

8 South East Wales



A well attended event

8.1 INTRODUCTION

The event was held on the 6th January 2004 at Glamorgan University Conference Centre in Pontypridd. Eighty four participants attended, representing a wide range national and local organisations and groups, as shown in the Appendix.

This was the largest consultation event and, by virtue of the numbers and wide scope of interests, the most challenging to enable as regards both the discussion time and feedback of inputs around the content of the Plan.

8.2 GENERAL OVERVIEW

The wide and varied area covered, as well as the range of interests at the event, meant that the opening presentation explaining the plan produced a diverse set of questions and observations. Among the themes that emerged were:

- The need for a polycentric approach, while acknowledging Cardiff's central role
- Finer grain representation needed for differences within the area, and clearer rationale for the zoning used
- Explanations are needed of how the spatial plan integrates with other plans, and how it will be implemented
- More attention should be paid to environmental interests – particularly those of the voluntary sector.

Discussion, in groups, about the zone attributes set out in the plan enabled people to explore these and other issues in more detail, particularly the differences between the coastal area and the valleys. Some people argued for representing differences as two zones, and others that current zoning reflected social but not environmental realities.

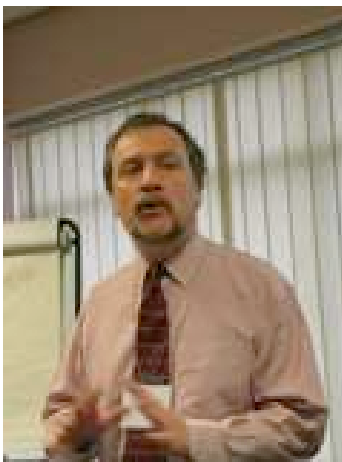
The environment, said one group, should be presented more strongly as a valuable asset and not just a constraint on development. As well as high quality natural environment, there is also historical environment worthy of note.

Social issues of cultural and ethnic diversity, and anti-social behaviour emerged, together with the need to prioritise development of skills and life-long education. Strategically, groups explored the relationships and linkages both within the area and to, for example, Bristol.

Groups were offered a sustainability matrix that asked them to rate how the area performed according to various criteria. The broad consensus was:

- Environment – stable
- Community – fragile
- Prosperity – fragile
- Accessibility – fragile

However, many groups found it difficult to apply judgements to the area as a whole, and emphasised the need to acknowledge local variations.



Huw Brodie introduces the Plan

The next stage of group discussion was to review the proposals in the plan as summarised on a set of cards. The task for the groups was both to prioritise the cards and proposed actions, and place them on a timescale. The table on page 5 collates the group decisions. Groups also added their own ideas, and the discussion produced a wide range of observations on details of the draft Plan.

After the card planning exercise, groups considered how far the programmes they had developed would bring changes, and broadly concluded the results would be:

- Environment – remained at stable
- Community – raised from fragile to stable
- Prosperity – raised from fragile to stable
- Accessibility – left as fragile

Over lunch, the morning discussions and planning sessions were reviewed by the event facilitators, and key priorities identified for further discussion in the afternoon.

These themes ranged from developing infrastructure for a competitive, sustainable economy and narrowing the prosperity gap between valley and coast, to fostering collaboration and integrating external stakeholders.

Groups then took these themes and developed action proposals in considerable detail, identifying actors to take them forward, and potential blockages. Given the wide range of proposals and interested parties a recurrent theme was the need for coordination and collaborative working.

8.3 THE EVENT

Following an explanation of the purpose of the day and a presentation of the Plan's key components, comments and questions were taken from the audience. These concerned:

- Voluntary sectors that have an interest in environmental issues are apparently neglected in the section (including diagram) on collaborative work
- Ideally, the Plan should be a polycentric framework, but it comes over as highly centralised, concentrated on Cardiff. Other urban conurbations and networks are not fully acknowledged – it acknowledges Cardiff as a centre, but doesn't say how this affects elsewhere
- More rationale in terms of the proposed Zoning is needed
- The Plan stresses collaboration with English regions through cross-boundary zoning. Does England have similar ambitions and goals?
- How does the Spatial Plan integrate the community dimension, particularly children?
- The underlying basics of the environment and its importance are largely absent or under-represented in the South East Wales part of the Plan
- How does the Assembly's sustainable development scheme feed into the Plan?

