in projects will benefit the local community not just once, but twice.

You also asked about the role of the consortia. Our review of Transport Planning and Delivery in Wales is coming to an end, and we are delighted with the positive feedback we have received. The Regional Transport Consortia will have responsibility for regional planning, determining the transport improvement programme and monitoring progress and performance. The actual delivery of regional projects will be led by the constituent authorities and controls are being introduced to improve programme management and monitoring. This will allow the performance of the Consortia in delivering the objectives of the Wales Transport Strategy to be closely monitored.

Ieuan Wyn Jones
Gweinidog dros yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth
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