

Economic Development & Transport Committee

Date: 19 January 2005
Time: 09.00 to 12.30
Venue: National Assembly for Wales, Cardiff Bay
Title: A Winning Wales Progress Report

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide a progress report on the implementation of A Winning Wales, the Welsh Assembly Government's National Economic Development Strategy.

Background

2. 'A Winning Wales' was published in January 2002 setting a number of targets for achievement by 2010 and confirming that these would be measured against a 2001 baseline. Performance against these targets is included in the Annual Report and is shown at Annex 1 of this paper.
3. Work to develop complementary measures of economic performance and well being is continuing.
4. The current EU Structural Funds programme comes to an end in 2006. The Commission's draft proposals for the period 2007-2013 have been published and are being considered. The Assembly Government is looking to ensure that any such future support is used, as far as is practicable, to support its own strategic objectives. We plan to review 'A Winning Wales' in 2005 to provide a strategic framework against which future Structural Funds can be deployed.

Main Achievements

5. Detailed information on the main achievements in respect of each of the 'A Winning Wales' actions is given at Annex 2.

Summary

6. Good progress is being made on all aspects of the 'A Winning Wales' action plan.

Target description	Target by 2010	2001 base	Progress against base
Increase net employment	Raise by 175,000	1,210,000	Has increased by 84,000 over base (using figure for the year to August 2004)
Increase net employment in Finance and Business services	Raise by 20,000	119,000	Has increased by 19,000 over base (using figure for the year to August 2004)
Increase stock of VAT registered businesses per 10,000 persons of working age	Raise to UK average	93% of UK average	Has decreased to 91% of UK average (using 2004 figure)
Increase business enterprise R&D expenditure as a % of GDP	Raise to >1%	0.4%	Has increased to 0.7% (using 2003 figure)
Growth in the value of exports	Match UK growth over the period	Wales: £7.1bn UK: £161.7bn	Has increased by 8.4% in Wales compared to 2.2% in UK (using figures for the year to September 2004)
Increase the proportion of Welsh businesses using e-commerce	Match UK average proportion	No robust 2001 figure available	Data previously used for measuring this target found to be flawed, alternative sources of data are being considered.
Increase household disposable income	Raise to 95% of UK average	No 2001 figure available Latest figures are 87.5% of UK average (1999)	No figures since 1999. ONS have not announced a date for updating these data, and unlikely to be until sometime in 2005.

Increase tourism expenditure in Wales	Raise by an average of 6% per annum over period	£1,911.9m	Has increased by an average of 3.2% per annum (using 2003 figure)
Reduce the proportion of adults of working age without qualifications	Reduce to 1 in 10 (i.e. <10%)	21%	Has decreased to 17% (using 2003 figure)
Increase the proportion of adults of working age with a level 4 qualification	Raise to over 3 in 10 (i.e. >30%)	22%	Has increased to 24% (using 2003 figure)

NB. Data are latest available at 18 January 2005. New data for the first two targets above are being published by ONS on 19 January 2005.

Objectives & Main Actions		Progress April 2003 – March 2004	Progress April – September 2004
1.	Encouraging Innovation		
1.1	Implement the Wales for Innovation Action Plan	<p>Innovation & Technology Counsellor Network carried out 724 projects with businesses, handled 2,663 technical enquiries and helped secure £4.4m of grant funding which levered in £8.7m private sector investment.</p> <p>The ITCs also generated via the new SMART scheme grant £999,533 and private sector investment £1,681,676.</p> <p>25 new companies joined the Commitment to Innovation programme.</p>	<p>Between April and Sept 04 the ITCs carried out 303 projects; 1400 technical enquiries and helped to secure £2.5m of grant funding which levered £3.5m in private sector investment.</p> <p>Wales Innovators Network under the ITC network has attended the 32nd International Exhibition of Inventors in Geneva – 11 medals were won. The Network currently has over 600 active members. The review is due for completion Dec</p>

HEFCW has established a third mission committee to advise the council on strategy development in this area.

Higher Education Economic Development (HEED) plan updates (received August 2003) confirm that all Welsh HEIs now have innovation strategies.

KEF support of up to £50k per HEI is being made available to underpin innovation strategies set out in this year's HEED plan updates. *

2003 HEED plan updates report a total revenue of £1.3m to Welsh HEIs from IP in 2001/02 and a total of 33 new business spinouts from Welsh HEIs in 2001/02 (increase of 28% from 2000/01).

Innovation and Technology programmes have assisted over 3,005 businesses, 861 individuals, safeguarded and created 3,614 jobs.

Programmes secured £10.6m funding for R&D and new product development, leveraging in approx £25m private sector investment. Over 4,800 technical enquiries have been handled. 2,200 new product processes & services are under development. Since its start the Potentia project has achieved its 1,000th business start. *

Innovative awareness events for

04.

The ITCs also facilitate the SMART Cymru programme, and the Commitment to Innovation programme. There are currently 137 companies on the CTI programme and 6 companies joined the programme during the period April 04 – Sept 04.

Following consultation, HEFCW has established a Third Mission (3M) Fund. Institutions have submitted three year 3M strategies and implementation of HEIs' innovation policies will be monitored via the strategies.

All HEIs in Wales have again participated in the UK-wide HE-Business Interaction Survey (now expanded into a HE-Business & Community Interaction Survey (HEBCIS)). Publication is expected in December 2004 and will include data that compares Welsh (HE) innovation performance with that of other areas across the UK.

Ten Welsh HEIs have submitted expressions of interest to KEF for support for collaborative research activity involving industrial partners in Wales. Projects to be funded will be confirmed by mid-December 2004.

CETIC* - Objective 1 funding secured for Phase 2 Centres of Excellence (CETIC) Programme.

young people – over 3,000 people attended events across Wales. Material highlighting the importance of innovation sent to every primary and secondary school in Wales.

CETICs Objective One has assisted 547 businesses to date with over 260 jobs supported and c £954,000 private sector investment secured. Centres of Excellence have been through a re-accreditation process. *

Future Technology Programme activities concluded in December. Final report and future action plans are in preparation. 2,000 individuals participated in the Programme.

IP Wales has assisted 339 businesses, supporting c100 jobs. To date, 35 projects have been approved under P2M3 with a grant allocation of just under £70m. For P2M4, there are a further 35 projects with nearly £16m committed in grant funding. *

Major bioscience conference held. Discussion with Cardiff University and College of Medicine about the establishment of a major research institute to include Phase II of the Wales Gene Park at Roath Basin.

Wales Innovation Network (WIN) has over 950 members. WIN attended the 31st International Exhibition of Inventors in Geneva.

KEF* - consultants report on KEF review received. WDA in process of implementing recommendations. New calls for proposals under Patent & Proof of Concept, Collaborative Industrial research & Technology transfer networks. 227 businesses assisted, over 100 jobs created or safeguarded, 64 new business starts.

IP Wales – WDA has taken over responsibility for managing Wales grants as part of Innovation Credits. Support for IP Wales mentors continues at Swansea University.

Relay – The Wales Innovation Relay Centre has disseminated 1,934 technology opportunities to over 3,000 clients, handled 568 technical enquiries from which 376 technology transfer leads were generated. R&D proposals have been submitted to the value of over £7m. Welsh participation at the Hanover Fair brokerage event resulted in 32 business to business meetings, Farnborough Air Show brokerage event resulted in 58 meetings and 16 meetings were held between Welsh companies and 6 Austrian companies as a result of an inward mission.

BioWales – partnering event, 2 medi devices seminars and 2 MediWales newsletters

Micro-nano technology – assisted

		<p>Of the 12 welsh projects involved, 11 won medals including the overall prize for women inventors.</p> <p>Technology Exploitation Programme supported 227 projects, created 504 jobs and safeguarded 1,684 jobs across Wales. *</p> <p>Official Launch of ECM² at Port Talbot. Over 90 people employed by companies located at the facility. The TWI (The Welding Institute) is locating their non-destructive testing facilities in Wales.</p> <p>RELAY assisted 164 R&D and technology transfer projects. RELAY also ran a number of technology brokerage events including events on materials and biosciences.</p>	<p>with bids to DTI</p> <p>ICC – Communications Campaign ‘Innovation Works’ – PR campaign started, material being developed, events supported – young people, Living Innovation, mid Wales manufacturing annual conference, work to get partners and intermediaries more involved.</p> <p>Awards & competitions – Innovation awareness raising events held – 3,000 attended across Wales. Supported innovation exhibition at Eisteddfod. ELL Minister attended successful 6th Form innovation event. Significant press coverage highlighting activity as part of the Communications campaign.</p> <p>ELWa continues to assist innovative growth businesses, referred by WDA, via pilot Company Learning Account scheme.</p>
1.2	Roll-out Technium concept	<p>£150m Technium roll-out programme across Wales continues. Following the success of Technium 1 on the waterfront in Swansea, Technium 2 is now complete. *</p> <p>OpTIC Technium, St Asaph Business Park, complete and open for business. *</p> <p>Construction work progressing on the CAST Technium serving the software sector at Parc Menai, Bangor. Completion due Summer</p>	<p>£150m Technium roll-out programme across Wales continues apace.</p> <p>Technium 1 - as an average across its 14 companies staff levels and turnover have increased, capital investment of £1.5m has been made against public support worth £638,000 and 75% of staff are graduates with 72% working in R&D.</p> <p>Technium 2 - officially opened on 15 Dec 04 and is already filling</p>

04. *

Digital Technium at University of Wales Swansea, with links with Sony, only recently completed already has tenants in occupation, including two US inward investors in the knowledge economy. Formal launch June 04. *

Aberystwyth Technium now open and considering tenant applications. *

Funding for the Auto Technium at Dafen has been approved. Project on site Summer 04. *

Sustainable Development Technium at Baglan has commenced on site. *

Discussions advanced for an Energy Technium at Cleddau Bridge, Pembrokeshire.

Discussions advanced with WDA and stakeholders for a Media Technium.

WDA continue to resolve issues surrounding the proposed Bio Technium building at Middleton (National Botanic Gardens).

with tenants migrating into bigger space from Technium 1. Currently there are 9 tenants in Technium 2, 6 of whom have migrated from Technium 1. New applications being considered for space vacated at Technium 1.

Optic Technium – Optics Management team occupied the new facility on 9 June. 2 individuals now working full-time in the holographic Imaging Centre of Expertise located within OpTIC. Significant interest from potential tenants with high expectation that this will translate into positive results by early 05. Anticipated launch date late Feb 2005.