- There appears to be a neglect of the European Convention on Human Rights and EU directives in the content of the Plan. These cannot be ignored
- At the moment, the plan is only descriptive. How does the WAG use the Plan beyond the summer 2004?

The audience split into ten groups. Discussions about the Zones and sustainability matrix are summarised as follows:

8.4 ZONE ISSUES



Assessing the Zone

- Attributes fail to stress the diversity of the area (maritime area/valleys). For instance, Blaenau Gwent/Valleys is a very deprived area that shouldn't be a part of the Orange Zone. The Zone should be split up taking out deprived areas like Blaenau Gwent, etc
- The attributes cited in the Plan are also often too specific to characterise the whole of the zone; most of the attributes characterise the coastal zone but not the valleys
- A counter view accepted the balanced zoning of the area – local employment desirable but the prospect of attracting large-scale industry to the Valleys is not high. Linking this to a focus in the Coastal Belt is reasonable
- It was suggested the A472 would provide a good boundary between the Orange and Yellow zone
- There is only an artificial division between the Yellow and Orange zone; it is not only the Yellow zone that has remarkable maritime features. As some of the attributes of the Green and Yellow zones are equally applicable to the Orange zone, the boundaries should be more fuzzy – even overlapping
- Zones only describe different social realities but not necessarily environmental realities
- Zones tend to describe current reality but may not necessarily reflect future aspirations or opportunities
- It was also claimed that Bristol's influence is making the valleys fragile. How do we address this?
- Is it possible to include reference to European linkages, which may be much stronger in South East Wales than other parts of Wales? For example, transport, tourism, business, education, government administration etc?
- More weight should be given to environmental attributes; which need to be seen as a valuable asset rather than a constraint. The term "natural environment" hides the fact that the area is characterised through a large degree of industrialisation, a better term: "man-made environment"
- There is reference to high quality environment but not to low quality environment that exists in equal quantity. There should be a stronger reference to high quality environments "within" the zone, as well as nearby
- Mass transit/transport problems are growing
- The zone faces continuing problems of de-industrialisation causing heavy social and environmental pressures on the environment and the area as a whole

- The problem of anti-social behaviour has been ignored in the description of the Zone, need to stress problem with youth – as it is a factor affecting many communities
- The strength of cultural heritage needs to be mentioned; There is high quality *natural and historical* environment throughout the whole zone
- There is the need to emphasise social and ethnic diversity as a positive dimension of the area – possibly more so than other parts of Wales
- Demography is key: Half of Wales’ population lives in the Zone, but in-migration is needed to sustain population over the longer term
- Skills, life-long education and the environment are the main concern in the area – in terms of priorities
- The area is also characterised through health constraints and infrastructure pressures
- The Plan does not focus enough on energy consumption
- Does the Zone contain “national centres”? Construction-wise e.g. there is no national centre. The statement ignores the fact that Whitehall is still *the* national centre and that more services need to be devolved
- Need to emphasise the strategic importance of economic development in the region for the whole of Wales
- There are important existing strong relationships between places *within* and *outwith* the area as well as across borders. Bristol is a more accessible region from Newport than it is from Cardiff, but both have relationships

	Environment	Community	Prosperity	Accessibility
1				
Robust				
Stable				
Fragile				
	"NOW"			

The diagrams show:

1. The “Now” Matrix set after group discussion (average of all groups)

2. The Matrix adjusted to show the affects of the implementation of the Plan (average of all groups)

8.5 SUSTAINABILITY MATRIX (1)

The groups reviewed the sustainability matrix, sometimes with difficulty. Some felt that the stability of sustainability factors varied greatly across the whole zone, hence the use of diagonal lines and other conditional scoring mechanisms.

Environment

- Environment was rated as Stable

Community

Community was rated as Fragile

Prosperity

Prosperity was rated as Fragile.

Accessibility

Accessibility was rated as Fragile.

