

Answers issued to Members on 21 October 2008

[R] signifies that the Member has declared an interest.

[W] signifies that the question was tabled in Welsh.

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Questions to the First Minister

Darren Millar (Clwyd West): Will the First Minister confirm that the list of Jobs that will relocate to the new Llandudno Junction building are the same as those listed in the Press Release of 23 Feb 05 and the numbers involved from each location? (WAQ52598)

The First Minister (Rhodri Morgan): The Welsh Assembly Government Departments with functions relocating to the new Llandudno Junction office are Children, Education, Lifelong Learning & Skills; Economy & Transport; Rural Affairs & Heritage; Health & Social Services; Social Justice & Local Government; Environment, Sustainability & Housing; Corporate Information & Services; Public Service & Performance and Human Resources.

The exact number of posts scheduled to relocate to the new Llandudno Junction office has, inevitably, fluctuated since the original announcement was made in February 2005. However, we remain on target to relocate 525 posts in total with 130 of these moving from Cardiff. The building will have capacity for up to 650 staff when complete, but it is not our intention to fill the building to its maximum capacity from the outset. This is an important decision that will allow flexibility for those Divisions relocating to the office to settle and grow as business needs arise.

I remain committed to the relocation of posts to the new Llandudno Junction office.

Questions to the Deputy First Minister and Minister for the Economy and Transport

Karen Sinclair (Clwyd South): Will the Minister make a statement on recent Assembly Government funding support made available for Economic Development and Transport projects in the constituency of Clwyd South? (WAQ52613)

The Deputy First Minister and Minister for the Economy and Transport (Ieuan Wyn Jones): The Department for the Economy and Transport delivers funding support for a range of projects across the Clwyd South constituency. The information in the table below is indicative of some of the main projects supported over the last 18 months, and much of this information is available only at the Local Authority rather than constituency level. This list is not exhaustive because a broad definition of projects that support the economy and/or transport in a particular geographical area would necessarily entail expenditure on a range of projects from across my Department and indeed across the Welsh Assembly Government. The disproportionate costs involved in researching and collating that information mean that I am unable to provide an exhaustive list.

Initiative	Location		Value of Funding	What our Funding is Delivering
Local Transport Services Grant				
Wrexham County Borough Council	Wrexham county borough	2006-07	£386,745	Enabling local authorities to boost the number and range of subsidised local bus services and community transport.
		2007-08	£427,888	
		2008-09 (half-year estimate)	£228,372	
Denbighshire County Council	Denbighshire county borough	2006-07	£342,921	
		2007-08	£379,401	
		2008-09 (half-year estimate)	£195,717	
Concessionary Travel				
Wrexham County	Wrexham county	2006-07	£1,800,856	Fully-funding the local authority to reimburse bus operators for carrying
		2007-08	£2,067,153	

Initiative	Location		Value of Funding	What our Funding is Delivering
Borough Council	borough	2008-09 (half-year estimate)	£1,098,909	elderly and disabled people for free. Plus funding half-fares for 16 to 18 year olds on buses, and £3.9m funding pilot for free travel by severely disabled people on 15 selected community transport services across Wales.
Denbighshire County Council	Denbighshire county borough	2006-07	£1,165,895	
		2007-08	£1,301,892	
		2008-09 (half-year estimate)	£634,050	
Bus Revenue Grant				
Wrexham County Borough Council	Wrexham county borough	2006-07	£100,000	Funding innovative bus projects to test their commercial viability.
		2007-08	£100,000	
		2008-09 (half-year estimate)	£40,000	
Local Road Safety Grant				
Wrexham County Borough Council	Wrexham county borough	2006-07	£361,000	A flexible grant that can be used to fund schemes and projects that work towards reducing road casualties.
		2007-08	£352,000	
		2008-09	£349,000	
Denbighshire County Council	Denbighshire county borough	2006-07	£261,000	
		2007-08	£255,000	
		2008-09	£252,000	
Transport Grant				
Safe Routes to School schemes	Wrexham county borough	2006-07	£106,000	Helping to improve the health and independence of children in Wales and creating safer communities.
		2007-08	£147,000	
	Denbighshire county borough	2006-07	£94,000	
		2007-08	£349,000	
Safe Routes in Communities	Wrexham county borough	2008-09	£151,000	A series of physical measures aimed at encouraging the use of sustainable modes of transport, such as walking, cycling and public transport for local journeys
	Denbighshire county borough	2008-09	£253,000	
Improved Access to Wrexham Industrial Estate Section 1	Wrexham county borough	2006-07	£360,000	Section 1 involved some dualling on the A5156 and improved layout and signalisation at Gresford Interchange. No bid for funding was made during the 2007-08 bidding round.
		2007-08	nil	
		2008-09	£196,000	
Improved Access to Wrexham Industrial Estate Section 2	Wrexham county borough	2006-07	£732,000	Section 2 involves some further dualling of the A51516, provision of a new access road into Wrexham Industrial Estate and provision of a new access road from the A525 Whitchurch Road.
		2007-08	£427,000	
		2008-09	£899,000	
Urban Village Initiative Package	Wrexham county borough		£200,000	
River Clwyd Coastal Area	Denbighshire county	2006-07	£2,037,000	The scheme aims to reduce reliance on car usage by providing cycling and
		2007-08	£2,400,000	

