

Closing the Gap

The Meirionnydd Employment Plan

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The Meirionnydd Employment Plan

Introduction

There is a long and honourable tradition of work in Meirionnydd – from the early farming of prehistoric times on the slopes of Arduwy to the mining for gold, the prosperity of the wool trade and the slate quarries at their zenith, to the time of the defence industry, and of course the Trawsfynydd Nuclear Power site was central to the technological revolution of the 1960s. In all this Meirionnydd was in the economic vanguard, with work here for many thousands!

This industrial dynamism is now in the past, and the challenges faced by the economy and communities in Meirionnydd are profound, with lack of work leading to young people and families leaving.

This document reveals the scale of the economic challenge, but also the schemes being developed in order to lay down the foundations for the employment of the future.

Meirionnydd's elected representatives have taken up the challenge, and this is a sign of the area's enthusiasm and determination to ensure employment and a prosperous future for its people.

In meeting the challenge, our ambition is to close the prosperity gap with other areas, and to establish Meirionnydd as an area of excellence in the work fields of the future. Meirionnydd has repeatedly proven its ability to adapt to receive new industries, and the area's position between the research institutions of two universities and the Alternative Technology Centre should place it in a favourable position to take advantage once again of economic innovation.

The area has definite opportunities: the area's water, land and forest resources are distinctive and offer the basis for the new industries of the green economy – with the electricity distribution infrastructure also an excellent resource for establishing alternative energy production facilities.

There is a supply of old work-sites and redundant buildings that could be redeveloped for use by a range of work and businesses – and the archaeological landscape of old industries, and prehistoric remains, is a superb heritage for developing high value within the local tourist industry. Meirionnydd's beauty and its magnificent and dramatic natural landscape has always attracted visitors, with its mountains, gorges, seas and rivers also able to offer the challenge to satisfy the demand of 21st Century tourists for adventure sports.

Agriculture remains the cornerstone for the production of food and drink of the highest quality, giving opportunities to

add value to the gastronomic enterprises that already pepper the area.

Contemporary Welsh language culture is alive in the area, with young people giving expression to their creativity through word, art and song, and through their readiness to consider venturing into business.

That the area has its strengths is apparent, and that this is an area that is not reaching its full potential, but an area also where the market has failed to supply the answers, and thus an area which has been seriously weakened and in need of assistance if it is to grasp the opportunities.

There are some positive signs – the Welsh Assembly Government is already attending to road connections such as the A470 in Meirionnydd and Pont Briwet, and this will be one key factor in strengthening the area's links with near and distant markets. The Wales Spatial Plan also identifies Meirionnydd as an area for the development of the green economy.

Gwynedd Council has brought partners together to develop and implement a series of economic projects that will exploit these opportunities and Meirionnydd's strengths in order to create employment.

We welcome this on-going work. However, as can be seen from the bare facts presented in this document – if Meirionnydd is to reach the prosperity level of other areas, and contribute fully to the renewal of the Welsh economy, a concerted effort will be needed. We trust, even in a difficult financial climate, that our partners in the Assembly, business, research institutions and the colleges will strive with us to ensure the necessary support.

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The Meirionnydd Employment Plan

Foreword

The county of Gwynedd is geographically extensive, peripheral in terms of its relationship with the main markets, and has a dispersed population, and as a result the characteristics of the county's economy also vary between, and within, areas.

The purpose of this Plan is to identify the employment position in Meirionnydd including the size of the potential workforce and the number of available jobs, the structure of the economy and the area's prosperity – as well as identifying a potential work programme to respond to the situation.

Although statistics are regularly gathered on the state of the economy and the nature of employment in Welsh counties, on a national and sub-regional basis, or on a regional basis such as for North Wales, the routine work of following and tracking the relevant indicators does not take into account the factors relating to the scale of the more local geography nor the variations within a county such as Gwynedd.

This plan is therefore groundbreaking in attempting to create a picture of Meirionnydd at a particular point in time, a picture developed from local area statistics, namely the Dolgellau, Ffestiniog-Trawsfynydd, Ardudwy, Penllyn and Bro Dysynni Areas.

From the statistical picture it is evident that that the current situation in Meirionnydd is challenging, with a number of other challenges on the horizon. To summarise:

- This area has the lowest income in Gwynedd;
- The wards with the lowest income include the most rural wards and some post industrial wards;
- The median income of any ward in Meirionnydd is not sufficient to meet local house prices;
- The percentage of those claiming Jobseekers Allowance for more than 12 months is the highest in the county;
- There are fewer jobs available than in other parts of the county;
- There is a mismatch between the jobs available and the types of jobs applied for by jobseekers;
- 32% of employment is in the public sector, with another 32% in the accommodation and catering, and wholesale and retail sectors;

- Traditional industries are in decline, and the end of the Tir Gofal Scheme, the situation relating to the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), the winding up of work at the Trawsfynydd Power Station site, and the position of the quarry industry all add to the challenges that will be faced in the near future.

The picture suggests the need for intervention if we are to ensure the prosperity of Meirionnydd.

Despite this, Meirionnydd has excellent resources in terms of its products, its landscape and environment, its culture and heritage, and its people's resilience and entrepreneurship. It is also in an ideal position to benefit from the research and innovation of two universities and other research organisations such as CAT.

Therefore, although the statistical picture of an economy in decline is quite disheartening, it is clear that, at the same time, this is an area that has yet to reach its potential, and with the correct interventions the balance could be restored in favour of a strong and diverse economy in a way that would be an exemplar for other rural areas.

Aim

Aim

To close the opportunity gap by drawing appropriately on the strengths and resources of Meirionnydd to ensure an innovative, vibrant and sustainable economy with a variety of high quality work opportunities

Objectives

- To vary and increase the number of jobs available in Meirionnydd, and in various locations across the Area (Objective 1)
- To ensure that the current economy of Meirionnydd works to its full potential by maximising the ability of products and businesses in the Area to compete commercially in the marketplace (Objective 2)
- To capitalise on the innovation of research organisations wherever they exist to establish the sectors of the future, relevant to the circumstances of Meirionnydd, with an emphasis on high quality work opportunities (Objective 3)
- To develop different types of sites across the Area, together with the employment infrastructure, focusing on reclaiming brownfield sites and redundant buildings for economic use (Objective 4)
- To act on Dolgellau's strategic designation within the Wales Spatial Plan, and further develop its role as Meirionnydd's main employment and service centre (Objective 5)
- To maximise the value of national and regional economic and skills programme, ensuring that interventions are diverted to Meirionnydd (Objective 6)

Geography



MEIRIONNYDD LOCAL AREAS

| AREA | WARDS |
|-------------------------------|---|
| DOLGELLAU | Dolgellau North Dolgellau South Brithdir/Llanfachreth/Ganllwyd/Llanelltyd Corris/Mawddwy |
| FFESTINIOG-TRAWSFYNYDD | Bowydd a Rhiw Diffwys a Maenofferen Teigl Trawsfynydd Penrhyndeudraeth |
| ARDUDWY | Abermaw Dyffryn Ardudwy Llanbedr Harlech |
| PENLLYN | Y Bala Llandderfel Llanuwchllyn |
| BRO DYSYNNI | Aberdyfi Bryncrug/Llanfihangel Llangelynin Tywyn |

THE POTENTIAL WORKFORCE

In order to form a picture of the size and nature of the potential workforce in Meirionnydd and the more local areas, the following were considered:

- The working age population
- The number of Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) claimants and the change over time to identify whether the number has increased or decreased;
- The number and percentage of JSA claimants under 25 years of age;
- The number and percentage of JSA claimants that have been unemployed for over 12 months;
- The type of jobs sought by jobseekers.

The Key Messages Are:

- The biggest challenge in ensuring an adequate population to sustain employment is in Penllyn and the most rural parts of the Dolgellau Area.
- The number of JSA claimants in Meirionnydd has increased by almost 36% in the 18 months to December 2009.
- Although statistically less than the figures for Wales, the percentages of those unemployed in some areas across the county is comparable to or higher than the level for Wales.
- It takes more time for some of the unemployed in Meirionnydd to get jobs compared with the rest of Gwynedd (in terms of the whole county and its areas) and Wales, and especially in the most rural areas of Meirionnydd.
- The areas that demonstrate the need for a major focus on employment for jobseekers: Ffestiniog-Trawsfynydd and Arudwy, and for different reasons Dolgellau and the wards of Bala, Tywyn, and Llangelynin.
- The challenge is to provide work on a scale that corresponds to the size of the potential workforce, whilst giving consideration to the question of whether the scale of employment should vary between one area and another to reflect the nature and local needs of different areas – or should all the eggs be placed in one basket and focus on one large workplace that would swallow up the whole of the potential workforce?