8.6 PRIORITIES AND TIMESCALES

Figure 1 - Group Card Placements

Challenge	Timescale			Priority			Weighted Priority
	Short	Medium	Long	High	Medium	Low	
Communities	4	1	5	9	1		29
Access	4	6		9		1	28
Brownfield Development*	5	2	2	8	1		26
Coast and River Risks	7	2	1	8	2		26
Transport and Environment	5	4	1	8	2		26
Landscape and History*	2	5	2	8	1		26
Built Environment*	5	3	1	7	2		25
Tourism	2	7	1	5	5		25
Skills*	6	1	1	8			24
Knowledge Economy*	3	3	2	7	1		23
Protection*	5	2	1	7	1		23
Housing Opportunities*	5	3		6	2		22
Development*	4	3	1	5	3		21
Environmental Capacities*	4	3	1	5	3		21
Infrastructure*	6	1		6	1		20
Links*	3	4	2	4	4	1	19
ICT*	5	1		6			18
Opportunities*	3	2	2	5		2	17
Settlement Identity*	4	2		4	2		16
Cultures and Networks*	1	4	1	2	4		14
Urban Ecosystem*	2	3		4	1		14
External Accessibility*	2	1	3	2	2	2	12
Collaborative Work:							
Knowledge Economy	6	4	4	9	1		29
Regeneration Potential*	6	2		6	2		28
Housing and Employment Opportunities*	5	4		8	1		26
Protecting Open Space*	6	2	1	7	2		25
Valley Key Centres*	3	4	2	5	4		23
Disadvantaged Areas*	7			7			21
Bristol Linkages*	3	3	2	4	4		20
Integration*	6	1		6	1		20
International Accessibility*	2	4	1	6	1		20
Road and Rail*	2	3	2	6	1		20
Competing City Regions*	4	3	1	4	4		20
Climate Change*	3	2	2	5	2		19
Role of Cardiff*	1	3	1	4	1		14

Note: Actions with an asterisk indicate that one or more groups dropped them from the selection. Weighted Priority is determined by multiplying High priority scores by 3 and Medium by 2 and then adding across all priorities

Dark cells indicate the degree of consensus, light shading indicates little consensus.



Working with the cards

Groups considered the range of cards representing the proposals of the draft Plan (and given in the PDF document accompanying this report).

The placement of the cards in the Timescale / Priority matrix is shown in the table on page 5. The darker tone represents greater levels of consensus.

Added cards:

- A range of cards was added by the groups, covering a mix of Overcome NIMBY culture and establish wider ownership of issues
- Change organisational structures to support regeneration and local priorities
- Increase economic potential of links with Europe and other world markets
- Need for extensive basic skill training/improvement to skills, life-long learning
- Remove barriers between communities and support measures that contribute to social inclusion
- Affordable child care
- A housing strategy for Wales; a stock take of all requirements, renewal, new build, etc
- Devise health strategies linked to education and employment opportunities
- Interdependence: reduce one-way flows to coast
- Exploit and realise the recreational potential of the valleys
- Establish clear settlement roles within the sub-region in order to compete successfully with comparable sub-regions
- Reduce our climate change emissions from transport, industry and other activities
- Multi-focusing of opportunities (resources, jobs, services, houses) and reduce need to travel
- Examine and develop innovative waste disposal and management strategy
- Examine and promote renewable energy
- Sustainable procurement strategies and freedom from bureaucracy; lack of Objective 1 to take up local benefits and capacity improvement
- Engaging communities in development
- Present the plan upside down to think about their place in Wales, e.g. young people

In addition, groups made some observations about specific cards and proposals. They included:

Environment

- “Identification and mitigation of coastal and river flood risks”: Note that in some areas, e.g. Newport, this is more important
- “Management of urban ecosystem”: some felt there was a need for a clearer definition of this idea. Perhaps it should focus on the urban “environment”: air quality, access to green spaces, noise levels, etc.
- “Development of metropolitan area to provide a diverse range of social and economic opportunities”: some were unclear what is actually meant, and suggested it needs further definition
- “Strengthening environmentally friendly transport modes”: this was considered to be an important goal, but somewhat utopian considering other objectives and priorities that appear to oppose that aim
- “Identification and mitigation of coastal and river flood risks”: some had a problem with the word “mitigation”; there was an unresolved debate about whether one should be allowed to build on flood plains
- “Maintenance of settlement identity preventing sprawl and overspill”: this is allegedly only true for Cardiff, but not for the valley region

