Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein Cymoedd Ein Dyfodol
Our Valleys Our Future

Delivery Plan

@TalkValleys #OurValleys

Contents

Introduction 3

Priority 1 5

Good-quality jobs and the skills to do them

Priority 2 23

Better public services

Priority 3 34

My local community – Valleys Regional Park

Valleys Taskforce digital engagement 41

Introduction

A year ago, the Ministerial Taskforce for the South Wales Valleys published the first *Our Valleys Our Future*[1] delivery plan which set out an ambitious programme of more than 60 actions. Together, these actions would contribute to the three over-arching priorities, which people living and working in the South Wales Valleys told the taskforce they wanted:

Good-quality jobs and the skills to do them

Better public services

My local community

We have kept our work under review – checking progress on the ground as projects get underway and whether the actions in the delivery plan are still the right ones for people working and living in the Valleys. We made a commitment to update the delivery plan every year as the work of the taskforce evolves.

Good progress is being made. This year's plan focuses on those actions, which relate just to the South Wales Valleys taskforce area – those actions which have the most influence and impact. We want to ensure the taskforce is adding value, and that we focus on where we can make a change and set Welsh Government policy in relation to the Valleys. We have not included actions from the first delivery plan if they relate to Wales-wide projects and schemes.

But, over the course of this year, we have started to look at what new actions and programmes will make a positive difference to the South Wales Valleys. There are a number of key actions in this plan that we want to drive forward with over the next 12 months. For example, as work to the A465 Heads of the Valleys Road progresses, we want to make sure local communities realise the benefits from improved transport links, in terms of new housing developments and tourism. Opportunities for investment will be identified early in 2019.

Work on the Valleys Regional Park is progressing well and the next priority is identifying the Discovery Gateways and potential discovery trails. These will be co-branded and promoted through a new website and social media channels by April 2019. The £7 million funding will be awarded to support the development of the regional park by May 2019. The majority of the actions which were originally listed under My Local Community have a link to the Valleys Regional Park. These will now be overseen by the work of the regional park.

The Cabinet Secretary for Local Government and Public Services this month announced the £25m capital fund over the next two years to support seven strategic hubs with a focus on jobs, skills and entrepreneurship. We will now press on working with Valleys local authorities and the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal to confirm plans for these seven hubs in January 2019. The hubs capital funding will be awarded from April 2019 onwards, alongside other focused public investment

[1] https://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/communities/taskforce-for-the-valleys/our-valleys-our-future/?lang=en

One of the defining features of the taskforce's work has been its ongoing engagement with people living and working in the Valleys – it's been really important for us to talk to and listen to people and local communities. We will continue to do this as the taskforce's work continues into another year. The taskforce will also continue to work across Welsh Government and with City Deals. We want to be a catalyst not just for change, but for more joined up government.

We want this plan to meet people's needs and, just as importantly, their expectations. We want this plan to make a real and lasting difference to the South Wales Valleys.

Priority 1

Good-quality jobs and the skills to do them

The taskforce will work closely with the Cardiff Capital Region and Swansea Bay city deals to better align and maybe co-deliver some of our shared ambitions in areas such as the foundation economy; skills; data; energy and clean growth.

In addition to the actions set out in this plan, there are a number of other activities and programmes, which support this priority and our key target to help 7,000 people into fair work by 2021.

The Economic Action Plan, published last year, aims to grow the Welsh economy.

A Fair Work Commission has been set up to examine the levers available to Welsh Government to implement fair work. The Employability Plan builds on several employment programmes, which are available in the South Wales Valleys. The childcare offer will provide 30 hours of Welsh Government-funded early education and childcare, to working parents of three and four-year-olds for 48 weeks of the year.

In the first year of delivery a new approach to the delivery of employability and skills support was piloted in the South Wales Valleys taskforce area. This has informed the new Employment Advice Gateway and the Working Wales programme, which will be launched in April 2019 and will help people across Wales into employment.

By 2021:

We will close the employment gap between the South Wales Valleys and the rest of Wales. This means helping an extra 7,000 people into fair work and that thousands of new, fair, secure and sustainable jobs will be created in the Valleys.

People living in the Valleys will have access to the right skills to gain work.

Businesses will be fully supported to grow and thrive in the South Wales Valleys.

This will be achieved through the delivery of the following:

Ref	Action – based on those published in *Our Valleys, Our Future*	Expected outcome	Key milestones	Partners
Jobs				
JS1	Seven strategic hubs[2] will be created across the South Wales Valleys to focus public money and provide opportunities for the private sector to invest with a primary focus on job creation, skills development and entrepreneurship[3].	The strategic hubs will act as a focus for job creation by attracting private sector investment, allowing existing businesses to grow and promoting business start-ups. This will include realising economic regeneration opportunities through housing delivery and public service provision, while increasing connectivity through the South Wales Metro. In association with other funding interventions the Targeted Regeneration Investment (TRI) Programme will aim to deliver improved prosperity and resilience across all Welsh regions.	See page seven for further details. Ongoing – Approved TRI Programme schemes to be implemented by their respective local authorities. Ongoing – Ensure activities and projects being delivered as part of the Tech Valleys programme are complementary to those being progressed in the strategic hubs. January 2019 – Develop a detailed plan of project delivery and timescales for each strategic hub, monitoring progress against and reporting to the taskforce every six months. January 2019 – Provide development funding for integrated transport projects. January 2019 – Develop criteria for strategic hubs capital fund and issue to stakeholders. January 2019 – Review the synergies between the key town centres identified under the 'South Wales Valleys segment' of the TRI programme and those captured formally under the Valleys taskforce strategic hubs to ensure work is complementary and contributing towards our strategic aims. March 2021 – Ongoing receipt of regionally – endorsed local authority project proposals for the TRI Programme. April 2019 onwards – Assess submissions and award funding under the strategic hubs capital fund.	Welsh Government; local authorities; two city deals[4]; private sector developers; businesses.

[2] An additional strategic hub has been included in the delivery plan – *Our Valleys, Our Future* included six strategic hubs. Northern Bridgend has been identified as an important addition as transport challenges can mean communities in northern Bridgend county are isolated from Bridgend and Pencoed. The hub will be close to the M4 corridor and offer opportunities for private sector investment.

[3] New jobs will be fair, secure and sustainable.

[4] The two city deals referred to throughout this document are the Cardiff Capital Region and Swansea Bay.

Priority Focus: Strategic Hubs

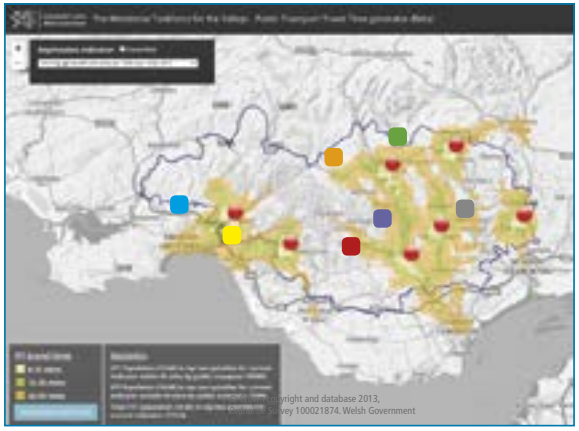
Progress in 2018

Strategic hubs are areas of focused public sector investment, which aim to provide opportunities for the private sector to invest. They will help to create jobs, develop skills and foster entrepreneurship in the local area. Seven areas across the South Wales Valleys have been designated as strategic hubs – areas which are accessible within 45 minutes to people living within Valley communities by public transport (see map).

