

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

21 April 2010

National Recovery Plan for Wales goes straight to the top

The South Wales Chamber of Commerce (SWCC) Task and Finish Group – a private sector panel driving the National Recovery Plan (NRP) forward, met for the first time last week to discuss the plan to recover Wales.

The NRP looks at the key challenges facing Wales and what the private sector can do to aid in the economic recovery for Wales: rising unemployment, business competition, new manufacturing, growing business, supplier development and a falling economy.

The Task and Finish Group is driven by influential private sector businesses from a variety of industries within Wales, and accompanied by business support organisations with a strong influence on policy.

Part of the first meeting with the Task and Finish Group consisted of breaking down the NRP. The crux of the meeting consisted of setting the key priorities that will be revealed at a National Recovery for Wales Conference at the end of May – details to be confirmed soon.

Amongst the Task and Finish Group are Guy Jones, Director of Banking for RBS and Tim Williams, Chief Executive of Welsh Automotive Forum, Terry Hicks Managing Director of Hicks Logistics Ltd, Paul Ragan Director of Collateral

Thinking, Matthew Prosser Commercial Director of Severnside Recycling, Richard Matthews Managing Director of Freshbaked, Professor Brian Morgan Professor at Cardiff School and Management and Stuart Taylor Vice President of SWCC and Head of External Relations, Wales for Royal Mail Group Ltd.

David Russ, Managing Director of the South Wales Chamber of Commerce, said: “The group has started to develop a plan which will be presented in draft form at the National Recovery for Wales Conference at the end of May. The conference will be an opportunity for members from different private sector industries to contribute to the plan and aim to make a real influence to the ‘decision makers’.

“Not only has the Task and Finish Group met in a bid to take forward the NRP, Gordon Brown was presented with the NRP at an event held at the Swalec Stadium in Cardiff today. It is crucial that as many politicians (particularly one of the top politicians in the country) as possible see, read and hear about the NRP to understand it will primarily be the private sector that will be driving economic recovery.”

Ends

Notes for editors

Photo caption from left to right, back to front: Stuart Taylor, Tim Williams, Guy Jones, Professor Brian Morgan, Terry Hicks, Matthew Prosser and Matthew Richards.

The National Recovery Plan for Wales can be viewed via the South Wales Chamber of Commerce website www.southwaleschamber.co.uk.

The South Wales Chamber of Commerce is the ultimate business network in South Wales and now incorporates the West Wales Chamber of Commerce. The

chamber exists to provide a regional voice and offer support to businesses pan South Wales.

Since merging with the West Wales Chamber of Commerce, the South Wales Chamber of Commerce now represents over 1000 businesses and 100,000 employees.

For more press information pleased contact Laurian Corner at the South Wales Chamber on 01633 242715 or laurian.corner@southwaleschamber.co.uk