Background Information The Key Findings Are:

• The Working Age Population

- The working age population of Meirionnydd is around 18,800, with variations in the more local areas as follows: Dolgellau Area (3,160); Ffestiniog-Trawsfynydd Area, including Penrhyndeudraeth (5,100); Arudwy (4065); Penllyn (2,600); Bro Dysynni (3,870).

• The Jobseekers Allowance Situation – JSA (All Ages)

- 635 people were claiming JSA in Meirionnydd in December 2009, which is an increase of 228 since April 2008.
- Therefore, 3.4% of people of working age claim JSA in Meirionnydd compared with 3.5% in Gwynedd; 4.3% in Wales and 4.1% in the UK.
- In looking at the more local areas within Meirionnydd, the highest number of JSA claimants are in the **Ffestiniog-Trawsfynydd** and **Arudwy** areas, with specific pockets in terms of the JSA percentage being considerably higher than the figures for Gwynedd, Wales and the UK: **Bowydd and Rhiw** (6.4%), **Diffwys and Maneofferen** (6.4%), **Barmouth** (5.4%), **Teigl** (4.7%), **Bala** (4.6%), **Tywyn** (4%), **Trawsfynydd** (3.8%).
- In converting the percentages into numbers, the highest numbers of JSA claimants are in **Barmouth** (82), **Bowydd and Rhiw** (67) and **Tywyn** (65). There are also significant numbers in **Teigl, Llangelynin, South Dolgellau** and **Trawsfynydd**
- Whilst the percentage of people of working age who claim JSA in Meirionnydd is slightly lower than in Gwynedd, Wales and the UK, a **significantly higher number have been unemployed for more than 12 months in Meirionnydd compared with the rest of the county – 16.7% of JSA claimants in Meirionnydd have been claimants for more than 12 months** (14.4% Gwynedd; 13.7% Wales; 13.8% UK).
- This represents 106 people who have been

unemployed for more than 12 months who claim JSA in Meirionnydd.

- The **local area of Dolgellau** has the highest number of claimants over 12 months, namely 16 people. This represents 20.5% of JSA claimants within the local area, compared with 16.7% in Meirionnydd, 14.4% in Gwynedd, 13.7% in Wales and 13.8% in the UK.
- However, the totals for claimants over 12 months offer a smaller statistical pool, and whilst a number of other wards also have high percentages, including rural wards, in taking the percentage and number together, **Teigl, Barmouth** and **Bala** are also highlighted

• **The Jobseekers Allowance Situation – JSA (Under 25 years of age)**

- There are 206 JSA claimants under 25 years of age in Meirionnydd.
- The percentage figure for Meirionnydd for JSA claimants under 25 years of age is generally slightly lower than the percentage of claimants for the whole of Wales.
- That said, these claimants are located in pockets. Whilst the percentage of young claimants under 25 years of age for Wales is 34%, in the **local Area of Dolgellau** the figure is 43.6%, with the **South Dolgellau** ward at 48.1% and **Brithdir/ Llanfachreth** at 62.5%! There are other pockets such as the **Llangelynin** ward at 45.5% and **Bala** at 34%.
- Although the numbers are relatively small e.g. 34 people in the more local Area of Dolgellau, that figure is on the same scale as individual wards that have a comparable population e.g. Bowydd and Rhiw, Teigl, Penrhyndeudraeth, Barmouth and Tywyn.
- Slightly more young people under 25 who claim JSA in Meirionnydd have done so for more than 12 months compared to Gwynedd and the UK.
- However, the absolute numbers are extremely low – 10 people in December 2009. Again, this is highest in the most rural wards of the **local Area of Dolgellau**, where half this number is located.

• **Jobs Sought**

- There is a demand for 55 managerial and professional jobs; 55 administrative and PA jobs; 105 sales and customer care jobs; 100 skilled trade jobs; 55 machine operator jobs and 195 basic jobs.

• **The Economically Inactive**

- It should be noted that this aspect was not considered. Information about the economically inactive is based on the Census, and although further work was undertaken in 2007, given that we are now in 2010, almost 10 years after the last census, the information available at the

Meirionnydd level and at the more local area level to accurately measure the economically active and inactive is not sufficiently up to date or reliable.

- Despite that, 2,355 of benefit claimants are unemployed in Meirionnydd, but that figure includes those who are unable to work.
- The economically inactive, therefore, if identified, would provide an additional pool of potential workers over and above the JSA figures noted in this report. The basis for firm figures will be provided by the 2011 Census.

JOBS AND EMPLOYMENT STRUCTURE

In order to form a picture of the employment structure and the jobs situation in Meirionnydd and the more local areas the following were considered:

- The number of jobs available in the Job Centres;
- The types of jobs available in the Job Centres;
- The jobs available in Meirionnydd in January 2010;
- The distribution of the workforce across the sectors;
- An estimate of the number of workplaces in Meirionnydd and their size in employment terms;
- A broad pattern of the distribution of workplaces and workers across Meirionnydd.

The Key Messages Are:

- There are fewer jobs in Meirionnydd than in other areas of Gwynedd;
- There has been a substantial reduction in the number of jobs available over the past 7 months;
- In some wards, including populous wards, there were no vacancies in the Job Centres during the past 7 months;
- There is a mismatch between the jobs available and the number of jobseekers – there is also a mismatch between the jobs available and the types of jobs that the majority of jobseekers want.
- A slightly higher percentage of jobs in Meirionnydd are full time jobs, and that, together with household income figures, suggests that low wages are a characteristic of the economy of Meirionnydd;
- At the same time, the reduction in the number of vacancies between June and December 2009 suggests that parts of the Meirionnydd economy are of a seasonal nature.
- The economy has a narrow base, with 32.3% of Meirionnydd employees working in the public sector, and a further 32.2% divided between the tourism sector (accommodation and catering) and the sales sector (wholesale and retail).
- Dolgellau is the main employment town of Meirionnydd, with Barmouth, Bala, Blaenau/

Ffestiniog and Tywyn also providing substantial employment;

- At the same time a number of more rural wards such as Aberdyfi, Dyffryn Ardudwy, Brithdir/ Llanfachreth etc, Llanuwchllyn and Llangelynin also provide significant employment – despite the fact that agricultural holdings are not included in the employment and jobs figures;
- From the very broad estimates available, employment in Trawsfynydd is now on the same scale as Corris/Mawddwy, at around 112.
- This reinforces the picture of an economy in decline.

Background Information

The Key Findings Are:

- There are fewer vacancies in Meirionnydd than in other areas of Gwynedd – and this is a consistent trend
- 110 jobs were available in Job Centres in Meirionnydd during January 2010 – 60 of these were in the retail sector in Dolgellau, which may suggest a specific development in the sector;
- However, there is an unexpected trend in relation to the jobs available in Dolgellau over a period of months, in that around the same number of jobs become available at the same time every other month almost – this may be a coincidence, but it is a trend that merits further investigation to see whether short term contracts are becoming a characteristic of that local economy rather than additional jobs being available.
- There were 23.1% fewer vacancies in Meirionnydd during January 2010 compared with June 2009, but at the same time the number of jobs available in January 2010 has doubled compared with the figure for December 2009;
- The reduction in jobs in Meirionnydd during this period seems less than that experienced by Gwynedd as a whole (-26.8%), but substantially more than the reduction for the whole of Wales (-16.3%).