Initiative	Location		Value of Funding	What our Funding is Delivering
Package	borough (delivered in partnership by Denbighshire & Conwy Councils)	2008-09	£2,535,000	walking options. This includes integrating cycling with other modes of Transport and walking and cycling improvements, also including safer crossing facilities for pedestrians.
Capital Works Grants				
A5	Llangollen to west of Berwyn	2007-08	£298,000	Resurfacing to replace worn road surface
	Golf Club Bends, Llangollen	2007-08	£320,000	Resurfacing to replace worn road surface
	Chirk Bypass	2007-08	£188,000	Resurfacing to replace worn road surface
	Llidiart-y-Parc	2007-08	£15,000	Road safety improvement measures
	Whitehurst Halt Railway Bridge	2007-08	£20,000	Parapet Strengthening
	Retaining Wall strengthening (across length of A5)	2007-08	£423,000	Retaining wall strengthening
Routine Works	Wrexham County Borough Council	2007-08	In excess of £500,000	Routine repair and maintenance and winter gritting of the A5, A483 and A494 routes
Trunk Road Improvement				
A5 Pont Melin Rug	Between Corwen and Betws-y-Coed (approx 2.5 kilometers west of Corwen)	Preparatory funding 2007-08 2008-09 2009-10	£1.1m £2.8m £1.7m £0.2m	Construction of new single span bridge across River Alwen and approx 1 km of single carriageway. Works started Oct 2007 - open to traffic August 2008
Regeneration				
Regeneration funding	Denbighshire Local Authority area	2008-11	Over £2.1m	To address the skills and employability needs of people and communities alongside physical and environmental improvements
Regeneration funding	Wrexham Local Authority area	2008-11	Over £1.0m	
Name of Project / Company	Location	Nature of Funding Support i.e SIF, Transport Grant, EU Funding etc	Value of Funding (£'s)	What our Funding is Delivering
Royal Hotel	Llangollen	Section 15 Grant	£572,499 (May 2004 – 2008) £572,499 (grant paid)	External Environmental Improvements & enhancement to a strategic hotel in Llangollen The Dee Valley is still a key area of opportunity for E&T's Regional Regeneration Integration Plan for 2007-2010.
Owain Glyndwr	Corwen	Secton 15 Grant	£45,000 (2004 – 2007)	Aspire to improve the economic well being of both Corwen and Llanollen

