

# **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 16<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2002 EDC 02-02**

## **OBJECTIVE 3 CHAIR'S BRIEF**

### **Opening Remarks**

I will not repeat what is detailed in the written Structural Funds report, which has been circulated to the Committee. I would however like to highlight issues discussed at the last Objective 3 Programme Monitoring Committee meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2001.

### **Programme Progress *some Good News***

- The Committee welcomed WEFO's report on the very satisfactory progress that had been achieved on the programme overall.
- 34% of the total value of the programme has now been committed, well in line with expectations.

The projects approved are starting to make a real difference to the people of East Wales.

### **Programme Progress *some Bad News***

- Although progress has generally been very good, progress in some of the measures has not been as good as the Committee would have wished, but action is in hand to correct this:
- All of the Partnerships are currently calling for further applications and have been asked to pay particular attention to these measures.
- The PMC will be provided with an update report on these under-performing measures at the next meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2002.

### **Partnerships and Lead Bodies**

Promotion of the Programme is being actively pursued by the Partnerships through their Lead Bodies.

- I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the hard work of the Partnerships and the Lead Bodies in making the programme the success it is.

- The Committee noted the considerable Partnership activity on the programme.
- Web sites have been or are being developed which have a range of information and help for applicants.
- Press advertising, information sessions, workshops and surgeries are some of the activities undertaken by Partnerships.
- Partnerships have developed applicant Guidance.
- Partnerships are working together and sharing good practice.
- There are regular meetings between the Lead Bodies and WEFO to discuss the implementation and other issues affecting the programme.