

Biosffer Dyfi Biosphere: Adding value & avoiding duplication Appendix P: 16/1/2008

This initiative is only worthwhile if it brings about additional benefits and avoids duplication of effort. Here are some comments about the likely interaction of the Dyfi Biosphere with other initiatives, organised according to their geographical reach:

A) Covering all or most of the proposed Dyfi Biosphere Transition Area

1. Ecodyfi

This is an independent social enterprise working for the sustainable community regeneration of the valley. It has no core funding and depends largely on project income. It has a diverse work programme, mostly based around greening the local economy and helping the community to be more sustainable. Ecodyfi is available to provide one of the delivery mechanisms for the Biosphere, for example as employer, Secretariat or in managing specific projects.

2. Housing Renewal Area (HRA)

Communities First Bro Ddyfi / Machynlleth & District Local Community Forum are exploring an opportunity to establish a HRA for the whole or part of the valley. These are managed by local authorities after agreement by the Welsh Assembly Government, which provides capital funding to support chosen themes, such as housing quality and fuel poverty. If successful, this could become one of the main projects in a Dyfi Biosphere action plan.

3. Tourism Growth Areas (TGA) - and successors to them

The Powys and Gwynedd areas of the Biosphere constituted the Dyfi TGA, whereas the Ceredigion area was part of the County-wide TGA. More sustainable tourism featured strongly in both. Successor activities by partners in the Dyfi TGA area are focussed on marketing, using a new LyfiDyfi brand. The same partners are key stakeholders in the Dyfi Biosphere and will ensure actions are coordinated.

4. TraCC, the regional transport consortium

TraCC brings together the transport specialists of bodies who will be heavily involved in the Dyfi Biosphere Joint Advisory Committee. These officers will be helpful in constructing the relevant section of a Biosphere action plan through keying in to regional initiatives.

B) Covering the 'Machynlleth sphere of influence' / Wales Spatial Plan 'Settlement Area' (Taliesin – Llanbrynmair – Llanymawddwy – Pennal)

1. Dyfi Valley Economic Development Plan

This was an attempt to increase co-ordination of initiatives related to economic regeneration. It was initiated by Welsh Assembly Government's Department of Enterprise, Innovation & Networks and Powys County Council, who subsequently agreed to take the lead. Its four Themes were Business Development, Lifelong Learning, Travel and Tourism. Ceredigion and Gwynedd were partially engaged. It is suggested that the Biosphere structure supercedes and takes forward the viable elements of this Plan.

2. Geographic Pathfinder

This process was initiated by ELWa and is managed jointly by Powys County Council and the Welsh Assembly Government's Department of Education and Lifelong Learning. It seeks to ensure that learning pathways are economically sustainable and co-ordinated and that the wider community is involved. The future of sixth form provision at Ysgol Bro Ddyfi is a main focus and a "community campus" is being planned. To begin with, the Telecentre, Powys Training and the Powys County Council local office are all relocating to a new building being constructed to PassivHaus ecological standards. It is suggested that any Lifelong Learning Forum is based around the new governance structure proposed by

Pathfinder, though it may need strengthening from Ceredigion and Gwynedd interests for Biosphere purposes.

3. Community Action Machynlleth & District (CAMAD)

CAMAD is a voluntary body providing several community services, including a Volunteer Bureau, Meals on Wheels, Taxi Card Scheme, Lunch Clubs and Darby & Joan Club. No duplication is foreseen.

4. Settlement Strategy for the Machynlleth area under the Wales Spatial Plan

This is not available yet, but the vision for Mid Wales chimes well with the Biosphere vision: "High-quality living and working in smaller-scale settlements set within a superb environment, providing dynamic models of rural sustainable development, moving all sectors to higher value added activities". It is suggested that the Strategy be implemented through the Biosphere structures.

C) Covering the Powys part only

1. Bro Ddyfi Communities First (CF) and Machynlleth & District Local Community Forum (LCF)

These initiatives work in tandem and have produced a joint Local Action Plan ("Putting Bro Ddyfi First") with seven Themes, containing actions for the community and public sector partners. It is suggested that members and staff of CF/LCF and its sub groups (Housing, Economy & Employment and Dyfi Transport Forum) contribute to the Forums as in the table, with a focus on community participation. In addition, Communities First will have one seat on the proposed Joint Advisory Committee of the Dyfi Biosphere.

2. Inequalities in Health (IIH) and Mentro Allan

IIH aims to reduce the risk of heart disease, operates Walking the Way the Health and stops in March 2008. Mentro Allan aims to get people active in the local natural environment and will continue as a project until 2011. It can be adopted to become part of the Dyfi Biosphere action plan.

3. Language Action Plan

The Welsh Language Board has a programme in the Communities First area. It is suggested that it collaborates with the Mentrau Iaith in Ceredigion and Gwynedd at Dyfi Biosphere level.

D) Covering other specific geographic areas

1. Pumlumon Project

This is a partnership project managed by Montgomeryshire Wildlife Trust. It aims to change land management practices over a large area of countryside, including part of the Dyfi Biosphere. It can only do this with the agreement, and active involvement, of the current landowners and land managers. The people responsible for the two initiatives will work together and appropriate projects will appear in both action plans.

2. Menter Aberystwyth

Menter is a regeneration partnership for Aberystwyth and its surrounding area. It has close ties with the University and National Library, the Town Council and the Business Club, as well as the Welsh Assembly Government. It helps people living in the area to take direct actions to address issues affecting their community rather than have solutions imposed upon them, so is available as a delivery mechanism for the Dyfi Biosphere.

3. Grwp Adfywio Mawddwy, Aberdyfi Partnership, Gweithgor Corris, Corris Institute etc.

Community activists at village or community level will need to be involved in action planning and delivery since they are "nearest to the ground".

E) Wider strategies relevant to Biosphere structures

1. Community Strategies

All three have multiple themes. Gwynedd Together names Quality Environment as one of its two current priorities and Climate Change also features strongly.

2. Local Strategies for the Rural Development Plan

Again, the overall visions are compatible. Gwynedd names Local Products, Environmental Sector, Renewable Energy and Creative Industries as four of its five themes.

3. EC Structural Funds

Theme 3 of Priority 4 of the Convergence funds is called Environment for Growth. Draft Priority 3 of the Competitiveness funds is called Tackling Climate Change.

4. Wales Spatial Plan

The Settlement Strategy (above) is the key element of the Spatial Plan for the Biosphere.