Initiative	Location		Value of Funding	What our Funding is Delivering
Sculptural Feature			£45,000 (grant paid)	through future tourism development by encouraging visitors to stop and spend. Corwen is already planning to deliver a series of walks around the area entitled 'In the Footsteps of Glyndwr' as well as the sculpture trail. The town has also created a branding based on the Glyndwr Coat of Arms for use in all marketing material. The new iconic sculpture for the town, something dramatic, will be the one product that will help tie all these elements together., This is a community driven project .
Llangollen Railway Carrog to Corwen Extention (TWA)	Carrog to Corwen	Section Grant 15	£34,500 (Dec 2006 – March 2007) £34,500 (grant paid)	Key benefits of the project as a whole include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing a positive contribution in terms of both direct and indirect investment (multiplier effect) to both the Dee Valley's and Corwen's prosperity and performance. • A boost to the Dee Valley's economy in terms of the emerging trends in tourism as well as attracting new visitor spend in Corwen. • Provision of sustainable transport link to Corwen, connecting Llangollen and the intervening villages. • Linking rail travel, to car parks, to cycle routes to regional walking trails. <p>The arrival of the railway will instil a feeling of investment going into Corwen which will boost the morale of the local business and residential community.</p>
Llangollen Railway Carrog to Corwen Flood Consequence Analysis and Environmental Effect statement			£10,000 (Jan 2008 – on going) £25,980 (Aug 2007 – on going) £16,380 (grant paid)	Development of an Environmental Statement and Flood Consequence analysis for the scheme to assist in the Transport & Works Order Act application process. Additional works have now been identified which need to be incorporated into the Environmental Statement.
Corwen Car Park	Corwen	Section Grant 15	£478,321 £434,229 (grant paid)	Funding in support of ongoing contractual commitments as well as pipeline projects that underpin strategies to improve investment confidence and socio-economic under-performance in targeted localities and priority areas that are blighted by poor image and perceptions in the rural hinterland of North Wales
Chain Bridge	Llangollen	Section Grant 15	£5,000	If the study's outcome is positive and the bridge's refurbishment proves to be feasible, a new circular footpath will be

Initiative	Location		Value of Funding	What our Funding is Delivering
				promoted to link Berwyn and Llangollen on both banks of the River Dee. Restoration would help with the tourism potential of the area which will increase visitor traffic as well as creating reciprocal business opportunities through joint marketing and visitor packages.
Vale of Clwyd Interpretation Marketing & Branding	Vale of Clwyd	Section 15 Grant	£6,000 £5,000 (grant paid)	A study will provide the Vale of Clwyd partners with a document that will help identify a way forward for the visitor economy which is already making a significant contribution to the economy of the Dee Valley. However, a co-ordinated approach through a strategy such as this will help make that contribution even greater
Riverside Park - Phase 4	Llangollen	Section 15 Grant	£43,176.63 £43,176.63 (grant paid)	The next phase of improvements to the park will bring in new facilities to improve the area's offer and will give the park a permanent daytime presence thus increasing the sense of security.
Regional Interpretation & Marketing Strategy	Dee Valley	Section 15	£5,000 £5,000 (grant paid)	Develop an interpretive strategy and marketing action plan to properly present and promote the valley's assets and provide the area with a unique and marketable identity.
The European Centre for Training Regional Co-operation (ECTARC)	Llangollen	Section 15	£63,279 £63,279 (grant paid)	A significant improvement and enhancement to the townscape and visual amenity within a key tourism town in Wales.
Corwen Forestry		RSA	£250k	Created 20 jobs, to purchase old Gwyddelwern Saw Mills
Corwen Forestry		AIG	£50k	Created 1 job
Celyn Joinery (Llanelidan)		AIG	£35k	Created 1 job
BML Bio fuels (Llanfihangel)		AIG	£58k	Created 4 new jobs

Funding opportunities for the economy and transport are also available via the European Structural Funds programmes 2007-2013 in Wales, which have already generated a total project investment of £775 million (EU grant £365 million). This includes total project investment of some £84m for Innovation / R&D; £196m for business finance, £80m for enterprise / start-ups; £10m for ICT; and £12 million for the environment and transport. Given the strategic approach of the new programmes, many of the projects supported are pan-Wales projects that will benefit the local authority areas of Denbighshire and Wrexham, which include the constituency area of Clwyd South.

The local authority areas of Denbighshire and Wrexham are also benefiting from £85 million of total project investment delivered through local projects under the 2000-2006 programmes. Strategic projects that are delivered through 'non-local partnerships' are also creating benefits at the local partnership level.

Alun Cairns (South Wales West): Will the Minister list the areas of Barry in which the Assembly Government have an interest, which are already part of a sale process and which are not?(WAQ52625)

The Deputy First Minister: The Welsh Assembly Government has entered into a number of Joint Ventures with the Vale of Glamorgan Council to acquire various land-hold interests in the Greater Barry area since 1998. The Vale of Glamorgan Council has the title to this land which totals 53.12 acres spread over some 22 sites. These sites vary in size, have various restricted uses, and some have limited development value.