Community

- *“Development of metropolitan area to provide a diverse range of social and economic opportunities”*: This should not be restricted only to metropolitan areas and should include environmental aspects as well. There is a need to define clearly the ‘metropolitan’ area, but not only to develop it!
- *“Provide a range of housing opportunities”*: This should specifically include affordable housing. There is also a need for better information and data on housing before we can decide on exactly what is needed and should be provided
- *“Identify key service centres within the Valleys”*: we need to define those first and secure agreement around these

Prosperity

- *“Increase economic potential of links with adjoining English regions”*: This is not restricted to adjoining regions, but extends further afield
- *“Promote development in less strong areas”*: Promoting development in less strong areas should be specified, and this could well include most of the Valleys. What kinds of development, and what new incentives, are required to drive this forward?
- *“Reduce inactivity and improve the skills base”*: Improving skills across the board is supported but improving skills in high tech, value added sectors should be a priority (linked to knowledge economy)

- *“Development of clusters and networks to maximise economic potential”*: A fantastic job has been done already, the aim is therefore to maintain that high level of cooperation and identify gaps
- *“Enhance R&D, innovation, the knowledge economy, and HE & FE potential as motors for economic development”*: a view was expressed that there is a danger in ignoring the current needs of the communities. For instance, the importance of skilled tradesmen e.g. plumbers and electricians is largely ignored
- There is underexploited potential to develop industrial heritage tourism
- *“Provide a range of housing opportunities”*: particularly in the valleys. Housing renewal is crucial. Need for energy effective housing is also part of this aspiration

Accessibility

- *“Make better use of infrastructure capacity with selective improvements to external accessibility”*: Infrastructure should include sewerage, and we should make better use of *existing* infrastructure capacity as well as invest in new
- The East West corridor is very different to that of the Valleys
- *“Strengthening of environmentally friendly transport modes”*: specific mention of walking and cycling is needed, especially in relation to infrastructure provision

Collaborative Work

- *“Establish the potential impact of climate change on the area including necessary mitigation measures”* add: “at both regional and local levels taking account of the different/overlapping housing markets” and be sensitive to local requests
- *“Overcome road and rail capacity constraints within the area”* it was suggested that we add “utilities”
- Instead of “Identify key service centres with the Valleys” it was proposed to have “Identify and enhance key services across the region for development, leisure and retailing”
- *“Develop mutually beneficial linkages with the Bristol region”*: this linkage should not only be with Bristol but all adjacent areas
- Instead of “Identify the requirements necessary to allow the area to compete successfully with comparable city regions” it was proposed to read “... compete successfully with comparable regions outside Wales”
- *“Examine ways to realise the economic and social regeneration potential of dualling the A465 Heads of the Valleys Road”*: the Heads of the Valley is already being dualled. Ideally, this should have been implemented much earlier- but it may be a case of better late than never!
- *“Enhance the role of Cardiff as a European capital city”*: a view was expressed that it was questionable whether Cardiff’s role as a European capital city really needs to be

enhanced; major investment in recent years has strengthened Cardiff's economy and has arguably widened the gap between the capital and other more disadvantaged areas

- Instead of "Enhance the role of Cardiff as a European capital city" some suggested "Increase strategic collaboration between Newport and Cardiff as a metropolitan area"
- "Identify the requirements necessary to allow the area to compete successfully with comparable city regions": This is considered by some to be a Cardiff-centred view and does not lead to a harmonisation of differences between the North and South
- "Identify the mechanisms to promote the integration of the area to spread prosperity, increase social inclusion and ease congestion": some felt that this is the most important objective

	Environment	Community	Prosperity	Accessibility
2				
Robust				
Stable				
Fragile				
	"THEN"			

8.7 SUSTAINABILITY MATRIX (2)

Environment:

- Remained at Stable

Community:

- Raised from Fragile to Stable

Prosperity:

- Raised from Fragile to Stable

Accessibility:

- Accessibility was left as "Fragile".