Construction and internal fit out work on the CAST Technium serving the software sector at Parc Menai, Bangor now completed. 16 units available. Some 20 enquiries received from prospective tenants. CAST has secured the Web 3D International Conference for early 2005.

Digital Technium at University of Wales Swansea, with links with Sony completed already has tenants in occupation, including two US inward investors in the knowledge economy. Formally launched June 04. Sony facility now has first tenant in occupation and further 2 accepted with others in the pipeline.

Aberystwyth Technium now open and has 3 tenants. New Technium

Manager appointed and plans in place for digital and creative suite to support interest from digital media companies.

Objective 1 funding for the Auto Technium at Dafen approved. Anticipated project construction start date Q1 2005.

Sustainable Development Technium at Baglan under construction and due for completion May 2005.

Discussions advanced for an Energy Technium at Cleddau Bridge, Pembrokeshire.

Media Technium – discussions ongoing between WDA and various stakeholders.

Bio Technium – while building itself has long been completed, WDA continues to explore future of Technium in the context of the financial issues surrounding National Botanic Gardens.

Technium Strategy paper produced for Welsh Assembly Government. In the process of setting up all Wales Steering Group.

1.3	Launch the Technology Commercialisation Centre	Several Welsh HEIs have utilised KEF to undertake IP audits. Head of Technology Venturing appointed. Projects under consideration for TCC support undergoing technology due diligence.	TCC will develop access to the scientific and knowledge base in Wales and elsewhere in the world to facilitate building the case for commercial exploitation either through establishment of an SME, growth of an existing SME or licensing. Operation of the scheme entails close liaison with SMART, KEF, CETICS etc. 17 proposals have been received from Welsh HEIs.
1.4	Continue to support the regional manufacturing centre of excellence	Manufacturing Advisory Service. Approximately 850 companies have received a diagnostic/introductory visit to date. Total number of long term projects is 53.	969 companies received diagnostic visit and advice from MAS advisors. 22 seminars/workshops held throughout Wales. 109 companies have received long term intervention support with a combined added value output of £7.7 million.
1.5	Launch of technology and innovation grant scheme, SMARTCymru	<p>New SMART Cymru Programme was launched in September 2003.</p> <p>During the year, the Programme received 170 registrations of interest and 47 full applications. SMART Cymru has made 29 offers amounting to £4.3m grant leveraging in £7.07m private sector investment.</p>	Since April 72 Registrations of interest (ROIs) have been received. 53 full applications received. 30 offers have been made with the grant committed of 852,000 leveraging 1.57 PSI.
1.6	Develop the Knowledge Bank concept	Invitation to Tender prepared and approved by steering group. Now awaiting resolution of a legal issue before going out to tender. Aim is to roll-out the concept from April 2005.	Welsh Assembly Government working with WDA to develop proposals for the Knowledge Bank

<p>2.</p> <p>2.1</p>	<p>Encouraging Entrepreneurship</p> <p>Implement the Entrepreneurship Action Plan (EAP)</p>	<p>During 2003-04 Potentia assisted nearly 2,000 individuals to move into the workplace, supported the creation of 1,507 jobs to date and assisted 910 new business starts. *</p> <p>Strategic Actions to implement ELWa EAP Objectives 2004-05 onwards include entrepreneurship in Regional Statements of Needs and Priorities (RSNPs), entrepreneurship in CCET guidance and in planning guidance for providers.</p> <p>2003 HEED updates report 82 KEF entrepreneurship scholarships were awarded to HEIs in 2001/02 (compared with 18 in 2000/01).</p> <p>Latest UK-wide survey of HE-Business Interactions published in January 2004 shows that in 2001/02 Wales accounted for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 8.6% of HE staff start-ups & 19% of all graduate business start-ups ● 9% of university spinouts with some HE ownership ● 29% of university spinouts not HEI owned 	<p>Since April 2004, Potentia has assisted 587 individuals into the workplace. 116 jobs have been created and it has assisted 84 new business starts.</p> <p>Entrepreneurship is one of the major themes of HEIs 3M strategies, analysis of which will be completed in November 2004.</p>
------------------------------------	---	--	---

<p>2.2</p>	<p>Further Develop the Knowledge Exploitation Fund (KEF)</p>	<p>Management of KEF transferred from the ELWa and HEFCW to WDA in January 2004. Programme under review and consideration being given to better integration of KEF with other WDA activities including Centres of Excellence and Know How Wales. *</p> <p>Progress since April 2003 has been:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 59 entrepreneurship scholarships awarded ● 1,483 students trained as entrepreneurs ● 25 lecturers trained in innovation and entrepreneurship skills ● 35 entrepreneurship and innovation strategies completed for 2003. <p>Release of KEF Phase II monies was linked to receipt of HEED plan updates in 2003 to encourage HEIs to use KEF as a strategic tool for the delivery of their overall HEED strategies.</p>	<p>Following publication of Knowledge Economy Nexus the final report of the Assembly's HE & Economic Development Task and Finish Group, HEFCW and the WDA have begun discussing the development of a "dual-support system" for HEIs economic development activities. HEFCW funding to be focused on supporting delivery infrastructures on a long term basis (both existing and those yet to emerge as a consequence of collaborative activity), which could then be matched by funds on a project by project basis from sources such as KEF.</p>
<p>2.3</p>	<p>Ensure maximum advantage from the Assembly Investment Grant (AIG)</p>	<p>525 offers of AIG made 2003-04, £16.25m offered, expected to lever in investment of £43.35m, create 1,280 new jobs and maintain a further 4,500.</p>	<p>192 offers of AIG made in the first 6 Months, £5.8m offered, expected to lever in investment of £17.5m, create 622 new jobs and maintain a further 1,202.</p>

2.4	Ensure maximum advantage from Finance Wales	In 2003-04 Finance Wales created 1,032 jobs and safeguarded 496. Over £6.3m directly invested in 146 companies and private sector leverage achieved of £17m. *	Since April, Finance Wales has created 689 jobs and safeguarded 496. £5.6 million directly invested in 143 companies and private sector leverage achieved of £15.7 million.
3. 3.1	Develop the Learning Country Implement the Skills and Employment Action Plan	<p>Second FSW Survey undertaken and report published October 2003. *</p> <p>Consultation on second Skills and Employment Action Plan from May – July 2004.</p> <p>87 Company Learning Accounts opened to end February 2004.</p> <p>8,662 Individual Learning Accounts applications issued; 4543 applications assessed; 4,277 applications approved. Continued success of Learner Worker Project pilot in Llanelli; engaged 1,270 employees and 260 employers across all sectors.</p> <p>2003 HEED plan updates report that over 60% of HEIs engage employers in curriculum development in all departments.</p>	<p>HEFCW has now been invited to join the FSW Steering Group to help ensure that due regard is paid to the HE dimensions of the skills and employability agenda in Wales.</p> <p>Over 100 responses received to the consultation on second Skills and Employment Action Plan. These are being assessed ready for publication in January 2005. The final document will include a response to ELWa’s Review of Learning in and for the Workplace, for which consultation has been taking place during August-October and for which the Report and Action Plan is to be published in December.</p> <p>Significant progress made in developing the SSC network – over 15 now licensed or near-to licence.</p> <p>Job Outlooks operational and Careers Wales Online at advanced stage of development.</p> <p>Research into Welsh language skills under way.</p>

			<p>Basic Skills screening introduced for all post-16 learners. 14,000 Modern Apprenticeship target achieved.</p> <p>Over 5000 Individual Learning Accounts approved. Wales Employment Advisory Panel appointed.</p>
3.2	Implement the HEFCW Corporate Plan	<p>HEFCW corporate plan approved by Assembly in September 2003. Reflecting Reaching Higher, HEFCW's mission is "to promote internationally excellent higher education in Wales, for the benefit of individuals, society and the economy, in Wales and more widely".</p>	<p>Implementation is being taken forward via HEFCW's Operational Plan for 2004-05, which serves as a statement of deliverables for the year ahead. Activities are presented under six core strategic aims covering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Widening access ● The "Deal for Students" ● Research excellence ● Benefiting the economy & society ● Initial teaching training ● Making it work
3.3	Implement the ELWa Corporate Plan	<p>Implementation taken forward through the Operational Plan 2003-04. Highlights include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Credit and Qualifications framework 3 year implementation plan published July 2003 ● Research, testing and informal consultation on the new funding arrangements. ● National Planning Framework which will influence funding under the 	<p>New national planning and funding system introduced; consistent approach to demand-led planning at local/regional/national levels to shape 2005-08 plan and indicative allocations issued for all learning providers on impact of common funding unit.</p> <p>Work based learning programme boosted by European project support.</p>

		<p>National Funding System from 2005-06 onwards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Quality Framework published September 2003 ● Implementation of the landbased review <p>During 2003-04, ELWa redesigned its programme to support redundant individuals, now called ReAct. Exceeded target of providing re-employment and training opportunities to 123 employees and supporting 2,000 participants undertaking training.</p>	
<p>3.4</p>	<p>Implement the Basic Skills Strategy</p>	<p>Implementation continuing through the Basic Skills Agency Delivery Plan 2004-05. Highlights include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Promotion campaign aimed at Key Stage 3 pupils, to promote interest in numeracy. ● National Support Projects established to offer information, advice and support for Basic Skills provision in Further Education Colleges, the Workplace, Training Organisations and Voluntary and Community Organisations. <p>Evaluation of Strategy commenced.</p>	<p>Evaluation of Strategy completed. Results fed into drafting of consultation document on a new strategy, to issue in November.</p> <p>Successful implementation of existing strategy continues.</p>

3.5

Work with higher education

Assembly Government represented on HEFCW's new Third Mission Committee.

Merger of Cardiff University and the University of Wales College of Medicine announced November 2003.

Task and Finish group established by Cabinet Office to consider the role of the HE sector in economic development has submitted its report to Ministers.

Formal response awaited from Central Government to a number of key UK-wide studies on HE third mission activities – eg the Lambert Review, Lord Sainsbury's Innovation review and proposed science and innovation ten-year investment framework.