The development of the strategic hubs has been led by the local authorities in each area as they know what the local priorities and aspirations are. Following local summits and engagement, a blueprint of projects has been developed for each of the hub areas. This shows the range of different projects which will be taken forward in each of the hubs as they start to deliver. Overall, there is a focus on better jobs and skills, connectivity and infrastructure.

Next Steps

The Welsh Government has allocated £25m capital funding over the next two years to strengthen the strategic hubs. The taskforce and local authorities will work closely with the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal on the shared ambitions and ensure the strategic hubs complement the development of the Valleys Regional Park.



Caerphilly/ Ystrad Mynach proposals include

1. Employment space
2. Residential development
3. Integrated transport hub
4. Business incubation and entrepreneurship
5. Town centre regeneration
6. Tourism and cultural development

Neath proposals include

1. Employment space
2. Residential development
3. Integrated transport hub
4. Town centre regeneration
5. Energy

Northern Bridgend proposals include

1. Tourism and cultural development
2. Renewable energy

Ebbw Vale proposals include

1. Tech Valleys – automotive and technology
2. Employment space
3. Residential development
4. Digital

Pontypridd/Treforest proposals include

1. Taff Vale redevelopment
2. Employment space
3. Business incubation/tech hub
4. Integrated transport hub
5. Town centre regeneration

Merthyr Tydfil proposals include

1. Integrated transport hub
2. Town centre regeneration
3. Health park development
4. Tourism and cultural development

Cwmbran proposals include

1. Employment space
2. Integrated transport hub
3. Town regeneration
4. Health park development
5. Business incubation and entrepreneurship

Ref	Action – based on those published in *Our Valleys, Our Future*	Expected outcome	Key milestones	Partners
JS2	Relocate more public sector jobs into the Valleys, including at the seven strategic hub locations, where appropriate in line with Welsh Government's Location Strategy.	Public sector bodies and departments will relocate to parts of the South Wales Valleys, helping to support the local economy and provide a basis to develop job opportunities locally.	April 2019 – Continue to develop a pipeline of demand and work with local authorities to identify potential sites across the South Wales Valleys. April 2019 – Assess sites and opportunities to relocate and expand, including for: • Welsh Government arms-length bodies • Welsh public sector bodies • UK public sector bodies • Other Welsh Government departments. April 2019 – Work with the UK Government to scope future opportunities.	Public sector organisations; Welsh Government; UK Government.
JS3	Make more publicly-owned land and property available in the Valleys for development.	Public land will be maximised to offer economic development opportunities.	April 2019 – Following a successful pilot in the Cwm Taf area, the Welsh Government will deliver the grant scheme, which made funding available for public service boards to undertake mapping to scope assets and identify collaborative opportunities for best use of the public sector asset base in Wales. April 2019 – Work with local authorities and the two city deals to assess where there are opportunities to align available land and property against strategic priorities, including links with the seven strategic hubs.	Local authorities; two city deals; UK Government; Welsh Government; NHS; public service boards.

Ref	Action – based on those published in *Our Valleys, Our Future*	Expected outcome	Key milestones	Partners
JS4	Maximise job opportunities in the local foundation economy – businesses we use every day and see all around us, such as retail, care and the food industry.	The number of jobs in the foundation economy will be increased. The fair work agenda will be embraced to increase the number of jobs in the foundation economy.	See page ten for further details. March 2019 – Ensure the work to create jobs in the Valleys through the foundation economy is aligned with the integrated enabling plan being developed through the Economic Action Plan. The plan will help promote join-up across the sectors and will identify some strategic themes where better integration across government and with the sectors could make a difference.	Welsh Government; Public, third and private sector; Qualifications Wales; schools, further and higher education; Careers Wales; Social Care Wales; social partners; Job Centre Plus; regional skills partnership; Construction Futures Wales.

Priority Focus: The Foundation Economy

Version 1 of 'Our Valleys, Our Future' delivery plan (November 2017) identified eight foundation economy sectors to be supported to create additional jobs in the Valleys. Baseline data has been established for the number of people already employed in the taskforce area in the foundation economy. On the basis of the definitions as they stand, in the year to June 2018 there were 170,000 people in the taskforce area working in the foundation sectors. That's about 47 per cent of the employed population in the area.

The Economic Action Plan published in December 2017, lists four sectors of the foundation economy (tourism, food, retail and care). The Valleys taskforce team is working with economy colleagues to develop a more uniform approach. Although construction and health have not been identified as foundation economy sectors in the Economic Action Plan, the baseline data highlights that there is a large proportion of people living in the taskforce area working in these sectors, so construction (33,000 people) and health (52,200 people including social care) will remain as areas of focus for the Valleys taskforce. Actions relating to the tourism and energy sectors are being taken forward through the delivery of the Valleys Regional Park under priority 3.

Food

November 2019 – Work with Food Skills Cymru, Food Innovation Wales and the National Skills Academy for Food and Drink to promote sustainable career opportunities in the food industry and to develop a further understanding of the skills requirements.

November 2019 – Publication of Food Strategy & Action Plan 2020 – 2026 to build on success of Food & Drink Action Plan 2014-2020. Career and skills development will be key to ensuring the future success of the food industry in Wales.

November 2019 – Work with European Social Fund provision, the Department for Work and Pensions and various food companies to provide training provision and potential employment e.g.

- Castle Dairies in Caerphilly who will trial a minimum of 2 starters;
- Tillery Valley Foods (Sodexo) in Cwmtillery will trial a minimum of 4 starters;
- R F Brookes (2 Sisters) in Rogerstone who will look at an initial number of up to 50 staff but could increase up to 250 in the future.

November 2019 – Through Food Skills Cymru deliver an 'up-skilling' programme for those already working within the sector.

November 2019 – Deliver a food and drink careers campaign targeted to industry.

Health

November 2019 – Following positive feedback extend the original Supporting Medical Careers in Wales pilot programme for 2019. Pilot in the Valleys targeting wider health professional roles and the development of online materials to support the initiative.

Priority Focus: The Foundation Economy

Construction

November 2019 – Actively engage with Valleys based micro construction companies using social media platforms, such as Twitter and Facebook through the Construction Futures Wales programme. A dedicated platform on Facebook, targeting the Valleys taskforce area has been set up to directly engage with, and promote opportunities and events aimed at business growth for valley based companies.

November 2019 – Through the Construction Futures Wales programme and Business Wales hold a number of events within the taskforce area to allow local businesses easy access to learn more about forthcoming business opportunities which can sustain and grow their businesses. These include supplier opportunities for the South Wales Metro and partnering with the Construction Industry Training Board to engage with Valleys businesses to shape future skills and training provision for the industry.

Retail

November 2019 – Develop a modern regulatory framework to ensure competitiveness.

Social Care

September 2019 – Introduce a new suite of health and social care qualifications for new learners aged 14 upwards to provide clear career pathways.

November 2019 – With the Business Wales relationship managers create a social care provider business network, which provides the opportunity for one-to-one and group business support.

November 2019 – Social Care Wales to develop an attraction, retention and recruitment campaign which seeks to promote social care as a career of choice, working with Qualifications Wales and key stakeholders.

December 2019 – Design and deliver the ongoing business support based on the evaluation of the social care & Business Wales pilot in the Valleys.

Childcare

Under the Implementation of the Welsh Government's 10 Year Childcare, Play and Early Years Workforce plan we will:

November 2019 – Promote the business support grant scheme aimed at supporting new start-ups and existing childcare providers to expand to support existing Valleys childcare providers and to encourage increasing capacity and capability across the Valleys regions aligned to the roll out of the childcare offer.

April 2019 – We will exempt all registered childcare providers from Business Rates for a 3 year period.