Due to the varying size, scale and number of sites in question, I have asked my officials to provide me with further details and I will write to you separately in due course.

Questions to the Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing

Dai Lloyd (South Wales West): Will the Minister make a statement on the appeals procedures regarding High Hedges legislation and ways in which these results are monitored? (WAQ52608)

The Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing (Jane Davidson): The High Hedges appeals system is administered by the Planning Inspectorate and decisions on appeals are taken by Planning Inspectors. These appeals are subject to random checks by the Inspectorate's own Quality Assurance team and by the Advisory Panel on Standards, which is an independent body whose purpose is to advise the Minister for Planning in England and the First Minister in Wales on the maintenance and enhancement of professional standards in the Planning Inspectorate.

Karen Sinclair (Clwyd South): Will the Minister make a statement on recent Assembly Government funding support made available for Environment, Sustainability and Housing projects in the constituency of Clwyd South? (WAQ52618)

Jane Davidson: In 2007/08 and 2008/09 over £69 million will have been paid by my Department to support Environment, Sustainability and Housing projects in Denbighshire and Wrexham local authority areas. It was not possible to disaggregate all the spend to local authority level.

Questions to the Minister for Health and Social Services

Kirsty Williams (Brecon and Radnorshire): Will the Minister make a statement on what guidance, training and advice the Welsh Assembly Government gives to GPs with regards to dealing with patients who have Adults Aspergers and Autism? (WAQ52600)

The Minister for Health and Social Services (Edwina Hart): GPs are responsible for their own continuing professional development.

A leaflet explaining the main themes of the Autistic Spectrum Disorder Strategic Action Plan for Wales is currently being produced and will be distributed to all GPs in Wales. Proposals to develop a number of packages to raise awareness and provide training for all types of professionals (including GPs) who may come into contact with people with ASD are currently being assessed by my officials.

We are also funding a two year disability awareness programme for GPs and practice staff which will include an assessment of how well they are developing disability aware systems.

Karen Sinclair (Clwyd South): Will the Minister make a statement on recent Assembly Government funding support made available for Health and Social Services projects in the constituency of Clwyd South? (WAQ52616)

Edwina Hart: The Assembly Government has not recently funded any projects relating to Health and Social Services in Clwyd South.

Janet Ryder (North Wales): Will the Minister confirm what funding has been made available in the draft budget 2009-10 to support the implementation of the Welsh Assembly Government ASD action plan and how will this money be allocated? (WAQ52620)

Janet Ryder (North Wales): Will the Minister confirm that any new money allocated to support the implementation of the Welsh Assembly Government's ASD action plan be ring-fenced and that there will be an audit trail to ensure that local agencies are able to detail how they have spent this money? (WAQ52621)

Janet Ryder (North Wales): Will the Minister confirm that the ongoing allocation of £1.7 million (allocated through the Revenue Support Grant but not ring-fenced) from 2007 will still be made available to local authorities to support children with complex needs and autism? (WAQ52623)

Edwina Hart: There are indicative budget provisions of £1.8m for each of the years 2009-10 and 2010-11 to support the implementation of the ASD Strategic Action Plan. The bulk of the resources will be allocated as grant to local agencies, subject to conditions on expenditure and a requirement for an audited end year account.

I can confirm that the allocation of £1.7 million allocated through the Revenue Support Grant will continue to be available to local authorities to support children with complex needs and autism.

Janet Ryder (North Wales): Will the Welsh Assembly Government consider making additional funding available for adults with autism during the next financial year, based on the outcomes of the task and finish group for adults with autism? (WAQ52622)

Edwina Hart: The Task and Finish Group is due to report back next Spring and we will need to read the Group's report and recommendations and their assessment of any implementation costs before considering whether to make available any additional funding.