HEFCW's 3M committee is about to publish its first annual report to the Council. This report reviews activities over the past year and illustrates the many ways in which the HE sector is contributing to economic and social well-being in Wales. The report also contains advice to the Council in relation to future strategic direction in this area, including to:

- Treat third mission activities as a priority, making them integral to our interactions with the sector and with our partner organisations;
- Promote and encourage increased levels of collaborative activity in the third mission arena;
- Play an active part in taking forward the recommendations made in the Nexus Report;
- Seek ways of facilitating the full and proper engagement of the Welsh HE sector with the emerging SSCs as a matter of some urgency;
- Support HEIs in developing their strategic oversight of third mission activities in a way that pulls together knowledge and technology transfer activity, the skills and employability agenda and wider social/ community outreach into a broader conception and articulation of how each

HEI does, and could, relate directly to its local environment, while also continuing to play on the wider UIK and international stage;

- Develop a framework of metrics that will enable the Council to demonstrate and measure the sector's contribution to economic and social well-being in Wales;
- Further refine the Third Mission Fund in the event of additional funding becoming available for the period 2004/05 to 2006/07.

The Assembly Government, WDA and ELWa are all represented on HEFCW's 3M Committee, which will also play a key role in overseeing HEFCW's contribution to the implementation of the Nexus Report by the Assembly's HE and Economic Development Task and Finish Group.

The Assembly Government is also represented on the sub-group of HEFCW's 3M Committee that is overseeing the analysis of HEIs' 3M strategies, outcomes of which are due in November 2004.

Knowledge Economy Nexus was published in the first quarter of 2004-05. A joint ministerial implementation group has been established to oversee delivery of the recommendations within the report. The group met and

			<p>considered a draft delivery plan in July. A second meeting of the group will take place in December.</p> <p>Several bids have been made to the Assembly's Capital Fund to help drive forward the knowledge economy agenda, and that are substantively based on the academic excellence in Welsh HEIs.</p>
<p>4.</p> <p>4.1</p>	<p>Promoting ICT</p> <p>Deliver public sector broadband/lifelong learning network</p>	<p>All Unitary Authorities (UAs) in Wales connected to Lifelong Learning Network for Wales (LLNW) and also able to use for own corporate traffic. Also, to end March 2004:</p> <p>a) 37% of all primary schools in Wales were connected to LLNW at 2 mbs or higher.</p> <p>b) 67% of all secondary schools in Wales are connected to LLNW at 8 mbs or higher.</p> <p>c) 49% of Libraries in Wales are connected to the LLNW at 8 mbs or higher.</p> <p>d) 42% of ICT Learning Centres in Wales are connected to the LLNW at 2 mbs or higher.</p> <p>e) The figures to increase to 70, 86, 69 and 69% respectively if sites in the process of being connected are included in the above.</p>	<p>All Unitary Authorities (UAs) in Wales are connected to Lifelong Learning Network for Wales (LLNW) and also able to use for own corporate traffic. Also, to end September 2004:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 87.6% of all primary schools in Wales were connected to LLNW at 2 mbs or higher. ● 98.6% of all secondary schools in Wales are connected to LLNW at 8 mbs or higher. ● 91.6% of Libraries in Wales are connected to the LLNW at 8 mbs or higher. ● 91.6% of ICT Learning Centres in Wales are connected to the LLNW at 2 mbs or higher. <p>Assembly Government grant aid for each UA £63,000 per annum for dedicated staff to support ICT/</p>

		<p>Assembly Government grant aid for each UA £63,000 per annum for dedicated staff to support ICT/ broadband integration and usage in schools, libraries and learning centres.</p> <p>HEFCW has allocated an additional £4m capital funding to the sector for 2004/05 for learning and teaching and IT infrastructure.</p>	<p>broadband integration and usage in schools, libraries and learning centres. HEFCW has allocated an additional £4m capital funding to the sector for 2004/05 for learning and teaching and IT infrastructure.</p> <p>Development of an E-learning framework for HE in Wales is a target in HEFCW's current operational plan.</p> <p>ELWa's e-learning strategy and action plan continue to be implemented, in particular e-learning championed/facilitated in FE institutions</p>
<p>4.2</p>	<p>Develop a key portal service</p>	<p>3 key stages identified in the All Wales Portal's development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Stage 1: launched November 2002 - Wales on The Web/Cymru ar y We managed by the National Library of Wales. ● Stage 2: launched August 2004 - currently in consultation phase about design and content of English and Welsh site ● Stage 3: future development of more powerful and all-embracing search engine. 	<p>Stage 1 of the Portal's development is now complete. Launched at the National Eisteddfod in August 2004 to engage with the public and generate feedback.</p> <p>Stage 2 is underway. In July 2004 an external audit of portal accessibility was commissioned and completed; work to implement the recommendations arising from this audit is ongoing to ensure that the site meets the best practice AAA standard by October 2004.</p>

<p>4.3</p>	<p>Raise understanding/ appreciation of benefits of ICT</p>	<p>£354,000 spent in 03-04 and £900,000 allocated for 04-05 to promote demand for broadband across Wales through an integrated marketing plan to be implemented in May 2004. Meet the Mouse/ Llywio'r Llygoden (Raising the Stakes) training programme launched in November 2003 for people with little or no ICT skills.</p> <p>1,700 staff at public library have gained the ECDL qualification and can train library users to use the People's Network.</p> <p>Opportunity Wales has assisted 5,853 businesses up until March 2004. Total amount of client aid to date is £842,046. *</p> <p>WDA now manages the All Wales Network of ICT support centres (24 offices across the 22 UAs). Up until March 2004 Technical Reviews 4,526 undertaken, Technical Enquiries 6,683 handled, 5,267 delegates attending events</p>	<p>300 NHS staff have signed up to attend the Meet the Mouse workshops.</p> <p>50% of all participants of the meet the Mouse workshops have signed up to attend further training or ICT initiatives.</p> <p>The Cymru-Ar-lein website has been redeveloped. The new site provides an emphasis on increasing awareness of broadband communications and getting more people involved interactively.</p> <p>Core marketing agencies to promote demand for broadband have been appointed through OJEC process in September 2004.</p> <p>The uptake of domestic broadband in Wales benchmarked through NOP survey stands at 11.5%. Cardiff has one of the highest levels of uptake in the UK.</p> <p>Original Opportunity Wales initiative ended on 31 March 2004.</p> <p>'Opportunity Wales Advance' (OWA) commenced on 1 April 2004 and places more emphasis on the use of advanced eCommerce applications. OWA also offers financial assistance to help businesses to purchase the products and services identified in their eCommerce review.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Objective 1 OWA Project has assisted 802 businesses
-------------------	--	--	--

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provided nearly £13k Client Aid support to 20 clients <p>Businesses will be re-benchmarked after the 6 month period.</p> <p>The WDA manages an all Wales Network of ICT support centres (in 24 offices across 22 UA's).</p> <p>To September 2004, they have conducted 937 client consultations. covering both Technical Reviews and Technical Enquiries.</p> <p>The centres also showcase the various broadband technologies to SMEs through the "Try before you buy" scheme. 347 clients have used this service.</p> <p>1377 delegates have attended events organised by the WDA.</p>
<p>4.4</p>	<p>Stimulate adoption of ICT by businesses and communities</p>	<p>A number of Objective One P2M2 programmes have now been approved which will support and stimulate adoption of ICT by businesses. *</p> <p>WIS Trailer delivered series of ICT awareness raising and demonstration workshops and events throughout Wales attracting 1,331 delegates. *</p> <p>Wales smE-Business programme has undertaken 28 e-business reviews and run tailored workshops for 33 companies. *</p> <p>Implementation of the Broadband</p>	<p>To September 2004, the WIS trailer has held over 100 events across Wales with 700 seminars covering a wide range of topics. 2500 delegates have attended and of which 1000 were from individual businesses.</p> <p>Up to the end of September 04, Wales SME-Business had engaged with 37 SMEs in 1-1 Consultancy, 79 businesses have received a technical review and 197 delegates had attended workshops/seminars.</p> <p>The Corus Regeneration ICT programme has undertaken 68 Business Reviews with SMEs within Blaenau Gwent. There are</p>

Wales Action Plan will help improve broadband supply and demand in Wales. Specifically:

- Broadband Support Scheme –WDA operates pan Wales scheme which subsidises connectivity costs associated with broadband for SMEs. From March 2004, scheme extended to all broadband technologies. Voluntary sector organisations now eligible for support
- Try Before You Buy Broadband Demonstration Facilities now installed across ICT centre network throughout Wales providing SMEs with the facility to view and obtain impartial advice on the best broadband connection for their business.
- Lifelong Learning Network (detailed in 4.1).
- Extending the Lifelong Learning Network (ELLEN) –application for funding to support and expand connectivity to the Lifelong Learning Network for the public sector locations in the Objective 1 area has been made and is being considered by WEFO. *

currently 59 SMEs receiving one to one consultancy and capital expenditure assistance on the Business ICT Support Programme.

Early returns of Exit

Questionnaires returns have stated that 6.5 jobs have been created and 130 jobs have been safeguarded as a result of the Business Support Programme's activities to date.

The programme has undertaken or been directly involved in 13 seminars and events attended by 263 delegates.

The findings of the Strategic Review of the Broadband Wales Programme were presented to the Economic Development and Transport Committee on 22 September 2004.

Since April 2004 the SME Broadband Support Scheme has helped connect 362 businesses across Wales with a broadband connection. The scheme provides increased financial aid of up to £3000 and has been extended to include those organisations in the voluntary and charity sectors.

The ELLEN project has been renamed CoGS (Connectivity Grant Support) and is likely to secure Objective 1 funding before the end of 2004.

Regional Innovative Broadband Support, (RIBS) – Project officials at the Broadband Wales Unit are

- Fibre Speed Services to Business Parks/Locations – WDA developing a programme to deliver a Next Generation Broadband Network to key business park locations across Wales in order to ensure that very high bandwidth services are available at an affordable price. Programme is anticipated to commence late Summer/early Autumn 2004.
 - Regional Infrastructure Broadband Support (RIBS) – Objective 1 funded project which will support innovative broadband projects from a capital perspective. Project received approval in October 03 and is currently in start up phase. Funding will be available in 2004-05. *
 - Broadband Infrastructure Support Initiative (BISI) – application has been made to support a project which will improve access to broadband infrastructure in the Objective 1 area.
 - Demand stimulation/ marketing (detailed in 4.3).
 - Broadband Wales Taskforce – to facilitate successful partnerships/ initiatives across Wales and will focus on supporting
- currently working through state aid issues. Further details will be announced when the Economic Development and Transport Minister publishes the Broadband Wales Strategy covering 2004 to 2007 before the end of the year.
- The Broadband Infrastructure Support Initiative project was submitted to WEFO for approval however, the application was put on hold pending the outcome of the Strategic Review.
- OJEC procurement process complete and 4 agencies have been contracted to deliver the core components of the demand stimulation programme. The remit covers creative development, PR for business, consumer and key influencers, Market and marketing research and e-media. The development of the consumer benefits video has also been completed and voted site of the day by MacroMedia.
- The taskforce also continue to engage both customers and suppliers at regional and local level and has impacted in terms of establishing solutions at business, community and consumer level and establishing case studies detailing the success of broadband.
- The Strategic Review recommended that this Project will present Wales as an attractive place for potential inward investors, particularly large IT

broadband activity/projects at a local level.

