

Committee for the Scrutiny of the First Minister

SFM(3)-02-10 Paper 2 - 7 December 2011

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. Over 70% of the One Wales commitments have been delivered already.

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:

The Efficiency and Innovation Programme and Board is driving a joined-up, collective response by public service partners to ensuring public services are improved and the best value for money is achieved for people in Wales;

The Welsh Assembly Government has already exceeded its target of delivering 6,500 new affordable homes during the term of this government, one year ahead of schedule. By March 2010, that is to say in just three years, a total of 6,707 affordable homes had been provided.

There has been consistent progress in improving treatment for the 800,000 people in Wales who face chronic illnesses. In particular the numbers of emergency medical admissions for diabetes, coronary heart disease and chronic obstructive airways disease have all been significantly reduced;

"Designed to Smile", the oral health programme aimed at young children, has been extended across the whole of Wales following two successful super-pilot schemes;

Support for workers, help for suppliers, bringing forward of capital investment programmes, a new ProAct programme, increased funding for our ReAct scheme, investment to improve skills and increased financial support to help companies;

Wales is one of the first of the UK countries to introduce new legislation to add weight to our action to tackle child poverty.

At least 36,000 pensioners have benefited from extra help with their council tax bills

The current free swimming scheme is operated across all 22 local authorities, offering free swimming sessions and other leisure centre activities for children aged 16 and under on weekends as well as school holidays. A new scheme was launched on 8th June 2010 extending children's access, and is currently being implemented.

The September 2010 update of the One Wales Delivery Plan details the progress made on each One Wales commitment up to that date. The attached Annex provides additional information – arranged by Department - on individual commitments.

Carwyn Jones AM
First Minister of Wales

ANNEX A: UPDATE / FORWARD LOOK

Department of the First Minister

Commitment 1 - The **All Wales Convention** reported on schedule in November 2009. 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.

The draft referendum order, which includes both the question and date (03 March 2011) was approved by the National Assembly (09 November 2010) and by both the House of Commons (24 November 2010) and House of Lords (25 November 2010). The next step is now for the draft referendum order to be made by Her Majesty the Queen in Privy Council on 15 December 2010.

Commitment 2 - The **Independent Commission on Funding and Finance** published its second report "Fairness and accountability: a new funding settlement for Wales" in July. At a Plenary debate on the 12 October 2010, there was unanimous cross-party approval for a motion to endorse the Commission's recommendations for achieving fairer funding for Wales, including the introduction, by means of an addition to the existing Barnett formula, of a funding floor, and subsequently, a wider reform of the formula.

Public Services Improvement

Commitment 3 - " **Efficiency & Innovation Board** – A Cabinet Statement on public services 'Better Outcomes for Tougher Times: The Next Phase of Public Service Improvement' was published in December 2009. This set out the intention to hold Public Services Summits, to set up an Efficiency and Innovation programme and suggested an important role for Local Service Boards in the next phase of public service improvement. The Summits, modelled on the Wales Economic Summits, bring public service leaders and social partners together around common issues in order to develop a pan public service response to financial and sector challenges.

At the first Public Services Summit the First Minister announced the formal establishment of the Efficiency and Innovation Board and

Programme. The Board comprises public service leaders from local government, the third sector, NHS Wales and the Welsh Assembly Government's social partners. The Board drives the work of the Efficiency and Innovation programme and its role is to facilitate and enable a more effective, efficient and sustainable Welsh public service. The programme has a number of work streams including collaborative procurement, better management of assets and public sector ICT. Through the 'Transforming the Business' and 'New Models of Service Delivery' work streams, the programme also provides a forum for public service leaders to develop common approaches to business transformation (such as the wider use of LEAN business techniques) and to consider potential innovations in service design and delivery in areas such as families and independent living. Work is also being progressed to equip the public service workforce to meet financial and work-place challenges through more flexible approaches to moving staff across organisations and supporting leaders and middle managers to manage change.