8.8 IMPLEMENTATION DISCUSSION THEMES

From the morning's worksheets the following key priorities were selected for further discussion around delivery.

- Infrastructure for a Competitive Sustainable Economy
- Achieving Mixed Use and Sustainable Communities
- Education and Life Long Learning
- Narrow Prosperity Gap between Valley and Coast
- Achieving a better Balance between Environmental Considerations and other Outcomes
- Strengthening Cardiff-Valley Relationship (to the mutual benefit of both)
- Sectoral/functional Interdependencies
- Accessibility and Environmental Sustainability
- Collaboration
- Integrating External Stakeholders

Infrastructure for a Competitive Sustainable Economy

Actions suggested included:

Water/Sewerage:

- More flexibility in the bidding process
- Replacement (presumably upgrading) of existing infrastructure
- Sustainable urban drainage systems

Transport:

- An economic impact study is needed in relation to prospective investment
- Improve efficiency in freight and passenger travel
- A study to examine travel needs and trends

Energy:

- More emphasis on renewables should be integrated into other policy frameworks
- Investment in infrastructure and addressing the low price
Decentralisation of energy generation and transmission

Telecommunications:

- Broadband to be accessible in peripheral areas
- Improve overall high speed connectivity
- Action needed to improve take-up and penetration?

Actors:

Water/Sewerage:

- OFWAT
- Dwr Cymru Welsh Water



Presenting a Theme

- UK government, with pressure from WAG
- Key stakeholders to synchronise planned timescales and engage in early dialogue

Transport:

- Study – Welsh Assembly Government/UK Government to develop transport framework and impact study
- Strategic Rail Authority
- Lobbying by Welsh Assembly Government

Energy:

- DTI/Welsh Assembly Government
- Local government
- Welsh Development Agency through investment in alternative sources

Telecommunications:

- Welsh Assembly Government
- Private sector (providers and users)

Existing Structures:

- Welsh Assembly Government/UK government
- Private sector
- Local authority plans/partnerships
- Transportation Board
- South East Wales Economic Forum
- DTI framework re energy

Water/sewerage and energy:

- Fixed/rigid process/policy is an issue
- Seeking a cheaper product in shorter term without reference to long-term sustainability or impact is problematic

Transport and Telecommunications:

This was claimed to be neither competitive nor reliable

New Structures:

- Improve the efficiency and awareness of existing structures – and test whether new structures are actually necessary
- It was suggested Welsh Development Agency ought to be the delivery agent re telecom infrastructure – broadband (rather than Welsh Assembly Government)

Blockages:

- This included a low level or lack of awareness of policy and delivery, including among the different consumer levels
- Timing – and co-ordination – were also seen as obstacles by some.

Achieving Mixed Use and Sustainable Communities

Action proposed:

- Proactively encouraging mixed use development in communities (existing and new), particularly making use of previously developed land
- Help develop local businesses in local places
- General support for small business start-ups, particularly in deprived areas. This might take the form of incentives, tax breaks etc to encourage business set up in local areas and deprived areas
- Mixed use developments would have the added benefit of reduced commuting and subsequent costs and impacts associated with transport
- Ensuring there is adequate ICT infrastructure to offer opportunities in work, knowledge dissemination, service delivery, and consumer purchase
- Communities with more independence in terms of local facilities and service provision, were advocated
- Improve communities' consultation exercises and develop community-led initiatives to build ownership, confidence and action
- Any consultation or public relations exercises to advertise initiatives and opportunities within communities should meet sustainable principles and objectives
- Improve the transport infrastructure, including effective and sustainable forms of movement between and within settlements
- Allow and encourage greater access to knowledge, notably by improving education and skills development and linkages with the community

Actors:

- Local authorities, through planning system and other areas of influence
- Voluntary sector through community initiatives (but there are issues around how are they funded?)
- Welsh Assembly Government (including European funding initiatives)
- Private investors
- ASPBs (such as the Welsh Development Agency)
- National government (through incentives, such as tax breaks)

