



Cynulliad National
Cenedlaethol Assembly for
Cymru Wales

Report of the Enterprise and Learning Committee's consideration of the Pride in Barry petition

Background

1. The Chair of the Petitions Committee wrote to the Enterprise and Learning Committee on 7 May 2008 suggesting that the Committee might wish to consider Assembly Government funding for the regeneration of Barry. On 3 July 2008, the Committee considered a paper setting out handling options for a number of petitions that had either been formally remitted or referred to the Committee for further consideration. Members unanimously agreed to hold a formal hearing of the Committee in Barry as early as possible in the autumn term to examine the issues raised by the petition and to invite the petitioners, the Vale of Glamorgan County Council, and the Welsh Assembly Government to provide evidence. A copy of the petition is attached at Annex 1.
2. The Enterprise and Learning Committee met at Barry Memorial Hall on 8 October 2008 and took evidence from "Pride in Barry" and the Vale of Glamorgan County Council. It also held an open mic session. The Committee held a further formal hearing in the Senedd on 5 November 2008 when we scrutinised the Welsh Assembly Government and the Principal Petitioner. All parties provided written memoranda for both meetings, links to which are attached at Annex 2. "Pride in Barry" also made a PowerPoint presentation at the meeting on 8 October. Hard copies of the presentation may be obtained from the Committee Secretariat. Links to the transcripts of oral evidence are at Annex 3. Correspondence relevant to our consideration of the petition is attached at Annex 4.
3. The report that follows summarises the main issues discussed and proposes recommendations. We place on record our thanks to "Pride in Barry", the Vale of Glamorgan Council, the Deputy First Minister and the Deputy Minister for Regeneration for assisting our inquiry. **A summary of recommendations may be found on page 8.**

Introduction – democracy in action

4. We are pleased that we were afforded this opportunity to underpin the democratic process in Wales by considering the “Pride in Barry” petition and reaffirm our commitment to the Assembly’s petitions process. We believe that consideration of issues that have arisen directly in communities, and which have a strategic significance for the whole of Wales, such as sustainable regeneration, is a key part of our role as Assembly Members. The Principal Petitioner recognised the significance of our work:

...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.¹

“Pride in Barry”

5. “Pride in Barry” was established in 1994 to respond to the Barry Action partnership, which had been set up by Associated British Ports (ABP), the Welsh Development Agency (WDA), and the Vale of Glamorgan Council (the Council). It is a non-political association of over 40 voluntary organisations and authorities and individuals, who work to improve the local environment. It has no funds of its own. It aims to increase civic awareness; promote environmental improvement and enhancement; and generate pride in Barry. It has established awards schemes and an ambassador programme, which we commend, in order to engage the people of the town, and has also taken on the role of representing the people of Barry by acting as a ‘watchdog’ to ensure future prosperity. Over the last four years, it has focussed its endeavours on lobbying for a funding stream for regeneration of the town.
6. The purpose of the petition was to make the case for ‘proper funding for regeneration in Barry’ in order for the Barry regeneration partnership board to plan future regeneration.

¹ Enterprise and Learning Committee, 5 November 2008, Record of Proceedings, para 178. <http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-committees/bus-committees-third1/bus-committees-third-els-home/bus-committees-third-els-agendas.htm?act=dis&id=105154&ds=11/2008>

The Town of Barry

7. During evidence, Barry was described as a Valleys town by the sea. Its population is currently around 50,000. The petitioners emphasised the town's topography and geographical location as being a seaside town located in the countryside of the Vale of Glamorgan.
8. The petitioners and the Council made much of Barry's history and heritage as a coal-exporting port and the impact that the demise of the coal industry had had on the town. Both emphasised that they believed that Barry shared a range of socio-economic conditions with comparable towns in the Valleys.
9. We wish to note that it is most unfortunate that community and business leaders in Barry were told in direct terms that the town would need to compete with the Heads of the Valleys region for funding. This has clearly fostered much dissatisfaction and a sense of injustice, given that Barry also has wards that are among the worst in terms of the index of multiple deprivation and Communities First areas Castleland and Gibbonstown. The situation has been compounded in the last months by an acknowledgement by Welsh Assembly Government officials that no moneys from the latest sale of 100 acres waterfront land would be allocated to the town. In its written memorandum the Welsh Assembly Government explained that owing to legal arrangements, proceeds from the sale of the land in Barry Waterfront must be shared between Associated British Ports and the Government, as joint venture partners, based on the total investment made.
10. We are pleased that Barry has a regeneration partnership board, established in March 2005, and a strategic plan with objectives and priorities, published in November 2005.
11. Despite the veracity of the epithet of being a Valleys town by the sea, we note that Barry has fared extremely well with regard to funding and leverage of private sector investment. The town's population owe much to the proactive leadership and engagement of its community and business leaders. Other areas in Wales are not so fortunate and Objective 1 draw down, for example, has been considerably less than might have been expected in areas such as Merthyr and Rhymney.