Subsequent Public Service Summits have been sector-focussed, with the July event looking at integrated health and social care and the third Summit held in November considering the Front Line Resource Review in education.

Invest-to-Save Fund – A new fund was introduced in May 2009 to support public service improvements. In the first two rounds, some £26 million has been invested in 38 projects. For example, Cardiff & Vale University Health Board's new ways of working which uses mobile technology for District Nurses and Health visitors brings benefits in patient care and efficiency savings. A further recent announcement concerns a £9million investment in the Gwent Frailty Programme which will enhance public services for vulnerable people, helping them to remain independent; deliver care in or close to home and avoid unnecessary hospital admissions; and deliver efficiency savings of approximately £1 million per annum. The future direction of the fund will be steered towards the Efficiency and Innovation agenda.

Commitment 6 - **Local Service Boards** are in place in all 22 local authority areas. They are providing the collaborative, Team Wales leadership advocated by the Beecham Review, and are leading over 90 delivery projects including:

Redesigning services for victims of domestic violence, following Kafka Brigade initiative to identify service failures from a citizen perspective (RCT and Merthyr);

Transforming neighbourhood management (Cardiff) – creating multi agency teams which engage with citizens in problem-solving and prevention, delivering reductions in anti-social behaviour (Newport, Neath Port Talbot and Blaenau Gwent LSBs are adapting the approach);

Integrating services for people needing long term care (Carmarthenshire and Cardiff) – delivering reductions in delayed transfers of care;

Improving support and opportunities for young people (Swansea) – reducing numbers of young people not in education, employment or training;

Joint asset management across public services (Monmouthshire, Conwy and Denbighshire)

Reducing carbon emissions (Gwynedd, Carmarthenshire, Powys, Monmouthshire).

The ESF Priority 4 (Making the Connections) LSB project will provide a funding base for this and is at an advanced business case stage. Subject to WEFO agreement, the project will provide access to funding of up to £13m for change projects. Examples of projects in development include team around the family (Swansea) and support for complex families (Bridgend).

Commitment 46 - Proposals brought forward by the **Spatial Plan** area groups for the second tranche of the Strategic Capital Investment fund contributed to the allocation of £118.3m for public sector projects across Wales. The team is currently leading a strategic infrastructure investment project for Cabinet, which brings together the Welsh Assembly Government's capital spending plans, in order to improve capital planning, and develop options for a Strategic Infrastructure Plan for Wales. The arrangements under which the Wales Spatial Plan operates have been rationalised and aligned through the administrative merger of Swansea Bay & Western Valleys and Pembrokeshire Haven under one Minister. A similar arrangement has been agreed for the two North Wales areas.

Health and Social Services

Commitment 19 (School Nurse)

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

Commitments 22 and 23 (Mental Health)

Capital schemes to modernise mental health service are in place in Cardiff and Vale, Wrexham Maelor, Swansea and Bryn y Neuadd.

Direction and support for the implementation of the Action Plan will be provided through an Action Plan Delivery Assurance Group.

The Mental Health (Wales) Measure has now been passed by the National Assembly, and is awaiting Approval in Council (expected December)

Commitment 26 (Public Health)

We undertook to invest £190m in public health and health improvement.

Funding for the years 2008-09 to 2011-12 covers a range of programmes targeted at improving health and reducing inequalities.

As part of "Our Healthy Future" (the Public Health Strategic Framework), we shall support delivery of a Sexual Health and Wellbeing Action Plan. A Tobacco Control Strategy is currently being developed and is under consideration by the Health Minister.

Commitment 40 (Domiciliary care services)

Regulations are currently being developed and will be consulted upon shortly to implement, from April 2011, the first stage of introducing more consistency in local authority charging for non-residential social services. These will be made under the provisions of the Social Care Charges (Wales) Measure 2010.

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 Three Month offer, a provision of self-employment and business support to individuals who have been unemployed and claiming Jobseeker's Allowance for 3 months or more, continues.