- However, without the 60 vacancies in the Dolgellau area, the total number of vacancies for Meirionnydd in Job Centres during January 2010 would be 50, which is a reduction of 65% in the number of vacancies since June 2009.
- The reduction of 91 jobs between June 2009 and December 2009 (a reduction of 36.4%) also suggests that the economy is seasonal – the same trend can be seen over the same period in Dwyfor, but in Arfon the number of vacancies have increased by 34.
- The local distribution of vacancies also suggests a seasonal flow – e.g. there was a reduction of 15 vacancies in Harlech and 13 in Llandderfel;
- At the same time the figures for many of the local area wards show that there were no vacancies during January 2010, including Diffwys and Maenofferen, Teigl, Aberdyfi a Llangelynin;
- No vacancies in Dyffryn Ardudwy or Teigl were advertised in the Job Centres in June 2009, December 2009 or January 2010.
- In terms of the types of jobs available:
 - 9 managerial and professional jobs were advertised compared with the demand from Jobseekers Allowance Claimants for 55 such jobs;
 - Whilst 30 jobseekers were looking for administrative and secretarial jobs, only 10 office jobs were available;
 - 7 jobs were available in skilled trades, and basic work such as labouring, cleaning etc, to meet the demand of 100 and 195 jobs from jobseekers in both these categories!
- A slightly higher percentage of Meirionnydd employees are in full time jobs compared to Gwynedd, but the percentage of full time jobs in Meirionnydd is lower than the percentage for Wales and the UK;
- Whilst no reliable figures are available for the agriculture sector as the figures concentrate on employment within sectors rather than self-employment – agriculture is obviously a far more substantial and significant economic activity for Meirionnydd than the 1% employed in the agriculture, forestry and fishing sector;
- The public sector, therefore, is the main employment sector in Meirionnydd at 32.3%, although this is a slightly lower percentage than for the whole of Gwynedd;
- The accommodation and catering sector is at 16.2%, with wholesale and retail also at 16%, while the manufacturing is at 11.2%;
- Therefore, it is clear that Meirionnydd has a narrow economic base.
- From the available estimates 87.8% of Meirionnydd's workplaces employ up to 10 workers, around 10.7% are in the 11- 50 employees category - with 1.5% in the 50-200 employees category.
- Workplaces employing over 200 employees, if available at all outside the public sector, are not included in the statistics for Meirionnydd or Gwynedd, Indeed, workplaces of this size are relatively rare in Wales and the UK.
- Where Meirionnydd is lacking is in the number of workplaces that employ between 11 and 50 employees;
- 3,331 employees are employed in workplaces of this size, which is closely matched to the 3,665 employed in workplaces with 0-10 employees.
- At the same time the statistics suggest that around 2,470 Meirionnydd employees work in workplaces that employ more than 50 people, the majority of whom are employed in workplaces with between 50 and 200 employees.
- In terms of job distribution, the largest employment by far, in terms of the number employed, is in the town of Dolgellau, with Barmouth, Bala, Blaenau/Ffestiniog and Tywyn providing substantial employment but on a much smaller scale.
- However, the more rural wards such as Aberdyfi, Dyffryn Ardudwy, Brithdir and Llanfachreth, Llanuwchllyn, and Llangelynin also provide quite significant employment. Further, employment in Corris/Mawddwy is on the same scale as that of Trawsfynydd, which was at one time, of course, a major employment site in Meirionnydd.
- The general picture reflected by these statistics is one of:
 - jobs shortage;
 - a substantial reduction in the number of jobs available;
 - vacancies becoming available periodically, which are thinly spread across the area other than the occasional unexpected factor;
 - the seasonal nature of the employment;
 - a mismatch between the jobs available and the number or types of jobs needed by jobseekers;
 - the narrow base of the Meirionnydd economy.
- At the same time, one must remember that there is no boundary around Meirionnydd – residents travel to work in other areas, and workers also travel into the area to work each day.

THE PROSPERITY OF THE AREA

In order to form a picture of the prosperity of Meirionnydd and the more local areas the following were considered:

- The situation according to the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) in 2008 – this is the normal, traditional picture;

We then delved deeper to form a more local picture in terms of:

- Dependence on Unemployment Benefits;
- Household incomes;
- The match between incomes and house prices, thus measuring the ability to buy houses.

The Key Messages Are:

- Many parts of Meirionnydd are not included in the official deprivation lists in terms of income or employment, mainly because the count relies on geographical areas with a population of around 1,500.
- Looking at other sets of more local information, based on wards, provides a very different picture of the needs of the areas of Meirionnydd.
- The percentage of Unemployment Benefit claimants is close to the Gwynedd figure, with 2,355 of Meirionnydd residents of working age on Unemployment Benefits – that inevitably impacts on the income and prosperity of the area.
- The worst affected areas are Tywyn, Bowydd and Rhiw, Barmouth, Dolgellau, Teigl, Bala, Llangelynin and Diffwys and Maenofferen.
- **Meirionnydd has the lowest household income in Gwynedd.**
- More than 10% of Meirionnydd households earn less than £10k per annum.
- Almost a quarter of Meirionnydd households have an income of less than £15k per annum, and more than half have an income of less than £25k per annum.
- In 11 of the 20 wards in Meirionnydd the percentage is on the same scale as recognised

deprived areas e.g. the post industrial areas of Arfon – and these 11 wards include some of the most rural areas.

- The median income of any ward in Meirionnydd is not sufficient to meet house prices in those wards. That is a sign of poverty on a large geographical scale, and not only in pockets or specific locations.
- There is a danger for such situations to be invisible, and therefore a danger for very real needs to be overlooked.
- The general ability of such areas to produce prosperity through local enterprise and investment on a substantial economic scale will be restricted due to lack of capital and, possibly, lack of inherited capital.
- The picture suggests the need for intervention if we are to ensure the prosperity of Meirionnydd.

Background Information

The Key Findings Are:

- **Information from the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation 2008 (WIMD)**

- In looking at WIMD statistics on the number of areas in Meirionnydd that are in the 30% most deprived in Wales, Meirionnydd does not reach the figures of, say, Arfon;
- Even so, Meirionnydd's 45 WIMD count areas are within the 30% most deprived in Wales for various reasons, with access to services and housing accounting for most of those designations.

- **Unemployment Benefits**

- Unemployment Benefits are a recognised measure of lack of prosperity.
- Whilst 12.5% of those of working age claim Unemployment Benefits, that figure is slightly lower than the Gwynedd percentage (12.7%), but it means that 2,355 of Meirionnydd residents of working age are on Unemployment Benefits, which inevitably impacts on income levels.
- In looking at individual wards, Tywyn (230), Bowydd and Rhiw (215) and Barmouth (215) have the highest number of claimants.
- There are also significant percentages and numbers in the two wards of Dolgellau (220 in total), and also in Teigl (180), Bala (155) and Llangelynin (155) as well as Diffwys and Maenofferen (125).

- **Household Income**

- Meirionnydd has the lowest household income of the 3 areas of Gwynedd, with 10.1% on an income of less than £10k per annum; 22.9% on less than £15k; 37.7% on less than £20k and 51.8% on less than £25k per annum.
- The situation is worst (in order) in the wards of Bowydd and Rhiw, Tywyn, South Dolgellau, Diffwys and Maenofferen, Barmouth, Trawsfynydd, Dyffryn Ardudwy, Brynchrug/Llanfihangel, Corris/Mawddwy, Bala, Llangelynin.

- **The Ability to Buy Houses**

- In measuring the prosperity of an area, the ability to use income for life's essentials is a factor – with the ability to buy a house being a key factor.
- Looking at the income median of Meirionnydd wards alongside average house prices in the same area, it is evident that the income needed to buy a house in different areas var-

ies from 3.3 times the income in Teigl to 10.3 times the income in the wards of Brithdir/ Llanfachreth/Ganllwyd/ Llanelltyd!

- There are 11 wards in Meirionnydd where the income ratio is higher than the ratio for Gwynedd, which is 6.3 times the income.
- However, statistically these figures suggest that there is nowhere in Meirionnydd where the median income is sufficient to buy a house locally. At the same time, of course, individuals within the Meirionnydd areas continue to be able to buy local houses. The figures show the general ability or inability of the area and a number of its residents, rather than an absolute situation!

The Work Programme

- Many strategic economic and regeneration schemes are and will continue to be implemented by the Council and partners in Meirionnydd – they are included in the Work Programme;
- At the same time, there is a need to be proactive in implementing specific schemes to respond to identified challenges and new opportunities;
- The financial situation for the coming period will be challenging, but there are also opportunities, including programme bending and maximising national and regional programme expenditure relevant to the circumstances of Meirionnydd;
- The pages that follow contain a table summarising schemes and potential ideas for further schemes – please note that they are at various stages of development and maturity;
- Inevitably, it will not be possible to do everything at once, and there will be a need to prioritise and to be pragmatic in the financially problematic situation we face;
- The work programme will therefore have to develop over time to respond to new challenges and opportunities but also to take advantage of funding opportunities as they arise over the next few years.