Previous investments and projects

12. We heard about developments that had already been delivered and of the positive working relationship between the former WDA project officer and the community. We were told that it was the WDA which had told community leaders that a further £20 million of public funds would be required over a 10 year period to complete the regeneration project.

13. The regeneration project has been pump-primed by some £50 million of public money, which has levered in £100 million private sector investment. More than 125 projects have been completed over the last 10 years, including land reclamation and environmental improvement; improvements to buildings and roads; and the creation of some 538 permanent jobs.
14. We recognise this significant achievement and its considerable impact on the town, transforming a large area of industrial dereliction. In particular the redevelopment of the library was described as an 'outstanding development'. King square, central park and Holton Road have also been subject to significant improvement.
15. The development of the waterfront has been central to the town's regeneration and is obvious to any visitor. The petitioners underlined its strategic significance of closing the divide between the town and the dock.

Engagement and communication

16. We believe that the engagement of both local and national Government with community leaders and groups is key to ensuring successful outcomes to regeneration projects. The issue of engagement and communication between Government and local leaders arose on a number of occasions during our hearings. It was a difficult issue for the Committee since varying perceptions in this instance challenged our need to maintain a non-partisan approach to scrutiny.
17. Petitioners and the Council expressed their disappointment at their lack of involvement in the Deputy Minister's review of regeneration. It was clear to us that speculation as to the outcome of the review – not all of it well informed, as far as we could judge – had undermined relationships between the Council and the Welsh Assembly Government.
18. We very much welcome the meeting between the Deputy Minister for Regeneration and the Chief Executive of the Council and "Pride in Barry", which was due to take place in November 2008. We were also reassured to learn from the Council's Director of Environmental and Economic Regeneration that discussions with Welsh Assembly Government officials have occurred and are ongoing.

Comparisons with similar regeneration projects

19. The petitioners were of the opinion that a special case of recycling receipts from land sale appeared to have been made for both Swansea and Newport. The Welsh Assembly Government's written memorandum explained the processes whereby the urban regeneration company underpinned Newport Unlimited's ability to

recycle funds, and where in Swansea the possibility of investment to develop the land offset the costs of developing the site. We examined these special cases at length at our formal hearing with the Ministers and were not totally convinced that these projects were distinct from the needs of Barry.

20. However, we were convinced by evidence from the Welsh Assembly Government that as a rule it would not be efficient to recycle capital receipts solely in the area they originate.

The Role of the Council

21. In its written and oral evidence, the Council emphasised the difficulties created by uncertainty over levels of funding for the regeneration partnership delivery plan, which is currently on hold. The Chief Executive explained that the Council only had relatively limited sources of funding and there was general recognition that monies from Section 106 agreements – previously a useful source of income for environmental improvements and road networks – would be unlikely to be available on the same scale in future.

22. We were pleased to learn of the strategic framework the regeneration partnership has for the town and in particular the six beacon projects:

- Airport Access and M4 Linkage
- Vale of Glamorgan Line Enhancements
- Barry Waterfront Phase 2
- Barry Island Context Sites
- Marina Development on No.1 Dock
- Barry Town Centre (Holton Road) Action Plan

The Council has undertaken to provide investment for these, but recognises that to be realised they will need substantial input from the Assembly. We welcome the £5.8 million that has been granted towards the new learning centre, which is over and above regeneration funding.

23. In our open mic session at Barry Memorial Hall, one of the local councillors took the opportunity to state his belief that the Council had adopted a proactive approach to investment in Barry and had successfully ensured investment to important schemes.
24. Much was made of the levels and nature of the support of the Council for the regeneration of Barry. It was clarified that the Council had invested £13.5 million.

European Funding

25. During our hearings, Barry was described as an Objective 1 town, outside an Objective 1 area. The petitioners clearly felt that it was to

the town's detriment that it had missed out on European funding, despite having areas of social need.