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 was subsequently extended to cover additional projects following successful approvals from WEFO. SIF has been superseded by the Economic Renewal Policy but will continue to support agreements already in place.

Commitment 62 - **Create and develop links between education and entrepreneurship** - The Youth Entrepreneurship Strategy Action Plan for 2010-2015 to take forward future actions to support the One Wales commitment was launched on 15th November. Dynamo role model continues to be rolled out - up to September 2010, presentations were made to over 43000 students.

Commitment 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 the 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 93/94 - 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. Major schemes underway - A470 Gelligemlyn and Maes yr Hemau to Cross Foxes draft orders have been published. Draft orders for A470 Alltawr scheduled for Autumn 2010. Construction is scheduled to commence 2011-12.

Commitments 90/91/100 - 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.

Commitment 99 - The National Assembly for Wales (Legislative Competence) (Transport) Order 2010 was made in April 2010. The Safety on Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2011 is on course to be made before May 2011.

In promoting the Welsh contribution to major sporting events building on the Ryder Cup officials from the Department for the Economy and Transport are working with businesses from across Wales to ensure that they have registered on the CompeteFor website, which promotes Olympic 2012 opportunities. To date, 2,770 businesses have registered on the 'Compete For' website.

Commitments 224/227 - The Enterprise Europe Network will continue to offer advice and support to businesses to stimulate co-operation across Europe. International Business Wales activities will be incorporated into the sectoral approach through the Economic Renewal Policy and work to secure inward investment will continue.

People, Places & Corporate Services

Commitment 53 - With the opening of the new Llandudno Junction office in September 2010, the One Wales commitment to **relocate** Assembly divisions to North Wales, West Wales and the South Wales Valleys has been delivered. The three new offices have brought Welsh Assembly Government services closer to the people of Wales, improved the working environment for our staff, improved accessibility and communications for members of the public and stimulated economic growth in the areas where the new offices are located.

Finance

Commitment 54 - We continue to look at ways to improve **public sector procurement arrangements** to maximise benefits from the money we spend. We have made significant progress in standardising and simplifying the tender pre-qualification process and will be introducing a Supplier Qualification Information Database in the New Year. A training programme for public sector buyers in the use of the new approach is well underway, with workshops having been held across Wales. This new approach will improve efficiency and enable greater competition and reduce the bureaucratic burden on SMEs.

We are monitoring progress. For example, in relation to EU contract award notices for construction contracts, of the 21 contracts or frameworks established between January to August of this year, Welsh businesses have been successful in securing awards from 12 of these procurements. Historically, approaches to supplier selection have militated against our indigenous businesses, and the effort put into providing advice, guidance and resources for improving this process appears to be making progress.

Commitment 64 - We have developed an approach to **delivering training for the unemployed from public sector procurement** and have published case studies and examples showing how 'community benefits' can be legitimately promoted within the policy and legal framework governing public sector procurement.

We are working closely with the wider public service on a programme of projects adopting the new approach and are seeing benefits. For example, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council's Peripheral Distributor Road. The project is considered one of the essential catalysts to economic regeneration and prosperity of the region. Construction group Costain were awarded an Early Contractor Involvement (ECI) contract and work began in April 2010 toward the target of 70 trainee opportunities NVQ Level 2 or equivalent.

DCELLS

Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills

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 101 - New **14-19 Learning Pathways** have been established to increase both vocational and academic opportunities available to young people and the Welsh Baccalaureate Qualification continues to expand with over 200 centres and some 53000 learners at advanced, intermediate and foundation levels in 2010.

Commitment 102/103/105 - The **Welsh Medium Education Strategy** was launched in 2010 underpinned by a detailed programme for implementation that will ensure a more coherent approach to **assessing and meeting the demand for Welsh-medium education**. Together with this are well advanced proposals to establish a Welsh-medium higher education network, **Coleg Ffederal**.