The Work Programme: Potential Schemes

| Objective | Scheme | Implementation |
|---|--|------------------|
| Objective 1 To vary and increase the number of jobs available | Growing Sectors: Outdoor | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the Centre of Excellence plan, which will establish the Outdoor sector as a strong economic sector in Meirionnydd, increasing the number and variety of jobs available locally – with Phase 1 developing the physical aspects | 2010 onwards |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further develop and expand the sector activities e.g. fishing, horse riding etc under Phase 2, creating links with other initiatives e.g. Coastal Path, and developing skills within the Area for the whole sector. | To be confirmed |
| | Growing Sectors: Historical Heritage | |
| | Take advantage of the funding opportunities of the Heritage Tourism Project (CADW and WAG) to develop initiatives with the ability to grow the heritage sector in Meirionnydd, and skilling appropriately for the sector, contribute to the variety of jobs available, and offer high quality employment giving consideration to, e.g.: | To be developed |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applying for World Heritage Site designation to build on the industrial heritage of the Slate Areas, including Blaenau Ffestiniog and Corris, by interpreting the infrastructure of the industry, linking the quarries, their towns/villages, their railways and harbours to create a whole landscape attraction | To be considered |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider whether there are other opportunities for Meirionnydd e.g. under the themes of the Heritage Tourism Project, namely: Origins, Prehistory and Romans; Spiritual and inspirational landscapes; Wales the first industrial nation; and Wales and the sea, also looking beyond this particular Project in order to develop the heritage sector as a high-value tourism sector | To be considered |
| | Public Sector Jobs | |
| | Negotiate with partners in the public sector to identify and act on opportunities to locate professional jobs in Dolgellau, including Council jobs. | To be developed |
| | Entrepreneurship: Llwyddo yng Ngwynedd - Mentro | |
| | Implement the plan locally in Meirionnydd in order to encourage and equip individuals and communities to be enterprising, leading to an increase in employment and self-employment within the Area | 2010 onwards |
| | Entrepreneurship : Llwyddo yng Ngwynedd – Galluogi | |
| | Implement the local grant scheme in Meirionnydd in order to promote entrepreneurial thinking among individuals and existing and traditional businesses leading to new business activities, business growth and additional jobs | 2010 onwards |

| | | | |
|--------------------|--|--|--|
| Objective 2 | To maximise the ability of products and businesses in the area to compete in the marketplace | <p>Competitive Platform – Information Technology Infrastructure Take steps to maximise the availability and strength of IT such as <i>Broadband</i> and <i>Fibrespeed</i> in Meirionnydd to ensure that a critical mass of small and large businesses trade through technology, thereby enabling the Area to overcome its marginality and compete in the global market.</p> | To be confirmed |
| | | <p>Transport Links</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen the links between Meirionnydd and the chief growth centres within and outside the area, including the links with Aberystwyth, in order to facilitate meeting employment needs Improvements to the Conwy Valley Rail line in order to increase the capacity to carry passengers Identify and target opportunities to improve transport links within and to Meirionnydd in order to facilitate the movements of goods and access to services e.g. the A470, A487 with an additional emphasis on improving the Bont ar Ddyfi provision at Machynlleth, the A493/96 and Pont Briwet | To be developed To be confirmed Ongoing and continuous |
| | | <p>Marketing Implement strategic plans under the Rural Development Plan to promote and identify markets for Meirionnydd products e.g. agricultural products (under Axis 1), and food, craft and tourism (under Axis 3 and 4)</p> | 2010 onwards |
| | | <p>The Blaenau Ffestiniog Physical Regeneration Plan Implement a package that will strengthen the shopping provision and infrastructure to enable the town's businesses to fully exploit the tourism potential.</p> | 2010 onwards |
| | | <p>Sector Clusters Work proactively within Meirionnydd to encourage and support business clusters in specific sectors to develop skills, improve the quality of service, undertake joint marketing, and strengthen their ability to work and compete together for contracts e.g. in the construction, care, marine and environmental science, energy, engineering, tourism, heritage and cultural attractions sectors as well as the creative sector, particularly traditional and contemporary music.</p> | 2010 onwards and to be developed further |
| | | <p>Major Capital Opportunities Target improvements and capital opportunities that would create jobs, which would be appropriate to the circumstances of Meirionnydd, making the case for implementing or locating them in the area and creating an opportunity for local businesses to take advantage of new contracts e.g. Pont Briwet, Porthmadog By-pass, the Hotel and leisure resources at the St David's Golf Club in Harlech, and a Prison.</p> | 2010 onwards and ongoing |

| | | | |
|--------------------|---|--|-----------------|
| Objective 3 | To establish future sectors appropriate to the circumstances of Meirionnydd, with emphasis on high quality work opportunities | Innovation and the Science Sectors Work proactively with scientific research organisation to identify 'blue sky' opportunities as well as innovative technologies, and new products and services that could be produced, which would be appropriate to the circumstances and the raw resources of Meirionnydd, and help to commercialise them and attract benefits to the Area. | To be developed |
| | | Marine Science Develop and promote the sector's growth as a new and innovative sector, focussing specifically on skills needs and linking the young people of Meirionnydd to the opportunities. | To be developed |
| | | The Green Sector Capitalise on the policy direction of the low Carbon agenda and the national Glastir Scheme in order to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a variety of environmental services and commercialise green products and materials (e.g. in construction, and electricity microgeneration) to establish a basis and capacity for production in Meirionnydd • Identify the new economic opportunities for farm businesses in carbon capture, water quality requirements and other Glastir activities • Skilling the residents of Meirionnydd, and especially within the rural areas, in the technologies and requirements to ensure they have the best opportunity to benefit economically from new opportunities | To be developed |
| | | The Energy Sector <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the opportunities and sites across Meirionnydd that have the potential to generate electricity from hydropower, biomass power, anaerobic digestion power, tidal power, hydrogen power and other alternative technologies – developing the best strategic and community opportunities, and exploit the opportunity to link small scale production to the national grid • Take further advantage of opportunities to develop more strategic energy schemes in locations that would make use of existing electricity transfer structures | To be developed |
| | | Bio-tourism Maximise opportunities within Meirionnydd including benefitting from the Dyfi Biosphere designation, and the CAT centre of excellence as well as nature sites and the Theatr y Gwylt scheme, developing expertise and relevant skills among businesses in the Area and packaging the local tourism offering | To be developed |

| | | | |
|--------------------|---|--|-----------------|
| Objective 4 | To develop sites across the Area, focusing on reclaiming brownfield sites and disused buildings | The Trawsfynydd Site Use the potential of the site's electricity infrastructure, giving consideration to the potential for its development e.g. as an incubator for technologies and scientific and energy businesses | To be confirmed |
| | | The Llanbedr Airfield Site Support the continuation of the site as an airfield and for relevant services | To be confirmed |
| | | Strategic Employment Sites <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the further development of Penrhyndeudraeth Business Park Continue to seek suitable locations for strategic sites to meet employment needs highlighted in Barmouth, Blaenau Ffestiniog, Dolgellau and Tywyn | To be confirmed |
| | | Redundant Buildings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a strategic plan following the Adwy pattern, which would create work space, storage and small workshops through identifying and reinstating suitable redundant buildings to economic use (including Council buildings), with a specific emphasis on providing work units in Dolgellau, Tywyn and Bala Consider the size of the High Street in some of Meirionnydd's shopping towns, and any opportunities to use empty shop units on the outskirts of the centre for other economic uses, especially in Blaenau Ffestiniog | To be developed |
| | | Living and Working Locally Capitalise on the concept of the <i>Housing, Employment and Language</i> (Cymdeithas Tai Eryri) to develop one or two multipurpose sites in Meirionnydd for work, offices, housing and possibly recreation to create a more local employment focus and keep young families in the area, and specifically in Tywyn | To be developed |
| Objective 5 | To further develop the strategic role of Dolgellau as Meirionnydd's chief employment and service centre | Public Services Undertake a review of public services across the agencies, discussing the possibilities of office co-location and establishing a strong focus in Dolgellau that would support the cluster towns and more local services in Meirionnydd | To be developed |
| | | The Town Centre Review the town's shopping and tourism offering, working with traders and attractions to vary and expand the choice available, maximise quality and raise Dolgellau's profile as a vibrant Welsh and Welsh-speaking market town – including what is on offer in the evenings | To be developed |
| | | Access to Employment and Services Ensuring that public transport between the cluster of towns and villages in Meirionnydd and Dolgellau is convenient and regular, and relevant to the hours of travel to and from work, and to the enjoyment of amenities in the evenings | To be developed |
| | | The Dolgellau Occupational Skills Hub Support the proposed new development of Llandrillo- Meirion Dwyfor College in Dolgellau | To be developed |
| | | Youth Enterprise Establish an entrepreneurship scheme and venture space for young people, focusing on the elements of entrepreneurship skills and skills in specialist fields, through a partnership with Coleg Llandrillo – Meirion Dwyfor, and through the <i>Llwyddo'n Lleol</i> scheme, and establish business pilot units in empty spaces in the town | To be developed |

