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Rt Hon Rhodri Morgan AM
First Minister/Prif Weinidog Cymru



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

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Laura Anne Jones AM
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
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9 August 2004

Dear Laura Anne

During plenary on 6 July, I said that I would write to you about support available for deprived areas of Wales, other than those identified in the Communities First Programme.

The Communities First Programme covers the 100 most deprived communities in Wales as identified (at electoral division level) in the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation, but it is not limited to areas of deprivation defined by electoral division. A further 32 smaller communities (pockets of deprivation at sub electoral division level) are also included. In addition, we have identified 10 communities of interest or otherwise imaginative proposals that are eligible for support under the programme. Local authorities were given the opportunity to nominate the sub electoral division areas and the communities of interest / imaginative proposals for inclusion in the programme. There is, for example, a sub electoral division Communities First area in Monmouthshire; North Abergavenny, which is made up of the Lansdown, Central and Priory areas.

We recognise that there are a number of areas that are not eligible under Communities First but suffer from deprivation. The Community Facilities and Activities Programme (CFAP) is a Welsh Assembly Government grant scheme which therefore provides funding on an all Wales basis for the provision or improvement of community facilities as well as access to activities which contribute to the regeneration of deprived areas. The scheme offers grants of between £20,000 and £100,000 per annum for a maximum of three years.

In addition, the Coalfields Regeneration Trust is working in partnership with the Welsh Assembly Government and other grant giving bodies in Wales to provide support and to help reinvigorate and regenerate the former and current coal mining communities across Wales.



BUDDSODDWR MEWN POBL
INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

The Welsh Assembly Government has entered into a financial assistance agreement with the trust to ensure that the work of the Trust continues to progress in Wales. Although the Trust administers funds on behalf of the Welsh Assembly Government, it remains independent of the Assembly. The trust operates two grant programmes in Wales; Coalfields Regeneration Trust Main Grant Scheme and Bridging the Gap Small Grant Scheme.

The Coalfields Regeneration Trust welcomes applications from groups, organisations and agencies throughout Wales that are committed to the regeneration of coalfield areas and their communities. The maximum grant possible is £100,000 with the minimum grant possible being £10,000.

The Bridging the Gap Programme in Wales offers grants from £500 to a maximum value of £10,000 to groups and organisations, which operate in former coalfield communities. Organisations and groups can make only one Bridging the Gap application within any one 12 month period.

There are other grants available to community groups such as the community buildings grant scheme, and the Welsh Development Agency's community regeneration toolkit. The regeneration toolkit provides assistance and has included support for project officers, small grants to eligible businesses and community groups and capital grants for projects within the Rural Business Initiative Award areas. These measures are intended to combat economic inactivity and social deprivation and to aid regeneration.

Yours

Rhodri