

Title: Engaging Biodiversity Action Plan partnerships in opportunities to develop social enterprises

Produced by: Welsh Government Social Enterprise Unit

Background/Progress

The Natural Environment Framework asserts the need to think imaginatively about funding and resourcing biodiversity action and, where possible, integrating outcomes for nature with other sustainable outcomes.

The Welsh Government recognises social enterprises as businesses which have primarily social or environmental objectives and which principally reinvest profits into those business or community.

The Welsh Government supports social enterprise business models through its funding of specialist business support organisations such as The Wales Co-operative Centre; The Development Trust Association; and Social Firms Wales. Funding is also provided for the sector representative organisation, The Welsh Social Enterprise Coalition, which meets regularly with the Minister for Business, Enterprise, Science and Technology.

There are many examples of social enterprises specialising in environmental issues and, in particular, biodiversity. These include Ecodyfi and their work on leading the UNESCO Biosphere Programme; The Longwood Woodland project supported by Coedlleol; the Cwm Harry Land Trust who are involved in a bio regional project; and Moelyci.

www.ecodyfi.org.uk

<http://www.longwood-lampeter.org.uk/history.html>

http://www.coedlleol.org.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=9&Itemid=12&lang=en

<http://www.cwmharrylandtrust.org.uk/about.html>

<http://www.moelyci.org>

A social enterprise conference being held on 16 and 17 November at the Richard Ley Centre in Swansea, organised by Wales Co-op and the Welsh Social Enterprise Coalition and would be beneficial for anyone wanting to learn more about this area as well as those already working in the sector:

www.walescooperative.org/social-enterprise-wales-conference-2011

Plan/Proposals

We would like to offer Local Biodiversity Action Plan partnerships an opportunity to make use of free advice and guidance on how to establish local social enterprises that could deliver biodiversity action alongside economic or social outcomes across Wales.

Partnerships meet regularly in three regional groups: Greater Gwent Biodiversity (GGBAG) Action Group; Glamorgan Biodiversity Action Group (GLAMBAG); and the North East Wales Biodiversity Network.

We'd like to offer presentations - covering a brief introduction to the Natural Environment Framework and an overview of the potential for social enterprises in Wales to each of the regional meetings during 2012.

Action Requested

- Approve us to carry on as suggested above YES/NO