| | | | |
|--------------------|--|--|-----------------|
| Objective 6 | To maximise the value of national and regional economic and skills programmes, ensuring that intervention is diverted to Meirionnydd | Attract and Divert Resources Attract resources from strategic employment and skills programmes (such as those noted below) and divert them to Meirionnydd targeting the Communities of Need, including Tywyn | 2010 onwards |
| | | Strategic Investment Fund (SIF) Identify and target investment opportunities in Meirionnydd | To be developed |
| | | Strategic Capital Investment Fund (SCIF) Identify and target investment opportunities in Meirionnydd | To be developed |
| | | Grants for Businesses Support improvements in local businesses through the Local Investment Fund (LIF) | |
| | | Shaping the Future Take advantage of a specific scheme by the nuclear industry to provide training, mentoring support and labour market advice to the workforce of Trawsfynydd Power Station | 2010 onwards |
| | | Rural Development Fund (RDP) Identify opportunities to support local rural initiatives in Meirionnydd | 2010 onwards |
| | | Heritage Tourism Project (CADW and WAG) Identify and target opportunities for investment in Merionnydd | To be developed |
| | | Communities First Continue to support the communities of Blaenau Ffestiniog and Barmouth including initiatives that skill unemployed residents and match them to local work opportunities. | Ongoing |

Meirionnydd Employment Plan

ANNEXES

ANNEX I

DATA

THE POTENTIAL WORKFORCE A SELECTION OF DATA

JOB SEEKERS ALLOWANCE CLAIMANTS STATISTICS SUMMARY TABLE POSITION AT DECEMBER 2009

JSA Claimants All Ages – percentage of the work population

| Area | JSA Claimants (All Ages) | % of Claimants up to 6 months | % of Claimants Over 2 months |
|--------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Meirionnydd | 3.4 | 72.2 | 16.7 |
| Gwynedd | 3.5 | 71.6 | 14.4 |
| Wales | 4.3 | 66.5 | 13.7 |
| UK | 4.1 | 65.2 | 13.8 |

JSA Claimants Under 25 – percentage of all JSA claimants

| Area | JSA Claimants (Under 25) | % of Claimants up to 6 months | % Claimants Over 2 months |
|--------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Meirionnydd | 32.4 | 27.6 | 1.6 |
| Gwynedd | 34.0 | 28.8 | 1.3 |
| Wales | 34.6 | 26.5 | 1.8 |
| UK | 29.9 | 23.3 | 1.1 |

JOB SEEKERS ALLOWANCE CLAIMANTS & OUT OF WORK BENEFITS RECIPIENTS MEIRIONNYDD LOCAL AREAS

| AREA | WARDS | POPULATION WORKING AGE | NUMBER JSA | JSA UNDER 25 AGE | OUT OF WORK BENEFITS |
|------------------------------------|--|------------------------------|---------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| DOLGELLAU | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dolgellau North • Dolgellau South • Brithdir/Llanfachreth/ Ganllwyd/Llanelltyd • Corris/Mawddwy | | 78 | 34 | 365 |
| FFESTINIOG- TRAWSFYNYDD | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bowydd a Rhiw • Diffwys a Maenofferen • Teigl • Trawsfynydd • Penrhyndeudraeth | 5,101 | 215 | 62 | 755 |
| ARDUDWY | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abermaw • Dyffryn Ardudwy • Llanbedr • Harlech | 4,065 | 142 | 46 | 485 |
| PENLLYN | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y Bala • Llandderfel • Llanuwchllyn | 2,598 | 72 | 24 | 260 |
| BRO DYSYNNI | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdyfi • Brynchrug/Llanfihangel • Llangelynin • Tywyn | 3,871 | 128 | 40 | 490 |

TYPES OF JOBS SOUGHT

DECEMBER 2009

MEIRIONNYDD

| JOB TYPE | NUMBER | LOCATION |
|-------------------------------------|--------|---|
| Managers and Senior Officers | 15 | Dolgellau North (5) Trawsfynydd (5) Tywyn (5) |
| Professional Occupations | 15 | Abermaw (5) Bowydd a Rhiw (5) Tywyn (5) |
| Associate Professionals & Technical | 25 | Abermaw (5) Diffwys a Maenofferen (5) Llangelynin (5) Teigl (5) Tywyn (5) |
| Administrative & Secretarial | 30 | Abermaw (5) Bowydd a Rhiw (5) Dyffryn Ardudwy (5) Teigl (5) Trawsfynydd (5) Tywyn (5) |
| Skilled Trades | 100 | Aberdyfi (5) Abermaw (10) Bala (10) Bowydd a Rhiw (10) Brithdir/Llanfachreth/Ganllwyd (5) Bryncrug/Llanfihangel (5) Diffwys a Maenofferen (5) Dolgellau South (5) Harlech (5) Llandderfel (5) Llangelynin (5) Penrhyndeudraeth (10) Teigl (10) Trawsfynydd (5) Tywyn (5) |
| Personal Services | 25 | Abermaw (10) Bowydd a Rhiw (10) Diffwys a Maenofferen (5) |
| Sales & Customer Care | 105 | Aberdyfi (5) Abermaw (15) Bala (5) Bowydd a Rhiw (5) Brithdir/Llanfachreth/Ganllwyd (5) Diifwys a Maenofferen (5) Dolgellau South (5) Dyffryn Ardudwy (5) Harlech (5) Llanbedr (5) Llandderfel (5) Llangelynin (10) Penrhyndeudraeth (5) Teigl (10) Trawsfynydd (5) Tywyn (10) |

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|---|
| Machinery & Processing Operatives | 55 | Abermaw (10) Bala (10) Bowydd a Rhiw (10) Diffwys a Maenofferen (5) Dolgellau De (5) Teigl (5) Tywyn (10) |
| Elementary Occupations | 195 | Aberdyfi (5) Abermaw (25) Bala (15) Bowydd a Rhiw (20) Brithdir/Llanfachreth/Ganllwyd (5) Brynchrug/Llanfihangel (5) Corris/Mawddwy (10) Diffwys a Maenofferen (10) Doglellau Gogledd (10) Dolgellau De (10) Dyffryn Ardudwy (5) Harlech (10) Llandderfel (5) Llangelynin (10) Penrhyndeudraeth (5) Teigl (15) Trawsfynydd (10) Tywyn (20) |

JOBS AND EMPLOYMENT STRUCTURE

A SELECTION OF DATA

HOW MANY JOBS ARE AVAILABLE?

NUMBER OF JOBS AVAILABLE AT JOB CENTRES

| AREA | NUMBER JOBS | | | |
|-------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|------------------|
| | June 2009 | December 2009 | January 2010 | Change +/- |
| Arfon | 254 | 288 | 162 | -92 (-36.2%) |
| Dwyfor | 162 | 55 | 137 | -25 (-15.4%) |
| Meirionnydd | 143 | 52 | 110 | -33* (-23.1%) |
| Gwynedd | 559 | 395 | 409 | -150 (-26.8%) |
| Wales | 14,411 | 13,812 | 12,064 | -2,347 (-16.3%) |
| GB | 253,363 | 262,546 | 222,171 | -31,192 (-12.3%) |

HOW MANY JOBS ARE AVAILABLE?

