



CYNGOR SIR
YNYS MÔN
ISLE OF ANGLESEY
COUNTY COUNCIL

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Acting Head of Service - Economic Development

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Dyddiad / Date: 03 / 11 / 2011

The Clerk,
Environment and Sustainability Committee,
Welsh Assembly Government,
Cardiff Bay,
Cardiff.
CF99 1NA

Dear Sir / Madam,

Re: CAP Task and Finish Group.

Thank you for the opportunity to feed into inquiry by the Environment and Sustainability Committee of the NAFW into the proposed reforms of the Common Agricultural Policy. This response has been prepared by officers from the Economic Development Unit and has not been the subject of the Council's political processes.

We would make the following comments:

1. Importance of the CAP to Welsh Agriculture

The importance of the CAP to Welsh Agriculture is recognized and that its influence extends beyond the farm gate into the wider rural community. Without the support of the CAP it is generally accepted that the majority of farm businesses would struggle to maintain their viability. This would have knock on effects on tourism and on services in rural areas.

It is therefore argued that measures to effect a gradual transition in the way direct payments are made to farmers are essential to allow them to adapt to potential loss of income.

2. Wider Rural Development

We welcome the continuation of the two pillar approach and feel that the removal of the current four axes offers scope for greater flexibility, however, we are concerned that the inclusion of six priorities, and the apparent shift of emphasis away from wider rural development towards agriculture will mean less funding for wider rural development.

We would therefore urge that funding for wider rural development is at the very least maintained at its current level.

3. Low Carbon Economy

The inclusion of resource efficiency and a move to the low carbon economy is welcomed. It has obvious synergies with Anglesey's Energy Island Programme. We do however feel that an opportunity has been missed by confining the support to the agriculture, forestry

and food sectors. By doing so the potential contribution of community based initiatives is being excluded.

We would argue that this priority should be widened to include other rural businesses and community based initiatives.

4. Simplification of EU funding.

Measures that simplify the operation of EU funding at the local level are to be welcomed since the bureaucracy involved in the delivery of the current programme led to frustrations and delays. We believe that the principle of actions being agreed and delivered at a local level to address local needs should continue, and that the strategic role of Local Authorities in this process is vital. We believe that it would be counterproductive to change partnership arrangements that are working effectively, or to establish new additional partnerships where adequate arrangements already exist.

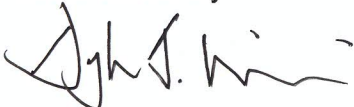
Isle of Anglesey County Council is keen to be involved, and to work with the Welsh Government at all stages of the policy process.

5. Common Strategic Framework

We welcome the principle of ensuring greater complementarities between E.U. funding sources, but have concerns that ultimately this could lead to funding becoming more urban centric to the detriment of rural areas. We believe that the local partnerships offer a means of ensuring that EU funds are used in a complementary fashion at a local level to meet local needs.

I very much hope that the above comments will be useful in informing the committee in its deliberations. Should you require clarification or further information please contact Eifion L Jones in the first instance on 01248 752417 or eifionljones@anglesey.gov.uk .

Yours sincerely



Dylan J. Williams

Acting Head of Service – Economic Development