26. Barry is, however, within the Regional Competitiveness and Employment Programme area. We were surprised that the Council had not discussed Competitiveness bids with "Pride in Barry". **We recommend that the Council seeks the advice of Welsh European Funding Office officials with regard to the preparation of Competitiveness funding bids.**

Future projects and funding requirements

27. To date, much of the investment in Barry has been spent on infrastructure. The petitioners now hope that several large scale visible projects will be taken forward, such as the development of the marina, and other community and recreation facilities.
28. They strongly believe that a funding stream for the £20 million previously mentioned should be identified to underpin future regeneration.
29. In the short-term of the next two years, the Welsh Assembly Government has committed to spending £1.9 million on the Thompson Street footbridge and on the infrastructure works in the innovation quarter.
30. The Wales Audit Office improvement study on regeneration, published in May 2005, suggested that the annual cyclical funding pattern did not aid regeneration, since projects may take years to come to fruition.
31. In the Council's view the Welsh Assembly Government, having regard to the Wales Spatial Plan, should commit to, 'develop and fund an agreed 3-year rolling Delivery Plan'.
32. The issue of leverage of private funds to support public monies is clearly crucial. The recent economic downturn casts doubt on the availability of funds. In the short to medium term this may impact on the expected £250 million of private sector investment that the Waterfront Phase 2 project is expected to secure over the next 15-20 years, but we do not believe that this will fatally undermine the project's viability and delivery.
33. Barry Waterfront Phase 2 will greatly enhance the quality of the urban environment and we were delighted to learn that it will be an exemplar of environmental best practice. We learnt that a business case for a marina is currently being considered and that it would form part of future decisions by the Deputy Minister for Regeneration.

Defence Technical Academy and Metrix

34. Barry is particularly well placed to benefit from developments at Saint Athan regarding the Defence Technical Academy and the Welsh Assembly Government's aerospace park, which will create some 2,000 jobs. The Council told us that it saw Barry being part of this strategic opportunity area and playing its role as a major settlement in south-east Wales. **We urge the Council to work with the Welsh Assembly Government, the Local Service Board and other partners to do all within its power to maximise the wider social and economic benefits of this development.**

Future regeneration in Wales

35. On 14 October, the Deputy Minister for Regeneration delivered an Oral Statement in Plenary on Strategic Regeneration. The Deputy Minister presented the Welsh Assembly Government's desire to see local authorities commit to 'holistic regeneration' as a condition of regeneration funding.
36. The Committee welcomes the Minister's commitment to a more strategic and holistic approach to regeneration. We look forward to receiving an update on the JESSICA initiative and an assessment of its potential impact in Wales.
37. In his statement the Deputy Minister also outlined the key factors that would be applied to identifying Strategic Regeneration Areas in future. **We believe that Barry meets the criteria outlined in the Deputy Minister's Statement on strategic regeneration and that endeavours and outcomes in Barry to date mean that the town merits serious consideration for future support.**

Conclusion

38. In laying our report before the Assembly and making known our recommendations, we wish to place on record our continuing interest in this issue. We have therefore resolved to undertake a follow up scrutiny inquiry toward the end of 2009 to examine progress.

Summary of recommendations

- **We recommend that the Council seeks the advice of Welsh European Funding Office officials with regard to the preparation of Competitiveness funding bids.**
- **We urge the Council to work with the Welsh Assembly Government, the Local Service Board and other partners to do all within its power to maximise the wider social and economic benefits of this development.**
- **We believe that Barry meets the criteria outlined in the Deputy Minister's Statement on strategic regeneration and that endeavours and outcomes in Barry to date mean that the town merits serious consideration for future support.**

Annexes

Annex 1 – The “Pride in Barry” Petition

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

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

Annex 2 – Written memoranda

8 October 2008

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-committees/bus-committees-third1/bus-committees-third-els-home/bus-committees-third-els-agendas.htm?ds=10%2F2008&submit=Submit>

5 November 2008

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-committees/bus-committees-third1/bus-committees-third-els-home/bus-committees-third-els-agendas.htm>

Annex 3 – Transcripts of Oral Evidence

8 October 2008

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-committees/bus-committees-third1/bus-committees-third-els-home/bus-committees-third-els-agendas.htm?act=dis&id=101247&ds=10/2008>

5 November 2008

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-committees/bus-committees-third1/bus-committees-third-els-home/bus-committees-third-els-agendas.htm?act=dis&id=105154&ds=11/2008>