Blockages:

- Our culture – segmented and specialised
- Individuals – narrow self interest or restricted perspectives
- Finance and its availability

- Time
- Lack of coordination
- A fear of being radical
- Lack of political will

Education and Lifelong Learning

Action proposed:

- Promote a strong learning culture in the area in order to promote community regeneration, self worth and movement away from dependency
- Increase confidence of communities to think differently, not just accept the way things are – or were
- Empower communities to identify their own needs

Actors:

- Local Education Authorities (both Education Department and Community Education functions)
- Higher Education & Further Education Colleges
- Education and Learning in Wales
- Private Sector
- Voluntary sector
- Employers
- New Deal

Existing Structures:

- Many competing providers are around but there is some overlap

New Structures:

- Set up a learning network, optimising the sharing of what is there already
- Pooled resources

Blockages:

- Accessibility and transport to facilities
- Finance
- Organisational competitiveness between different players
- Loss of tax relief
- Child care responsibilities and other similar constraints

Other factors:

- Some questions around the role of Elwa were expressed

Reduce Prosperity Gap between Valleys and Coast

Actions:

- Training and skills/apprenticeships (it was accepted this needs more analysis)
- The need to instil a positive attitude to attract investment
- Actually securing and delivering the investment – both private and public (it was suggested that infrastructure should come first)
- Enhanced accessibility to employment and services
- Priority for improving health and culture
- Rehabilitation of the unemployed, such as through the “Wheel to Work” scheme
- A fairer distribution of funds

Actors:

- Education and Learning in Wales
- Local Authorities
- Universities
- Employers
- Communities
- Finance Wales
- Local Highway Authority
- Strategic Rail Authority
- Welsh Assembly Government
- National Health Service
- Better Health Wales
- Welsh Development Agency
- Chamber of Commerce

Existing Structures:

- Communities First
- Entrepreneurial Action Plan
- Objective 1 (existing budget)
- Local Authority programmes
- Strategic Transport Planning

New Structures suggested:

- Welsh Council Voluntary Associations
- A bottom-up approach through communities

Blockages:

- Inappropriate skills were thought to be an issue
- Lack of entrepreneurship
- Poor health

- Lack of private and public investment, as well as long-term funding, notably in transport
- Poor accessibility to services, particularly in the valleys

Achieving a better balance between environmental considerations and other outcomes

Action proposed:

- Review and rationalise what exists in terms of legislation, strategies, places, zones etc.
- Bring out the environment aspects and put them to the fore
- Design and recruit the *right* planning team and implementation team; specify ownership and accountability
- Change the status of Spatial Plan so that local authorities have to use it positively, rather than just “have regard”
- Make the Welsh Assembly Government messages and actions coherent – ensuring ASPBs and WAG says and does the same, for instance in the Sustainable Development Scheme
- Appoint a commissioner for the environment (champion)
- Plan and implement plan for education and awareness raising
- Reprioritise resources to meet the priorities of the Plan

Actors:

- An all-Wales working group (all sectors), led by Welsh Assembly Government and key ASPBs (WLGA/CCW/EA etc.)
- Led by a Welsh Assembly Government team that includes a planner, environmentalist, business planner, lawyer, etc.
- UK legislation will play a part
- The Welsh Assembly Government and its advisers, such as the sustainable development forum
- The Education Minister
- ASPBs (such as CCW/EA etc in partnership, as well as voluntary and private sectors)
- Everyone
- Sustainable Development Forum
- Communities First
- Community planning networks
- Existing biodiversity groups
- Existing organisations with their messages

New Structures:

- All Wales working group, as suggested
- A Commissioner

- New education curriculum
- New legislation

Blockages:

- Achieving consistency across organisations and messages
- Politics and policies – the divergence they can create
- Resources
- The will to make it happen

Strengthening Cardiff-Valley relationship (to the mutual benefit of both)

Action:

