

Remit of Ministerial Taskforce for the South Wales Valleys – Discussion Paper

Introduction

The Cabinet Secretary for Local Government and Public Services met individually with each taskforce member during September and November. During these meetings discussions took place about the remit of the taskforce and the roles of individual members going forwards. This is a draft remit paper to provoke discussion at the November meeting of the taskforce and subsequently to inform a revised terms of reference.

Membership

The Ministerial Taskforce for the South Wales Valleys was set up by the Welsh Government in July 2016 after the National Assembly election and the EU referendum. It is chaired by Alun Davies, the Cabinet Secretary for Local Government and Public Services. Ken Skates, the Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Transport and Julie James, the Leader of the House and Chief Whip also sit on the taskforce.

The other taskforce members are:

- Ann Beynon, chair of the Cardiff Capital Region Board
- Andrew Diplock, entrepreneur, business advisor and Angel Investor
- Judith Evans, principal of Coleg Y Cymoedd
- Dr Chris Jones, Interim Chair of Health Education Improvement Wales
- Martin Mansfield, general secretary, Wales TUC
- Cllr Andrew Morgan, leader of Rhondda Cynon Taf Council
- Professor Brian Morgan, Cardiff University
- Jocelyn Davies, former Plaid Cymru Deputy Minister for Housing and Regeneration
- Fiona Jones, director of work services Wales and national employer and partnership team, Department for Work and Pensions
- Gaynor Richards, director, Neath Port Talbot Council for Voluntary Service

Terms of reference agreed November 2016

The taskforce will advise on the collaborative actions required to develop an integrated approach to:

- engage and empower local communities;
- further economic development and regeneration;
- promote business efficiency and competitiveness;
- promote sustainable employment;
- enhance the development and application of skills relevant to employment;
- improve effectiveness of public services;
- and contribute to sustainable development.

The taskforce will work across the whole duration of this Government, recognising a long term approach is required.

Proposed remit going forwards

Working with people living and working in the South Wales Valleys, the taskforce is key to shaping the work of the Welsh Government, particularly in changing and

setting government policy in relation to the Valleys. Although the taskforce is made up of independent experts, it is not an independent organisation, separate from the Welsh Government.

To succeed, the taskforce must bring all the resources of the Welsh Government and its many partners together to support the Valleys. A wide number of public sector organisations – including the Welsh Government; local authorities; the two city deals; the NHS; schools and universities – third sector partners and private businesses will need to work together to deliver the actions outlined in Our Valleys, Our Future. The focus will be good quality jobs and the skills to do them, better public services and my local community.

Members of the taskforce will oversee and challenge the ongoing progress of delivery against the plan. Working groups have been set up to look at specific areas of the plan and each is led / chaired by a member of the taskforce. This method of working will be kept under review.

The workstream leads are:

- Business growth and start-ups – Andrew Diplock
- Employability – Fiona Jones
- Foundational economy – Martin Mansfield
- Strategic hubs – John Howells
- Community hubs – Andrew Morgan
- Valleys Landscape Park – Jocelyn Davies
- Digital – Ann Beynon

Valleys Taskforce Board

The Ministerial Taskforce for the South Wales Valleys is supported by the Valleys Taskforce Board whose purpose is to:

- To provide clear, realistic, evidence-based advice and recommendations to inform and steer the work of the Ministerial Taskforce for the South Wales Valleys to help achieve the ambition and vision set out in “Our Valleys, Our Future”;
- To lead and take overall responsibility for the successful delivery of the key actions and activities set out in “Our Valleys, Our Future”.

Governance Proposals

- Taskforce meetings to feature timely presentations/ discussions based on upcoming key milestones based on workstreams – jointly led by taskforce lead and relevant official.
- Exception reporting on other actions.
- Sense checking through community engagement.
- Monitor progress against the relevant national wellbeing goals in the South Wales Valleys and consider and advise on annual updates and monitoring reports against a number of key targets in the plan.