Annex 4 – Relevant correspondence

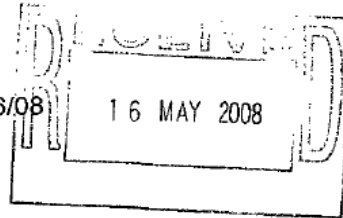
106

Ieuan Wyn Jones AC/AM
Dirprwy Brif Weinidog /Deputy First Minister



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref DFM/00776/08



20 MAY 2008
APSD

Val Lloyd AM
Petitions Committee
Bae Caerdydd
Caerdydd
CF99 1NA

14 May 2008

Dear Val

Thank you for your letter dated 15 April 2008 regarding Pride in Barry.

My Department and, previously, the former Welsh Development Agency, have invested heavily in the regeneration and redevelopment of Barry over many years.

The Barry Joint Initiative, a partnership established between Associated British Ports (ABP), my Department (including the former WDA) and the Vale of Glamorgan Council, has supported a range of significant regeneration activities in Barry since the early 1990's. These programmes have not only helped provide a secure future for Barry, but have also created a platform for the town to potentially secure an additional £250 million of private sector investment over the coming years. A significant sum, in excess of £49m, has been invested by/via the partnership in Barry to date.

The legal agreements in place determine how the proceeds from the sale of the Barry Waterfront land are shared between ABP and the Welsh Assembly Government. In simple terms, the distribution of receipts is based upon the total investment made by each partner into the project.

Between 1994 and 2006, a total of approximately £14.5 million was received by the WDA/Welsh Assembly Government from the sale of land at Barry Waterfront. In September 2007 the exchange of contracts for the sale of the remaining land at Waterfront 2 took place between ABP and the selected development consortium. The sales particulars of the site are the subject of a specific confidentiality clause between ABP and the developers. This should be viewed within the context of the significant expenditure that has been required to create the Barry Waterfront 'opportunities'. The Assembly Government has received a part payment and will receive a further share of

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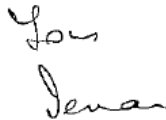
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PS.DeputyFirstMinister@wales.gsi.gov.uk

proceeds in due course, upon the granting of planning consent for the development of Waterfront 2 or upon the three year anniversary of the 21 September 2007.

For your general information, the self generated receipts that accrue from the sales of land and property are normally re-invested into the economic development and regeneration priorities that my Department is charged with delivering across Wales, which vary according to project needs and timescales. Such receipts fund an important portion of the DE&T expenditure budget each year and this funding framework is typical of the arrangements within which most Government Departments, local authorities and other public bodies operate.

To illustrate the point, my Department's commitment to the redevelopment of Barry Waterfront and the regeneration work that we are undertaking elsewhere in Wales has already been financed by the proceeds of land sales achieved elsewhere in Wales. If receipts were only used to fund projects in the towns from which the revenues were originally generated, this would not only have a detrimental impact on our ability to flexibly apply resources and funds to the locations and projects where they are most needed and effective, but would also disadvantage the less prosperous and lower value areas of Wales.

With regard to the petition presented by Pride in Barry, I am able to provide reassurance that the regeneration needs and opportunities in Barry will continue to be discussed through the existing partnership arrangements and via the Local Service Board. However, funding availability will, as always, be determined through the established Welsh Assembly Government business planning and usual budgetary processes.



Ieuan Wyn Jones
Gweinidog dros yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth
Minister for the Economy and Transport

Leighton Andrews AC/AM
Y Dirprwy Weinidog dros Adfywio
Deputy Minister for Regeneration



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Eich cyf/Your ref JH/HB/ML
Ein cyf/Our ref LA/00213/08

Jane Hutt AM
National Assembly For Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

30 September 2008

Dear Jane,

Thank you for your letter dated 29th August, which we discussed when we met on 18th September. I am glad that you have come to me directly to discuss these issues.

Firstly, let me confirm that there is no commitment to 12 regeneration areas. The internal spending review that I have been undertaking is aimed at bringing forward proposals to deliver holistic regeneration proposals in specific locations, against agreed budgets and timescales. This is in line with One Wales commitments.

