

Committee for the Scrutiny of the First Minister

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Evidence Paper - Delivering One Wales Commitments

The Committee has asked for written evidence on my plans for the ongoing implementation of the One Wales Agreement.

Since the agreement was concluded in June 2007 the Welsh Assembly Government has made excellent progress in delivering its programme. Overall, well over half of the One Wales commitments have been delivered already. Just under a quarter more involve ongoing activity which is already under way, while one in ten have target completion dates beyond March 2010.

I remain committed, as do my colleagues, to the continued implementation of the One Wales Agreement. I am proud of our achievements so far. These include:

- radical reforms to education, with the introduction of the Foundation Phase and legislation which enshrines the right to education to age 18;
 - a duty on public agencies to make and demonstrate their contribution to ending child poverty, via the Children and Families (Wales) Measure;
 - action on jobs: while the economic downturn has made our employment goal more challenging, we have acted rapidly and successfully to prevent redundancies and the loss of skills, while helping people back into employment
 - Wales becoming the world's first Fair Trade Nation
 - establishment of the Climate Change Commission for Wales, which is advising on action to reduce carbon emissions by 3% per year;
- and of course the commissioning and completion of the report of the All Wales Convention, and our continued commitment to work towards a successful referendum on primary powers for the Assembly.

The December 2009 update of the One Wales Delivery Plan details the progress made on each One Wales commitment. Rather than duplicate that information, the Annex attached provides additional information on individual commitments where there have been developments since December; where the target completion date is imminent; or where further details are available about future implementation plans.

Carwyn Jones AM
First Minister of Wales

Annex A: Update / Forward Look

Economy and Transport

Commitment 45" - **Implement a labour market strategy with a long term goal of full employment at a rate of 80%** - Following on from the success of the ProAct and React schemes the 'Six Month Offer', a provision of self-employment and business support to individuals who have been unemployed and claiming Jobseeker's Allowance for 6 months or more was rolled out. This scheme is to be extended to be applied to those unemployed for 3 months by the end of March 2010. Additionally the recently announced additional funding secured for the Future Jobs Fund will be rolled out.

Commitments 47 & 147 - **Continue key regeneration programmes in Heads of the Valleys and Mon a Menai/ Initiatives aimed at economic development and regeneration** - Strategic Regeneration Areas have been set up across Wales and approved projects are already underway and continuing. The rollout of more projects and the development of the Aberystwyth SRA will continue.

Commitment 49(i) - **Support development of a manufacturing forum** - It is envisaged that drafting of the manufacturing strategy, which is under development by the Welsh Manufacturing Forum, will be completed by the end of March 2010, for consideration and sign-off by all partners.

The Deputy First Minister has requested that in reviewing its initial draft strategy, prepared in 2008, the Forum reflects upon the impact of the economic recession and the new challenges that exist as the UK begins to emerge from the downturn

Commitment 52 - **Explore options for public sector investment agreement with EIB** - The JEREMIE and JESSICA projects will continue to develop and provide funding for investment in SMEs and urban development. Following the JEREMIE agreement which gave access to a £150m investment fund for SMEs in Wales, the JESSICA Urban Development Fund is scheduled to provide a fund of £100m to support urban development projects.

Commitment 55 - The **Single investment Fund for business** support, including provision for social enterprise and environmental incentives, was launched in April 2008 and has since been extended to cover additional projects following successful approvals from WEFO. Work will continue to secure approvals for continued extension to cover additional projects.

Commitment 62 - **Create and develop links between education and entrepreneurship** - The Youth Enterprise Strategy Action plan implementation will be agreed and taken forward over the coming year.

Commitments 87/88/94 - The **National Transport Plan (NTP)** is the Government's five year plan, providing the framework within which we will deliver all One Wales transport commitments. The ambitious programme set out in NTP focuses on a wide range of initiatives that puts us on the path to for decarbonised transport system, including infrastructure improvements, public transport service enhancements and measures designed to secure behaviour change. Some of these initiatives include investment in sustainable travel towns and multimodal interchanges, improved opportunities for walking and cycling, integration of different modes of travel, and making the most of existing road networks using innovative approaches such as High occupancy Vehicle lanes, variable speed limits and public transport priority lanes.