Commitment 111 - The **Foundation Phase** was extended to include 4-6 year olds in 2010, and by 2011 all children aged 3 to 7 will benefit from this new approach to learning and the radical reductions in class sizes that it offers by increasing adult-pupil ratios.

Commitment 112 & 115/116 - 21st Century Schools is wider than school buildings: it includes mainstreaming **community focused schools** within the School Effectiveness Framework; improved provision for physical education and school sports

Commitment 113 - The 21st Century Schools programme has helped to improve **school buildings** as part of a major funding investment programme that will see funding of £747.8m provided over the lifetime of the Assembly. This figure comprises £632m (to include General Capital Funding, School Buildings Improvement Grant, VA school grant, and Early Years capital grant), £34.093m for 2 PFI projects and SCIF funding of £81.3m.

Commitment 114 - A programme of investment in **sustainable school buildings**: it is a condition of grant that local authorities are required to achieve BREEAM 'Excellent' or equivalent for all brand new school buildings and stand-alone extensions supported by the School Buildings Improvement Grant.

Commitment 118 - **The National Behaviour and Attendance Review** has been completed, with a new action plan being implemented. Delivering Skills that Work for Wales was published in March 2009, this initiative sets out a strategic approach to reducing the number of young people aged 16-18 who are not in education, employment or training (NEETS).

Commitment 119 - Support has continued throughout the period for **Free School Breakfasts**. 67% of primary schools signed up to provide their pupils with the opportunity of a free healthy breakfast at school each day.

Commitment 126 - The impact of growing numbers of **migrant workers' children** on schools is being kept under review. Support for the education of children of migrant workers is provided through the Minority Ethnic Achievement Grant. Latest available figures (Sept 2009) show an increase of 40% in the number of children of migrant workers since Sept 2008. All recommendations in Estyn's review of the impact on local authorities, published in October 2009, were accepted by the Welsh Assembly Government.

Commitment 127 - The **reform of student finance** has ensured that Welsh domiciled students continue to receive grant support for living costs comparable with that in England whilst providing additional help through the opportunity of a partial debt cancellation of up to £1,500 when they start repaying their maintenance loan.

Commitment 128 - Skills development, including **apprenticeships**, is a key priority for the department. The Pathways to

Apprenticeships programme, established in 2009, will continue to attract European monies and is on target to deliver some 2000 additional places for young people. The quality of apprenticeships provided through these programmes has continued to improve.

Commitment 129 - The work on implementing the relevant **recommendations of the Webb report** continues and is being monitored through the "Skills that Work for Wales" Action Plan. Key elements of the Webb recommendations are being pursued via the Transformation projects and work on Foundation Degrees. Delivery of Foundation Degrees will be implemented in HEFCW's regional planning framework.

Commitment 130 - "For our Future", a strategy and plan for higher education, prioritises measures to tackle **widening participation** and to strengthen research in support of economic renewal.

Commitment 132 - The **Youth Service Fund** has been established to distribute Capital & Revenue grant aid to assist the Youth Service to deliver National Youth Service Strategy for Wales' strategic goals & action plan. Examples of Capital aid include Fit for purpose youth centres with Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) compliant facilities. Whilst Revenue assistance includes Information Shops, Summer Programmes resourced in partnership with other Youth Support Services.

Commitment 153 - The **Children Trust Fund Cymru** was launched in November 2009. In 2009-10 the scheme targeted children born between 1 September 2002 and 31 August 2004 providing £50 to all children, with payment of £100 to those children living in low income households.

Commitment 155 - In addition, a Child Poverty Expert Group chaired by the Deputy Minister for Children has been established, to take forward the policy requirements necessary to meet the targets set out in '**Eradicating Child Poverty in Wales – Measuring Success**', including recommendations on education 4-14 years, 14-19 years, economic inactivity and in work poverty.