My officials will continue their dialogue with officers of the Vale of Glamorgan Council to discuss potential future holistic regeneration areas within the Vale. We should not lose sight, however, of the significant expenditure that has taken place within the Vale in recent years, with around £50m having already been spent by the regeneration partners within the Greater Barry Area and a very considerable ongoing Welsh Assembly Government human resource and financial commitment to delivering the St Athan project. You will be aware that I visited Barry last year at the invitation of John Smith MP.

Investment by my Department is continuing over the next two years with circa £1.9m allocated to Barry to allow a number of identified priority projects to proceed, namely the Thompson Street footbridge (£600k), the Health Centre Access Road (£300k) and the works to safeguard and make ready the former Pump House at Barry Waterfront, where we are providing a funding contribution of £1 million to match the input from the Council. These are very significant sums, particularly when considered in the context of the overall regeneration budget available to my Department and it is therefore essential that the funding allocated to the Vale of Glamorgan is defrayed on these key projects in strict accordance with the timescales that have been discussed with the Council.

Additionally, you will be aware of our continuing support for Communities First in Barry, with a new three-year programme of investment due to commence in April next year.


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Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

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Based on our experience in the Heads of the Valleys and Mon a Menai, we know that a successful regeneration programme relies heavily on the strength of the partnership that can be forged between the Welsh Assembly Government and the respective local authority, with a clear resolve needed by the Council in particular to make difficult and timely decisions to ensure that projects are delivered to programme. It is of course open to the Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council to bring to me any proposals which they have for Barry in the future.

In the meantime, as agreed in our meeting, I look forward to visit Barry with you in the near future. Should you require to you may contact Paul O'Donovan, Head of Regeneration South East on 01443 845856 or paul.odonovan@wales.gsi.gov.uk to discuss any issues or concerns around current commitments to Barry.

Yours ever,


Leighton Andrews AM
Deputy Minister for Regeneration

Cllr. Richard Bertin

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RB/JB

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The Chair,
Enterprise & Learning Committee,
The National Assembly for Wales,
Cardiff Bay.
CF99 1NA

Dear Chair,

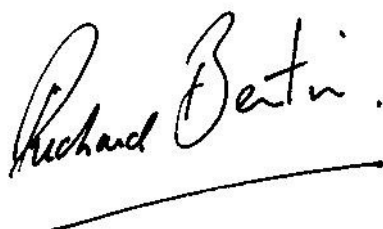
BARRY REGENERATION AID

As I am unable to attend the public meeting in Barry on the 8th October I would like to make written representation on why I feel that a large proportion of the revenue received by the Assembly from the development of Barry Waterfront should be reinvested in regeneration projects within the town.

Having considered this matter, I am of the opinion that Barry should take receipt of at least part of this money as it has high pockets of deprivation in an area which is often seen as very affluent. Failure to do this would not help the local economy, would not enable the town to continue to grow and prosper and would not provide aid for the much needed improved economic, social and health services for the area.

I would request that you take this into account when considering this matter and ask that you put back some of the money into the area it is coming from.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Bertin." The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line that starts under the first part of the signature and extends to the right.

Councillor Richard Bertin
Member for Court Ward
www.richardbertin.com

33 Maes-y-Cwm St, Barry. CF63 4EJ

Annex 5

During our hearing with the Welsh Assembly Government Ministers, they undertook to provide additional information to the Committee:

- Details on whether an application for competitiveness funds to invest in the regeneration of Barry had been made by the Welsh Assembly Government or the Vale of Glamorgan Council.
- An inventory of how much land owned by the Welsh Assembly Government remained for future regeneration.

A copy of the response from the Deputy First Minister and Minister for Economy and Transport is attached. A further note on competitiveness funding produced by the Vale of Glamorgan Council is also attached:

Ieuan Wyn Jones AC/AM
Dirprwy Brif Weinidog /Deputy First Minister



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref MB/DFM/1260/08

Gareth Jones AM
Chair
Enterprise & Learning Committee
Bae Caerdydd
Caerdydd
CF99 1NA

08 December 2008

Anny Girett

Actions From Enterprise & Learning Committee On 5th November 2008

At the Committee meeting on 5th November where the petition by Pride in Barry was discussed, the Deputy Minister for Regeneration and I agreed to provide you with the following information: -

- Details on whether an application for competitiveness funds to invest in the regeneration of Barry had been made by the petitioners (Pride in Barry) or the Vale of Glamorgan; and
- An inventory of how much land owned by the Welsh Assembly Government remained for future regeneration.