September 2019 – Work with partners to commence introduction of a new suite of childcare qualifications for new learners aged 14 upwards which will provide clearer career pathways and progression routes across health, education and childcare sectors .

November 2019 – In partnership with Social Care Wales develop an attraction, retention and recruitment campaign which seeks to promote childcare as a career of choice, in partnership with key stakeholders.

Ref	Action – based on those published in *Our Valleys, Our Future*	Expected outcome	Key milestones	Partners
JS5	Roll-out Better Jobs Closer to Home in the Valleys to create real opportunities and decent jobs[5] where the need is greatest. This includes using public procurement to support local businesses and supply chains.	Local jobs will be supported and the use of procurement levers to intervene where local supply chains can create jobs will be tested.	See page 13 for further details. Pilot 1 December 2018 – The appointment of a social partner to operate the manufacturing unit to be confirmed. Pilot 2 November 2018 – Employees hours increased from 16 to 37 p/w – two new jobs created (initial aims of pilot met). April 2019 – Activity to facilitate ongoing viability of business. Pilot 3 April 2019 – Interim premises being developed for use. October 2019 – Premises for the reengineering plant ready for occupation. Pilot 4 November 2018 onwards – Secure capital funding to buy additional equipment to keep pace with demand and grow business.	Welsh Government; NHS; Blaenau Gwent, Merthyr and Rhondda Cynon Taf councils; Blaenau Gwent enterprise zone; WCVA; Wales Co-op; social enterprises responsible for operating the four pilots; Wales TUC.

[5] New jobs will be fair, secure and sustainable.

JS 5 – Better Jobs Closer to Home

Four commercial pilots have been launched in response to the TUC Wales *Better Jobs Closer to Home* campaign. These have involved the use of procurement legislation to reserve suitable contracts, enabling existing and new supported factories to provide employment and training opportunities for the most disadvantaged people in the area.

Better Jobs Closer to Home is testing a series of commercial interventions; the success of the pilots will allow similar interventions to take place, helping other public sector organisations to run such procurements and removing the presumption that it cannot be done.

Pilot one

Garment manufacturing in Ebbw Vale, creating 25 new jobs for disadvantaged people.

This pilot will appoint a social partner to operate a manufacturing unit in Ebbw Vale. The manufacturing unit will operate as an intermediate labour market in the foundation economic supply chain, making high-end garments for use in industries, including the public sector. Outcome – 25 new jobs for disadvantaged people.

Pilot two

Full-time employment for existing part-time staff at EBO Signs in Ebbw Vale.

This is an existing social enterprise, which only employs disadvantaged people and the aim is to increase the hours of work for the current workforce. Outcome – sustainable business operating environment for disabled people.

Pilot three

Start a paint re-engineering plant in Rhondda Cynon Taf, creating 10 new jobs for disadvantaged people.

The Better Jobs team is setting up a special purpose vehicle to bring together the existing patent owner and a local social enterprise to replicate an operation currently based in Birmingham, to operate from the Bryn Pica Eco Park within in Rhondda Cynon Taf. The operation is collecting waste paint and re-engineering it for re-use. Outcome – 25 new jobs for disadvantaged people, reduced embodied carbon in the construction supply chain in Wales.

Pilot four

Increase waste paper demand for Elite Paper Solutions in Pentre-Bach, Merthyr Tydfil, creating opportunities for disadvantaged people to gain vital work experience.

This is an existing social enterprise employing disabled, homeless and previously long-term unemployed people, operating as an intermediate labour market. The company collects sorts and shreds waste paper but needs more tonnage of paper. Outcome – to increase the opportunities for further employment and for the operation to become self-sustaining.

Ref	Action – based on those published in ***Our Valleys, Our Future***	Expected outcome	Key milestones	Partners
JS6	Exploit the job creation potential from major infrastructure investment, including the South Wales Metro, the M4 and the ongoing work to dual A465 and new affordable housing.	New supply chains will be developed and funding from infrastructure projects in the Valleys will be retained to create local jobs.	On-going – Lessons learned through the A465 Heads of the Valleys dualling apprenticeship scheme, plus employment of NEETS, will continue to be shared across other projects in the regional pipeline, including the potential M4 Corridor around Newport project. This will provide continuity of training, development and skilled employment in the Valleys.	Welsh Government; Transport for Wales; two city deals; LSKIP; private sector.

Ref	Action – based on those published in *Our Valleys, Our Future*	Expected outcome	Key milestones	Partners
Support for business				
JS7	Develop a thriving entrepreneurship culture in the Valleys by connecting interested stakeholders and offering uncomplicated support to individuals, institutions and businesses.	More effective, joined-up approaches to supporting entrepreneurs and businesses. People and businesses acting on entrepreneurial ambition and opportunity.	On- going – Inspirational sessions delivered by entrepreneur role models in schools, colleges, universities and community settings with a focus on converting ideas into action. On-going – Work with partners to improve connectivity and collaboration within the entrepreneurship support system. January 2019 – Grants awarded to colleges and universities to a) deliver accelerated student entrepreneurship and b) strengthen institutional capacity to own and drive the entrepreneurship agenda. March 2019 – Deliver the Valleys entrepreneurship hub and outreach satellites as shared facilities to align business support and transfer knowledge. May 2019 – Bring together a group of successful Valleys entrepreneurs and business people (for example, Valleys participants in Fast Growth 50) to participate in a focused communication campaign. The campaign will celebrate entrepreneurial and business success and identify relatable role models. June 2019 – Intensify the delivery of youth entrepreneurship activity through Big Ideas Wales – extending the use and reach of 'home grown' Valleys role models. September 2019 – Deliver a new community-led entrepreneurship initiative to engage and support people with a focus on raising aspirations amongst hard to reach groups.	Colleges; universities; Big Ideas Wales; Be The Spark; Valleys businesses; Welsh Government; procured delivery partners; Welsh ICE, Business Wales; local authorities; Development Bank; Angels Invest Wales; banks and private investors; Big Ideas Wales role models; other partners to be decided.

Ref	Action – based on those published in *Our Valleys, Our Future*	Expected outcome	Key milestones	Partners
JS8	Deliver support to create sustainable new businesses including innovation driven enterprises.	An increase in the number of new business starts.	On-going – Business Wales support available to those thinking about or wanting to start a new business (combination of digital, workshops and advisory). On-going – Access to financial support to new starts through the Development Bank of Wales and Angels Invest Wales. March 2019 – Deliver the Valleys entrepreneurship hub as a means of supporting new start businesses with flexible co-working space and 'wrap-around' business support from a range of sources and partners (including private sector). March 2019 – Deliver a new community-led entrepreneurship initiative to support potential entrepreneurs through the start-up phase and link them up with appropriate business support. September 2019 – Pilot an intensive short programme to encourage idea validation and action to start a business.	Business Wales; Development Bank; Angels Invest Wales; banks and private investors. Welsh ICE, Business Wales, Be The Spark, Colleges, Universities and local authority partners Business Wales, Big Ideas Wales Role Models and other partners to be decided. Welsh Government initially working with procured partners to deliver

