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Cymru'n Un One Wales



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One Wales — three years on

The Welsh Assembly Government's *One Wales* programme is based on our nation's proud tradition of *chwarae teg* – fair play for all.

We have now reached the third anniversary of *One Wales* and are proud of what has been achieved in health, education, sustainability and other policy areas to help ensure that all our communities can share in excellent public services.

Despite events which threatened to blow us off course, such as the economic recession and budget cuts currently faced, we are continuing to deliver on our *One Wales* commitments – and with one year to go, we are on target to meet them.

We know that there are tough times ahead, but we are determined to press ahead with our fairness agenda. In a time of economic uncertainty and public spending cuts, it is more important than ever that we protect the services on which the most vulnerable in our society rely.

The co-operative spirit of the all-Wales economic summits is playing a leading role as Wales emerges from recession. We are now using the same partnership approach to renew our economy and to make savings while still improving public services.

We will be pursuing our *One Wales* goals over the next year as we continue to focus on improving the lives of people in Wales and making our nation a better place in which to live and work.

A Strong and Confident Wales

All Wales Convention

The independent All-Wales Convention, chaired by Sir Emyr Jones Parry, submitted its report in November 2009. The Assembly subsequently passed a so-called "trigger vote" on a referendum on further powers. We are now focusing on our *One Wales* agreement to campaign for a successful outcome in the referendum.

Independent commission on funding and finance

The first part of the Holtham Commission's report found that Wales was underfunded as a result of the Barnett formula. We are pressing the case for reform with the UK government. The second part of the Holtham Report, dealing with taxing and borrowing powers, will be published in July.

Strategic Capital Investment Fund

SCIF continues to provide money for important projects which improve services and boost the economy. £118m was allocated in tranche 2 of



SCIF in January 2010 to provide schools, hospitals and affordable homes, as well as improvements to transport infrastructure and flood and coastal defences.

Improving local services

The Efficiency and Innovation Programme and Board is driving a joined-up, collective response by public service partners to ensuring public services are improved and the best value for money is achieved for people in Wales. This is supported by a new £60 million Invest-to-Save Fund and the continued work of Local Service Boards (LSBs) that have been operating across all 22 local authority areas to ensure the best use of money for front-line services.

A healthy future

Refocusing dental services

Designed to Smile, the oral health programme aimed at young children, has been extended across the whole of Wales following two successful super-pilot schemes.

A school nursing service

Reform of the school nursing service – with a target for a named nurse for every secondary school – was launched in May 2010.

School nurses will help identify vulnerable children and those with additional needs, as well as delivering immunisation, enhancing pupils' understanding of health issues and responding to any outbreaks of infectious illnesses. They will provide services outside school hours and during school holidays where required.



Improving provision for long-term conditions

There has been consistent progress in improving treatment for the 800,000 people in Wales who face chronic illnesses. In particular the numbers of emergency medical admissions for diabetes, coronary heart disease and chronic obstructive airways disease have all been significantly reduced.

Preparing carers' legislation

The Carers Legislative Competence Order received Royal Approval last November – now a proposed Carers Strategies (Wales) Measure laid before the Assembly in January will ensure provision of information to carers and for the relevant authorities to consult with carers on the provision of services.

Piloting multipurpose wellbeing centres

A £30 million scheme on the first well-being centre pilot site is well under way at the site of Cardiff Royal Infirmary – while millions of pounds' worth of funding has been earmarked for a flagship health park in Merthyr Tydfil.

Investing in public health and health improvement

Our Healthy Future, our public health strategy, has been set out ten priority action areas to drive forward quality of life. These include reducing smoking prevalence, curbing the harm done by alcohol and drugs and improving mental health. It also aims at reducing health inequalities, increasing participation in physical activity and tackling unhealthy eating – the focus of the new Change4Life campaign.

A prosperous society

Improve transport between communities across Wales, including North-South links

Our National Transport Plan sets out schemes for improving north-south links, as well as developing long distance bus and coach services. Major road works already underway include the A487 Porthmadog Bypass, A470 Cwmbach to Newbridge on Wye, A487 at Porthmadog, Minffordd and Tremadog and A483 at Four Crosses. We are continuing enhancement of the M4, A55 and the Heads of the Valley road.

For the first time ever we now spend more on sustainable forms of transport - from railways to cycling - than we do on more traditional areas like roads.