- Existing and proposed strategies should be made to “fit” within frame of the Plan
- The Wales Spatial Plan to provide the long-term vision and status to deliver the overall theme and components over time
- Financial incentives and some redistribution of resources
- Identify roles and opportunities for the other (non Cardiff) centres
- Promoting the inter-relationship between Cardiff and the Valleys in different ways

Actors:

- Local strategic partnerships
- National voluntary/interest groups
- Government agencies
- Private sector

Existing Structures:

- UA decision making
- South East Wales Economic Forum/
South East Wales Strategic Planning Group /South
Wales Integrated Fast Transit/
Welsh Local Government Association/
Welsh Assembly Government

New Structures:

- Informal and formal networks
- A regional body – for integration purposes

Blockages:

- The current focus on very localised geography
- Political parochialism associated with administrative boundaries
- Resources which would be available

Sectoral/functional Interdependencies

Action proposed:

- A much more integrated and focused employment and sites strategy
- Positive promotion of the Valleys: in aspects such as recreational source and healthy lifestyle
- Agree regional housing targets including the role and ratio of affordable housing
- Infrastructure requirements should be established
- Higher Education and Further Education should be thought through on a strategic settlement basis
- A researched evidence base is needed to underpin action

Actors:

- There is no obligation on local authorities to collaborate, yet they must be crucial in this part of Wales
- Possibly a new valleys special purpose vehicle

Existing Structures:

- Many of these were perceived to be 'inward focused' sectoral silos: economic forum, planning forum, transport forum, etc
- Welsh Local Government Agency policy agreements

New Structures:

- Strengthening the role of regional planning
- A new body, specifically for Valleys
- A balance of carrots and sticks
- Feeding down – cascading to different institutional and community mechanisms

Blockages:

- Money: this is important and there is no mechanism for determining regional priorities
- Lack of clarity about what to do
- Inter-authority competition
- Lack of specialist staff

Accessibility and environmental sustainability

Actions proposed:

- Reduce the need to travel, for instance through use of ICT and flexible working
- Provision of – and support for - localised services
- New patterns of economic development
- Co-ordinated transport (partly by managing demand)
- A combined carrot and stick approach; The carrot: better facilities, information, bus priority measures, park and ride facilities, safe routes to school, walking and cycling facilities, travel plans, car clubs; The stick: congestion charging, work place charging, possible some reduction of convenience

Actors:

- Cross-sectoral players and bodies
- Welsh Assembly Government
- Regional consortia
- The private sector needs to be involved
- Community and voluntary sector
- Sustrans

Existing structures:

- Most are already in place. We need to make them work!

Blockages:

- Attitudes to change are a constraining factor
- The location of the job market often makes it impossible to avoid commuting
- Public transport costs can be prohibitive for some

Collaboration

Actions proposed:

- Fundamentally, it was argued, there is a need to decide and agree on best level at which to take decisions: national, regional, LA/local - and the legal authority which they have to endorse/enforce this
- Co-ordinated corporate Governance is lacking- there is a need to reduce the number of organisations
- There is a requirement for mechanisms that can effect conflict resolution – and implement strategic decisions
- A statutory transport authority was suggested as being beneficial

Actors:

- It was suggested there is a need for formal statutory level at which the WSP is incorporated into planning
- There should also be policy agreements between key players
- This should involve a review use of existing powers of different bodies and how they relate to the regional and national perspective

Existing structures:

- Local Authorities: but new ways of working required
- Welsh Assembly Government: this may need to address a greater constructive regional role

New structures:

- Independent scrutiny is required
- Strengthen the regional capacity of WAG, as noted above
- There was felt to be a need to rationalise boundaries and functions

Blockages:

- Existing statutory mechanisms seem to work against collaboration
- In particular, local politics are often a blockage to regional collaboration

Other issues:

- Need for some 'stick' sanctions, if collaboration does not happen
- However, there is no need for a strategy for absolutely everything! Certainly not in the WSP.

Integrating External Stakeholders

Analysis:

- "Building sustainable communities" and "increasing prosperity" is considered to be dependent on engagement with local communities (and organised groups, including children and young people) and also with the private sector
- It is essential that there is a process (and funding) to engage these groups in the design and implementation of the Plan: because these are the people who will actually *do* the plan! Who manages the process?