- International broadband connectivity research – WDA has undertaken research to identify the business case requirements for a Tier 1 or alternative connection to the Internet and evaluate the benefits to Wales of such a connection. A series of options are under review

companies and those seriously interested in research and development.

The WIS Trailer took roadshows to 19 locations across Wales. 475 delegates attended tailored workshops. Broader awareness raising events were also undertaken at the Royal Welsh Show, the National Eisteddfod and the Anglesey County Show attracting large numbers of individuals.

Within Wales smE-Business 27 Technical reviews were undertaken with companies, 17 of these have gone on to sign up to the extended support programme.

- A total of 359 companies have applied for subsidies under the broadband Support Scheme achieving over 200% of the year-to-date target.
- A total of 699 Try Before You Buy demonstrations have been undertaken by the ICT Centre Network
- A detailed exercise to develop options for Business and Funding Models is currently underway. The set of recommended options is due to be delivered in Nov 04
- International broadband connectivity research – the series of options is still under review.

<p>4.5</p>	<p>Develop action plan for ICT skills</p>	<p>ELWa has developed an action plan for interventions arising from the strategy on November 2003.</p> <p>Consultation on draft action plan closed on 30 June 2003. The next stages of the strategy are being considered in light of the 60 responses received. Update report providing overview of e-learning and ICT skills development scheduled for publication by the Assembly in late Summer 2004</p> <p>Assembly Government has appointed an e-learning strategy development manager with responsibility for revising the strategy and ensuring cohesion and synergy with other policy areas such as health, culture and workforce development strategies.</p> <p>ICT research underway with E-Skills.</p>	<p>3M strategies indicate that ICT skills are a key component of HE workbased learning delivery and that a number of HEIs are developing expertise in Welsh-medium delivery in this area (further information will be available from November 2004).</p>
<p>5.</p> <p>5.1</p>	<p>Supporting Businesses</p> <p>Continue to improve support and business advice</p>	<p>Business Eye, launched September 2003, providing comprehensive, impartial information and signposting service for all types of businesses, existing and potential. 14,596 calls handled up to 31 March 2004.*</p> <p>HEFCW established a Third</p>	<p>Significant progress has been made in the rationalisation of business support in the interests of customer focus, flexibility, simplicity and efficiency in delivery. This will result in six, clear offerings for the customer: ‘Help with Industry</p>

Mission Committee, including representatives from academia and business, which will advise on strategies for enhancing links between business and Welsh HEIs.

2003 HEED plan updates report that in 2001/02 HEIs delivered training and consultancy services to business to the value of £48m (up 37% on 2000/01)

UK-wide HE-Business Interaction Survey published in January 2004 shows that all HEIs in Wales now have a dedicated enquiry point for SMEs and that 1,096 firms were assisted through consultancy service in 2001/02.

The HE-BI Survey also reported that Wales accounted for 11.6% of all UK contracts signed with SMEs in 2001/02, 6.4% of all formal consultancy contracts and 10% of all income from such contracts.

Project Board established to oversee the implementation of ELWa's Review of Services to Business, together with a steering group to develop a management development and leadership action plan for Wales.

Graduate Opportunities (GO) Wales launched in November 2003 to provide enhanced links between employers and HEIs in relation to graduate employment opportunities and development of employability skills.

Networking', 'Information and Signposting', General Advice, Mentoring and Account Management', 'Specialist Support', 'Access to Finance', and 'Brokering – supply and procurement'.

The broadcast interface that the public sector has with business is Business Eye. The service has received over 10,000 discrete enquiries from clients between April – September 2004. All clients receive a customer satisfaction survey following their enquiry. With a return rate of over 10% to this survey, over 94% of responders rate Business eye as 'good' or 'very good'.

The recently approved General Business Advisory Service aims to deliver consistent and quality general support including diagnosis, general advice and help with accessing specialist support for SMEs throughout Wales to ensure their sustainability and growth. The service is delivered jointly by the WDA and ELWa. Over 130 full-time equivalent advisers are now delivering the service throughout Wales.

In addition to these areas, the WDA continues to deliver Account Management and Mentoring support across Wales.

Analysis of HEIs' 3M strategies will provide up to date information on HE engagement with business

Welsh undergraduates undertaking business placements increased by over 40% between 2000/01 and 2001/02.

ELWa has supported:

- over 2,300 businesses to develop management and leadership skills through the Business Skills Development programmes.
- 3,915 companies in workforce development activities.
- 128 businesses to open company learning accounts.
- 286 organisations to commit to achieving the IIP standard
- 1,911 organisations to achieve IIP accreditation (including first time recognitions and three year recognitions annual reviews).

ELWa developing a programme of presentations to General Business Advisory and Business Eye staff to raise awareness and provide information on ELWa's services to business.

(available November 2004). Areas of HE business support include: Training & Consultancy services; Contract research; Collaborative R&D with business partners; Hire of specialist equipment/testing facilities etc; Work placement & employment opportunities for undergraduates/graduates/post-graduates (including via GO Wales* & KTPs); CPD (including via GO Wales*); Management development.

Since April 2003 GO Wales has supported over 1200 Welsh SMEs

All HEIs in Wales have again participated in the UK-wide HE-Business Interaction Survey (now expanded into a HE-Business and Community Interaction Survey (HEBCIS)). Publication is expected in December 2004 and will include data that compares Welsh (HE) performance in relation to business support with that of other RDA areas across the UK. Business Eye is progressing well in terms of customer feedback. Of the businesses sampled, over 90% gave positive feedback. ELWa is on target to achieve its 2004-05 business plan objectives including management workshops and pilot Company Learning Account scheme.

<p>5.2</p>	<p>Improve support for high growth sectors and clusters</p>	<p>Sectoral approach which will include gathering information, improving understanding and identifying sources of expertise has been developed with the Assembly Government, WDA and ELWa.</p> <p>Technology Strategy launched February 2004. Considerable progress made on Creative Industries strategy and work progressing on Automotive and Aerospace.</p> <p>HEIs will be asked to consider how they can help address the needs of identified sectors.</p> <p>HEFCW is encouraging HEIs to utilise HEED and KEF monies to provide the necessary infrastructure to support increased numbers of business spin-outs from Welsh HEIs.</p>	<p>Work in progress on the development of strategies for the creative industries, automotive and aerospace sectors in consultation with businesses in the respective sectors.</p> <p>Sectoral reviews commenced on Construction, Care, Engineering and Tourism sectors. Work in progress to develop 4 Sector Skills Agreements with construction, creative/media, engineering and e-skills. HEIs have been asked to address the needs of these identified high growth sectors within their 3M strategies (analysis outcomes available November 2004).</p> <p>Formal funding arrangements have been established with the Wales Automotive Forum and Aerospace Forum. New business opportunities for aerospace companies of c. £400m identified following joint presence at Farnborough and Aerolink.</p>
<p>5.3</p>	<p>Ensure adequate provision of quality sites, premises and infrastructure</p>	<p>Objective 1 approved projects that provide sites and premises risen to 55 attracting grants totalling nearly £48.5m. *</p> <p>WDA forecast to create over 44,000 sq feet of floor space to support new and existing growth sectors.</p> <p>WDA developing proposals for an All Wales Property Strategy which will be brought forward in 2004-05.</p>	<p>EDT Minister recently approved WDA Property Strategy for Employment Sites and Premises in Wales. The Agency is currently working up a detailed property programme for the next two years.</p>

<p>5.4</p>	<p>Ensure Structural Funds are used to maximum effect</p>	<p>Mid Term Evaluations of the EU Structural Funds programmes were successfully completed in Autumn 2003. Changes to programmes are now being implemented as per recommendations.</p> <p>Six new Thematic Advisory Groups (TAGs) were established following a review of programme monitoring structures. TAGs are examining and providing advice in the following areas – Business Support; ICT Innovation and R & D; Community Economic Regeneration; Labour Market; Rural Issues; and Infrastructure. *</p>	<p>To end of September 2004, WEFO has approved over 2000 projects with funding support worth £1 billion since the start of the current programme period in 2000 with a total of 36,200 jobs have been created and 44,000 jobs safeguarded to date as a result of the programmes. As a result of meeting its mid term targets WEFO was awarded a Performance Reserve of £65.4 million and this additional money is being allocated to projects in areas such as Town Centre Regeneration, Supporting Innovation and R&D, Fisheries and Aquaculture, Reducing economic inactivity and Developing a Sustainable Countryside. In May WEFO hosted a Best Practice Conference in Swansea which was attended by representatives of five other EU states and saw the launch of the "Towards Prosperity" brochure which gives examples of projects funded by the different programmes and Community Initiatives. A research study commenced in June to identify good practice in Structural Fund project management.</p>
-------------------	---	---	---

<p>5.5</p>	<p>Assist Welsh companies to win business from Welsh public sector</p>	<p>National Procurement Website gained increased recognition since launch in November 2003. Well over 50% of the Public Sector have registered, over £20m notices have been advertised and over 2,500 suppliers are registered.</p> <p>Procurement Food Group established June 2003 with Catering and Procurement Managers across Wales. Guidance launch due April 2004. Pilots underway including five-schools project, distribution project, 2 meat supply chain projects and supplier education project.</p> <p>Three pilot projects running over 2 years to test social clauses in construction requiring contractors to recruit and train unemployed. Trainees started at WDA site September 2003. Ynys Môn Council contractor started recruitment March 2004. RCT Council due to appoint contractor June 2004.</p>	<p>The number of suppliers registered on the National Procurement Website, now exceeds 4400. This demonstrates the increasing interest and confidence in accessing vital procurement opportunities online. We now have 85 public sector organisations registered on the website, 31 of which are using the site to advertise contracts. To date live contracts valuing over £100m have been advertised through the site.</p> <p>"Food for thought" guidance launched July 2004 giving advice on how to improve nutrition and encourage local supply chains in public sector food procurement. Distribution survey completed September 2004 and results being reviewed. Pilots are starting to deliver local food into schools and hospitals. Case studies to be published winter 2004-05. Sustainable Business Taskforce established to spread work in food into other key industry segments. First meeting September 2004 and draft action plan under review. Initial evaluation of pilots of use of social clauses in construction due November 2004. WDA pilot complete. Trainees with Ynys Môn Council pilot has appointed contractor and now developing joint agreement on training and employment. Final evaluation of pilots now due June 2005.</p>
-------------------	--	--	--