Commitment 90/91/92/93 - The **National Transport Plan** contains a significant number of road schemes along our strategic corridors in Wales, and we go beyond our commitment to provide £50m in improving road links between North, West and South Wales. Work recently started on the Porthmadog bypass and there are a number of schemes progressing which will help deliver significant improvements to journey times for north south travel.

Commitments 96/98/100 - We have made significant progress to delivering One Wales commitments for rail with the introduction of new **trains and services**, such as the opening of the Ebbw Vale Line, additional services on the Merthyr Line, and the launch of Y Gerallt Gymro. There are a number of schemes set out in the NTP, such as infrastructure improvements to address pinch points between Wrexham and Chester and along the Heart of Wales line, which will enable us to increase the frequency and speed of services. We will continue to work closely with the UK Government, Network Rail, train operating companies and others to deliver rail improvements in Wales. For example, we are funding £1m a year over the next three years for the National Stations Improvement Programme to deliver enhanced facilities, which will help deliver our commitment to improve safety and quality of stations and platforms.

Commitments 224/227 - **Work to ensure Wales becomes strong trading nation and valued partner in international relationships/ Engage with Welsh interests overseas** - The Enterprise Europe Network will continue to offer advice and support to businesses to stimulate co-operation across Europe.

International Business Wales' priorities for 2010/11 remain as being attracting foreign direct investment - high-value new jobs into Wales "and "developing the international capacity & capability of Welsh businesses

Finance

Commitment 2 - The **Holtham Commission on funding and finance** remains on course to present its final report. It has recently completed a further round of seminars around Wales to debate its work

Commitment 54 - We continue to look at ways to improve **public sector procurement arrangements** to maximise benefits from the money we spend. We are working to standardise and simplify the tender pre-qualification process and work is underway on developing a Supplier Qualification Information Database. This new approach will improve efficiency and enable greater competition and reduce the bureaucratic burden on SMEs.

Progress looks encouraging with latest information indicating that over 50% of public sector business is being won by Wales based companies (an increase from 35%) and in the case of Local Government business, 56% is being won. It is also encouraging that over 43,000 suppliers (of which over half are based in Wales) are registered on the national procurement web portal with over £10bn of opportunities being advertised.

Commitment 64 - An approach to **delivering training for the unemployed from public sector** procurement has been developed with our public sector partners. We will shortly be publishing case studies and examples showing how 'community benefits' can be legitimately promoted within the policy and legal framework governing public sector procurement.

Having already successfully piloted the approach, some 20 projects are now being taken forward. This includes the Church Village Bypass, where 60 economically inactive people (including prolific offenders) have already been recruited and trained to a minimum NVQ level 2; a start-up catering business has been established; and, 80% of sub-contracts have been won by local suppliers.

Health and Social Services

Commitment 13 - The next steps in our **move to end the internal market** will be:

- Setting up 6 new Community Health Councils (CHCs) (in place of the current 17) in addition to the existing 2 CHCs in Powys. Regulations and Order laid before the National Assembly are to come into force on 1st April 2010;
- The Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee (the Joint Committee comprising all Local Health Board Chief Executives and independent members), will become fully operational from 1st April 2010;
- A 5-Year Service, Workforce and Financial Strategic Framework - a plan of action to create world class integrated health and social care systems based firmly upon cross public service collaboration, within available resources.

Commitment 14 - With a 12% reduction in quarter ending September 2009 for private patients using NHS inpatient facilities; a 20% reduction for private patients using NHS day-case facilities; a 8% reduction for private patients using NHS outpatient facilities; and a 11% reduction in use of Second Offer (at the end of November 2009), we are on course to **eliminate use of private sector hospitals in**

NHS Wales by December 2011

Commitment 18 -The post of Director for the National Institute for Social Care and Health Research was advertised in February, and an appointment will be made as soon as possible

Commitment 19 - Every secondary school will have a dedicated school **nurse**, with a base from which to operate in the school, by end of Assembly term.

Commitments 21 & 30 - To develop and to reduce waiting times for **palliative care** two pilot sites for one stop shop access have been identified:

Cardiff Royal Infirmary - where enabling work costing £3.32m that started in July 2009 is expected to be completed in March 2010;

Merthyr Health Park - where an Outline Business Case from Cwm Taf LHB has been received.