NUMBER OF JOBS AVAILABLE AT JOB CENTRES

| LOCAL AREA | NUMBER OF JOBS | | | |
|----------------------------|----------------|---------------|--------------|------------|
| | June 2009 | December 2009 | January 2010 | Change +/- |
| Dolgellau | 57 | 13 | 73 | +16 (+28%) |
| Ffestiniog- Trawsfynydd | 21 | 9 | 17 | -4 (-19%) |
| Ardudwy | 31 | 18 | 7 | -24 (-77%) |
| Penllyn | 17 | 8 | 11 | -6 (-35%) |
| Bro Dysynni | 18 | 4 | 2 | -16 (-89%) |
| TOTAL | 144 | 52 | 110 | -34 (-24%) |

TYPES OF JOBS AVAILABLE IN MEIRIONNYDD JOB CENTRES DECEMBER 2009

| JOB TYPE | NUMBER | LOCATION |
|--|--------|--|
| Distribution, Storage & Retail Managers | 1 | Bowydd a Rhiw |
| Health Professionals | 2 | Dolgellau South Penrhyndeudraeth |
| Associate Health Professionals | 1 | Penrhyndeudraeth |
| Associate Social Welfare Professionals | 1 | Brithdir a Llanfachreth |
| Associate Legal Professionals | 1 | Penrhyndeudraeth |
| Associate Sales Professionals | 3 | Dolgellau North |
| Aministration & Finance | 1 | Harlech |
| Secretarial and Associated Professionals | 2 | Dolgellau North Penrhyndeudraeth |
| Electrical Trades | 8 | Harlech (7) Trawsfynydd |
| Building Trades | 3 | Brithdir a Llanfachreth |
| Food Preparation Trades | 3 | Aberdyfi Llanuwchllyn (2) |
| Healthcare & Related Personal Care | 4 | Llanbedr |
| Sales Assistants & Retail Cashiers | 1 | Abermaw |
| Drivers & Transport Operatives | 1 | Dolgellau North |
| Drivers & Operators of Mobile Machinery | 1 | Harlech |
| Elementary Construction Occupations | 6 | Dolgellau North (3) Llanbedr (3) |
| Elementary Goods & Storage Occupations | 1 | Bowydd a Rhiw |
| Elementary Personal Care Occupations | 8 | Aberdyfi Harlech Llanuwchllyn (4) Tywyn (2) |
| Elementary Cleaning Occupations | 4 | Llandderfel (2) Trawsfynydd (2) |

ESTIMATION OF NATURE OF WORKFORCE EMPLOYMENT

| AREA | WORKERS | |
|--------------------|-------------|-------------|
| | % Full Time | % Part Time |
| Arfon | 60.5 | 39.5 |
| Dwyfor | 62.7 | 37.3 |
| Meirionnydd | 63.0 | 37.0 |
| Gwynedd | 61.4 | 38.5 |
| Wales | 66.4 | 33.6 |
| GB | 68.4 | 31.2 |

STRWYTHUR ECONOMI MEIRIONNYDD - SECTORAU

Annual Business Inquiry (- Employee Analysis SIC 2007) 2008

| Diwydiant/Industry | Dosbarth Meirionnydd District | | | Gwynedd | | | Cymru /Wales | | | Prydain Fawr Great Britain | | |
|---|-------------------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|------------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------|-----|----------------------------|-----|---|
| | Nos | % | Nos | % | Nos | % | Nos | % | Nos | % | Nos | % |
| A :Agriculture, forestry and fishing (!) | 91 | 1.0 | 200 | 0.4 | 16,005 | 1.4 | 225,129 | 0.8 | | | | |
| B : Mining and quarrying | * | * | * | * | 2,069 | 0.2 | 54,974 | 0.2 | | | | |
| C : Manufacturing | 1,063 | 11.2 | 3,560 | 7.4 | 156,403 | 13.2 | 2,531,284 | 9.5 | | | | |
| D : Electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning supply | * | * | * | * | 3,968 | 0.3 | 78,992 | 0.3 | | | | |
| E :Water supply; sewerage, waste management and remediation activities | * | * | 409 | 0.9 | 8,155 | 0.7 | 154,140 | 0.6 | | | | |
| F : Construction | 594 | 6.3 | 2,321 | 4.8 | 63,996 | 5.4 | 1,351,723 | 5.1 | | | | |
| G :Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and motorcycles | 1,517 | 16.0 | 8,476 | 17.6 | 188,183 | 15.9 | 4,393,676 | 16.5 | | | | |
| H :Transportation and storage | 258 | 2.7 | 1,349 | 2.8 | 41,700 | 3.5 | 1,251,129 | 4.7 | | | | |
| I :Accommodation and food service activities | 1,536 | 16.2 | 6,501 | 13.5 | 83,694 | 7.1 | 1,800,787 | 6.8 | | | | |
| J : Information and communication | 74 | 0.8 | 917 | 1.9 | 23,068 | 1.9 | 997,451 | 3.7 | | | | |
| K : Financial and insurance activities | * | * | 756 | 1.6 | 30,040 | 2.5 | 1,071,334 | 4.0 | | | | |
| L : Real estate activities | 114 | 1.2 | 346 | 0.7 | 11,625 | 1.0 | 366,129 | 1.4 | | | | |
| M : Professional, scientific and technical activities | 141 | 1.5 | 1,246 | 2.6 | 42,526 | 3.6 | 1,821,026 | 6.8 | | | | |
| N : Administrative and support service activities | 157 | 1.7 | 1,671 | 3.5 | 76,755 | 6.5 | 2,188,981 | 8.2 | | | | |
| O : Public administration and defence; compulsory social security | 612 | 6.5 | 4,531 | 9.4 | 89,544 | 7.6 | 1,440,802 | 5.4 | | | | |
| P : Education | 1,006 | 10.6 | 5,445 | 11.3 | 121,701 | 10.3 | 2,503,107 | 9.4 | | | | |
| Q : Human health and social work activities | 1,440 | 15.2 | 7,918 | 16.5 | 177,636 | 15.0 | 3,242,953 | 12.2 | | | | |
| R : Arts, entertainment and recreation | 280 | 3.0 | 965 | 2.0 | 26,123 | 2.2 | 646,259 | 2.4 | | | | |
| S : Other service activities | 290 | 3.1 | 889 | 1.9 | 19,857 | 1.7 | 557,324 | 2.1 | | | | |
| T :Activities of households as employers;undifferentiated goods-and services-producing activities of households for own use | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | | | | |
| U :Activities of extraterritorial organisations and bodies | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | 0 | 0.0 | | | | |
| Cyfanswm/Total | 9,471 | 100.0 | 48,058 | 100.0 | 1,183,045 | 100.0 | 26,677,201 | 100.0 | | | | |

* CONFIDENTIAL DATA : 1947 STATISTICS OF TRADE ACT These figures must NOT be passed onto a third party (ie, appear in a paper / report / thesis or passed verbally to anyone not named on your Notice).

(!) These figures are aggregates from which farm agriculture (SIC class 0100) have been excluded.

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WHERE IS THE CURRENT EMPLOYMENT?