Ref	Action – based on those published in *Our Valleys, Our Future*	Expected outcome	Key milestones	Partners
JS9	Target Valleys businesses with high growth potential and offer them extra support.	Business growth and scale-up through increased sales, export opportunities, access to funding and hiring staff.	On-going – Targeted support to high potential and scale-up businesses through the Business Wales Accelerated Growth Programme (AGP). On-going – Access to growth and scale-up finance (debt and equity) through the Development Bank of Wales and Angels Invest Wales. On-going – Support to growth orientated social enterprises through Social Business Wales. March 2019 – Identify learning from the Valleys social care business support pilot and explore options to deliver this in other parts of the South Wales Valleys. May 2019 – Bring together a group of successful valleys entrepreneurs and business people (for example, Valleys participants in Fast Growth 50) to support and mentor other growth potential businesses through their scale-up stages. September 2019 – Deliver a Valleys PitchIt event with a group of private equity investors linked to Angels Invest Wales and with wrap-around business support. September 2019 – Explore the viability of and potentially pilot a small-scale peer support group for high growth business founders/leaders. September 2019 – Explore opportunities through Be The Spark and the MIT Industrial Liaison Programme to deliver topical, ad-hoc sessions with inspirational business leaders, partners and academics in the Valleys.	Business Wales; Development Bank; Angels Invest Wales; banks and private investors; Social Business Wales; Be The Spark; Big Ideas Wales; Valleys businesses and entrepreneurs; Welsh Government; Colleges and Universities; MIT

Ref	Action – based on those published in *Our Valleys, Our Future*	Expected outcome	Key milestones	Partners
JS10	Provide advice and guidance to businesses in the Valleys taskforce area relating to the circular economy and innovation.	Increased resource efficiency and associated cost savings and new/ protected jobs in businesses and the third sector.	Ongoing – Businesses in the Valleys taskforce area will be able to access up to 8 days of fully funded advice and guidance which will relate to the circular economy. Ongoing – Business Wales as part of its support offer will provide resource efficiency advice to Valleys businesses and promote awareness of the circular economy via its social media channels.	Businesses and support through SMART Cymru and Business Wales.
Skills and Training				
JS11	Deliver the new education business exchange service to provide information to schools about relevant work experience opportunities and facilitate industry engagement in schools.	Young people will be able to develop work skills ready for employment.	Ongoing – Further training will be made available to schools as requested. March 2019 – The pilot in two Valleys local authorities will be rolled out to all other mainstream schools.	Welsh Government; Schools; Careers Wales; local authorities; private sector; parents/ carers; students.
JS12	Ahead of the start of Working Wales in April 2019, provide employability support to unemployed people within the Valleys taskforce areas through the Access Programme.	Job-seekers who are out-of-work for less than 24 months in the Valleys taskforce area will have enhanced access to employability support.	March 2019 – Over 1,000 individuals within the Valleys to have accessed employability and skills support through Access to attain and retain employment.	Welsh Government; Careers Wales; other employability programmes.

Ref	Action – based on those published in *Our Valleys, Our Future*	Expected outcome	Key milestones	Partners
JS13	Provide support and training for people who are long-term unemployed and economically inactive to gain skills to secure a job. We will ensure employment and skills programmes which support those furthest from work are joined-up and we will work with employers to develop social clauses to ensure this happens.	7,000 unemployed or economically inactive people will be helped into work.	January 2019 – Facilitate closer alignment between Welsh Government's Employability Plan in the south Wales Valleys, the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal employability group and the South West employability sub group for the regional skills partnership. July 2019 – Agree actions to resolve key issues raised by Valleys stakeholders, including work readiness, labour market intelligence, tracking through employment journey and in work progression.	Welsh Government; Department for Work and Pensions; Remploy; Communities 4 Work; PaCE; Lift; local authorities; private and public sector.
JS14	Deliver a shared apprenticeship model to stimulate the market in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths), health, tourism, hospitality, farming, woodland management and micro-hydro technology.	New opportunities in the market will be stimulated and grown by developing a skills base for people to access current and emergent employment opportunities. The number of apprentices in priority areas will be increased.	January 2019 – Work with Value Wales, local authorities and key contractors to see how social clauses can support the recruitment and retention of apprentices. March 2019 – Support 50 apprentices within the Valleys taskforce area through Shared Apprenticeships in Construction and Engineering. March 2019 – Work with providers and employers on actions to improve the number of starts in (Apprenticeships and FE) in tourism/environment within Valleys taskforce area. May 2019 – Hold two strategic events linked to the Have a Go programme, covering up to 50% of schools in the Valleys taskforce area.	Welsh Government; Welsh Informatics Centre; employers, apprenticeship providers and community groups; Workforce Partnership Council.

Ref	Action – based on those published in *Our Valleys, Our Future*	Expected outcome	Key milestones	Partners
JS15	Target investment to support apprenticeship delivery in regional growth and shortage sectors.	Apprenticeship opportunities will be created in regional priority sectors.	March 2019 – An all-Wales Media platform announced. February 2019 – Deliver a specific Valleys employer campaign followed up by employer engagement activities.	Welsh Government; private and public sector employers; local authorities; further and higher education institutions; schools; training providers; Social Care Wales; Careers Wales.
JS16	Help students in college; work-based learning and university maintain and develop their Welsh language skills to meet demand in key sectors, such as health and social care.	People in the Valleys will be able to receive services in the language of their choice.	March 2019 – Support practitioners and the wider educational workforce within the Valleys taskforce region to develop their Welsh language skills to support Welsh-medium post-16 provision across the region. March 2019 – Review the impact of the local Mentrau Iaith Welsh in business officers in supporting business to use the language and provide Welsh-medium services. March 2019 – Report progress on schools increasing the number of Welsh-medium learners as specified in their Education Strategic Plans. July 2019 – Develop and promote the availability of post-16 Welsh-medium provision within the Valleys taskforce region. July 2019 – Pilot a national language transmission resource based on research completed within the Valleys taskforce region. July 2019 – Complete a pilot support programme for GP practices in a cluster within the Valleys to understand the challenges to providing bilingual services in GP practices. This will develop a toolkit of support to be rolled out across Wales.	Welsh Government; further and higher education institutions; work-based learning providers; students; third sector; private sector; public sector organisations; Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol; Mentrau Iaith; the Urdd.

Ref	Action – based on those published in ***Our Valleys, Our Future***	Expected outcome	Key milestones	Partners
Digital - *three further actions created from the Digital Workstream are included in Priority 2, reference PS2, PS3, and PS12.*				
JS17	Invest in the Wales wide data-mapping tool Lle to develop its resilience, functionality and content to provide easy access to geographical and statistical data that can be used to inform and encourage investment to the South Wales Valleys.	Ongoing improvement to ensure a stable, scalable, secure geo-portal for cross government sharing to the private sector and the citizen. Improved awareness and access to Lle from public and private sector users. Improved numbers of datasets included to support decision-making around inward investment in the Valleys taskforce area	January 2019 – Technical design of Lle completed. February 2019 – Application development for secure data portal. March 2019 – Lle migrated to new cloud infrastructure. March 2019 – Public launch of Valleys profile. July 2019 – User application developed. July 2019 – Secure data portal launch.	Cardiff Capital City deal, local authorities, Natural Resources Wales.

Maximising regional potential of the A465

Major infrastructure investment in the South Wales Valleys, such as the dualling of the A465 and the South Wales Metro, are underway but we know that infrastructure alone will not regenerate an area. Questions about whether the benefits of the taskforce's proposals will be felt as equally by communities at the Heads of the Valleys as those closer to Cardiff, Swansea and Newport have been raised in engagement events and by stakeholders.

The taskforce held a workshop to explore how the benefits of the A465 investment could be maximised for the Heads of the Valleys communities, in partnership with the Industrial Communities Alliance and the Bevan Foundation. As a result of this the University of South Wales has been commissioned to develop a set of priorities and proposals for investment.

The University of South Wales has analysed existing evidence and engaged with relevant stakeholders to identify the three priorities and the outcomes are outlined below.

