

Statement

For immediate release



17th November 2010

WAG's budget – disappointing for business

David Russ, Managing Director of the South Wales Chamber of Commerce, said: “WAG had a difficult job with a reduced budget to ensure services were not affected and we are thrilled both education and healthcare have been looked after. Key frontline services delivered through local authorities have also been protected which is great news for local communities.

“However, it is once again the private sector who will be expected to pick up the slack. The portfolio for economy and transport is receiving a massive cut over the next three years which means the burden will fall upon the private sector. We are already faced with enormous pressure to drive economic recovery forward but with cuts like these it means our support from WAG will ultimately be affected.

“We were already left out of the UK Governments CSR in relation to electrification of our rail but with less money in the Welsh budget for public transport, Wales will be left even further behind.

“What we need now from WAG is a strategy to emphasise that Wales is still open for business, despite the cuts. The private sector must be allowed to work closer with WAG to establish a plan of action for the future – we have developed a number of initiatives over the past year, such as the National Recovery Plan for Wales, and it is these initiatives that need to be put into practice.”

Ends

Notes for editors

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