ROUGH PATTERN OF WORKPLACE DISTRIBUTION AND WORKERS ACROSS MEIRIONNYDD

| AREA | WARD | ROUGH NUMBER WORKPLACES* | ROUGH NUMBERS EMPLOYED * |
|-------------------------------|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| DOLGELLAU | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dolgellau North • Dolgellau South • Brithdir/Llanfachreth/Ganllwyd/Llaneltyd • Corris/Mawddwy | 275 | 1,210 |
| FFESTINIOG-TRAWSFYNYDD | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bowydd a Rhiw • Diffwys a Maenofferen • Teigl • Trawsfynydd • Penrhyndeudraeth | 270 | 725 |
| ARDUDWY | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abermaw • Dyffryn Ardudwy • Llanbedr • Harlech | 285 | 850 |
| PENLLYN | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y Bala • Llandderfel • Llanuwchllyn | 210 | 680 |
| BRO DYSYNNI | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aberdyfi • Brynchrug/Llanfihangel • Llangelynin • Tywyn | 285 | 755 |
| MEIRIONNYDD | | 1,495 ¶¶ | 9,470 ¶¶ |

* - Not including agricultural holdings

¶¶ - Includes an additional figure not able to be distributed

WORKPLACE PATTERNS – ROUGH ESTIMATES AND COMPARISON

| AREA | WORKPLACE NUMBERS* | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| | EMPLOYING 0-10 | EMPLOYING 11-49 | EMPLOYING 50-199 | EMPLOYING 200+ |
| Arfon | 1,917 | 324 | 66 | d/g |
| Dwyfor | 1,284 | 145 | d/g | d/g |
| Meirionnydd | 1,315 | 161 | 22 | d/g |
| Gwynedd | 4,516 | 630 | 103 | d/g |
| Cymru | 86,541 | 12,954 | 3,047 | 698 |
| GB | 2,078,698 | 282,058 | 69,286 | 15,973 |

* - Not including agricultural holdings

d/g - Not enough information available

EMPLOYEE DISTRIBUTION PATTERN – ESTIMATE

| AREA | NUMBER EMPLOYED IN WORKPLACES* | | | |
|-------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| | SIZE 0-10 WORKER | SIZE 11-49 WORKER | SIZE 50-199 WORKER | SIZE 200+ WORKER |
| Arfon | 5,803 | 6,989 | 5,808 | 11,404 |
| Dwyfor | 3,735 | 2,872 | 1,425 | 551 |
| Meirionnydd | 3,665 | 3,331 | 1,988 | 487 |
| Gwynedd | 13,203 | 13,192 | 9,221 | 12,442 |
| Cymru | 247,815 | 287,919 | 274,272 | 359,051 |
| GB | 5,5573,871 | 6,298,758 | 6,258,522 | 8,362,454 |

* - Not including agricultural holdings

AREA PROSPERITY – THE POSITION

A SELECTION OF DATA

USUAL PICTURE OF DEPRIVATION POSITION

ACCORDING TO FACTORS OF WALES INDEX OF MULTIPLE DEPRIVATION 2008

Number of Count Areas within the 30% Most Deprived in Wales

| AREA | DOMAINS | | | | | | | |
|-------------|---------|------------|--------|-----------|--------------------|---------|----------------------|------------------|
| | Income | Employment | Health | Education | Access to Services | Housing | Physical Environment | Community Safety |
| Arfon | 5 | 4 | 7 | 4 | 15 | 26 | 5 | 11 |
| Dwyfor | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 13 | 15 | 5 | 2 |
| Meirionnydd | 3 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 14 | 20 | 3 | 3 |
| Gwynedd | 9 | 4 | 9 | 4 | 42 | 61 | 13 | 16 |

THE USUAL PICTURE OF DEPRIVATION POSITION ACCORDING TO FACTORS OF THE WALES INDEX OF MULTIPLE DEPRIVATION 2008

Meirionnydd Count Areas With Domains in the 30% Most Deprived in Wales

| AREA | DOMAINS | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|---------|------------|--------|-----------|--------------------|---------|----------------------|------------------|
| | Income | Employment | Health | Education | Access to Services | Housing | Physical Environment | Community Safety |
| Bowydd & Rhiw | x | | | | x | x | x | x |
| Diffwys & Manofferen | x | | | | | x | | |
| Tywyn 2 | x | | x | | | x | | |
| Abermaw 2 | | | x | | | x | | x |
| Teigl | | | | | x | x | | |
| Abermaw 1 | x | | | | | x | | |
| Llangelynin | | | | | x | x | x | |
| Corris Mawddwy | | | | | x | x | | |
| Llandderfel & Llanuwchllyn 1 | | | | | x | x | | |
| Trawsfynydd | | | | | x | x | | |
| Dyffryn Ardudwy | | | | | x | x | | |
| Dolgellau South | | | | | | x | | |
| Llanbedr | | | | | x | | | |
| Dolgellau North | | | | | | x | | |
| Harlech | | | | | x | x | | |
| Aberdyfi | | | | | x | x | | |
| Penrhynd'raeth 1 | | | | | x | x | | |
| Tywyn 1 | | | | | | x | | |
| Bala | | | | | | | | |
| Llandderfel & Llanuwchllyn 2 | | | | | x | | | |
| Penrhynd'raeth 2 | | | | | | x | | |
| Bryncrug/ Llanfihangel | | | | | x | x | x | |
| Brithdir & Llanfachreth | | | | | x | x | | |

COMPARATIVE PICTURE HOUSEHOLD INCOMES

(a) Gwynedd

| Arrea | % Households / Annual Income Bands | | | |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| | Up to £10k | Up to £15k | Up to £20k | Up to £25k |
| Arfon | 9.6 | 21.7 | 35.8 | 49.2 |
| Dwyfor | 9.8 | 22.2 | 36.7 | 50.6 |
| Meirionnydd | 10.1 | 22.9 | 37.7 | 51.8 |

(b) Meirionnydd Wards with Incomes Below the Area average

| Ward | % Households / Annual Income Bands | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | Up to £10k | Up to £15k | Up to £20k | Up to £25k |
| Bowydd a Rhiw | 12.0 | 26.6 | 43.0 | 57.9 |
| Tywyn | 11.8 | 26.4 | 42.7 | 57.6 |
| Dolgellau South | 11.6 | 25.9 | 41.9 | 56.5 |
| Diffwys a Maenofferen | 11.3 | 25.2 | 41.0 | 55.6 |
| Abermaw | 11.0 | 24.7 | 40.2 | 54.7 |
| Trawsfynydd | 11.0 | 24.6 | 40.2 | 54.7 |
| Dyffryn Ardudwy | 10.9 | 24.5 | 40.2 | 55.0 |
| Bryncrug/Llanfihangel | 10.9 | 24.4 | 40.1 | 54.9 |
| Corris Mawddwy | 10.8 | 24.3 | 39.8 | 54.2 |
| Y Bala | 10.8 | 24.3 | 39.7 | 54.0 |
| Llangelynin | 10.3 | 23.3 | 38.4 | 52.7 |

ABILITY TO BUY A HOUSE

MEIRIONNYDD WARDS

| AREA | WARD | RATIO MEDIAN INCOME : HOUSE PRICE |
|------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Dolgellau | Dolgellau North | 7.4 : 1 |
| | Dolgellau South | 6.4 : 1 |
| | Brithdir & Llanfachreth Ganllwyd Llanelltyd | 10.3 : 1 |
| | Corris Mawddwy | 5.3 : 1 |
| | Ffestiniog -Trawsfynydd | Bowydd & Rhiw |
| Diffwys & Manenofferen | | 2.7 : 1 |
| Teigl | | 3.3 : 1 |
| Trawsfynydd | | 3.7 : 1 |
| Penrhyndeudraeth | | 4.5 : 1 |
| Ardudwy | Abermaw | 8.2 : 1 |
| | Dyffryn Ardudwy | 5.9 : 1 |
| | Llanbedr | 8.1 : 1 |
| | Harlech | 5.4 : 1 |

| AREA | WARD | RATIO MEDIAN INCOME : HOUSE PRICE |
|--------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Penllyn | Bala | 6.1 : 1 |
| | Llandderfel | 7.1 : 1 |
| | Llanuwchllyn | 8.8 : 1 |
| Bro Dysynni | Aberdyfi | 9.4 : 1 |
| | Bryncrug / Llanfihangel | 6.1 : 1 |
| | Llangelynin | 6.7 : 1 |
| | Tywyn | 6.5 : 1 |
| Gwynedd | | 6.3 : 1 |

ANNEX 2

STRATEGIC AND RESEARCH INFORMATION

Meirionnydd Employment Plan Strategic Information

WALES SPATIAL PLAN

The Meirionnydd Employment Plan presents the factual picture of Meirionnydd's economic state, together with a work programme of projects to respond to the challenge through building on opportunities and the area's strengths. The national strategic direction offers a framework for prioritising and implementing schemes. There is particular synergy with the Wales Spatial Plan, and relevant sections are noted below.

Background

The purpose of the Wales Spatial Plan is broadly to introduce a spatial planning approach in order to join-up activities nationally, regionally and locally – and to do so across government, other institutions and across administrative boundaries.

The Spatial Plan is an overarching framework and integration tool, intended to set the strategic direction and priorities for the 6 Spatial Areas of Wales, also influencing national policies, steering development plans, and also steering and aligning investment decisions.