A465 Innovation Chain: Establish a multi-purpose innovation cluster based on an inter-regional smart specialisation strategy. (three potential zones identified)

- Develop a strong industry brand for the Heads of Valleys and the South Wales region;
- Support SMEs and build strong links between industry, education and local community;
- Link skill provision with job opportunities leading to the development of a highly-skilled workforce, which trains and retains local talent;
- Attract external investment and local and external talents to the region;
- Boost foundation economy.

South Wales Trail: Establish a cohesive tourism trail across the region. (three priority zones identified)

- Develop a coherent trail map across the South Wales region to boost tourism and the local foundation economy;
- Promote regional products (for example, local crafted beer, Caerphilly and Blaenavon cheeses, hand-craft), supporting local SMEs;
- Develop a culture-led transition, supporting creative industries;
- Potential for further active travel options linking to Metro and existing bus and rail services.

Repurposing and decontamination. (five potential sites identified)

- Rejuvenation of land along the A465 area, enabling future use and inter-regional connectivity;
- Promotion of research opportunities and investment options in the region;
- Build up resources for future use;
- Explore the use of land for renewable energy purposes.

What next…

The Valleys taskforce will work with Welsh Government and other stakeholders to explore how these proposals can be developed into actions for inclusion in next year's delivery plan. This work will include identifying links with existing priorities in *Our valleys, Our Future* and identifying opportunities for investment.

Priority 2

Better public services

Our vision for better public services and the specific actions in the Valleys taskforce area are set out below.

A Healthier Wales: our plan Health and Social Care sets out a long term future vision of a 'whole system approach to health and social care', which is focused on health and wellbeing, and on preventing illness.

A new curriculum is being developed for schools across Wales. It will have more emphasis on equipping young people for life; will build their ability to learn new skills and apply their subject knowledge more positively and creatively. The curriculum will be available for feedback in April 2019 and will be used in Welsh schools by 2022.

The Pupil Development Grant was increased this year for the youngest learners, building on the doubling of financial support per learner for early years, last year.

By 2021:

Public services will be working with the third sector and local communities to respond to people's needs.

Support will be available to help people lead healthier lifestyles, improving their physical and mental wellbeing and addressing health inequalities.

Public transport will be joined-up, affordable and help people get to work, school or training and to leisure facilities.

We will improve education outcomes for all children and close the attainment gap.

This will be achieved through the delivery of the following:

Ref	Action – based on those published in *Our Valleys, Our Future*	Expected outcome	Key milestones	Partners
Facilities for communities				
PS1	Use existing – and create new – community hubs, in which the NHS, social services, schools and job centres work together with the third sector to provide services for local communities. We will work with local communities and local councils to develop these and decide where these will be based.	Public services will be more responsive to people's needs.	November 2019 – The taskforce Community Hubs Working Group will work with local communities and local councils to deliver against the five priorities identified at the community hubs conference in July 2018. The priorities are: • Training gaps • Network platform • Funding • The role of local authorities • Measuring impacts. See the next page for further details.	Welsh Government; public service boards; community connectors and local area coordinators; local authorities; health boards; schools; Department for Work and Pensions; Careers Wales; WCVA; public service boards; community groups; third and private sectors.

Priority Focus: Community Hubs

Progress in 2018

Use existing – and create new – community hubs, in which the NHS, social services, schools and job centres work together with the third sector to provide services for local communities. We will work with local communities and local councils to develop these and decide where they will be based.

Where are we now?

A **community hubs working group** has been set up, with representation from a wide range of organisations including the Building Communities Trust, Learning and Work Institute, the NHS, WCVA and Welsh Local Government Association.

The five priorities – training gaps; network platform; funding; the role of local authorities and measuring impacts – were developed at an event attended in July attended by 120 people working in and with Valleys communities.

The group will also raise awareness of best practice and successful examples of integration of public services across Wales through a series of detailed case studies. These will reflect hubs working in partnership with public bodies and bringing services more locally and those which develop from community needs and incorporate access to local services. Community hubs in the South Wales Valleys will be mapped to understand the range and variety of services offered.

Funding

Map the available funding for hubs and encourage or enable other funders and support from local businesses to support local communities.

Networking

Create an online network to enable greater communication and collaboration between hubs, which will complement physical networking and help overcome the feeling of isolation hubs face. Hubs want to explore challenges and achievements alongside their peers and identify their own needs and the possible solutions.

Training

Identify training gaps and enable skill sharing between hubs by understanding how they work and their development priorities. Recognising the existing levels of capacity and how constraints impact on the ability of hubs to access and use support, we will look to enable hubs to draw on existing expertise and buy exploring the role of the CVCs and Universities.

Ref	Action – based on those published in *Our Valleys, Our Future*	Expected outcome	Key milestones	Partners
PS2	To pilot an approach to deliver community WiFi zones using public sector buildings.	The pilot will inform whether and how community WiFi services can be enabled across the Valleys taskforce footprint, informed by a cost benefit analysis of the pilot activity. Anticipated community benefits are improved access to digital services and the economic and social benefits that brings.	The Valleys taskforce proposal follows a pathfinder project already being explored in Cadoxton Primary School, Vale of Glamorgan. That project is underway with a live proof of concept trial to conclude end February 2019 and final report in April 2019. Learning lessons from this, the indicative Milestones for the pilot in the taskforce area are: April 2019 – Site identification and planning. September 2019 – Infrastructure upgrades and installations October 2019 to March 2020 – Live trial	Welsh Government (PSBA team), BT, local authorities/ other public sector partners based on site selection.
PS3	To develop an App that detects and alerts users to the availability of the community WiFi Zone locations in the Valleys taskforce Area.	Community WiFi Zones enabled through this pilot will be visible through the App.	April 2019 – Planning and scoping June 2019 – Source delivery Partner for App Development October 2019 Develop and test App –	National Software Academy, Water Refill Scheme team in Welsh Government, local authorities.

Ref	Action – based on those published in *Our Valleys, Our Future*	Expected outcome	Key milestones	Partners
PS4	Build on the Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools programme to co-locate services and focus on the community use of school buildings. This will allow schools to be used in a more flexible way so they offer a wide range of public services outside school hours. £15 million funding agreed for projects to develop community learning centres/community hubs.	Community use of schools will increase and the range of public services delivered from school buildings will widen.	November 2018 – Bidding process in place for 21st Century Schools and Education Band B Programme, with an aspiration that 10% of projects will incorporate community use of assets. March 2019 – Band B funding available for release. Around £0.4 billion has been earmarked for investment in the Valleys taskforce area, subject to the approval of business cases. March 2019 – Bids from partners in local authorities and further education institutions are assessed and funding available for spend by 1 April 2019. March 2019 – Promote the Community Learning Centres / Community Hubs Capital Grant to ensure Valleys local authorities and further education institutions bid for funding.	Welsh Government; public service boards; local authorities; schools; NHS; further education institutions; third sector; Job Centre Plus.
PS5	Community focused, highly-skilled business managers to support and increase connections between local community partners and schools. Pilots taking place in Valleys taskforce areas including: Bridgend; Caerphilly (2 clusters); Rhondda Cynon Taff (3 clusters); and Torfaen.	Engagement of schools with community partners will provide a range of benefits, including a wider range of enriched learning experiences, improved standards, and increased use of school premises.	Autumn 2019 – Funding awarded and delivery commenced. April 2020 – Final report/case study from pilot areas to be completed. Regular updates will be completed.	Welsh Government; schools; local authorities; regional consortia; community partners; third sector.