Commitment 162 - Our commitment to **youth justice** is being delivered through the All Wales Youth Offending Strategy Action Plan. The plan was refreshed for 2009-11 and continues to focus on preventative interventions.

Social Justice & Local Government

Commitment 56 - On 8 September 2010, the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government informed Assembly Members of increases in **business rates relief** that will result in the majority of businesses in Wales paying significantly reduced or no rates for 12 months from 1 October 2010. This latest announcement means that around half of small businesses in Wales will pay no business rates for the year from 1 October 2010 and roughly 20% more will see their business rates significantly reduced. The majority of business premises in Wales fall within the thresholds for 25% or 50% relief. The majority of business in Wales could qualify for small business rates relief or other relief such as for unoccupied property or for charity. This is addition to the reductions in rates bills received by over 60% of businesses in Wales from 1 April 2010 following the revaluation .

Commitment 138 - This commitment has been realised by our development of the first national **Gypsy and Traveller Strategy** in the UK. The strategy will be finalised before the end of 2010. It not only includes issues around accommodation but also health, education, planning, participation and engagement. The Strategy is being developed in collaboration with local authorities, third sector partners and other stakeholders across Wales including Travellers Education Services, statutory agencies such as Police Forces, and the Gypsy and Traveller communities. We have made £2.5 million available for two capital grant programmes to local authorities in respect of Gypsy Traveller sites - the Gypsy and Traveller Refurbishment Grant programme and the Gypsy Traveller New Sites Grant programme. Both grants are intended to improve the quality of life and standard of living for Gypsy and Traveller residents throughout Wales.

Commitment 160 - Work continues to ensure credit union access for every secondary school by 2011. Under Phase 2 of the all-Wales Credit Union Support Programme, 19 credit unions are receiving support through the All-Wales Credit Union funding programme to develop or build on their work within secondary schools. The Welsh Assembly Government-funded schools resource programme CU@theCU is a bilingual web based resource available to schools across Wales. It encourages schools to set up collection points and join local credit unions.

Environment, Sustainability and Housing

Commitment 47 - The **Heads of the Valleys Programme** supported this year's National Eisteddfod. The Eisteddfod took place at the 185 acre former steelworks site in Ebbw Vale, attracting new audiences and changing people's perceptions of the Welsh language and of The Valleys as a place to live, work and visit. The crowd of 25,000 on the opening Sunday was the best ever attendance.

Five further Regeneration Areas have also been established across Wales, in addition to the Urban Regeneration Companies (URC) approach in Newport. These are: North Wales Coast, Western Valleys, Swansea, Aberystwyth and Barry. Boards are now established for all areas and are driving a partnership approach to addressing the challenges within their localities.

Commitment 66 - The Welsh Assembly Government has already exceeded its target of delivering 6,500 new affordable homes during the term of this government, one year ahead of schedule. By March 2010, that is to say in just three years, a total of 6,707 affordable homes had been provided.

Commitment 67 - The **Housing and Local Government Legislative Competence Order** was approved by Her Majesty in Council on the 21 July 2010. A proposed Assembly Measure was subsequently announced by the First Minister in July 2010 for inclusion in the 2010/11 Legislative Programme. If approved the proposed Measure will allow local authorities to apply to suspend the Right to Buy in Areas of Housing pressure.

Commitment 77 - In **land use planning**, we have ensured that our planning policies and guidance support our One Wales priorities. Our affordable housing planning policies fully support our commitment to increase the supply of affordable housing and we have produced Technical Advice Note (TAN) 6 Planning for Sustainable Rural Communities which sets out a new rural enterprise dwelling category to support the legitimate needs of rural business. Planning plays a key role in helping us to address climate change. We have introduced minimum environmental standards for new buildings, focussing on energy efficiency, and are currently finalising our new renewable energy planning policies.

Commitment 82 - In April 2010 we launched our **new housing strategy** "Improving Lives and Communities – Homes in Wales", which brings together separate strategies on meeting housing need, homelessness, and housing-related support services. It sets out the challenges, priorities and actions for the coming years so that more can be done for people, particularly older people and others who may be vulnerable.