Reduce rail travel time between north and south

We are working with Network Rail and Arriva Trains Wales to identify infrastructure and timetabling improvements, to speed up journey times, and to route Y Gerallt Gymro via Wrexham instead of Crewe. We continue to fund the north-south Air Service that has attracted more than 40,000 passengers.

Adopt an all-Wales approach to economic development

The Assembly Government co-ordinated a package of measures to tackle the world-wide recession – with devolution ensuring a united response through the successful all-Wales Economic Summits. Our new Economic Renewal Programme will provide the best conditions and framework to enable businesses in Wales to flourish. It will also build a stronger, more sustainable economy for the future.

Develop a Green Jobs Strategy

We have now put in place a Green Jobs Strategy to ensure greater carbon efficiency and help generate a range of new jobs based on emerging green technologies and products – a sector already estimated to be worth 9% of Welsh GDP. Our strategy commits us to making Wales a leading provider of green energy, produced not only by wind, but from biomass, marine and micro-generation.

Press ahead with relocation of Assembly divisions to North-West and Valleys

We have met our commitment to open new Assembly Government offices in Merthyr Tydfil and Aberystwyth. Construction of the new Llandudno Junction Office is complete with the new offices opening this summer. The new centres will bring the full breadth of Assembly Government services closer to the people of Wales by being located across the country.

Use European Union funding to help businesses to flourish

Despite the difficult economic climate, the £3.5bn EU Structural Funds programmes are progressing well. EU projects have already helped nearly 12,000 people into work, with 165 projects approved. To date the 2007-2013 Structural Fund Programmes have committed £1.3 billion (59%) of the European funds available, representing a total investment of over £2.4 billion – a commitment well ahead of both UK and EU averages.

Create and develop links between education and entrepreneurship

Under a Youth Enterprise Action Plan, 300 experienced business people are now providing valuable role model support to the entrepreneurs of the future. Latest figures from the Higher Education Business and Community Interaction Survey 2010 show that universities in Wales generated 10 per cent of all UK graduate start-up firms – twice our share of university graduates.

Promote Wales as a strong trading nation

We have undertaken six overseas trade missions and events, securing over £4.6 million in trade deals for Welsh companies. Our profile world-wide will be greatly enhanced by promotion of The 2010 Ryder Cup – the third most watched sporting contest on television in the World after the Olympics and the Soccer World Cup. As part of the Economic Renewal Programme we are further developing Wales' competitive identity and re-invigorating the Welsh brand.

Continue key regeneration programmes

Our long-term work of regeneration has continued in the Heads of the Valleys and Môn a Menai, with recent developments including refurbishment of the former Burberry factory in the Rhondda and promotion of Anglesey as an 'energy island' – a showcase hub for renewable energy generation. During 2010 we launched a new Regeneration Investment Fund for Wales – an EU-backed Jessica fund with the potential to invest £110 million in our communities.

Support regeneration, particularly in areas of high deprivation

Barry and Aberystwyth have become the latest areas to be designated as Strategic Regeneration Areas – seven of these now ensure more integrated development. Successes in SRAs include the Jobmatch programme, which has helped over 5,000 into work since 2003, boosting food co-operative and allotment schemes, micro-generation equipment and the new green skills academy in Tredegar.

Promote Wales in external markets

Visit Wales launched its 2010 visitor campaign 'Proper Holidays' in May. This includes TV advertisements and significant online promotions and targets families and independent travellers from the UK and Ireland to spend their holidays in Wales. Tourism businesses are being helped to increase use of on-line and digital marketing through a £17.4 million Digital Marketing project secured through Convergence Funding.

Living communities

Promoting Affordable Housing

Despite difficult economic conditions, more than 4,000 families have been provided with homes they can afford. The latest figures up to March 31st 2009 show that we are two thirds of the way to achieving our One Wales target of 6,500 new affordable homes during this term of government.

We are also undertaking a pioneering project to bring more resource to make more quality housing available to rent or to buy.

Housing for Wales

A new housing strategy *'Improving Lives and Communities – Homes in Wales'* will help ensure more housing of the right type, improve the quality and energy efficiency of homes and promote housing-related services and support, particularly for vulnerable people and people from minority groups.

Our Mortgage Rescue Scheme has been among the most successful schemes throughout the UK in terms of helping those who face losing their homes during the recession. It has saved 680 adults and 351 children from becoming homeless since it was launched in June 2009. Under the scheme, grants have been used by Housing Associations to buy a share of the mortgage or buy properties outright and then rent them back to the former owner.