Ref	Action – based on those published in *Our Valleys, Our Future*	Expected outcome	Key milestones	Partners
PS6	Develop training opportunities and a widening access programme for young people from the Valleys who want a career in health and social care, including medicine and dental care workers. This will build on the Seren network.	An increase in the number of local individuals pursuing careers in the local health system.	December 2018 – Review the pilot work experience programmes undertaken and consider future of initiatives. July 2019 – Review the range of online widening access materials available to support individuals participating in the residential and support programme in light of feedback received from students. September 2019 – Evaluate the Welsh-speaking students' residential and support programme and consider options for future programmes.	Link this widening access to dental HCA work.
PS7	Promote social prescribing, including piloting new ways to connect people with mental health support, for example, through the arts and culture; sports and active recreation; community choirs and the use of green spaces.	Individuals will be supported to take greater control of their own mental health and wellbeing. Demand for health services will reduce, through better preventative care and better management of long-term conditions.	December 2018 – A third mental health social prescribing pilot in the Valleys will be agreed. Funding has been already allocated for pilots run by Mind Cymru in Taf Ely and The British Red Cross in north Caerphilly. March 2020 – The evaluation of the pilots will be complete and recommendations developed for the potential wider rollout.	Welsh Government; WCVA; Public Health Wales; public service boards; health boards; primary care clusters; third sector.

Ref	Action – based on those published in *Our Valleys, Our Future*	Expected outcome	Key milestones	Partners
PS8	As part of a Clean Air Plan for Wales, actions will be taken to tackle the serious risks to the health of people in Valleys communities from poor air quality caused by emissions from industry, traffic and domestic houses.	People in local communities are fully aware of the dangers of air pollution and of the measures they can take to prevent and/or avoid it. Improved levels of health over time and a reduction in cardiovascular and respiratory problems attributable to or exacerbated by air pollution.	December 2018 – Clean Air Zone Framework launched to drive and enable local action on air quality. January 2019 – Work started on a Clean Air Plan for Wales which will set out key pollutants and their effects on public health and the natural environment in Wales. April 2019 – In accordance with statutory policy guidance issued by Welsh Government in 2017, Caerphilly Council will review and update the Caerphilly town centre Air Quality Action Plan, engaging with local communities in the process. June 2019 – Continue to work closely with Caerphilly Council to secure a final plan to deliver compliance with nitrogen dioxide limit values at Hafodyrynys. January 2020 – Publish the Noise and Soundscape Action Plan to 2023. The consultation draft includes dedicated sections on specific activity within a number of local authorities within the Valleys.	Welsh Government; cross sectoral input and academic advice from the Environment and Rural Affairs Air & Climate Working Group; Public Health Wales and other key stakeholders.
PS9	Pilot routine enquiry with new mothers into their Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) by health visitors, in the Blaenau Gwent local authority area.	The evaluation of the pilot will be used alongside those already undertaken in Anglesey and being undertaken in the Swansea, Llanelli and possibly Flintshire area, to determine whether routine enquiry should be adopted as an all-Wales.	January to July 2019 – Routine enquiry questionnaires undertaken with all new mothers (voluntary participation) at the six week home visit. August to October 2019 – Findings of the pilot evaluated. November 2019 – Findings of the evaluation published. December 2019 – Decision taken as to whether or not to roll out routine enquiry across Welsh health visiting workforce.	Welsh Government; Public Health Wales; Aneurin Bevan University Health Board; Blaenau Gwent CBC.

Ref	Action – based on those published in *Our Valleys, Our Future*	Expected outcome	Key milestones	Partners
Housing				
PS10	Engage closely with the Cardiff Capital City Deal region, who have identified housing as a priority. Ensure funding is complimentary to lever in the maximum benefit for South East Wales (the majority of which will be in the Valleys) In 2017/18 the Property Development Fund was expanded by investing an additional £30m and the Wales Stalled Sites Fund was launched with a 40m investment, via the Development Bank for Wales. Through both there will be a total investment (with recycling) of £430m.	Increase in number of new homes built in the Valleys.	May 2019 – Report of total spend in the taskforce area so far through each scheme. May 2019 – Report on total number of SMEs supported through each scheme in the taskforce area.	Development Bank of Wales, Federation of Master Builders, SME house builders, local authorities.
PS11	Consider the recommendations from the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) report "Effecting housing for people on low incomes in the Welsh Valleys" which was published in June 2018.	The particular housing needs of the taskforce area will be considered by the independent panel undertaking the review of affordable housing. Recommendations will be made for Wales as a whole, but will address a number of the issues raised in the report.	November 2018 – Ensure the independent panel undertaking the review of affordable housing are aware of the recommendations of the JRF report. June 2019 – The recommendations arising from the review of affordable housing will be published in April 2019. Officials will determine further milestones following the publication of the report.	JRF, Affordable Housing Review Independent Panel, local authorities, RSLs, Bevan Foundation.
Transport				
PS12	Using the existing integrated responsive transport programme run by Transport for Wales, ensure a focus on co-ordinating transport to and from health appointments in pilot areas using an app/telephony system. The current phase of work is a proof of concept and will result in a simulated output of what an integrated responsive transport solution could look like.	Services will be better co-ordinated, and as a result the service should run more efficiently.	November 2018 – Pilot area datasets collected. December 2018 – Integrated responsive transport simulation developed. January 2019 – Integrated responsive transport simulation variance analysis. February 2019 – User app mocked up. March 2019 – Outline business case produced. April 2019 – Pilot started.	Welsh Government; local authorities; NHS Wales; Education and the Community Transport Association; Cardiff University.

Ref	Action – based on those published in *Our Valleys, Our Future*	Expected outcome	Key milestones	Partners
PS13	Ensure the proposed South Wales Metro hubs act as key community points, providing a focus for housing, health, education and other public service investments.	Better capacity and quality of travel and improved frequency of travel.	April 2019 – Welsh Government working with Transport for Wales and local authorities to further develop the transport integration opportunities in each of the strategic hubs, linking to housing, health, education and other public service investment. April 2019 – Masterplans for the first tranche of strategic hubs in place.	Transport for Wales; local authorities; local bus service providers; community transport operators; Network Rail; Welsh Government.
PS14	Work with rail and bus providers to ensure public transport throughout the Valleys is more frequent and affordable and that it links to active travel – cycling and walking – as part of the development of the South Wales Metro.	More frequent and affordable rail and bus routes will be provided across the Valleys through partnership working between operators and public authorities to reflect the current legislation.	March 2020 – As per the Welsh Government Budget agreement with Plaid Cymru, the strategic outline case for the Swansea Bay and Western Valleys Metro will be developed. April 2021 – Bus services, supported by the Bus Services Support Grant, will need to be part of a voluntary or statutory bus Quality Partnership Scheme. This will set maximum fares and service frequencies.	Transport for Wales; Welsh Government; local authorities; Bus Users Cymru; local bus service providers; community transport operators; rail franchise holder.
PS15	Improve public transport services to better reflect the needs of local communities and businesses, including people who work irregular and part-time hours.	Public transport will reflect and serve the needs of each community.	July 2019 – Bus network reviews for each local authority area completed, including cross-boundary bus journeys. November 2019 – Public funding targeted to reflect the outcome of the bus network reviews.	Transport for Wales; local authorities; local bus service providers; community transport operators; the new rail franchise holder; Welsh Government.