I can confirm that no expression of interest for competitiveness funding has been made by Pride in Barry nor the Vale of Glamorgan in respect of the regeneration of Barry.

The schedule below identifies the land interest of the Welsh Assembly Government in Barry.

The legal title to the land identified in the table below is held by the Vale of Glamorgan Council and was acquired with support from the Welsh Assembly Government. Any income received through the sale or lease of sites and premises is shared between the parties based upon the investment made into the Urban Joint Venture. A legal charge is in place for each site to protect the interests of the Welsh Assembly Government and prior approval is required from the Assembly Government before entering into lease, disposal or change of use by the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

Site No.	Site Details	Acres	Note
	<u>Barry Railway Heritage</u>		
1	The Newydd Site	1.63	These four plots are grouped around a central site, and were acquired with a view of establishing an
2	The Railway Station	0.19	
		0.11	

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3	Panayides	1.24	upgrading a base for the Vale of Glamorgan Steam Railway with occupation under licence.
4	The Dovey Site		
8	Land Adjacent to West Ponds	2.39	Land used for Steam Railway Track and Landscaping.
11	Easement from Railtrack	2.17	Easement over Causeway Bridge
14	Plot W1C North of Supermarket	2.82	Site acquired for extension of rail track
15	Former EWS Rail Site, West Pond	11.76	Site acquired for rail junction.
18 18A	Former EWS Depot	0.82	Site consists of redundant goods depot adjacent to main line. Development potential.
19	Land Adjacent to VoG Steam Railway	1.92	Linear Park Constructed.
	Total Land Acquired	25.10	Acres
	<u>Innovation Quarter</u>		
5	The Pumphouse	5.19	Grade II Listed building which is being promoted as an Arts Centre. The building requires Circa £2m to envelope the property to safeguard.
7	Land North of Hood Road	4.49	Site has been partly developed for Business Skills Centre and remainder of site to be sold for Primary Care Centre to be constructed 2009/10.
9	Land Adjacent to Hood Road	4.00	Hood Road Goods Shed Site – Linked to Heritage Railway project. Surrounding land with development potential.
10	Land North of Powell Dyffryn Way	4.00	Former Railway Sidings partly developed for Skills Training Centre
20	Land Adjacent to Barry Waterfront (Good Shed Site)	2.50	Land to South of Goods Shed adjoining Waterfront II. Development potential.
	Total Land Acquired	20.02	Acres
	<u>Town Centre</u>		
12	Land Adjoining Church of St Mary	0.02	Amenity Land – Acquired to access Central Park.
13	Land at Merthyr Street	0.12	Land to be sold for affordable housing 2009/10
22	Thompson Street, Former Club	0.15	Site cleared for town centre car park, run by Vale Council
21	Land at Dock Office Train Station	2.84	Site proposed for Park & Ride Facility
	Total Land Acquired	3.20	Acres
	<u>Waterfront</u>		
	Land at Barry Waterfront / Barry Island	3.13	Land used for Car & Coach Park for visitors to Barry Island.
	Total Land Acquired	3.13	Acres

Other Assembly Government land holdings in Barry include:

Hayes Wood

This circa 8.5 acre site is located at the gateway to Atlantic Trading Estate, Barry is allocated for employment use in the Local Development Plan. A site access road together with drainage and street lighting has been constructed, however further infrastructure works is required to enable the site to be taken forward for development.

Barry Joint Initiative

The Joint Initiative between Associated British Ports and the Welsh Assembly Government has still to transfer the Waterfront Phase II land to the Housing Consortium. The responsibility for the management of the Waterfront land still remains with Associated British Ports and the Assembly Government, and transfer of title will take place when planning is obtained for the development. Through this venture the Assembly Government will receive the capital receipt for phase II Waterfront.

The area known as "the Mole" is 7.26 acres and has been retained to allow for the creation of a marina in No. 01 Dock by Associated British Ports in the future. Access rights to "the Mole" have been retained to allow for construction/operation of the marina and discussions are ongoing with interest groups to progress the project.

Land at Subway Road has been retained within Phase 1 of the Waterfront project. The site is circa 2 acres and comprises of some land for car parking, commercial floorspace and one residential unit which was recently fire damaged. There are no proposals to dispose of this site in the near future and therefore the business operating from the site will remain unaffected.



