



Thursday 6 March, 1pm to 5pm
THE HEADS OF THE VALLEYS IN 2034
Seminar
Glamorgan Building, Cardiff University

The Valleys comprise the largest long-lasting regeneration region in the world. They were first established as an area for economic assistance by the Special Areas Act in 1934. More than 70 years later many of the same problems addressed by that Act persist: unemployment and economic inactivity, under-developed communications, poor housing, and low levels of workforce skills. It is not so much the individual character of these problems that characterise the Valleys Experience, but their impact in combination. By now, however, many of the problems have retreated in scale from much of the Valleys to coalesce within the core Heads of the Valleys. This reality that was reflected in the creation of the Heads of the Valleys Programme in 2006. The question now is: how can we make a psychological breakthrough to enable people to envisage a different but viable future for the Heads of the Valleys? Participants are invited to a buffet lunch at 1pm. The seminar will be organised as follows:

2.00pm Overview

Professor Steve Fothergill, Centre for Regional Economic and Social Research, Sheffield Hallam University

2.30pm Transport

Led by Christian Schmidt, Planning Manager, South-East Wales Transport Alliance

2.50pm: Housing

Led by Nick Bennett, Chief Executive, Community Housing Cymru

3.10pm Skills

Led by Howard Burton, principal, Coleg Gwent

3.30 Tea

3.50pm Culture and Tourism

Led by David Davies, Chair, Herian Partnership

4.10pm Economic Development

Led by Professor Dylan Jones Evans, Director, National Entrepreneurship Observatory, Cardiff University

4.30pm Pulling it Together: Main recommendations

Led by Kevin Morgan, Professor of Regional Economic Development, Cardiff University