Ref	Action – based on those published in *Our Valleys, Our Future*	Expected outcome	Key milestones	Partners
P16	Explore the feasibility of expanding a young person's discounted fare scheme across public transport.	More affordable transport for young people which will lead to better access to jobs and public services.	November 2018 – MyTravelPass discounted travel scheme extended to include 16 to 21 year olds. January 2020 – Free rail travel for under 5s will be extended to under 11s at all times, and under 16s off-peak, while half-price fares will be extended to 16-18 year-olds.	Welsh Government; Bus Users Cymru; Traveline Cymru; Transport for Wales; the new rail franchise holder; local bus service providers; community transport operators; local authorities.
PS17	Pilot new bus routes and expand the availability of community transport across the Valleys. This will build on work in the Cynon Valley, where volunteer-led community transport is helping disabled people.	Public transport will reflect and serve the needs of each community.	July 2019 – Potential new bus routes and community transport service identified and included in the statutory bus quality partnership scheme agreed with local authorities and Transport for Wales.	Transport for Wales; local authorities; local bus service providers; community transport operators; Community Transport Association Cymru.
Education				
PS18	The Food and Fun / Bwyd a Hwyl scheme to provide opportunities for children at participating schools in the Valleys to have access to enriching, stimulating educational activities, sport sessions and two healthy meals a day during the 2019 summer holidays.	Help to address attainment loss experienced over the summer holidays by vulnerable learners; provide information and skills in food nutrition; mitigate social isolation; increase physical activity, and increase consumption of fruit and vegetables.	September 2019 – The Welsh Government will work with the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) to encourage further take-up among local authorities and schools in the South Wales Valleys during the 2019 summer holidays.	Welsh Government; local authorities; health boards; Public Health Wales; third sector organisations; WLGA.

Ref	Action – based on those published in *Our Valleys, Our Future*	Expected outcome	Key milestones	Partners
PS19	Strengthening mental health support to schools through the mental health in-reach pilots.	A stronger relationship between child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) and schools will help children and young people receive the help they need at the earliest opportunity.	July 2020 – Pilots will be delivered in Blaenau Gwent and Torfaen over two academic years.	Welsh Government; health boards; local authorities; schools.
PS20	Raising the educational attainment and outcomes of learners in the Valleys by continuing to expand the Pupil Development Grant, building on its successes and continuing to break down barriers faced by learners.	Through an expanded Pupil Development Grant, learners in Valleys communities will be supported by education services to raise their educational outcomes and aspirations and their barriers to learning will be reduced.	April 2019 – Increased funding in place via the Pupil Development Grant, supporting a wider cohort of Valleys' learners to raise aspirations and reach their educational potential. November 2019 – New guidance published, with consideration given to specific materials and good practice. This will reflect particular issues in Valleys schools and communities to maximise the impact of their use of Pupil Development Grant funding.	Welsh Government; regional education consortia; schools.

Priority 3

My local community – Valleys Regional Park

In last year's Our Valleys, Our Future delivery plan (November 2017), this priority included 12 areas for actions relating to town centres, renewable energy, tourism and the physical environment and a specific action to explore the development of a Valleys Landscape Park.

Over the last year, we have worked with communities and organisations across the Valleys to look at this priority in more detail. In particular, we have been exploring people's aspirations and the opportunities to maximise the potential use of our natural and cultural heritage to progress the idea of the landscape park.

This work led to the development of a detailed prospectus for Valleys Regional Park, which set out the vision and an invitation to all to shape its future. The prospectus focuses on three interlinked themes – the Valleys' landscape, culture and identity; recreation and wellbeing and communities and enterprise

We have re-examined the actions we published under this priority a year ago and, where appropriate, aligned them to the Valleys Regional Park ambitions and delivery themes.

But we have not moved away from the fundamental principles which underpin this priority:

- The Valleys is a place where people are proud to call home and businesses choose to operate
- Communities are empowered and show pride in their environment, which is easily accessible and widely used
- The natural environment is at the heart of Valleys life

By 2021:

A Valleys Regional Park will have been set up to help local communities celebrate and maximise the use of the natural resources and heritage.

Valleys town centres will be vibrant places, with attractive green spaces, which support local economies.

The Valleys will be a recognised tourist destination, attracting visitors from across the UK and beyond.

Valleys Regional Park

The Valleys Regional Park will provide and sustain the improvement and management of a highly-visible network of uplands, woodlands, nature reserves and country parks, rivers, reservoirs and canals, heritage sites and attractions across the Valleys, linking with our towns and villages.

Delivery Themes

Landscape, Culture and Identity

- The Valleys are recognised nationally and internationally for the quality and beauty of their unique, distinctive landscapes and heritage
- The Valleys environment is healthy, supporting responses to climate change, water quality and management, biodiversity and habitat connectivity, local economic activity, and people's health and well-being
- The Valleys' natural and cultural landscapes are at the heart of the Valleys' identities and culture
- The Valleys' towns are vibrant with high-quality green infrastructure

Recreation and Wellbeing

- The Valleys enjoy a reputation for high-quality outdoor recreation with communities and businesses benefiting from a thriving visitor economy
- People in the Valleys enjoy improved health and wellbeing through enhanced outdoor recreation and more active lifestyles

Communities and Enterprise

- Empowered communities are integral to a new, exciting type of designated landscape in the Valleys Regional Park, with greater stewardship of their natural assets providing local social, economic and environmental benefits
- The environment and associated heritage play a key role in a strong foundation economy supporting businesses and social enterprises in our communities

This will be achieved through the delivery of the following:

Ref	Action – based on those published in *Our Valleys, Our Future*	Expected outcome	Key milestones	Partners
VRP1	An appropriate governance structure in place reflecting the full range of partners.	Strong governance and operating structures that deliver a partnership approach.	January 2019 – A governance structure is created with agreed terms of reference and operating procedures.	Welsh Government; Natural Resources Wales; local authorities; Third Sector.
VRP2	Creation of a dedicated, skilled team hosted with strong links to Welsh Government and Valleys Regional Park partners, to support the development and implementation of the Valleys Regional Park.	An appropriately skilled support team is in place to deliver the Valleys Regional Park vision and build partnership working across all sectors and with communities.	November 2018 – Bid for funding through the Co-operation and Supply Chain Fund submitted. January 2019 – Call for expressions of interest in hosting the Valleys Regional Park team. February 2019 – Decision about the hosting of the Valleys Regional Park team. April 2019 – Support team in place.	Welsh Government; Natural Resources Wales; local authorities; third sector.

Ref	Action – based on those published in *Our Valleys, Our Future*	Expected outcome	Key milestones	Partners
VRP3	Development of Valleys Regional Park Theme one: Landscape, Culture and Identity. Working with partners, deliver up to 10 Discovery Gateway sites across the Valleys. Identify potential discovery trails to link with the Discovery Gateways.	Discovery Gateways will tell the stories of the Valleys and act as launch pads that attract visitors and encourage local people local people to explore and discover the surrounding areas, including towns and villages, and the wider landscapes.	November 2018 – Select and announce the first phase Discovery Gateway sites. December 2018 – Criteria for Discovery Centres agreed. January 2019 – Launch of the catalyst capital investment fund (£7m over two years) to support the development of Discovery Gateways. February 2019 – Discovery Trails identified and aligned with expectation for development plans.. February 2019 – A Valleys Regional Park website covering the first phase Discovery Sites and outlining Valleys Regional Park developments and opportunities in place. April 2019 – Information points reflecting Valleys- wide locations and activities installed in co-branded phase one Discovery Gateways. May 2019 – Catalyst funding awarded and Discovery Gateway development plans in place.	Welsh Government; local authorities Natural Resources Wales.
VRP4	Development of Valleys Regional Park Theme two: Recreation and Wellbeing Link opportunities through Valleys Regional Park development with the Metro to promote the Valleys Regional Park and support Active Travel (Walking and Cycling) opportunities to contribute to enhanced well-being in the Valleys. Work across Welsh Government and partners to promote access to the countryside to develop opportunities to increase green social prescribing.	People in the Valleys enjoy improved health and wellbeing through enhanced outdoor recreation and more active lifestyles.	November 2018 – Align the Valleys Regional Park work on trails and cycle paths with Metro developments and wider transport plans. February 2019 – Green Social Prescribing network identified and initial development workshop held to explore opportunities	Welsh Government, local authorities, Keolis-Amey, Transport for Wales, Health Boards, Third Sector. Natural Resources Wales.

