



CYNGOR SIR
YNYS MÔN
ISLE OF ANGLESEY
COUNTY COUNCIL

DYLAN J. WILLIAMS BA (Hons), MSc, MA, M.R.T.P.I.
Pennaeth Gwasanaeth Adfywio Economaidd a Chymunedol
Head of Service Economic and Community Regeneration

CYNGOR SIR YNYS MÔN
ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL
Canolfan Fusnes Môn • Anglesey Business Centre
Parc Busnes Bryn Cefni • Bryn Cefni Business Park
LLANGEFNI
Ynys Môn • Isle of Anglesey
LL77 7XA

ffôn / tel: (01248) 752431/2435
ffacs / fax: (01248) 752192

Gofynnwch am / Please ask for: Aled Prys Davies
E-bost / Email: AledPrysDavies@anglesey.gov.uk
Ein Cyf / Our Ref: APD/C3/780.
Eich Cyf / Your Ref:

Dyddiad / Date: 30 January 2014

Dear Sir / Madam

Inquiry into EU Funding Opportunities 2014-20

The Isle of Anglesey County Council (IACC) welcomes the opportunity to respond to the NaFW Business and Enterprise Committee's inquiry into "*EU Funding Opportunities 2014-2020*".

The IACC has experience of developing and implementing EU funded projects since 1996. Currently, the IACC has a mixed portfolio of Structural Funding, RDP (Rural Development Plan) and Interreg IVA projects, and is actively influencing and preparing possible interventions for the 2014-2020 EU Programme period.

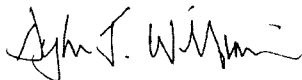
The IACC's views on EU Funding Opportunities (2014-2020), beyond the mainstream Structural Funds and RDP Programmes are:

- 1) There has been a lack of leadership, strategy and vision for the effective use EU Funding Opportunities in Wales to date (beyond Structural Funds and the RDP). Added-value opportunities have been missed by organisations and spatial areas across the country. The Programme for Government has created a clear direction of travel for the country, and we would be eager to see the Welsh Government (in partnership) take on a greater leadership role to ensure 2014-2020 opportunities are capitalised on.
- 2) There is no recognised single point of contact within Wales to provide advice and guidance on EU funding opportunities. This is a barrier which should be overcome during the next Programming period.
- 3) EU Technical Assistance makes it difficult for EU Officers within Local Authorities to devote time and pursue funding opportunities. This will again be a barrier between 2014-2020.
- 4) There is a perception, stigma and culture that the overseas visits (which form an integral part of these projects) are wasteful and do not add sufficient value. This is restrictive to engagement and the development of project proposals.

- 5) Wider engagement in EU Funding Opportunities would help raise the profile and overall awareness of Wales, and its localities across the EU.
- 6) Many EU Programmes (especially Territorial Co-operation Programmes) create soft outputs (with added value often unclear). Softer outputs need to be recognised and valued by organisations if more time and resources are to be dedicated.
- 7) There is minimal sharing / publicising of good practice across Wales to raise awareness of potential opportunities and benefits (and increase interest and future uptake).
- 8) The EU intervention rate is an attractive proposition and should remain at similar levels to encourage participation.
- 9) Territorial Co-operation Programmes often encounter problems (e.g. delayed payments due to complex governance arrangements associated with partners being based in differing countries), and create risks for organisations. The approach undertaken through the Interreg IVA Celtic Wave projects (i.e. Lead Partner undertaking all financial transactions on behalf of partners) could be rolled out further in future.
- 10) Greater support should be provided to smaller organisations partaking in such projects (e.g. facility for advanced payments to facilitate cash flow) to increase participation.

We hope that the comments are of relevance to the Committee and look forward to considering the findings, conclusions and recommendations.

Yours sincerely,



Dylan J. Williams
Head of Service - Economic and Community Regeneration