Commitment 166 - We are committed to achieving at least a 40% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in Wales by 2020 against a 1990 baseline.

A **Climate Change Strategy** and associated Delivery Plans for Emission Reduction and Adaptation were launched on 7 October 2010. A Climate Change Commission has also been working since 2007 to build consensus and lead action on climate change in Wales.

In May 2010 the Minister for Environment Sustainability and Housing and Deputy Minister for Housing and Regeneration launched the £30m first phase of the new strategic energy performance programme **arbed**. This provides funding to improve the energy performance of existing housing stock in some of the most deprived parts of Wales and also provide a boost to jobs, skills and regeneration. Importantly this initial £30m has attracted further investment from other sources such as social housing providers and energy companies to improve housing stock and invest in renewable technologies.

In October 2009, we launched the £34 million Low Carbon Research Institute, to drive forward cutting-edge research to secure a **low carbon future for Wales**, creating green jobs and helping businesses to develop sustainable products and technologies. The programme draws funding from a range of sources, including European Convergence funds.

Commitment 177 - In **energy** policy, we published in March 2010 '**A Low Carbon Revolution**' which sets out the actions we will take to accelerate the transition to a low carbon economy in Wales. The statement shows that Wales has the potential to produce more than twice as much electricity as it currently uses through wholly renewable sources by 2025, putting Wales at the forefront of harnessing renewable marine, wind, sustainable biomass and micro energy resources.

Commitment 182 - We also have ambitious plans for **waste** infrastructure and are supporting local authority waste consortia in an all-Wales procurement programme. We published in June 2010 our new overarching waste strategy document 'Towards Zero Waste' which focuses on how we can encourage people to consume and throw away less. It sets a 70% target for recycling all waste by 2025 and an aim to be a zero waste country by 2050. We believe our plan is amongst the most ambitious in Europe.

Commitment 182 - To complement this we are working to introduce a **mandatory charge on single-use carrier bags** in Wales in 2011. More than 400 million single use carrier bags are currently given out to Welsh shoppers each year and most then end up littering our country or in landfill, where they release harmful greenhouse gasses. We are the first nation of the UK to introduce legislation on this issue.

Commitment 182 - In addition, the **Environment Legislative Competence Order** that gives wide ranging powers over pollution, nuisance and waste received Royal Assent on the 10th February 2010 and came into force on the 11th February 2010. The (Wales) Waste Measure 2010 was subsequently passed by the National Assembly on 2 November 2010. This means that Wales will be able to implement statutory targets for the rates of municipal waste recycled, as set out in Wales' waste strategy Towards Zero Waste. It also gives Welsh Ministers the powers to introduce other statutory waste targets in the future. Wales is set to become the first country in the UK to introduce statutory recycling targets for local authorities. The legislation includes the introduction of legally-binding targets for the amount of municipal waste that councils recycle or compost from 2012-2013, with a 2024-2025 target of 70 per cent.

Commitment 182 - On 15 September 2010 we launched a consultation on '**A Living Wales - a new framework for our environment, our countryside and our seas**' which sets out the principles by which we will change our approach to environmental management to ensure our environment continues to be healthy and resilient. The consultation will run until 31 December 2010 and seeks views on potentially radical changes to environmental delivery in Wales.

Commitment 186 - Additional funding has been secured through the EU Structural Funds Convergence programme to help achieve the One Wales commitment to deliver an **all Wales Coast Path**. Many sections of the path are now open to the public, with the remainder on target for completion ahead of the London Olympic Games in 2012.

Commitment 221 - In June 2008, Wales was declared the world's first **Fair Trade Nation**. The campaign has continued and more stretching aims are being developed for future years.