Ref	Action – based on those published in *Our Valleys, Our Future*	Expected outcome	Key milestones	Partners
VRP5	Development of Valleys Regional Park Theme three: Communities and Enterprise Establish and maintain a peer-peer support network to ensure there is strong and effective community involvement in meeting the aims and objectives of the Valleys Regional Park. Explore development of potential foundation economy opportunities related to energy and the environment. Where appropriate, provide support to community organisations to encourage the development of locally-owned community renewable energy schemes in the Valleys.	Empowered communities are integral to a new, exciting type of designated landscape in the Valleys Regional Park, with greater stewardship of their natural assets providing local social, economic and environmental benefits. More community renewable energy schemes that provide local benefits.	December 2018 – Identify and engage with community-based organisations, including heritage groups through an effective communications strategy. March 2019 – A peer-to-peer network to support and sustain community groups. March 2019 – Project Skyline supported by appropriate mapping and logistical support. April 2019 – Explore with Natural Resources Wales the potential on public land for larger-scale shared ownership renewable developments May 2019 – Work with partners to identify opportunities relating to the foundation economy July 2019 – Project Skyline lessons used to inform the medium to long term plans for the Valleys Regional Park. November 2019 – Continue to support existing projects and identify more suitable sites for renewable energy development and conduct initial feasibility studies. This will involve working with Natural Resources Wales to identify any potential sites for development on Welsh Government estate.	Welsh Government; local authorities; Community Groups; CVCs; Welsh Government Energy Service; Project Skyline team. Natural Resources Wales.

Ref	Action – based on those published in *Our Valleys, Our Future*	Expected outcome	Key milestones	Partners
VRP6	Develop a new, positive narrative for tourism in the Valleys and identify projects to meet current and future tourism demand, focusing on the landscape, heritage and people.	The Valleys enjoy a reputation for high-quality outdoor recreation with communities and businesses benefiting from a thriving visitor economy. The Valleys are recognised nationally and internationally for the quality and beauty of their unique, distinctive landscapes and heritage. Number of visitors to Valleys destinations and the visitor spend will increase.	Summer 2019 – Work on integrating the Valleys Regional Park into Visit Wales national tourism campaigns – the Year of Discovery and the Wales Way. Summer 2019 – Continue to invest in Caerphilly Castle to ensure that it attracts more visitors into the Valleys. November 2019 – Continue to take forward key private sector-led tourism developments in the Valleys. November 2019 – Continue to support small scale tourism infrastructure projects.	Welsh Government; local authorities; tourism sector; third sector; private sector, Visit Wales; community sector.
VRP7	Identify opportunities to attract new events to the Valleys – sporting events, such as mountain biking and orienteering, and develop existing events, such as the Steelhouse Festival, in Ebbw Vale.	The number of visitors to Valleys destinations and visitor spend will increase. The profile of the Valleys as an area for sporting and cultural events will be raised.	Summer 2019 – Engage proactively with key partners in the Valleys to understand future opportunities for hosting events in the destination.	Welsh Government; local authorities; Sports Wales; Arts Council for Wales; Visit Wales; tourism sector.

Ref	Action – based on those published in *Our Valleys, Our Future*	Expected outcome	Key milestones	Partners
VRP8	Through the new Enabling Natural Resources and Well-being (ENRaW) Grant, encourage collaborative projects to be submitted for funding to support the following within the Valleys Regional Park area.	Developing, regenerating and broadening access to sustainable green infrastructure. Improving the quality of the urban and rural built environment. Developing resilient ecological networks and nature based solutions.	January 2019 – Monitor the number of applications submitted covering Valleys Regional Park areas to the first round of grant applications. April 2019 – Report on the types, number and amounts for funded projects that include delivery within Valleys Regional Park areas. April 2019 – If required, undertake further specific targeting or programmes of support to encourage applications.	Welsh Government; Natural Resources Wales; local authorities; third sector.
VRP9	Establish guidance and support that brings together information on funding sources and opportunities that can be accessed to support the delivery of the Valleys Regional Park vision and outcomes.	Partners, communities and other stakeholders are fully aware of the funding available and supported through the bidding/funding process.	December 2018 – The Valleys Regional Park team will work with Welsh Government departments to reflect the desired outcomes in relation to funding programmes (Visit Wales, Healthy and Active, Active Travel and Enabling Natural Resources and Wellbeing), and have input in evaluating future bids. February 2019 – A database of funding programmes and organisations is in place and shared with the Valleys Regional Park engagement network. March 2019 – A role is developed in the new Valleys Regional Park support team with a focus on funding. This will work with all sectors to explore and develop funding and investment opportunities for Valleys Regional Park-related activities.	Welsh Government, Natural Resources Wales local authorities, funding organizations, third sector, private sector.

Valleys taskforce digital engagement

Internal and external engagement continues to shape the work of the taskforce and underpins delivery of our key priorities. A number of networks are now well established with more than 500 people directly involved and many more reached via the cascading of information to local networks. These are critical relationships and it is important to make it easy for Valleys stakeholders to collaborate, particularly when aiming to deliver long-term, sustainable change.

The taskforce will pilot digital collaboration and engagement tools, with a view to rolling them out across taskforce workstreams and networks by March 2019. This work will act as a pilot to inform the Welsh Government's future approach to engagement, involving communities in policy making and working flexibly across policy boundaries to deliver the commitments in *Taking Wales Forward and Prosperity for All*.

Action	Expected outcome	Milestones	Key Stakeholders
Pilot new approaches to stakeholder management, utilising digital engagement and collaboration tools to support the work of the taskforce, with a view to rolling out successful approaches across Welsh Government by 2021. Stakeholders will be supported to collaborate and engage with one another more easily, regularly communicating and sharing best practice to support and strengthen their work. Valleys stakeholders, and their networks, will be supported to engage on taskforce matters more easily.	A digital engagement platform will be in place, and have increased the number of people regularly engaging on taskforce matters. Welsh Government will have reviewed its approach to external and internal engagement and have developed new ways of involving stakeholders and communities in policy making.	November 2018 – A pilot will be undertaken with a small group of external stakeholders of an approved digital collaboration tool. December 2018 – Subject to the success of the initial pilot, the approved digital collaboration tool will be rolled out across all taskforce workstreams and networks. December 2018 – Welsh Government digital engagement group will meet to discuss the organisations approach to engagement and opportunities for enhancing this through digital tools. January 2019 – Identify a new digital engagement tool to support the next phase of taskforce engagement. February 2019 – A pilot of the new digital engagement tool will be undertaken with a small group of external stakeholders March 2019 – Roll out the new digital engagement tool across taskforce networks, including the peer-to-peer network for the Valleys Regional Park and community hubs. January 2020 – Lessons learned report presented to the Welsh Government digital engagement group. By 2021 – Work with the Welsh Government digital engagement group to develop a new organisation-wide engagement tool.	Welsh Government; Ministers: County Voluntary Councils; local authorities; universities.

OGL © Crown copyright 2018 WG36254 Digital ISBN 978-1-78964-450-0 Images dotted throughout: © Crown copyright (2016) Visit Wales
Mae'r ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg. This document is also available in Welsh.