Meirionnydd is within the Central Wales Area.

The Wales Spatial Plan, and the Area plans were updated in 2008.

Central Wales Area Plan - Relevant Selection

(a) Vision

High-quality living and working in smaller-scale settlements set within a superb environment, providing dynamic models of rural sustainable development, moving all sectors to higher value-added activities

This vision recognises and defines the unique combination of Central Wales' environmental, social, cultural and economic characteristics and the intimate relationship which exists between them. Collectively these qualities identify this Spatial Plan Area as the heartland of rural life and one of the storehouses of Wales' environmental capital.

(b) Building Sustainable Communities

A key priority within the Spatial Plan is to build on the important key settlements in Central Wales, improving linkages and spreading benefit and growth to the wider hinterlands.

A Primary Settlement Cluster (rather than a hub) is denoted as a framework for the development of Meirionnydd, with the cluster towns regarded as Key Settlements, with the town of Dolgellau at the centre, and Dolgellau denoted as a Primary Key Settlement to be Developed, in recognition of its strategic role within Meirionnydd

(c) Some Specific Points

Promoting a Sustainable Economy

The creation of a modern economy, which utilises and develops the skills and knowledge of its people, linking economic ambition to rural areas, is vital for the sustainable future of Central Wales.

Farming Sector

Central Wales' agriculture is predominantly based on family farms engaged in meat and milk production. Common Agricultural Policy reform has decoupled subsidies from production and farmers are adapting to market forces. There is still a need to add value to production, actively marketing through closer working between producers, suppliers and retailers, utilising existing local skills and expertise in the agri-food and food processing sectors, as well as developing new non-food agricultural niche products. Continued support of agriculture generally to protect and develop food production and for improved food security is also important. The integration of farming, tourism and quality food represents a significant opportunity for the Area.

Services Sector

Another priority is to develop the strong potential growth of the service sector through, for example, new and innovative opportunities for service delivery.

Environmental and Cultural Sectors and Innovation

The environmental and cultural assets of the Area offer the opportunity to develop specialist indigenous business clusters centred around carbon sink technologies, alternative renewable energy technologies, new natural products, creative industries and the existing skills and expertise in the earth, land, environment and marine sciences, maximising the opportunities through the higher education sector including Aberystwyth University, their partnership work with Bangor University and

the Institute of Biological, Environmental and Rural Sciences. This combined with the emerging unmanned aerial systems, media and technology sectors, the decommissioning of Trawsfynydd nuclear power station and integrated business support services will help create high value-added business opportunities for the Area.

Production and the Manufacturing Sector

To achieve the sustainable development and appropriate growth required to build resilience into the regional economy there is a need to support micro and social enterprises and to promote indigenous development and local production, including for niche markets. Similarly there is a need to retain and strengthen the competitiveness of the Area's niche manufacturing. Regeneration and investment interventions will be needed to address utilities' current shortfall in capacity. This is a significant barrier to development in some parts of the Area. Issues of peripherality and accessing markets will also need to be addressed through appropriate infrastructure measures including sites and premises, transport and ICT.

Tourism Sector

Tourism, both inland and coastal, has been identified as a key growth sector for the Area which, due to the exceptional quality of the landscape and natural environment together with the strong sense of culture and heritage, attracts many visitors. The Brecon Beacons and Snowdonia National Parks are world-class attractions and the Area's stunning coastline and areas of natural beauty also add to the quality of the visitor experience.

The Labour Market

The legacy of economic change and social deprivation means that Central Wales will face a big challenge to equip all of its people with the skills they will need to help realise the potential of the knowledge-based economy and well paid highly-skilled job opportunities. There are significant existing barriers to accessibility and take-up of skills development within Central Wales which include transport, childcare, and poor ICT infrastructure. These barriers, whilst not being exclusive to Central Wales are more acute within the rural areas due to the dispersed nature of the population. The Area has the highest level of education attainment in Wales whilst also having pockets of poor literacy and numeracy. The key issue for the region is how to capitalise on the exceptionally high average educational attainment levels when the small urban settlement size will struggle to provide the breadth of economic opportunities to retain or attract back cohorts of young people who will have gone on to higher education opportunities outside the region.

A key challenge will be to maximise the ability of young people to make informed choices between academic and vocational options and linking these choices with current and future opportunities within the local economy. Building on initiatives such as the Llwybro-Routes programme and Gwynedd's Llwyddo'n Lleol as part of integrated interventions will help increase and promote the opportunities for local people to stay or return to the Area. Higher and further education will play a strategic role in terms of developing the required skills within the region. Central Wales needs to capitalise on the key educational establishments located in the Area and the wide ranging economic, social and cultural opportunities they offer.

Accessibility and ICT

The importance of high bandwidth ICT in terms of accessibility, economic growth and in addressing rural deprivation both in the main settlements and the wider peripheral areas has been highlighted by Central Wales Spatial Plan partners. It remains the case that some rural areas of Central Wales do not yet have access to high bandwidth affordable broadband, suffer from a lack of mobile telecommunications coverage and in the future, following digital changeover in 2009, may not have digital television coverage. In order to achieve the potential economic and social benefits for Central Wales which high bandwidth ICT and digital services can offer and to address the growing digital divide in rural areas a number of priorities have been identified:

- Providing innovative high-speed connectivity to strategic employment sites / settlements and to the wider rural areas
- Addressing the remaining 'broadband not spots', adopting last / first mile capacity approach
- Providing support at the level of integrating systems to improve business processes
- Ensuring that mobile signal by the three major operators is made available on all major connectivity corridors in the region
- Providing ICT training to address business needs and to enable and support greater home working and to develop community exploitation of ICT

Respecting Distinctiveness

Distinctiveness, sense of identity and pride in place are important elements of successful and creative communities and countries. The cultural landscape of Central Wales is generally characterised by its distinctive heritage, landscape and cultural and linguistic identity. All of these can play a key role in attracting people to the area and create opportunities for celebration and promotion.

These communities exhibit many diverse and individual environmental, industrial, population and heritage characteristics with strong community cohesion, often providing a unique sense of place or community. As such, it is important to ensure that in achieving the vision for Central Wales as a whole, the uniqueness of the communities within the Area are not lost but are celebrated and promoted to retain their vibrancy and to help achieve long-term sustainability.

We will need to maintain and support the distinctive character of our Welsh historic environment, without compromising society's present and future needs. Conserving and celebrating the area's heritage and development in terms of sites, buildings and people is an important aspect of this as is the redeployment of redundant buildings.

Research Conclusions

End of work on the Trawsfynydd Nuclear Power Station site

Because of serious concerns regarding the economic situation following the completion of decommissioning work at the power station and the final closure of the site, Gwynedd Council commissioned the Trawsfynydd Economic Impact Assessment from Esys in 2007.

Background

Trawsfynydd Nuclear Power Station was one of the first generation of commercial Magnox stations commissioned by the Central Electricity Generating Board (CEGB). Construction work began in 1959 and power was first transmitted to the national grid in January 1965.

When the Magnox power stations were commissioned it was assumed that they would have a generating life of twenty years. The power station was finally closed in 1991. Defuelling commenced in 1993 and preparations for Care and Maintenance commenced in 1995.

In 2007, the current Lifetime Plan was to enter the quiescent Care and Maintenance phase in 2016. By this time all work on site would have been completed for the time-being; apart from ten to fifteen security staff there should be no-one left working at the site.

655 once worked on site – most of the workers being local.

The study notes that:

- It is much harder to promote replacement economic activity in remoter, more peripheral regions;
- The local economy is small, fragile and over-dependent on one major employer (i.e. the Trawsfynydd Power Station site);
- Generally the contribution of electricity generation and construction sectors in terms of wages and GVA is very high – but are also vulnerable to economic downturns and competition from overseas;
- The jobs projected to be lost in the utilities sector in the Trawsfynydd ward represent in the order of 25% of the employment base for the area;
- There is a relatively low employment density of 243 jobs per 1000 population within the Trawsfynydd local economy compared with a figure of 313 for Gwynedd.
- The level of indirect spend currently benefiting the local economy is far higher than previously predicted – and its loss will impact significantly on the local economy;
- The indirect effect of closure is predicted as a loss of £15million local GVA contribution for the Trawsfynydd ward, and £20million for the UDP local area 5.