Commitments 22 "and 23" - We have secured **legislative competence** in relation to assessment, treatment and advocacy in mental health, so we can give **new priority to mental health, including child and adolescent mental health services** The LCO received Royal Approval on the 10th February, and an Assembly Measure for Mental Health is scheduled to be introduced in March 2010. We are developing Action Plans for Dementia, and Mental Health Secure Services. Capital schemes to modernise mental health service are in place in Cardiff and Vale, Wrexham Maelor, Swansea and Bryn y Neuadd The new £26m Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services Unit at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend, with 14 treatment beds and 5 emergency and high dependency beds, is expected to open in late 2010.

Commitment 24 - As part of our work to **improve provision for long term conditions such as stroke and diabetes**, a Stroke Plan has been issued which directs and guides activity at a national and local level, and Local Health Boards will be submitting local Stroke Plans in spring 2010 showing how they will achieve full compliance with all national standards for stroke.

Commitment 26- We undertook to **invest £190m in public health and health improvement**. Funding totalling over £280 million for the years 2008-09 to 2011-12 covers a range of programmes targeted at improving health and reducing inequalities. We shall launch a Sexual Health and Wellbeing Action Plan in Spring 2010 and develop a tobacco control strategy by Autumn 2010.

Commitment 30 - By the end of December, we met the target to **reduce waiting times to 26 weeks from referral to treatment including therapies and diagnostic tests** Our focus is now on sustaining this.

Commitment 37 - As part of our work to **improve hospital food and nutrition**:

-training events to support the "nutrition in hospital" campaign will be delivered at community hospitals and community nursing services by end of Spring 2010;

-we will develop a Nutrition Care Pathway for community settings by Summer 2010.

-we will implement the findings of the review of Health Promoting Hospital Vending by the end of 2010;

-we shall improve the quality of food in retail outlets and staff and visitor restaurants by March 2011.

Commitment 42 - Our legislation on rights of carers, the Carers Strategies (Wales) Measure, was debated in Plenary on the 26th January 2010, and scrutinised by Legislation Committee on the 10th February 2010. Further Stage 1 Committee sessions are scheduled throughout March 2010;

DCELLS

Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills

Commitment 45 - **Implement a labour market strategy** - A Labour Market Framework has been developed in conjunction with DWP. The first joint operational plan is being developed for 2010-11 to improve implementation and simplification of employment and skills services to get people back to work. Measures have also been taken by the Assembly Government during the recession to protect employment and apprenticeships during the recession, to assist young people to stay in / return to education and training and to assist those who are unemployed to access training and careers advice.

Commitment 65 - Trade Union learning has been strengthened by new three year agreement with Wales TUC to develop and provide services from union learning representatives. The **Wales Union Learning Fund** budget has been increased to £1.5m in 2010-11; the next tranche of 3-year projects has been agreed in line with the Estyn recommendation.

Commitment 102, 103 - Consultation on a **Welsh Medium Education Strategy** and draft action plan has been completed and responses have been evaluated. It is anticipated, following discussion at Cabinet in March, that the strategy in final form will be published this April.

Commitment 128 - There are more **Modern Apprentices** in Wales per capita than England. Completions continue to improve, surpassing the Assembly Government's target .

Commitment 129 - Development of a higher skilled workforce is being progressed by 'Skills that Work for Wales' an employment and

skills strategy and action plan, which took account of the **Webb recommendations**. Significant additional funds have been agreed in connection with the Economic Summits to protect and enhance Wales' skills base, such as ProAct. The strategy included the development of the Transformation framework, under which significant changes to post-16 provider networks are under way, including the development of tertiary centres and six FE mergers.

Commitment 130, 133 - **Work to widen participation in FE and HE for all ages** - The University in the Heads of the Valley has been set up and the first students enrolled. Ministers will determine shortly the form of the **National Science Academy** to be introduced in 2010-11.

Social Justice & Local Government

Commitment 148 - The Deputy Minister for Regeneration launched the new **Post Office Diversification Fund** on 18 December 2008 and announced the first awards in July 09. Sixty three post offices were awarded grants totalling £1.146m. A further 75 post offices benefited from awards totalling £1.55 million in the second round of funding announced in December 09. The next round will close in April 2010.