Rural Affairs

Commitment 168(i) - Support for **indigenous woodlands** remains on track. By the end of the 2009-10 winter planting season, a total of 112,864 trees were planted. Negotiations are still progressing for two more planting sites - one in North Wales and one in the South

Commitment 169(i) - The **Rural Development Plan** (RDP) for Wales 2007-2013 was submitted and subsequently approved by the European Commission in line with the One Wales Commitment. The Plan sets out the way in which the Welsh Assembly Government will

deliver activities that support the countryside and rural communities - supporting the competitiveness of agriculture and forestry and encouraging the sustainable management of agriculture and the environment.

Commitment 169 (ii) - In May 2009, the Minister for Rural Affairs announced a shift in the approach to farm-based land management in Wales. From 2012, the four existing agri-environment schemes within the RDP will be replaced by one sustainable land management scheme, **Glastir**. Glastir is better positioned to meet the current and future challenges relating to soil, water, carbon, climate change, habitat and bio diversity. Over 15,000 farmers have expressed an interest in applying to join the Glastir All Wales Element. They were able to submit completed Glastir application forms between 4 October and 22 November 2010.

Commitment 169 (iii) - We have worked closely with stakeholders to introduce a new grant scheme designed to tackle the age imbalance in the agriculture sector. The **Young Entrants Support Scheme (YESS)** was fully subscribed in its first year - 124 applications received and first agreement letters issued in June 2010. The second application window opened on the 18 October 2010, with expressions of interest currently being received. The number of successful applicants, and the level of private sector leverage they have brought with them, demonstrates the positive support this scheme has in the farming community in Wales

Commitment 170 - We have also sought to tackle global environmental and economic challenges by launching our **Local Sourcing** Action Plan (April 2009). The action plan aims to increase the level of local sourcing of food and drink in Wales as well as increasing the levels of supply of local food to public sector organisations. A specific action within the 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. Over 90% of the action plan has been achieved already.

Commitment 172 - In terms of **fallen stock**, whilst we were unsuccessful in obtaining a blanket derogation from EU regulations for the lifting of the burial ban, we have been successful in getting a Welsh-initiated amendment into the revised Animal By-Product Regulations to include provision for 'on farm' containment which is a sustainable alternative to burial of fallen stock. This was achieved through close working with MEPs, the European Commission and other Member States. The new Regulation 1069/2009 was published in the Official Journal on 14th November 2009 and is coming in force in February 2011.

Commitment 173 - The **TB eradication** programme includes strengthened surveillance and control measures to find and get rid of infection at an earlier stage.

We have improved enforcement arrangements and are engaging with the industry on improving husbandry practices on farm. Three Regional TB Eradication Delivery Boards are ensuring concerted and collective leadership on the prevention, detection and removal of TB, in areas of critical importance to their region.

Following consideration of the judgement by the Court of Appeal which quashed the Tuberculosis Eradication (Wales) Order 2009, in September 2010 we launched a 12 week consultation on a draft Order that would allow us to pursue a badger control strategy in a specified area of West Wales.

Commitment 174 - To deliver on our commitment to identify and address the particular **needs of deep rural areas**, we commissioned the Wales Rural Observatory to undertake research into people's experience of living in deep rural areas. The Deep Rural Localities Report focused on issues surrounding service provision from the viewpoint of both residents and service providers.

This 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**. Information and advice on Alternative Energy is now provided to farmers on a one-to-one basis via the Whole Farm plan element of Farming Connect. The Glastir Scheme will contain a specific capital grant mechanism which will include farm energy efficiency and micro heat generation for the farm business.

In addition, a new **Farming Connect Climate Change Development Programme** is being taken forward by Bangor University in conjunction with IBERS. This Programme raises awareness of climate change issues (risks, responsibilities and opportunities) and supports work with partners to develop practical and sustainable options to help land-mangers address climate change. The programme disseminates information on the practical and economic advantages of employing best practice in energy efficiency and the installation and utilisation of renewable energy sources on-farm.