5.6	Work with the UK Government to reduce unnecessary regulation	Re-launch of Enforcement Concordat Good Practice Guide: for England & Wales in July 2003.	
5.7	Improve competitiveness	<p>Participating firms in Accelerate Wales have reaped benefits worth £96m in the first 2 years. Improving competitiveness through supply chain developments have resulted in new business opportunities of c£85 million and deals to date of c£50 million. *</p> <p>2003 HEED updates report HEIs undertook contract research to the value of £40.4m in 2001/02 (an increase of 6% on 2000/01 levels).</p> <p>More businesses in Wales seeking assistance from HE to improve competitiveness - participation in Knowledge Transfer Partnerships increased by 33% between 2000/01 and 2001/02. Wales accounted for 9% of all UK Teaching Company Associates.</p> <p>£500,000 Skills Development Fund launched to support SSCs and other sector to develop support for their needs. Projects include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Arts Skills Development project (Arts Training Wales) ● Provision of Local Modern Apprenticeships initiative (Cogent) 	<p>Accelerate Wales has a full complement of Automotive Supply Chain champions in 32 companies. Value of deals achieved by business to date c £12.5m</p> <p>Since its inception in April 2003, HEFCW's GO (Graduate Opportunities) Wales programme has assisted over 1200 SMEs in Wales. As a consequence of taking a graduate work placement many of these SMEs have begun to employ graduates for the first time.</p> <p>HEFCW is currently working with the Wales Management Council to encourage HE Business Schools in Wales to develop a pan-Wales approach to management development activity.</p> <p>3M strategies indicate that increased numbers of Welsh HEIs are now participating in the KTP programme.</p> <p>£900,000 of Skills Development Fund projects agreed by ELWa</p>

- Enhancing Continuous Professional Development in the Voluntary Sector (Community Justice NTO)
- Labour Market Intelligence in the Hairdressing and Beauty Industry (CSIA)
- Identifying the IT and Telecoms Skills Demands of Employers in Wales (E Skills UK)
- IT Skills for NHS Wales in the Information Age (E Skills UK)
- Developing Learning Advocates in Welsh Financial Services Companies (Financial Services NTO)
- Changing Roles in Plumbing (Gas Care)
- Developing Training Excellence within the Gas Sector (GWINTO)
- Increasing the opportunities to enhance skills and increase productivity within leading employers in the Process and Manufacturing sector (PROSKILLS)
- Fast Forward Wales (Skillfast UK)
- Meeting the needs of the

		<p>Welsh Animation Sector (Skillfast UK)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sports Learning Networks (SPRITO) • A Human Resource Management toolkit for tourism businesses in Wales (Tourist Training Forum for Wales) • Landscape CPD Demonstration Programme (Welsh College of Horticulture) 	
5.8	Encourage workplace partnerships	<p>Wales Partnership at Work project bid, submitted to the DTI Partnership at Work Fund in July 2003, approved. Aim of project, to be managed by ACAS Wales on behalf of the Wales Partnership at Work Steering Group, is to make businesses and organisations in Wales more successful and better places to work by encouraging partnership in the workplace.</p>	<p>Contract issues with the DTI successfully negotiated. Progress made in the appointment of the project Director. The 2 year project funded by the DTI to commence when the Director has taken up post.</p>
5.9	Implement the action plan for the National Childcare Strategy	<p>WDA sponsored research and Chwarae Teg study have reported to Ministers.</p> <p>In response to the studies Dr Brian Gibbons AM has been appointed to head a new Childcare Task Group.</p> <p>WDA grant to NCMA has resulted in 233 new childminders starting business since April 2002 to end March 2004.</p>	<p>The Childcare Working Group's Interim Report was launched in July 2004 alongside public consultation which ended on 30 September. Responses received will assist the Group to develop its final report. The Group's findings will inform and build on the initiatives of the Childcare Action Plan.</p> <p>All 3 year olds are now able to access a free part-time place from the term following their third</p>

			<p>birthday, if their parents want it. This has been achieved through a mixed economy of provision where private and voluntary playgroups, nurseries and childminders play an equal part in providing a quality service. However, three LEAs do not currently fund in the non-maintained sector.</p>
5.10	<p>Extend programmes which provide equality of opportunity for all</p>	<p>New round of Challenge Fund launched September.</p> <p>SME Equality Project has assisted 361 businesses; Women's Enterprise and Young Enterprise supported over 237 new starts and the Potentia EBSP has achieved its 910th Business start after two years of operation.*</p>	<p>Challenge Fund ends March 2005. Chwarae Teg to submit proposals for new Work Life Balance strategy for 2005-08.</p> <p>SME Equality Project has assisted a further 243 businesses since April 2004.</p>
5.11	<p>Review the Health at Work Corporate Standard</p>	<p>Number of organizations which have gained the Assembly's 'Corporate Standard for Health at Work' has risen to 60 and includes the Assembly itself. These comprise:</p> <p>NHS: 14 NHS trusts; 7 Local Health Boards;</p> <p>Local Authorities: 19</p> <p>Public and Private Organisations: 20</p> <p>Review of Corporate Health Standard completed on 31 March 04. First internal consultation exercise will take place on 5 May 2004. CHS will then be redeveloped and re-launched in</p>	<p>Internal consultation held in May. External consultation closed end July. 2nd round of consultation in October. Working groups will meet through November to develop new criteria for specific health issues with the new structure.</p> <p>Award ceremony was held in July to celebrate the success of 11 award winners. Current award holders:</p> <p>NHS: 14 NHS trusts; 7 Local Health Boards;</p> <p>Local Authorities: 19</p> <p>Public and Private Organisations: 21</p>

		April 2005.	
6.	Setting a Fresh Direction		
6.1	Developing the Energy Strategy Operational Plan	<p>Energy Strategy Operational Plan at an advanced stage of development; dialogue taking place with key stakeholders and deliverers to inform the process. Consultation on the plan is expected to take place later in 2004-05.</p> <p>Work on TAN 8 continuing; further economic tests work commissioned.</p> <p>First off-shore wind project partially operational with the final stage of construction due to be completed shortly. Second-round off-shore wind project announced.</p> <p>Objective 1 Energy Project Board established and operational.</p>	<p>TAN8 consultation issued by planning Division to around 600 selected parties, throughout Wales on 13 July 2004.</p> <p>Formal extension to the consultation period for a further four weeks, closed on 5 November 2004.</p> <p>Cefn Croes onshore windfarm currently being developed. North Hoyle, the UK first major windfarm now fully operational. Rhyl Flats and Scarweather Sands offshore wind projects also have or are about to be consented for development. The Second Round offshore wind project is being progressed but is likely to be developed by 2010.</p> <p>A new Thematic Group has been established to consider, amongst other measures, clean energy and infrastructure and has met on a number of occasions during the period.</p>

<p>6.2</p>	<p>Scale up energy efficiency support and environmental best practice</p>	<p>Carbon Trust continues to deliver energy efficiency support and environmental best practice. Over 230 energy surveys and 420 visits undertaken in 2003-04. Welsh Health Estates and Carbon Trust Wales have recently completed a pilot project in Gwent Health Trust, which indicated the potential for a 20% reduction in energy use with a saving of 5,900 tonnes of carbon dioxide. Scope for rolling out to the remaining 14 NHS Trusts throughout Wales would result in an annual saving of approx. £2.2m on energy costs.</p> <p>Annual report on BEAP to be published in June. Expert Panel on Resources Management inaugural meeting April 04.</p> <p>Around 500 businesses now have certified EMS including 282 under the Green Dragon scheme. Five companies have reached the highest level 5.</p>	<p>Carbon Trust continues to deliver energy efficiency support and environmental best practice. Over 120 visits have been undertaken together with 40 Standard Service surveys, 23 action plans were developed for 23 private sector bespoke clients.</p> <p>The Carbon Trust in Wales published "Energising Wales 2" in June 2004. The publication illustrated that the Carbon Trust in Wales has inception directly helped Welsh business and public sector organisations identify and implement energy efficiency measures to reduce carbon emissions by 500,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide a year together with cost savings amounting to £35m p. a.</p> <p>BEAP Annual Report 2003-04 published in June. Expert Panel on Resources Management has met three times since its inception in February. More than 500 businesses now have certified EMS including 319 under the Green Dragon scheme.</p>
<p>6.3</p>	<p>Implement the Wales Waste Strategy</p>	<p>Eight local authorities have reported achieving 15% recycling and composting a year ahead of the target date of the end of 2003-04.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

6.4	Consult on revisions to the Sustainable Development Scheme and strengthen links with A Winning Wales	Consultation completed by January 04, results of which were analysed, and a revised scheme adopted by Plenary in March 04	
6.5	Develop and produce an Energy Conservation Plan now known as the Energy Efficiency Action Plan (EEAP)	Public consultation in respect of the draft EEAP closed on 13 April 04. The Energy Efficiency Plan 'Energy Saving Wales' currently undergoing final revision in readiness for launch in October 2004.	Public consultation in respect of the draft EEAP closed on 13 April 04. The Energy Efficiency Plan 'Energy Saving Wales' has undergone final revision and been subject to Ministerial approval in readiness for launch on 19 th October 2004.
6.6	Enhance the attractiveness of the Welsh Countryside	<p>193 applications were approved under the Adfywio Scheme which ended on 31 March 2004. These were worth £12.1m and received grant support of £5.2m.</p> <p>Countryside Opportunities Steering Group set up to assist in the strategic co-ordination and planning for the introduction of the new public access right under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000; and to assist in maximising the potential for new access opportunities across Wales.</p>	Of the 193 approved projects 167 have been completed. All funds have been allocated and £4.1m in cash has been distributed, with all monies to be paid by 31 December 2004.