Commitment 159 - With the support of Welsh Assembly Government and European funding there is now universal **credit union** coverage across Wales - a historical first. It is now possible for anybody living or working in Wales to become a credit union member. With Assembly Government support credit union membership in Wales has grown from approximately 10,000 at the end of 2000 to almost 47,000 by March 2009. During that period the combined assets of Welsh credit unions have grown from £4.5 million to now exceeding £20 million.

Public Services & Performance

Commitment 3 - **Strategy for the continual improvement of local services in Wales aimed at embedding the imperatives of efficiency and citizen centred services in the context of the Wales Spatial Plan** began in December 2007, when the business case for the xchangewales programme was announced with the aim of delivering a suite of eProcurement tools to ensure all public sector organisations in Wales are able to source and buy goods and services online. It has already delivered savings of over £17million so far.

A new £60 million Invest-to-Save Fund was announced in May 2009 aimed at generating significant cash-releasing efficiency savings. Since then, 25 projects have been supported with a total investment of some £11.5million.

Environment, Sustainability and Housing

Commitment 166 - We are committed to the target of reducing carbon emissions by 3% per year from 2011. We are finalising a Programme of Action and **Climate Change** Strategy that will identify, by March 2010, further measures to achieve the target.

Commitment 177 - In **energy** policy, we will shortly publish the Wales Low Carbon Energy Statement. Energy efficiency has a central role in our strategy.

We have consulted on the "National Energy Efficiency and Savings Plan" and on proposals for new "action on home energy efficiency" to drive up energy efficiency throughout Wales. These proposals will provide a large (at least £350m over 3 years) energy efficiency 'stimulus' to the Welsh economy.

Commitment 182 - We have ambitious plans for **waste** infrastructure and are supporting local authority waste consortia in an all-Wales procurement programme. This will enable us to deliver the targets of 70% recycling/composting and maximum of 30% Energy from Waste ("EfW") by 2024/25. Recent draft data for the first quarter of 2009-10 indicated that the all Wales recycling rate was 41.1% in that quarter, against a target of 40% for 2009-10. The final waste strategy will be published later this year and will stimulate investment in low waste technologies.

Commitment 183 - Our **Tidy Towns** initiative is delivering the One Wales commitment to support local authorities and voluntary action to improve quality of local environment. It is a £4 million per annum initiative between Keep Wales Tidy and all 22 local authorities. By the end of December 2009, Keep Wales Tidy (who are responsible for the community engagement element) had assisted 836 groups across Wales and 7,362 clean-ups were carried out.

Commitment 66 (& 73/77/78/81) - In the first two years of the assembly term, over 3,300 additional **affordable houses** have been provided in Wales and we are on track to meet the 2011 "One Wales" target of an additional 6,500 affordable homes.

We also successfully introduced a mortgage rescue scheme in response to the economic downturn which has helped 477 adults and 253 children to remain in their own homes.

We have provided planning practice guidance on delivering affordable housing using Section106 Agreements and supplementary guidance on the use of Section106 during the economic downturn and are using our own land to help drive housing investment opportunities.

Rural Affairs

Commitment 169 (iii) - The Government is also delivering on the commitment to introduce a scheme to support **young entrants to farming**. We have worked closely with stakeholders to introduce a new grant scheme (using carefully targeted grant aid from the newly

allocated £1.75 million annual budget) designed to tackle the age imbalance in the agriculture sector. In delivering this scheme we continue our partnership approach, working with the Wales Young Farmers Club. The application window for the new Young Entrants Support Scheme (YESS) for the year 2010/11 opened on the 4th January 2010 and will close on the 31st March 2010.

Commitment 170 - A specific action within the **Local Sourcing** Action Plan is to support the development of "Food Hubs" that can draw together a number local food and drink producers to supply larger food manufacturers.

Commitment 173 - Another very important One Wales commitment, which aims to deliver a sustainable farming industry, is work to 'vigorously pursue a programme of **TB eradication**' - limiting the spread of the disease by cattle. This includes strengthened surveillance and control measures to find and get rid of infection at an earlier stage. The Minister for Rural Affairs announced on 13th January 2010 specific actions to control TB in wildlife (badgers) and strengthened requirements on cattle keepers would be taken forward.

