

Welsh Development Agency

Mid Wales Division

Presentation to the Mid Wales Regional Committee of the National Assembly for Wales

Introduction

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Mid Wales Division

- Established 1 October 1998 with offices at Aberystwyth and Newtown
- Responsible for Powys, Ceredigion and South Gwynedd
- More than 80 staff, including some corporate functions

Our approach: -

- work in partnership with public, private and voluntary sector
- integrate services at the point of delivery

Business Development

- new and micro businesses encouraging entrepreneurship and providing practical support through Business Connect
- established businesses
- priority to businesses which add value
 - approach is both sectoral (eg agri-business and thematic (eg ICT)
- account management
- developing clusters and networks
 - building on centres of expertise (eg support for spin out businesses)
 - integrating inward investors (supply chain development)

Property Development

advance and bespoke build targeted in key locations

encouraging private sector-led development (eg property development grant)

Regional Development

- strategic planning (transport, ICT, land availability)
- support for Mid Wales Partnership
- European issues
- community development

- Llwybro Routes

Impact of merger of DBRW with WDA

Positive in terms of:

- resources
- enhanced powers
- access to all Wales programme
- access to expertise

External factors have led to negative perceptions:-

- Review of Assisted Areas and loss of Mid Wales Development Grant
- Impact of European State Aids on property programmes
- Establishment of Wales Trade International
- Perceived centralisation of decision making
- Less sense of ownership

At the all Wales level there have been gains: -

- Establishment of Rural Policy Unit
- Community Regeneration Policy
- Increased focus on SMEs