<p>7.</p> <p>7.1</p>	<p>Establishing Wales in the World</p> <p>Develop and implement an International Trade Strategy</p>	<p>Work commenced on the next phase of overseas offices. Staff recruited for San Francisco, Dubai and Tokyo will take up post in April 2004. Consideration of potential presence in Brussels and Hong Kong/Shanghai is on hold.</p> <p>WTI identified over £521m business opportunities and secured confirmed deals amounting to £95m*</p>	<p>Offices in San Francisco, Dubai and Tokyo opened in April 2004. Brussels and Hong Kong still on hold.</p> <p>Wales Trade International has identified £620m of business opportunities and secured confirmed deals amounting to £128m. Overseas events programme on target.</p>
<p>7.2</p>	<p>Refocus inward investment</p>	<p>International activities continue to focus on sectors and geographic markets. New projects secured include aerospace, motorsport and automotive components.</p> <p>To date over 4,422 jobs created and 1,724 jobs safeguarded – 1,551 new jobs from overseas.</p> <p>RSA – 30 offers to overseas companies in 2003-04. Worth £61.9m, to lever in over £400m investment. 3,439 new jobs forecast, with 1,267 safeguarded.</p>	<p>Major new projects secured in the six months include aerospace, automotive and financial services. In all, WDA recorded 19 projects involving overseas companies. Those projects are forecast to lever in almost £26 million investment, create 873 new jobs and safeguard a further 584.</p> <p>During the same period, RSA worth £1.5m was offered to 8 projects involving overseas companies. Those projects are forecast to lever in over £146m investment, create 629 new jobs and safeguard a further 387.</p> <p>NB there is some overlap between projects recorded by the WDA and projects supported with RSA.</p> <p>WDA International Division continues to focus on IT/Telecoms, Financial Business services,</p>

			Automotive, Aerospace, electronics, life sciences and new media. Financial services particularly active.
7.3	Develop a National Events Strategy.	Work begun to develop a framework for evaluating and assessing events to ensure that we are securing the maximum benefits for our existing and future investments in major events.	Ongoing
7.4	Develop a clear international branding of Wales	Consultants' reports on implementation strategy awaited.	Ministers considering recommendations on branding Wales alongside the wider international branding issues arising from the forthcoming merger with WDA and WTB.
7.5	Implement 'Achieving Our Potential'	<p>During 2003-4, WTB allocated £893k of Objective 1 money against 28 projects, generating a total of £2.9m investment and 87 jobs. Since the start of the Objective 1 funded project, WTB grant support of £13.4m has generated total investment of £44m and 1,204 jobs. *</p> <p>Training provided to 1,603 training businesses and 4,135 businesses displaying their services online. 17% of all enquiries have been via online media.</p> <p>WTB provided business support to over 6,800 business enquiries during the year.</p>	<p>Phase 1 of the Objective 1 scheme now complete. Phase 2 of the Objective 1 project began in August 2003. To date WTB has allocated £6.8m of Objective 1 (Phase 2) money against 49 projects, generating a total of £30.8m investment and 539 jobs.</p> <p>132 businesses have received training on VisitWales in this period (making an overall total of 1735). The total number of businesses displaying their services online on VisitWales increased from 4135 to 5024.</p> <p>WTB has provided business support to 2650 business enquiries in this period.</p>

<p>8.</p> <p>8.1</p>	<p>Improving Transport</p> <p>Implement the Transport Framework</p>	<p>CleanUp, part of Road Haulage Modernisation, available from 2003-04 to improve health and environmental conditions.</p> <p>Walking and Cycling Strategy for Wales launched December 2003.</p>	<p>Funding of £1,004,000 provided for 2004-05. CleanUp Wales programme launched in Denbighshire on 9 September 2004.</p> <p>A Walking and Cycling Forum for Wales established to oversee the implementation of the strategy.</p> <p>In 2004-05 the Welsh Assembly Government is investing (£9.7m) through Transport Grant and other funds to provide walking and cycling facilities.</p>
<p>8.2</p>	<p>Maintain strategic transport corridors</p>	<p>£14.5m contract awarded for A494/A550 Deeside Park to Drome Corner improvement scheme.</p> <p>Assembly continues to fund passenger train services between north-south Wales, serving Cardiff-Wrexham-Holyhead.</p> <p>The Assembly commissioned study of intra-Wales air services, including the potential for north-south air links, completed and was subject to wide consultation in March/April 2004.</p> <p>Assembly continues to provide up to £3,000 a month to safeguard the Traws Cambria bus service operating between north and south Wales. Report reviewing long-distance bus and coach services in Wales published and</p>	<p>Good progress has been made on the A470 Lledr Valley road improvement scheme, the A495/A550 project in Deeside and the A447 improvement from Nash Fingerpost to Bangeston.</p> <p>The Assembly continues to fund passenger train services between north-south Wales, serving Cardiff-Wrexham-Holyhead.</p> <p>Report reviewing longer distance bus and coach services in Wales published, and recommendations for enhanced services on strategic routes is being implemented in partnership with local authorities, utilising Transport Grant and bus revenue funding. Assembly funding to safeguard the Traws Cambria bus service operating between north and south Wales</p>

		<p>recommendations for enhanced services on strategic long-distance routes being implemented in partnership with local authorities, utilising Transport Grant funding.</p>	<p>continues. New buses setting a significantly higher standard expected to be introduced on the route between Bangor and Aberystwyth early in 2005, utilising Assembly funding. Similar higher-quality buses expected to be introduced around Easter 2005 between Wrexham and Barmouth.</p>
8.3	Maintain and improve regional and local roads	<p>Ongoing commitment to support £300m of local authority transport schemes over five years from 2001-02.</p>	<p>Ongoing commitment to support £300m of local authority transport schemes over five years from 2001-02.</p>
8.4	Improve public and community transport	<p>Announced in March 2004 allocations to local authorities totalling £8.8m for 2004-05 under the Local Transport Services Grant scheme to help boost number and range of subsidised local bus services, and to support community transport projects.</p> <p>Demand responsive transport service in Flintshire (the Deeside Shuttle) to test the suitability for wider implementation in Wales is under evaluation.</p> <p>In partnership with the Community Fund, reviewed the performance of the Community Transport Association.</p> <p>Working with local authorities and bus and community transport sectors to develop scheme to give half-fare discounts on local buses for 16 to 18 year olds and extend free travel by elderly and disabled people to community transport. £1.8m available for the latter,</p>	<p>Announced in March 2004 allocations to local authorities totalling £8.8m for 2004-05 under the Local Transport Services Grant scheme. Consulting WLGA on proposals for allocation of £9.2m in 2005-06.</p> <p>The Deside Shuttle has been evaluated, and findings being considered.</p> <p>Working with the Wales Millenium Centre, local authority and public transport operators to enhance public transport services over the Centre's opening weekend. Providing approximately £160,000 to improve The Bay train station.</p> <p>The Assembly Government and Arriva Trains Wales developing a further programme of station security enhancements, concentrating on North Wales, and £1million pounds has been allocated for expenditure in the</p>

		<p>recurrently from 2005-06.</p> <p>Agreed with the WLGA new mechanism for reimbursing local authorities' costs incurred to provide free travel to elderly and disabled people on local bus services.</p> <p>The Assembly continues to fund railway station and security enhancements throughout Wales. Arriva Trains Wales is developing a further programme, concentrating on North Wales, for consideration by the Assembly in 2004-05.</p> <p>Continue to work with PTI Cymru on a new Business Plan for 2004-07, to be reviewed annually.</p> <p>MODUS system of personalised travel plans – developed by PTI Cymru – launched May 2004.</p>	<p>current financial year.</p>
<p>9.</p> <p>9.1</p>	<p>Creating Strong Communities</p> <p>Implement Communities First</p>	<p>100 of the most deprived areas of Wales, 32 sub wards and 10 communities of interest or imaginative proposals have been included in the programme. Guidance is being revised to reflect the recommendations of the Communities First Review and the feedback received from people operating the programme on the ground.</p>	<p>The work of the Communities First Support Network is being mapped with a view to considering the future types and levels of support for Communities First partnerships from 2005-06.</p> <p>121 embryonic Communities First Partnerships have now been set up.</p> <p>Cambridge Policy Consultants are continuing to work on the</p>

Work of the Communities First Support Network has been discussed and milestones have been set to further support the work of Partnerships in 2004-05.

90 embryonic Communities First Partnerships have now been set up.

Communities First Trust Fund received 2,923 applications and spent some £8.2m. Trust Fund extended for another 3 years with £3m available for each year. Revised guidance and application form available for the new fund.

Cambridge Policy Consultants have produced a Draft Scoping Study, Area Profiles and Monitoring Evaluation Framework. Steering Group established to oversee evaluation - met for the first time in March 2004.

Post Office Development Fund has approved 28 Post Offices in our most deprived or isolated communities totalling c£1.1m in rounds 1 and 2. Successful applications, under rounds 3 and 4, were announced earlier this year.

In March 2003 HEFCW concluded a consultation on future third mission funding arrangements which will recognise and support the role of HEIs in supporting the community and society within which they operate. All HEIs will be required to demonstrate their

Monitoring and Evaluation under oversight of the Steering Group.

Post Office Development Fund has approved 105 Post Offices in our most deprived or isolated communities totalling c£4.1m.