We have improved enforcement arrangements and are engaging with the industry on improving husbandry practices on farm. Specifically, we have decided that we will pilot an approach never used before in the UK: establishing an **Intensive Action Pilot Area** in of west Wales, where badger culling will take place alongside stricter cattle measures.

Commitment 174 - **The Deep Rural Localities Report** is a ground-breaking piece of research that has developed our understanding of the issues affecting these areas and provided quantifiable evidence. It is already helping to shape Welsh Assembly Government responses to the needs of remote communities in relation to transport and ICT and has led to the current development work on a joint project with WLGA and local authorities to look at how services are procured and delivered in rural areas.

Commitment 180 - We are also committed to promoting energy efficiency and **renewable energy production on farms**. The Glastir Scheme will contain a specific capital grant mechanism to cover on farm energy efficiency, including micro energy generation.

Heritage

Commitment 60 - There is now also a **Tourism** Investment Strategy in place to direct financial support offered through the Single Investment Fund. Since Section 4 grants were merged with the Single Investment Fund in April 2008, support for 66 tourism projects, worth £5.6 million, has been offered, with a total forecast investment of £41.75 million. Visit Wales has also had three EU projects approved - for Sustainable Tourism, Coastal Tourism and for Digital Marketing - an investment of £52.4 million over four years. In the field of skills development, a new training programme 'Croeso Cynnes Cymraeg - A Warm Welsh Welcome - has been launched.

Commitment 187 - A number of the commitments were of course subject to the approval of the **Welsh Language** Legislative Competence Order which was approved on the 10th February 2010. Legislative competence has now been conferred upon the National Assembly and a Measure relating to the Welsh Language will be brought forward as soon as possible. The Measure will build upon the success of the 1993 Welsh Language Act. Our aim, in introducing the Measure, will be to shape a legislative support structure to revitalise the language.

Commitment 201 - One Wales also contains a commitment to place a **statutory duty on local authorities to promote "culture** and encourage partnership working. Implementation will require a two stage legislative process to create the statutory duty: a Legislative Competence Order, for which approval is anticipated in late Spring 2010 and an Assembly Measure. We are strongly mindful of the potential additional burdens for local authorities in the current economic climate and we will have detailed and meaningful engagement with key stakeholders on how we use the new powers gained. We will then consult widely and carefully on the proposals for the statutory duty that emerge from those discussions.

Commitment 207 - We have also undertaken a major programme of investment and refurbishment of the **public library network**. A further £3 million has been allocated for 2010-11.

Commitments 209/210/211 - In terms of **physical activity**, in January this year we launched "Creating an Active Wales", a new five year (2010-15) physical activity action plan closely linked to the public health strategy. We have increased our investment in a range of programmes aimed at promoting physical activity amongst young people and achieving our long term target for children to undertake at least five hours of physical activity each week. There will also be a strategy for performance and excellence sport in 2010.

Department of the First Minister

Commitment 1 - The **All Wales Convention** reported on schedule in November 2009. Following the unanimous resolution on 9 February 2010, we remain on course to deliver the commitment to proceed to a successful outcome for a referendum for full law-making powers under Part 4 of the Government of Wales Act 2006 as soon as practicable.

Commitment 222 - The First Minister during his initial visit to Brussels in his new role met with Commissioner Hahn, recently appointed as Commissioner for Regional Affairs to discuss the present Structural Fund programmes in Wales and explore the parameters for the unfolding debate about the EU Budget and the possible shape and form of Cohesion Policy post 2013.

Raising international profile and influence for Wales is an ongoing function including building and engaging in networks and relationships at all levels within UK, Europe and beyond, identifying and exploiting cross sector promotional opportunities. There are now Welsh Affairs officers based in 3 priority countries undertaking a range of activities to raise Wales' profile and support Welsh organisations in market. The latest of these is India, building on the experience of USA and China.

The Wales presence as featured nation in the 2009 Smithsonian Folklife Festival is being evaluated and the exploitation of legacy opportunities encouraged.

A dynamic online presentation of Wales is delivered through the www.wales.com website