

Enterprise, Innovation and Networks Committee

EIN(2) 05-06 (p.7)

Date: 5 July 2006

Venue: Committee Room 2, Senedd, Cardiff Bay

Title: Turning Heads - A Strategy for the Heads of the Valleys 2020

Background

1. The Committee had an initial discussion of the Strategy at its meeting on 7 June. To enable the Committee to respond to the consultation deadline in August, the Strategy has been circulated in advance to Members for comment.

Action for Committee

2. The Committee is asked to agree the response at Annex 1, which has been drafted on the basis of comments received from Members.

Chris Gwyther

Chair, Enterprise, Innovation and Networks Committee

Annex 1

Bae Caerdydd / Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd / Cardiff
CF99 1NA
Eich cyf / Your ref
Ein cyf / Our ref

5 July 2006

Andrew Davies AM

Minister for Enterprise, Innovation and Networks

National Assembly for Wales

Cardiff Bay

Cardiff CF99 1NA

Turning Heads - A Strategy for the Heads of the Valleys 2020

At its meeting on 7 June 2006, the Enterprise, Innovation and Networks Committee had an initial discussion on the Heads of the Valleys Strategy. Since that time, Members have received the draft Strategy and would wish to submit the following comments:

- The name of the programme could be said to be misleading. Some Members feel that it is a Heads of the Valleys road programme, and could create unmet expectations in those communities that the programme does not reach.
- Whilst Merthyr and Ebbw Vale are treated as hubs in the Strategy, some of the communities covered by the Strategy do not necessarily look to Ebbw Vale or Merthyr as their hubs. Some will look to Pontypridd and others to Aberdare and this should be recognised in the Strategy.
- A wider range of wards should have been included in the programme.
- The needs of areas which have a bearing on the programme but are not necessarily included in it should be addressed.

Christine Gwyther AM

Chair, Enterprise, Innovation and Networks Committee