		<p>contribution to social as well as economic well-being in third mission strategies to be requested in May 2004.</p>	
9.2	<p>Develop the social economy, consult on and deliver the Social Enterprise Action Plan</p>	<p>Credit Union membership now exceeds 31,250</p> <p>Nearly 850 Credit Union volunteers serving the membership.</p> <p>Response to the Social Enterprise Action Plan consultation to be issued in the Spring. Community Loans Fund has made 39 loans totalling over £1.14m to Social Enterprises</p> <p>£11.451m from Objective 1 for 39 projects and £1.3m from Objective 2 for 14 projects (53 projects in total). *</p>	<p>Despite fewer credit unions (some have merged in order to become larger and financially stronger) credit union membership continues to grow at a faster rate than anywhere in the UK</p> <p>Response to the Social Enterprise Action Plan consultation document issued in April 2004. Assembly's first 'Social Enterprise Strategy for Wales' due to be published in Spring 2005.</p> <p>Community Loans Fund has made 41 loans totalling over £1.25m to social enterprises, creating 390 jobs and safeguarding a further 65. Approval of loans totalling £80k made for a further 3 projects.</p>
9.3	<p>Ensure their regeneration funds are used to maximum effect</p>	<p>Evaluation of Regeneration in Cardiff Bay ongoing and expected to be published in mid/late September 2004. Assembly has statutory obligation under the 1993 Cardiff Bay Barrage Act to continue funding Cardiff Harbour Authority for the operation and management of the Cardiff Bay Barrage and Freshwater Lake.</p> <p>Review of Local Authority Non-Match Local Regeneration Fund has been carried out to better focus available funds and ensure optimum operation of the scheme. Replaced by Physical Regeneration Fund and intended to support local</p>	<p>Draft report of Evaluation of Regeneration of Cardiff received and key stakeholders soon to be consulted prior to publication. Publication now expected November 2004.</p> <p>New Physical Regeneration Fund has been implemented successfully, with two development rounds and one implementation round completed.</p> <p>Community Facilities and Activities Programme has carried out two rounds since the review. The programme is highly</p>

authority physical regeneration projects which address one or more of the four main themes of Town Centre regeneration, physical regeneration which has a positive impact on Communities First areas, enhancement of industrial areas and tackling prominent dereliction or decay.

Allocation arrangements for Local Regeneration Fund (LRF) match-funding for Local authority projects reviewed to ensure operational effectiveness. To be further refined, including establishment of Advisory Board with WLGA membership, to maximise use of resources for future EU Structural Fund projects. At end March 2004 LRF had match funded 124 Structural Fund projects with over £60m grant. *

Local Regeneration Fund (Community and Voluntary Organisations) Match and Non Match Grants scheme has been merged with the Community Facilities and Activities Programme grant scheme.

Series of bid rounds commenced. Closing dates are March 2004, July 2004, October 2004 and January 2005.

competitive but is providing funds to a large number of organisations.

<p>9.4</p>	<p>Pilot new approaches to community-based vocational learning</p>	<p>Modelling exercise for LEA funding has been undertaken to test the New Funding System. Work underway to address anomalies. 'Sign Up Now' campaign to widen participation. Links with mainstream programmes being explored. Expert Steering Group set up by ELWa to explore a "radical new framework" for community based learning. Initial report due September 2004.</p> <p>Learning Community Accounts undergoing validation to test the models and assumptions resulting from the research and consultation. Findings will impact on development of pilots for Autumn 2004.</p>	<p>Enlarged 'Sign Up Now' campaign run twice with the help of Structural Funds.</p> <p>Proposed new approach to Community Learning submitted to Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning</p>
<p>9.5</p>	<p>Implement the National Housing Strategy for Wales</p>	<p>Half the local authorities have issued draft Business Plans which include assessments of the cost of bringing their stock up to Welsh Housing Quality Standard' (WHQS). The Plans received so far support initial overall assessment that £2.9bn investment is needed.</p> <p>RRO fully operational July 2003. Local authorities now have wide discretion in determining the nature and direction of their private sector renewal strategies which must be published in accordance with the requirements of the RRO.</p> <p>A further 38 projects ranging from 2003-2004 to 2005-2006 were approved in 2003. The budget for the "Social Housing Management</p>	<p>A progress report is available on the Assembly Government Housing website, and implementation is monitored by the National Consultative Forum on Housing in Wales.</p>

		<p>Grant Programme" is £1.833m during 2003-2004.</p> <p>Transfer of the Bridgend County Borough Council housing stock to Valleys to Coast Housing Limited, the first large-scale voluntary transfer in Wales, took place on 12 September 2003.</p>	
<p>9.6</p>	<p>Implement Corus Response Plan</p>	<p>Major projects progressing include Tredegar Business Park Phase II, Ebbw Vale Town Centre car park, Innovation Centre at Victoria, speculative office development at Abertillery, and at Baglan Energy Park & regeneration of Gorseinon. *</p> <p>6 of the 14 smaller projects in Flintshire have been completed.</p> <p>Of the WDA projects, Baglan Energy Park Talbot Gateway building has been completed together with the sites and premises of Oakdale, Queensway Meadows and Phase 1 of the Victoria Innovation Centre.</p> <p>ICT Programme</p> <p>Blaenau Gwent/Cardiff Partnership agreed for modernisation of council services. E-communities Pilot Programme launched in Tredegar and Community IT learning suite opened to the public.</p> <p>New ICT Support Centres opened in Blaenau Gwent, Torfaen, Caerphilly and Monmouthshire providing one-to-one advice to</p>	<p>All the major projects continue apace with several large scale projects coming on line in this period.</p> <p>ICT Programme</p> <p>Delivery is underway in each of the 5 counties. In the Blaenau Gwent programme 21 companies have received a technical review with 14 of them continuing on to an implementation phase. The Tredegar e-Communities programme is well underway. Over 30 individuals have received support to date. Blaenau Gwent CBC is now actively progressing with the build of the new Valley's Information Technology Centre (VITCC).</p> <p>The Other 4 counties are progressing well with their specific activities (key outputs are reported under ICT Centre Network). Key highlights are:</p> <p>Caerphilly Connected was the first County in the UK to achieve 100% broadband access</p> <p>An innovative wireless broadband</p>

businesses.

ICT Capital Expenditure Grants launched in each of the Five Counties.

Connecting Caerphilly Project makes Caerphilly the first non-metropolitan county in the UK to reach 100% Broadband enablement.

Learning Network

£9m to assist regeneration of the areas directly affected by Corus restructuring its Wales operation approved by the Welsh Assembly Government. ELWa South East Region worked closely with relevant Unitary Authorities and other partners to work up plans for reconfiguration of the existing learning networks within each of the Unitary Authority areas.

"5 Counties Operational Management Team" project to deliver overarching management of the learning network developments approved and the contract placed.

Of the five Learning Network projects, Blaenau Gwent Learning Network project is live; Monmouthshire and Torfaen Learning Network Projects approved and contracts issued; project proposals for the Caerphilly and Newport Learning Networks received and currently

solution is being deployed in Monmouthshire and parts of neighbouring counties which will provide full broadband coverage in the area

In Newport an extensive SME e-training support programmes has been made available to local companies by working in partnership with Computeraid on an ESF project.

In Torfaen the Webster Community portal has been launched and is fully underway

Learning Network

£9m to assist regeneration of the areas directly affected by Corus restructuring its Wales operation approved by the Welsh Assembly Government. ELWa South East Region worked closely with relevant Unitary Authorities and other partners to work up plans for reconfiguration of the existing learning networks within each of the Unitary Authority areas.

"5 Counties Operational Management Team" project to deliver overarching management of the learning network developments approved and the contract placed.

Of the five Learning Network projects, Blaenau Gwent Learning Network project is live; Monmouthshire and Torfaen

being appraised.

Learning Campus

£5m budget allocated to project which will integrate 16+ education and training, work based learning facilities and an element of higher education on one campus.

Approval given to contract £565k to June 2004 for second stage of project. A submission made July 2004 to contract the remainder of the £5m.

Higher Education/Further Education

Project creates cross cultural links between HE and FE Institutions in the 'Five Counties' with Institutions in US and Europe with similar experiences of Regeneration in areas previously dependent upon the Steel Industry. Project expected to commence September 2004.

Corus

Provided advice, guidance and learning support packages to support redundant workers, contractors, supply chain staff and family members to gain new employment as quickly as possible after redundancy to prevent them becoming long term unemployed. Redundancy support package assisted large numbers of redundant workers to move

Learning Network Projects approved and contracts issued; project proposals for the Caerphilly and Newport Learning Networks received and currently being appraised.

Learning Campus

£5m budget allocated to project which will integrate 16+ education and training, work based learning facilities and an element of higher education on one campus.

Approval given to contract £565k to June 2004 for second stage of project. A submission made July 2004 to contract the remainder of the £5m. There is concern that this project will be delayed.

Higher Education/Further Education

Project creates cross cultural links between HE and FE Institutions in the 'Five Counties' with Institutions in US and Europe with similar experiences of Regeneration in areas previously dependent upon the Steel Industry. Project expected to commence September 2004.

Corus

The programme to help re-employ redundant workers is more or less complete. Some 80% of the affected workforce are now in employment (although for most at

		<p>quickly into employment.</p> <p>ELWa has had contact with 3,828 redundant Corus workers. Tracking exercise co-ordinated by Steel Partnership Training identified the status of the leavers as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 3,035 (79.3%) in employment ● 398 (10.4%) unemployed ● 253 (6.64%) in receipt of Incapacity Benefit ● 23 (0.6%) self employed ● 98 (2.6%) decided to retire ● 21 (0.5%) on Work Based Learning for Adults 	<p>substantially reduced wage rates). Assistance was well delivered and appears to have been effective. However, a detailed study is required to establish whether existing monitoring data over-estimates re-employment and the extent of labour market displacement..</p>
9.7	Consider rolling out sub-regional regeneration frameworks	Assembly Government providing financial support for the development of the regional frameworks and work is currently in progress on all 4.	The 4 Economic Fora have made progress on the development of the 4 Regional Development Frameworks. The North Wales Framework launched in November.
9.8	Establish a Community Development Financial Institution to ensure Wales benefits from the Chancellor's proposals re: Community Investment Tax Credit	<p>CDFI Steering Group submitted proposals to the Assembly Government on how to proceed with CDFIs in Wales.</p> <p>Will be considered as part of the Assembly's holistic approach to Social Enterprise and the wider Social Economy. Response to the Social Enterprise Action Plan consultation to be issued in the Spring.</p>	<p>In September 2004, the Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration approved in principle an all-Wales CDFI Steering Group to develop proposal to ensure it meets European state-aid criteria.</p> <p>A response to the Social Enterprise Action Plan consultation document was issued in April 2004. The Assembly's 'Social Enterprise Strategy for Wales' is due to be</p>

			published in Spring 2005.
10.	Supporting Rural Wales		
10.1	Develop the agri-food strategy	<p>Provision of Exhibition Grants resulted in over £650,000 of new business for Mid Wales</p> <p>Processing & Marketing Grants of over £25m approved supporting investment of over £70m. *</p> <p>Supporting action plans prepared for main agri-food sectors and overarching strategy reviewed (to be published Summer 2004). Assembly Government input to UK Government strategic review of UK fisheries which has informed an all-Wales Fisheries Strategy.</p>	<p>Processing and Marketing Grants of over £38m supporting investments over £96m.</p> <p>Launch of ‘Strategy in Action: Towards 2007’ document.</p> <p>Review confirmed increase in employment and export on 1998 figures. (1.7% employment .23% export).</p> <p>Trade development and marketing initiatives progressing successfully.</p>
10.2	Implement the Rural Development Plan (RDP)	<p>All measures within the RDP now up and running.</p> <p>Good progress being made on all measures, eg over £30m spent on agri-environment since Plan commenced in 2000. *</p> <p>Independent Mid Term Evaluation of the RDP has been completed and submitted to the European Commission.</p>	<p>Good progress continues to be made within the Rural Development Plan for Wales.</p> <p>Up to the end of September 2004, approximately £75 million of European funding has been spent on measures including agri-environment, less favoured areas, investments in agriculture holdings and forestry.</p> <p>Recommendations from the Mid Term Evaluation are being followed up and continue to be monitored closely.</p>

