

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE EDC 19-00 (p 10)

Date	13 December 2000
Time	2.00-5.30pm
Venue	Committee Room 1

Title: Maps and Information on Areas eligible for structural funds and community Initiative programme assistance

Purpose

1. To comply with the Committee's request for the provision of maps and information on the areas of Wales which are eligible for Structural Funds and Community Initiative Programme (CIP) assistance.

Recommendation

2. Members are asked to note the information provided.

Background

3. This paper is presented in response to item 7 of the minutes from the 18 October meeting.

Objective 1 Programme for West Wales and the Valleys: Map Annex A

4. The Objective 1 Programme is aimed at those areas of the European Union that are lagging behind in development and have a GDP which is less than 75% of the EU average.
5. The Objective 1 area covers the Valleys of South Wales, the old counties of Dyfed and Gwynedd, Anglesey and large parts of North East Wales excluding the areas of Flintshire and Wrexham. Almost £1.2 billion of European Objective 1 money will be available to West Wales and the Valleys over the next seven years.

Objective 2 and Transitional: Map Annex A

6. Objective 2 will support the economic and social conversion of areas facing structural difficulties. In Wales, the emphasis is on declining rural areas and urban areas in difficulty. The main Programme covers most of Powys, with parts of Cardiff and Newport, with Transitional funding available for the areas previously under the Rural Objective 5b Programme and the ISW Objective 2 Programme i.e. the rest of Powys, and parts of Wrexham, Monmouth, Cardiff, Newport and the Vale of Glamorgan.
7. Funding for the Programme is based on euros per capita which has resulted in an allocation to Wales of €81.39 million for the main Programme to the end of 2006, and €39.73 million for the Transitional areas to the end of 2005 (at the July exchange rate of 0.63, £51.28 million and £25.03million respectively).

Based on population figures the rural areas will receive around 40% from the main Programme and 30% from the Transitional and the urban areas will get around 60% and 70% respectively.

East Wales Objective 3 Operational Programme Map Annex A

8. The strategic aim of the Objective 3 Programme is to support economic growth in East Wales by contributing to the sustainable development of a competitive and knowledge based economy, with an efficient and flexible labour market, where people have equal access to learning and employment, and opportunities to fulfil their potential. The East Wales Objective 3 area covers the 7 unitary authorities of Cardiff, Newport, the Vale of Glamorgan, Monmouthshire, Powys, Wrexham and Flintshire. The remainder of Wales is covered by the new Objective 1 Programme for West Wales and the Valleys.
9. Around €129.2 million (£81.4 million) will be available for the Objective 3 Programme over a 7 year period (2000 –2006). The European Commission formally approved the Programme on 17 July 2000. First approvals under the Programme were made in October.

INTERREG III A Map: Annex B

10. This is a joint Ireland Wales Programme, which promotes cross-border and inter-regional co-operation between Ireland and Wales as well as helping to overcome the special development problems arising from both countries' relative isolation within the EU. It will use European Regional Development Funds (ERDF) to the value of €47.6m (£30 million) Wales/Ireland. It is proposed that the INTERREG III Programme will cover the counties of Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Gwynedd, Denbighshire and Conwy as well as the regional areas of Dublin, Mid East and South East in Ireland.

INTERREG III B Atlantic Area: Map Annex B

11. The UK has an interest in six of the total thirteen IIIB Programmes with DETR taking the

lead. Atlantic Area is a transnational CIP designed to promote co-operation in spatial planning within the context of the European Spatial Development Perspective. This particular Programme covers the Atlantic Regions of Spain, France, all of Ireland and Portugal, all of Wales, Cumbria, Lancashire, Greater Manchester, Cheshire, Merseyside, Worcestershire and Warwickshire, Avon Gloucestershire and Wiltshire, Dorset and Somerset, Devon and Cornwall, Staffordshire, Herefordshire, Shropshire, West Midlands as well as Northern Ireland, the Highlands and Islands and South Western Scotland. Activities eligible for funding include exchanging experience, feasibility studies, pilot projects, research and networking. The total indicative allocation for this Programme is €80 million (£50.4 million) ERDF funding.

INTERREG III B North West Europe: Map Annex B

12. Although this Programme has similar aims and to the Atlantic Area Programme it covers different countries notably Belgium, Germany, Ireland, Luxembourg, the whole of the United Kingdom of Britain and Northern Ireland as well as Switzerland. The total indicative allocation for this Programme is €300 million (£189 million) ERDF funding.

INTERREG III C: Map Annex B

13. The European Commission proposes that INTERREG III C should provide added value to mainstream Structural Funds and CIPs by operating as a general framework for inter-regional co-operation activity with a view to linking and promoting exchanges of experience and best practice from ERDF interventions in Objective 1 and 2 areas, the Community Initiative Programmes INTERREG and URBAN and the future Regional Innovative Action Programmes. All of the territory of the European Union is eligible under this Programme. Allocations under this have yet to be finalised.

LEADER+: Map Annex C

14. LEADER+ funds innovative approaches towards rural development. Wales has been allocated €14.7million (some £9.3 million) for the period 2000-2006 from the European Agriculture Guidance and Guarantee Fund (EAGGF). The Programme is delivered through Local Action Groups, who will be selected on a competitive basis. There were eight such groups under LEADERII for the period 1994-1999.

The Commission's Guidelines indicate that Local Action Groups must have a population base between 10,000 and 100,000 inhabitants. It has indicated a population density of 120 inhabitants per square kilometres. Nine local authorities in Wales fit the population density criteria. However, there are rural areas outside these nine counties, which also

fit the criteria, although figures at a county level are distorted by urban areas. It is difficult to obtain reliable figures below county level, and figures from the 1991 Census of Population have therefore been used to identify rural areas in urban counties, which may be eligible. It is very difficult to define the eligible area, and the attached map is indicative. Local Action Groups will be selected during the Spring and Summer of 2001 based on the quality of their Development Strategies.

URBAN II

15. This Programme is directed at the sustainable economic and social regeneration of designated cities and neighbourhoods in crisis. Nine wards in West Wrexham will benefit from the Programme in Wales. The ERDF allocation for this Programme will be some €10 million (£6.6 million).

EQUAL

16. The new EQUAL Community Initiative is a GB Programme aimed at combating all forms of discrimination in relation to the labour market. It has been agreed that Wales will have its own implementation plan supported by a ring-fenced allocation of resources. The GB allocation of €365 million for the period 2000-2006 is equivalent to around £226 million.