Review of Housing Related Support

We are undertaking a review of Housing Related Support to ensure we make the most effective use of our investment in services which help to prevent vulnerable people becoming homeless or entering more expensive long term health and social care services. These services also make a massive contribution to promoting community safety in some of the most disadvantaged communities across Wales. The Welsh Assembly Government has committed an additional £24.5m to Supporting People since 2006/07.

Welsh Housing Quality Standard

So far around £1.6 billion has been secured to achieve the Welsh Housing Quality Standard. The I2i Can do Toolkit provides guidance to Registered Social Landlords and has helped to create 487 jobs and training opportunities in its first year despite the recession. It has been nominated for a Constructing Excellence in Wales Award.

Learning for life



Improve skill levels for workplace needs

Raising skill levels has been key to the Assembly Government's unique Welsh response to world-wide recession. Our £48 million part-European funded programme ProAct helped make upskilling a real alternative to redundancy for over 10,000 workers.

For those who unfortunately lost their jobs, the ReAct programme helped 12,000 people – nearly 8 per cent of all Job Seekers Allowance recipients.

We have increased the number of places on our Leadership Management Training programme and made it easier for small and medium sized businesses to obtain skills support – as well as

working closely with the Department for Work and Pensions and Jobcentre Plus to deliver the Young Person's Guarantee, an initiative offering training and work opportunities for unemployed people aged 18-24.

Support apprenticeships

That has been backed up by an extra £25 million to expand the apprenticeship programme in Wales over the next 3 years – and a further £20 million to protect apprenticeships during the economic downturn. Now we have launched a new £70 million, three-year project to raise skills workforce in Wales' most deprived areas.

Develop effective Welsh-language provision from nursery through to further and higher education

We have committed an extra £1.7 million to support the implementation of a new strategy to strengthen the Welsh language, helping safeguard it for future generations. Launched in April 2010 the strategy encourages local authorities to work closely in partnership to improve Welsh-medium planning and provision.

The Assembly Government made a commitment in One Wales 'a Welsh Medium Higher Education Network - the Federal College' - in order to ensure Welsh medium provision in our universities. The implementation board will pave the way for the Coleg to become fully operational by September 2011.

Pilot laptops for our children

The One Wales laptop pilot, launched in March 2010, creates a network of local projects providing laptops for up to 1,200 children aged ten to eleven, from selected schools in Communities First and Flying Start areas. Each project has a strong focus on learning as well as supporting digital inclusion.

Tackling Child Poverty

Wales is one of the first of the UK countries to introduce new legislation to add weight to our action to tackle child poverty. The Children and Families (Wales) Measure, which became law in February 2010, helps deliver more effective local arrangements to meet the needs of low income families and provide them with a clear route out of poverty.

A fair and just society

Helping the elderly

Around 30,000 pensioners have benefited from extra help with their council tax bills following introduction of a grant scheme which will total £4 million during 2010-11.

Backing credit unions

Credit Unions now cover in all parts of Wales – and we are continuing to support their growth through the All-Wales Credit Union funding programme. Fifteen Credit Unions are receiving support to develop their work with secondary schools and a new Action Plan will be launched this year.



Community Cohesion

A 3-year Community Cohesion Fund was launched during 2009-10 helps tackling hate crime while an Understanding Wales Pack, containing essential information for refugees and asylum seekers, published in March 2010, is being translated into the 6 most used ethnic minority languages in Wales.

Business rate relief

In April 2010 the business rate relief threshold was increased so that over half of all business premises in Wales now qualify for relief – this follows earlier announcements of enhanced business rate relief, including special help for smaller shops, credit unions and child care businesses.

Supporting our Post Offices

140 Post Offices have so far benefitted from the Post Office Diversification Fund which committed £4.5 million between 2008 and 2011. The first awards were announced in July 2009.

A Sustainable Environment



Improving home energy efficiency

The £30 million first phase of the new strategic energy performance programme aimed will upgrade the energy efficiency of houses in some of the most deprived parts of Wales, reducing carbon emissions and fuel costs at the same time as providing jobs and training.

Reducing our carbon footprint

Our Energy Policy Statement, 'A Low Carbon Revolution' shows that Wales has the potential to produce more than twice as much electricity as it currently uses through wholly renewable sources by 2025 – putting us at the forefront of harnessing renewable marine, wind, sustainable biomass and micro energy resources.