<p>10.3</p>	<p>Deliver Farming Connect</p>	<p>Over 6,000 farmers now registered with Farming Connect.</p> <p>Over 2,700 Business Plans completed. *</p> <p>Almost 1,600 farmers have taken advantage of ICT training. *</p> <p>1,250 Farm Improvement or Farm Enterprise Grants have been approved representing a grant commitment of £16.28m. *</p>	<p>Over 6,200 farmers now registered with Farming Connect. Nearly 3,000 Business Plans completed.*</p> <p>Over 1,600 farmers have taken advantage of ICT training.*</p> <p>1,495 Farm Improvement or Farm Enterprise Grants have been approved representing a grant commitment of £19.53m.*</p>
<p>10.4</p>	<p>Increase emphasis on agri-environmental schemes</p>	<p>2000th Tir Gofal agreement signed in March 2004. Some 12% of agricultural land in Wales is now included in the scheme. *</p> <p>Consultation has been undertaken on proposed new Entry Level Scheme and a pilot is to go ahead later this year.</p>	<p>Some 15% of agricultural land in Wales is now included in the Tir Gofal scheme.*</p> <p>The Minister has decided not to undertake a pilot of the Entry-Level Scheme but to proceed to open the Scheme across Wales in 2005. The design of the scheme (now called Tir Cynnal) has been completed and the Minister has approved the payment rates. The scheme proposals will be submitted in October 2004 for approval by the EC as an amendment to the Wales Rural Development Plan.</p>

<p>10.5</p>	<p>Implement Farming for the Future</p>	<p>Work progressing and all measures contained in the 52 action points underway.</p> <p>Developments include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Assistance for young farmers under Tir Gofal implemented; ● Planning guidance for farmers published; ● Welsh Foot & Mouth Contingency plan published and tested; ● Two elements of the Welsh Fisheries Strategy have been completed; third in preparation; ● Grant aid totalling over £4m provided to develop integrated countryside and leisure projects. 	<p>Secured reform of the CAP in the decoupling of subsidies to maintain Welsh farmers income and assist them in responding effectively to the market.</p> <p>Ensured Farming Connect facilitators have worked to increase the awareness of the support available to farmers.</p> <p>Announced a new entry-level scheme – Tir Cynnal – to provide wider opportunities for farmers in Wales to undertake positive agri-environment action on their farms.</p> <p>Launched ‘Food for Thought’, the Welsh Procurement Initiative’s best practice document and Agri-Food Partnership Review Document.</p> <p>Undertaken wide consultation on the development of a GB strategy on bovine TB, including proposed short-term measures to address the problem of bovine TB.</p>
<p>10.6</p>	<p>Implement the Rural Recovery Plan</p>	<p>Plan ended in March 2004. Some £60.1m estimated to have been spent over the life of the Plan, compared to £65m available, with some expenditure (approx. £2m) approved for carry over into 2004-05 and just less than £3m unable to be spent. Figures for specific outputs achieved under the Plan are being finalised.</p>	<p>The plan ended on 31 March 2004. Final report being prepared.</p>

10.7	Commission study to increase opportunities for young people in rural areas and implement recommendations	Study completed and Report/ Action Plan made available on Environment Planning and Countryside Department website. Report and Action Plan being taken forward by a Working Group of the Rural Partnership for Wales, linked closely with other ongoing work Children and Young People's Participation Group, Canllaw Online and WDA's Llwybro Routes initiative.	The Age Balanced Communities Working Group have decided to integrate their work with that on the revision of the Rural Statement as they felt that the best way to address the recommendations made in the report was to make them cross-cutting issues. The linkages with other ongoing work will be maintained.
10.8	Improve our understanding of the interaction between urban and rural economies	Report completed Autumn 2003 – currently being peer-reviewed	Report (Dynamic Smaller Towns – Identification of Critical Success Factors) presented to Economic Research Advisory Panel in June 2004, following which researchers undertook further work to clarify some issues. Report due to go to Minister s prior to publication in Autumn 2004.
10.9	Implement the Rural Community Action programme	RCA Programme fully underway. During 2003, 12 RCA partnerships established covering rural Wales engaged on building capacity for their rural communities. Total expenditure in 2003-04 is £861k.	The programme is still ongoing. Total spend for this period is £406,000.
10.10	Implement the Rural Retail Scheme	Part of RCA programme the scheme, started in September 2003, is managed by WDA. Following OJEC tender, a panel of rural retail consultants employed by WDA to advise rural retail businesses (referred through Business Eye or the RCA partnerships) about the scope to improve footfall turnover. Some 20 reviews were in progress or completed.	A confirmed budget of £150,000 is available for the programme in 2004/05. £80,000 has been made available for business grants and £70,000 for business advice services. Total expenditure for this period is £28,000. The scheme will run up to 31 March 2006 and applications can be made at any time of the year.

10.11	Establish and work with the Wales Rural Observatory	Wales Rural Observatory commenced September 2003. Initial work has been establishing a base and team of researchers, preparing basic data on rural issues and developing an agreed forward work programme.	Phase 1 of the programme came to an end in September 2004 and the programme is currently in its 2 nd phase of development. The 2 nd phase is far more focused on specific themes and spaces of rural Wales and covers 5 main areas of work. The programme is due to end in March 2006.
11. 11.1	Spatial Development Implement the Planning: delivering for Wales programme	Programme management of Planning: Delivery for Wales started April 2003. Full details of implementing programme can be found on the PdW website at www.wales.gov.uk Planning and Compulsory Purchase Bill has been put back until May 2004 to allow extra clauses to be incorporated.	Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act received Royal assent in May 2004.
11.2	Develop a first Spatial Plan to ensure coherent spatial implementation of Wales: A Better Country/ Sustainable Development scheme	Consultation on draft Plan completed 31 January 2004.	National conferences held July 2004. Plan to be published late 2004.
11.3	Develop and implement Community Strategies	Ongoing work by all Local Authorities in Wales	Ongoing

11.4	Improve understanding of relative growth rates	Continued to promote economic growth throughout Wales. Invested in improving the economic and labour market statistical infrastructure for Wales and maintained close links with the Office for National Statistics to improve economic statistics for areas within Wales and for Wales as a whole.	<p>Continuing to produce quarterly Index of Production & Construction (IoP/C)</p> <p>Developing Index of Distribution (IoD) due for first publication before end 2004</p> <p>Developing Index of Hotels & Restaurants (IoH/R), due for first publication Autumn 2005.</p> <p>Developing Index of Transport, Storage & Communication (IoT) due for first publication Spring 2006</p> <p>Continued boost to Annual Business Inquiry (ABI) parts 1 (employment) and 2 (financial).</p> <p>Continued boost to Business Register Survey (BRS).</p> <p>Continued boost to Labour Force Survey (LFS)</p>
12.	Targets		
12.1	Continue to develop coherent targets in all areas	Work to develop coherent targets and milestones continues in the light of available appropriate data	Ongoing
12.2	Establish milestones to measure progress	Ongoing.	
12.3	Develop complementary measures	Project to develop environmental satellite accounts is under development by the Economic Research Unit	The project specification was developed and agreed, ready for commission during Autumn 2004.

<p>13.</p> <p>13.1</p>	<p>Research</p> <p>Publish progress against the targets in an annual report</p>	<p>Second A Winning Wales Annual Report published.</p>	
<p>13.2</p>	<p>Ongoing development of the research programme</p>	<p>First Annual Report on Government funded Economic research in Wales published in February 2004. This provided a summary of the initial findings from the Assembly Government's Economic Research Programme plus key findings from research led by the main economic agencies in Wales. Report is available at http://www.wales.gov.uk/subiresearch/content/eru/home.htm . Next report planned for late 2004/early 2005.</p> <p>Economic Research Advisory Panel reviewed the forward research programme and submitted its recommendations to the First Minister in March 2004. Once agreed, the Economic Research Programme will be publicised on the internet and brought to the attention of interested individuals and organisations. Research reports are published on the internet as they become available, with interested individuals and organisations being informed</p> <p>HEFCW published its allocations of grant for research (QR) in 2004/05 on 30 March 2004 in Circular W04/18HE.</p>	<p>Work continued on implementing the Economic Research Programme, including publication of completed research reports on the intranet.</p> <p>The Nexus Report (see previous references) recommendations cover the need to enhance collaborative research activities. HEFCW is also continuing to promote this via the Reaching Higher agenda. Currently HEFCW and the WDA is supporting a collaborative bid to the DTI in the field of Micro- and Nano-technology.</p> <p>The 2004 HECIS (see above) will include data that compares Welsh HEIs' share of collaborative research funding with that of HEIs in other RDA areas across the UK (December 2004).</p>

13.3	Support the Economic Research Advisory Panel	ERAP continues to meet at 4 monthly intervals, reporting to the First Minister after every meeting. An additional meeting was held in March 2004 to discuss "futures".	ERAP continues to meet 4 monthly and report to the FM (meeting in June, report in July).
13.4	Improve capacity for economic analysis	<p>Plans to pilot Economic Research Grants, available to publicly funded education institutions and organisations with charitable status, currently in preparation.</p> <p>Joint Assembly Government/ ESRC funding for PhD studentships, open to all ESRC approved courses, advertised (closing date 23 April 2004).</p> <p>From 2004/05 HEFCW introducing a Research Investment Fund that HEIs will be able to use strategically, at their discretion eg, to bring on emerging research, enhance existing areas of research strength or to reshape their research portfolio.</p>	New Economic Research Grants and new PhD studentships introduced.