Ieuan Wyn Jones
Gweinidog dros yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth
Minister for the Economy and Transport

**SUPPLEMENTARY EVIDENCE IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ASKED
AT THE ENTERPRISE AND LEARNING COMMITTEE ON 5TH NOVEMBER
2008**

**1. PARAGRAPHS 80-84 (INCL.) OF TRANSCRIPT BY JANE HUTT (AM)
REGARDING THE PLANS IN PROCESS AND THE COMMITMENT TO
THE PLANS IN PROCESS**

1.1 The Vale of Glamorgan Council in its paper (paragraph 8) to the Committee meeting on 8th October 2008 states that:

8.*The Barry Regeneration Partnership has adopted a Regeneration Vision for the town and a Strategic Framework for investment underpinned by six beacon projects and a draft 3-year rolling Delivery Plan. The finalisation of the Delivery Plan is currently on hold pending the outcome of the Welsh Assembly Government review of the distribution of regeneration funding across Wales.*

1.2 At the time of writing the situation remains unchanged.

**2. PARAGRAPHS 89-90 AND PARAGRAPH 153 OF TRANSCRIPT BY
JEFF CUTHBERT (AM) REGARDING BIDS SUBMITTED BY THE
VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL FOR FUNDING UNDER THE
COMPETITIVENESS PROGRAMME**

Collaborative Approach

2.1 Since the launch of the Competitiveness Programme in 2007, the Council has sought to maximise opportunities from the funding available. For example, due to the limited funding available from Technical Assistance under the Competitiveness Programme, the Council has worked in collaboration with Cardiff, Newport and Monmouthshire Councils to provide match funding for one post based in Newport City Council. A South East Wales Competitiveness Spatial European Team (SET) Outreach Officer has been appointed. Duties include to foster and encourage collaboration and work with officers based in the central SET team to ensure strategic frameworks and projects maximise opportunities available to Competitiveness areas, for example ensuring appropriate promoting and disseminating of information.

Strategic Projects

2.2 In September 2007 the Council facilitated a meeting with neighbouring authorities in South East Wales to explore opportunities for collaborative EU projects to address unmet need. As a result a number of potential projects are in development. This includes a joint project with Cardiff and Newport to tackle economic inactivity in the labour market. Meetings have taken place with DCELLS, JobCentre Plus and other key training providers to ensure complementarity with strategic projects either approved or under development. A Project Idea has been posted and an Expression of Interest will be registered early December.

Realistic Expectations

2.3 The Council has always recognised that the strategic approach to programming adopted for the current Structural Fund period should ensure we maximise opportunities for strategic projects developed under the Convergence Programme to apply for Competitiveness funding, where funding and eligibility permit. This would allow for EU funding to support strategic delivery of WAG programmes across the whole of Wales whilst maximising economies of scale. Officers have engaged with WAG departments to ensure projects reflect local circumstances and target any proposed new local authority initiatives on potential gaps rather than duplicate existing provision. The very nature of the restricted and limited funding under the Competitiveness Programme compared to Convergence has meant officers wished to ensure realistic and appropriate expectations from the community and avoid wasted effort developing projects which do not have a reasonable chance of success.

Town Centre Renewal

2.4 Since 2000 the regeneration effort in Barry has occurred against the backdrop of diminishing Assisted Area Status and the shift of Welsh Assembly Government and European funding priorities for public investment to the Valleys and West Wales. The lapse and non-replacement of the Welsh Assembly Governments Physical Regeneration Fund has further undermined the regeneration effort in Barry. Furthermore, Priority 5, Theme 1 of the ERDF Convergence Programme deals with the physical regeneration (including town centre renewal) but there is no comparable Priority/Theme in the ERDF Competitiveness Programme. Barry does not qualify for European Funding under Priority 4, Regeneration for Growth, of the ERDF Competitiveness Programme. Under Priority 4 funding is available to regenerate an area, for example through physical improvements to the urban fabric and wider natural environment. To reflect the need to concentrate resources one scheme was selected for North East Wales, one scheme for Central East Wales and two schemes in South East Wales. The two schemes chosen for the South East were Butetown in Cardiff and Pillgwenlly in Newport, which are amongst the highest in Wales according to the overall index of multiple deprivations.

Communities First

2.5 The Welsh Assembly Government Outcome Fund allows Communities First areas in the Convergence Programme to use Convergence funds as match-funding. There is no comparable source of match funding for the Communities First areas of Castleland, Court and Gibbonsdown in Barry under the Competitiveness Programme.

John Maitland-Evans
Chief Executive
2nd December 2008