

UPDATE: Summer 2009

From **Andrew Davies, Labour Assembly Member** for Swansea West



£68m to Help Welsh Economy



£1.1 Billion Rail Investment



Millions to Swansea City Centre



£41m boost to help Wales

Additional £68 million to support the Welsh Economy

The Assembly Government announced a further package of support to help people, communities and businesses get through the current economic difficulties.

The measures include:

- A new programme - called **ProAct** - will provide training for people who would otherwise be made redundant or put on short-time working. The scheme will initially focus on the automotive sector in Wales and provide quality training for employees put on short-time working, before redundancies are considered. It is anticipated that ProAct will help prevent redundancies as well as improving the skills base of organisations by retraining employees in areas where there is demand and where companies anticipate there to be opportunities. **The funding available is £2,000 per individual for training and a wage subsidy of an additional £2,000** to cover the period that the employee is in training.
- **A £45million Business Growth Project** designed to create 6,000 jobs.
- **£23 million of capital expenditure will be brought forward** into the remainder of this financial year - to help stimulate the construction and related industries.

These new programmes are **in addition to the £877 million worth of support already announced** since the first Welsh Economic Summit in October 2008.

£1.1 Billion Rail Investment

The Prime Minister whilst in Cardiff unveiled £1.1bn plans for the electrification of the London to Swansea rail network, with it being completed in 2017.

This announcement is a massive boost for Swansea and the whole of South Wales and will bring huge economic benefits to the city.

The rail unions and I have been calling for the electrification of the line for many years for both its economic and environmental benefits.

This programme is a central part of Labour's plan to move the UK onto a permanent low carbon footing and to maximise economic opportunities, growth and jobs.

Surgeries 2009

September

Friday 25th Pantygydr Baptist Church

October

Friday 2nd Salvation Army Citadel
Saturday 17th Sketty Community Centre
Friday 23rd Gendros Community Centre

November

Friday 13th Phoenix Centre
Saturday 21st Dunvant Community Centre
Friday 27th Cockett Community Centre

December

Friday 4th Salvation Army Citadel
Saturday 12th Mayhill Community Centre

Multi-million pound initiative to tackle Swansea City Centre and our most deprived communities

A multi million pound initiative designed to tackle issues affecting some of the most deprived communities in Swansea has been announced by the Welsh Assembly Government.

Swansea City Centre is to be designated a Strategic Regeneration Area (SRA) and benefit from a new highly targeted and co-ordinated approach by the Assembly Government to address social and economic regeneration.

A substantial budget anticipated to run into tens of millions of pounds will be specifically allocated for the project.

The investment will boost and complement Swansea City Centre Framework – **the £1billion blueprint designed to redevelop and regenerate the city centre** which is being taken forward by the Labour-led Assembly Government and its partners.

Digital TV Switchover

Swansea will be the first region in Wales to go digital, starting on **August 12th 2009.**

Drop In

**Monday – Friday
10am – 12 noon
30/31 High
Street, Swansea
SA1 1LG
(01792)
460836**

Unemployment in Wales stands at 107,000 - **a fall of 1,000 on the previous quarter.** Compared to a **rise** in the UK as a whole

University's New Swansea Bay Campus

Swansea University is to submit an outline planning application to Swansea Council to build a 100 acre science and innovation campus on Fabian Way.

The land has been donated to the University by BP in order to create the new campus.

I welcome this news as it will make Swansea's Higher Education Sector a world leader attracting future students and world leaders in research and commercial worlds.

Notwithstanding, Swansea stands to benefit economically and culturally from such an innovative development, creating the largest knowledge economy project in the UK.

It has been suggested that after the construction phase the project has the potential to create 11,000 jobs and bring in £3bn into the local economy.

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Plastic Carrier Bags

The **Assembly Government has begun work on legislation to put an end to the use of free one-trip plastic bags in Wales. An estimated 490 million plastic bags are used in Wales each year and it takes around 450 - 1,000 years for them to degrade.**

£41m Boost to Help Lead Wales Out of Recession

As Minister I announced over £41 million of capital expenditure to provide an important economic stimulus to help people, communities and businesses in the face of the global recession, as well as taking forward our Labour-led Assembly Government's agenda. These proposals represent strong value for money, ensuring that the Welsh pound is stretched to deliver the maximum benefits for Wales

This additional £41.3 million of capital funding is the uplift to the Assembly Government's capital expenditure budget which stems from the UK Labour Government's Budget announcement earlier this year. The money specifically for 2009/10 will be distributed across Assembly Government portfolio areas as follows:

- £1 million to the Department for Heritage for investment in culture
- £12.2 million to the Department for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills. This extra investment will be focused on the FE sector in Wales.
- £8.6 million to the Department for Health and Social Services.
- £12 million to the Department for Environment, Sustainability and Housing.
- £7.5 million to the Department for Economy and Transport.