

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: 16 JANUARY 2002 EDC 02-02**

### **ORAL REPORT BY THE CHAIR OF THE OBJECTIVE 2 PROGRAMME MONITORING COMMITTEE**

1. The Objective 2 Programme Monitoring Committee met on 14 January in Brecon. The meeting was preceded by a training session covering the Voluntary Sector Support Unit and Environmental Sustainability as a cross cutting theme. It was a good meeting and members were pleased to note that project approvals had been issued.
2. The main points from the meeting were:
  - The Committee agreed to the setting up of a joint PMC sub-group to ensure coherence and complementarity between Objective 2 and 3 provision across East Wales.
  - The Committee agreed to set up an ad-hoc Working Group of experienced practitioners and WEFO to examine the work in progress on the Objective 1 Programme Complement and advise whether similar changes would be of benefit to the Objective 2 programme.
  - The Committee endorsed a strategy for Monitoring and Evaluation for the programme which would be developed further.
  - The committee noted progress on the Objective 3 programme and the Rural Development Plan.
1. A detailed paper was considered on Objective 2 progress to date. The Committee noted that the spend 'target' for 31 December 2003 to avoid automatic decommitment is £28 million of ERDF grant. A 7% advance payment has been claimed leaving a balance of some £22 million.
2. Following 2 bidding rounds 81 projects have received partnership endorsement committing £19.26 million (25% of the value of the programme). WEFO is in the process of approving these projects. A further bidding round is now open and two more are planned for 2002. Projects approved under all these rounds will contribute to the spend target.
3. At the present time there would appear to be no worries about achieving the target. We will of course need to keep this under close review. We will also need to ensure that once approved, projects keep to their spending profiles.

**John Griffiths AM January 2002**