Questions to the Minister for Heritage

Karen Sinclair (Clwyd South): Will the Minister make a statement on recent Assembly Government funding support made available for Heritage projects in the constituency of Clwyd South? (WAQ52619)

The Minister for Heritage (Alun Ffred Jones): Recent Welsh Assembly Government funding support made available for Heritage projects in the constituency of Clwyd South is as follows:

CyMAL grants made to heritage projects in Clwyd South, 2007-08

Wrexham County Borough Museum - Minera Lead Mines Science Project	Grant £2,736
Plas Newydd Museum, Llangollen - Conservation and security improvements	Grant £1,291
Denbighshire Heritage Service - Museums and Galleries Month activities. Includes support for activities at Plas Newydd Museum	Grant £2,736

CyMAL grants allocated to heritage projects in Clwyd South, 2008-09

Denbighshire Heritage Service - Museums and Galleries Month activities	Grant £2,802 Includes support for activities at Plas Newydd Museum
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Repair and restoration of historic buildings and monuments	Circa £130,000
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Questions to the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government

Karen Sinclair (Clwyd South): Will the Minister make a statement on recent Assembly Government funding support made available for Social Justice and Local Government projects in the constituency of Clwyd South? (WAQ52617)

The Minister for Social Justice and Local Government (Brian Gibbons): The constituency of Clwyd South has received funding for a variety of projects within my portfolio in the financial periods 2007/08 and 2008/09.

A total of £441,000 in core funding was made available during 2007/08 for three County Voluntary Councils in Clwyd South under the Infrastructure Partnership Agreement. Denbighshire Voluntary Services Council received £118,797, Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations (PAVO) received £203,680 and the Association of Voluntary Organisations in Wrexham (AVOW) received £118,582. For 2009/09, £439,000 of funding has been committed with Denbighshire Voluntary Services Council receiving £118,273, Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations (PAVO) receiving £202,782 and the Association of Voluntary Organisations in Wrexham (AVOW) receiving £118,060.

In addition, a total of £283,075 was provided for dedicated Volunteer Centres in each of these areas in 2007/08. Denbighshire received £52,587, Powys received £176,869 whilst Wrexham received £53,619.00. For 2008/09, £279,875 in funding has been committed with Denbighshire receiving £53,902, Powys receiving £171,041 and Wrexham receiving £54,959.00.

As part of the Community Facilities and Activities Programme (CFAP) Clwyd South was awarded a total of £65,889 in the October bidding round of 2007 with £429,389 currently committed for 2008/09. Groundwork Wrexham and Flintshire Trust received £158,700 of funding in 2007/08 and are committed to receive £163,500 in 2008-09.

Both Wrexham and Denbighshire Community Voluntary Councils received funding to run small grant schemes covering the whole of their Local Authority areas in 2007/08. The Association of Voluntary Organisations in Wrexham (AVOW) received £100,000 in 2007-08 with a further £100,000 committed for 2008/09. Some £100,000 has been committed to Denbighshire Voluntary Services Council (DVSC) for 2008/09.

As part of the Communities First programme Gwenfro received £409,123 in funding during 2007/08 and are committed to receiving £400,185 in 2008/09. Likewise, Plas Madoc received £563,948 during 2007/08 and are committed to receiving £580,150 in 2008/09.

During 2007/08 Wrexham County Borough Council received a total of £156,633 from the Gypsy Traveller Refurbishment Grant. A bid under the 2008/09 round is currently being assessed.

In 2007/08 the Clwyd South Community Safety Partnerships received a total of £1,466,979 in Welsh Assembly Government funding. This consisted of £378,654 from the Safer Communities Fund, £1,033,487 from the Substance Misuse Action Fund and £54,838 from the Domestic Abuse Grant. A total of £1,614,047 has been committed for 2008/09, with £378,654 from the Safer Communities Fund, £1,180,393 from the Substance Misuse Action Fund and £55,000 from the Domestic Abuse Grant.

Finally, funding totalling £700,191 during 2007-09 has been provided from the Community Fire Safety Investment Budget to North Wales Fire and Rescue Service to continue reducing the risk of fire in the home across North Wales. As part of the sprinklers in schools programme, Ysgol Dinas Bran in Llangollen received funding of £143,063 in 2007/08. During 2007/08 and 2008/09, funding of £93,821 was awarded to 6 schools in Wrexham to undertake target hardening in schools (secure fencing, bin storage, etc).