Cutting our landfill

We have set a 70% target for recycling and composting household waste by 2025 and aim to be a zero waste country by 2050 – plans which we believe are among the most ambitious in Europe.

Banning single use carrier bags

We are working to introduce a mandatory charge on single-use carrier bags in Wales by spring 2011 – making Wales the first nation of the UK to start legislation on this issue.

All Wales coastal path

We are continuing our work to allow people to walk right round our spectacular coastline by 2012 – on 1 July 2010 the coastal path between Llandudno and Prestatyn opened to the public.

Major Initiative on Local Food

We have delivered over 75 per cent of our local sourcing action plan “Food and Drink for Wales” which outlines actions to be delivered in partnership with the food and drink production and manufacturing sectors, local government and the retail and food service sectors.

TB Eradication

Progress is being made on all the individual components of the bovine TB Eradication Programme, in particular, cattle surveillance and controls. Increased testing and pre-movement testing in cattle means that disease is now being identified earlier and infected animals are moved off farms more quickly. As a result of work commissioned by experts, in January 2010, the Rural Affairs Minister announced that an Intensive Action Pilot Area would be established in west Wales, where a cull of badgers will be undertaken alongside stringent cattle control measures.

Support for new entrants to farming

A new Young Entrants Support Scheme provides a range of support, including help with succession planning and will run for a five-year period. The first round has been fully subscribed and applications are being assessed with a view to approvals being announced this summer.

Rural Development Plan

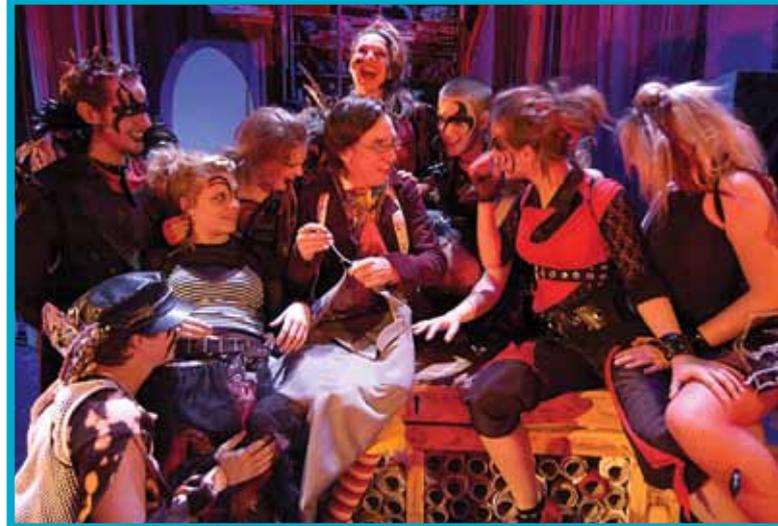
In February 2008, Wales' £795 million Rural Development Plan for 2007-13 was approved by the European Commission – providing a mechanism for supporting the countryside and our rural communities, encouraging sustainable management of agriculture and the environment. The plan is backed by £195 million from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD).



A Rich and Diverse Culture

National Theatre Wales

£4.5 million has been invested over three years in a brand new national English language theatre company – National Theatre Wales. The company launched its first year's programme of productions in November 2009 and is now staging a different production every month across Wales.



Supporting the Welsh Language

The Welsh Language Legislative Competence Order has been approved and legislative competence has now been conferred upon the National Assembly. A draft Measure laid in March 2010 sets out how new Welsh language standards will place duties on bodies to provide services in Welsh, confirms the official status of the Welsh language and establishes a new Welsh language Commissioner. The proposed measure is currently subject to scrutiny and consultation.

Expansion of Free Swimming

The current free swimming scheme will be made more widely available during the school summer holidays in 2010. Local authorities will now offer free swimming sessions or other leisure centre activities for children aged 16 and under on weekends as well as school holidays. The new agreement with local authorities will help deliver the Assembly Government's aim of every child learning to swim by the age of 11.

Continued free admission to museums

The seven national museums in Wales attracted a total of 1.64 million visits in 2009/10 (+9.4% above target), representing their second best year on record due to the continued free admission policy. This commitment is proving more popular than ever during the recession – when entry charges would have discriminated against people and communities that have been most badly affected by the downturn.

Increased investment in coaching

In May 2010 the Welsh Assembly Government announced an additional investment of £1 million a year in sports coaching in Wales to help provide 1,500 extra coaches and to increase the standard of coaching across Wales in communities, clubs and elite sport.