Heritage

Commitment 58 - **Visit Wales** launched its 2010 visitor campaign 'PROPER HOLIDAYS' in May. This includes TV advertisements and significant online promotions.

Commitment 59 - It 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 - Legislative competence has now been conferred upon the National Assembly and the **Welsh Language (Wales) Measure** was introduced in March 2010 and has completed Stage 1 and Stage 2 scrutiny by Legislation Committee No.2. The Measure is currently at Stage 3 of the Assembly's scrutiny process, with the Stage 3 debate scheduled before the end of this year. The Measure

will build upon the success of the 1993 Welsh Language Act. Our aim, in introducing the Measure, has been to modernise and strengthen the legislative structure which supports the language.

Commitment 191 - We have also driven forward efforts to obtain agreement on **use of Welsh in specified areas of EU business**. In ground-breaking moves, agreements are now in place with the European Commission, Council of Ministers, the Committee of the Regions (CoR) and the European Economic and Social Committee for the use of Welsh in certain business. Negotiations are now underway with the Ombudsman and the European Parliament.

Commitment 193 - In line with our commitment to establish a Welsh language daily news service the Welsh Books Council launched, on 15 May 2009, a three year funding package for a new **Welsh Language interactive news** and current affairs service: "Golwg 360".

Commitment 197 - We have made a significant investment in the development of **English Language Theatre** production in Wales with the establishment of a brand new National English language company – National Theatre Wales. £4.5 million has been allocated over the three financial years 2008/09, 2009/10 and 2010/11 to assist in the set up and development of English language theatre.

Commitment 201 - The **Culture Duty LCO** was published on 15 June 2009 and was approved by Her Majesty in Privy Council on the 13 April 2010. The Minister for Heritage is examining the alternatives to legislation, before consulting on the form of any Assembly Measure. This includes consideration of whether local authority Outcome Agreements could be a suitable vehicle for promoting and improving cultural provision.

Commitment 205 - In July 2008, we also oversaw the opening of **Oriel Kyffin Williams** on Ynys Mon. It has a dynamic and changing programme of exhibitions, ranging from its own collection to those borrowed from institutions and individuals. During the course of the year, the Oriel organises a variety of events including workshops for children and families as well as specialised talks.

Commitment 206 - On 2 August 2010, to address another of our commitments, we launched The People's Collection Wales at the National Eisteddfod, Blaenau Gwent. This is an innovative approach to collect, interpret, distribute and discuss **Wales' cultural heritage** in an online environment. Information and knowledge about our rich and diverse heritage will be available to everyone: those who live in Wales, visitors and potential visitors, right across the world.

Commitment 207 - We have also undertaken a major programme of investment and refurbishment of the **public library network**. £1.5 million was invested in 2008-09 and 16 libraries were funded. £3 million was allocated to modernise 23 libraries in 2009-10. A further £3 million has been allocated for 2010-11 and 15 libraries are being funded, including larger libraries.

Commitments 209/210/211 - 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.

Commitment 209 - A new revised **Free Swimming scheme** for young people was launched on 8 June 2010. The scheme is being delivered by all local authorities across Wales, providing free activities at weekends all the year round. This is additional to the existing free swimming entitlement.

Commitment 211 - A **Strategy for Elite Sport** was launched on the 24 June 2010. It will provide a more focused approach towards elite sport and also establishes a challenging set of targets which reflect the current levels of potential and achievement within Welsh sports.

Commitment 213 - This is complemented by the new Sport Wales **Coaching strategy** (13 September 2010) which focuses on providing more coaches and also improving the quality of coaches.

Commitment 215 - In addition, funding has been provided to Welsh teams to support their engagement in the Special Olympics, the Homeless World Cup in Milan and the UK School Games. The **2009 UK School Games** were hosted by Wales and we were pleased to support an event which inspires and engages young people to participate in competitive sport.

Commitment 226 - A fitting and motivating **brand strategy for Wales** has been developed alongside the introduction of a brand website.