

Ministerial Taskforce for the Valleys
28 January 2019, 12:00 – 13:30
Ponty Lido, Pontypridd

In attendance:

Taskforce Members

Deputy Minister for Economy and Transport, Lee Waters AM (Chair)
Karen Phillips, Principal, Coleg y Cymoedd
Brian Morgan, Professor of Entrepreneurship at Cardiff Met University
Andrew Diplock, Entrepreneur, Angel Investor and Advisor
Cllr Andrew Morgan, Leader of Rhondda Cynon Taf
Fiona Jones, Department for Work and Pensions
Gaynor Richards, Director, NPTCVC
Dr Chris Jones, Chair, HEIW
Kellie Beirne – Programme Director, CCR City Deal
Jocelyn Davies, previous Minister for Housing and Regeneration

Programme Board Members

Maureen Howell, Equality and Prosperity – Deputy Director
John Howells, Director, Housing and Regeneration (SRO)
David Rosser, Director, Sport, ESNR
Marcella Maxwell, Head of Economic Action Plan implementation

Valleys Taskforce Team

Sarah King, Valleys Taskforce Project Lead (Speaker)
Phil Lewis, Head of Valleys Taskforce Branch (Speaker)
Laurie Hayward, Senior Programme Manager, Valleys Taskforce
Nicola Leadbeatter, Programme Manager, Valleys Taskforce

Apologies

Ann Beynon, Non Executive Director and member of CBI Wales Council.
Martin Mansfield, General Secretary, Wales TUC

Item 1: Welcome and Introductions.

1. The Deputy Minister for Economy and Transport, Lee Waters AM (LW) opened his first meeting as Chair and invited discussion on progress to date.
2. Members were asked to consider what has been successful, what could be improved. The Deputy Minister indicated that he had met with some of the members prior to this meeting to begin to explore the main areas on which the Taskforce now needed to focus on.

Item 2: Discussion on Focus and Priorities for the Taskforce

3. Some members expressed concern that the taskforce was looking at too many areas.
4. Members were also anxious to clarify how best they could support key delivery themes.
5. There was concern that additional funding may be required if certain targets were to be met.
6. It was agreed all members could play a role through engagement and ensuring that the delivery agenda of the taskforce was more widely understood. It was also suggested that the webpages be updated.

7. Members stressed the success of the Taskforce's initial engagement but recognised the challenge of this being maintained through the delivery phase. The 200 members of the Taskforce communications and engagement network had a role to play in this regard.
8. It was important to remember the very early decision that the taskforce should not become a delivery mechanism but rather a vehicle for developing a new strategy for the Valleys.
9. It was felt that relationships between the taskforce and local authorities should be strengthened and that the taskforce should be drawing on examples of good practice in local authorities.
10. LW agreed to revisit the group's strategic purpose in line with members' comments. Further thought should be given to the continuing challenge of raising aspirations amongst young people. It was also agreed that there was scope to bring greater consistency across the proposed strategic investment hubs

Item 3: Membership / roles and responsibilities

11. LW asked members to let him have any further views they may have on their roles in future. He was anxious that the membership should reflect delivery priorities for the Taskforce moving forward. This was something that he was anxious to explore with a range of stakeholders over the subsequent period. This included meetings with each of the local authority leaders in the region.

Item 4: AOB

12. Date of next meeting - 4 April