Blockages:

- This process and funding currently does not exist – there is no existing route for this essential function
- There may well be a lack of commitment to engage others
- Consultation fatigue can arise, especially when there is no effect (where are the outcomes?, what is in it for us?)

Appendix

Workshop Participants:

- Richard Spear Welsh Assembly Government
- Andrew Wallace Vale of Glamorgan Council
- Lucy Turner Vale of Glamorgan Council
- Lesley Punter Welsh Assembly Government
- Jonathon Fudge Welsh Assembly Government
- Geraint Hopkins The National Trust
- Margaret Hunt Campaign for the Protection of Rural Wales
- Yvonne Prichard Vale of Glamorgan
- Kelly Collins Blaenau Gwent CBC
- Claire Saralis Merthyr Tydfill CBC
- Jessica White Welsh Assembly Government
- Jan Bennett Caerphilly CBC
- Tim Peppin Caerphilly CBC
- Mark Roberts WTGL
- Katie-Jo Luxton RSPB Cymru
- Margaret Everson Steer Davies Gleave
- Geraint Northam Steer Davies Gleave
- Ryan Bowen Dwr Cymru welsh water
- Justin Cooper Caerphilly CBC
- Jason Dixon Cardiff County Council
- Steve Pritchard Associated British Ports
- Howard Rees Gwent Police
- D R Owen Construction Industry Training Board
- Simon Prince Gwent Police
- Mike Cuddy Welsh Development Agency
- Deborah James University of Glamorgan
- Richard Essex RICS Wales
- Rachel Jones Cardiff County Council
- Gareth Beer Welsh Development Agency
- David Jones Merthyr Tydfill CBC
- Paul Williams Welsh Development Agency
- L.Mair Jones Children's Commission for Wales
- Jan Walsh Groundwork Wales
- Sian Davies Caerphilly CBC

- Kevin Bishop Association Welsh Local Government
- Clare Taylor Torfaen CBC
- Chris Webb Church in Wales
- Nick Moon Finance Wales
- Ged McHugh Blaenau Gwent CBC
- Chris Ashman Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC
- Robert Murray Blaenau Gwent CBC
- Vic Warren Rural Wales Campaign for the Protection of
- Alan Powell British Waterways
- Richard Dommett British Waterways
- Samantha Cherryman University of Glamorgan
- Ian Thomas Welsh Assembly Government
- Alan Hooper Cardiff University
- Tegwen Curnell Glamorgan Federation of Women's Institutes
- Basil Hollington Welsh Assembly Government
- Judith Ingram of Wales National Museums and Galleries
- Antony Wallis Forestry Commission
- Jackie Boarer Dwr Cymru Welsh Water
- David Holtam Cardiff County Council
- John Paxton Cardiff County Council
- Milica Kitson Rethinking Construction Wales
- Kay Powell Welsh Assembly Government
- Rebecca Lockwood Monmouthshire County Council
- Mark Williams Caerphilly CBC & WLGA
- Eleanor Knight Finance Wales
- Don Webber Vale of Glamorgan Council
- Huw Isaac Vale of Glamorgan Council
- David Jenkin University of Glamorgan
- Stuart Agnew Newport City Council
- Chris Williams University of Glamorgan
- Audrey Jones Welsh Assembly Government
- Beverley Delacruz Welsh Assembly Government
- Roger Tanner Caerphilly CBC
- Mary Hughes Welsh Assembly Government
- Barbara Spence Forestry Commission
- Neil Harris University of Cardiff
- Emma Plunkett Dillon Council for British Archaeology
- Karen Maddock Jones Countryside Council for Wales

- Matt Price Sustrans
- Susan Howard Countryside Council for Wales
- Stewart Wild Newport City Council
- Wyn Mitchell Newport City Council
- John Palmer Sustrans Cymru
- Adrian Wilcock Monmouthshire County Council
- Robin Morrison Church in Wales
- Duncan Smith Torfaen CBC
- Michael Jacob Friends of the Earth
- John Sheppard SE Wales Economic Forum