

Minister in Merthyr to #TalkValleys

The Ministerial Taskforce for the South Wales Valleys is holding a series of public meetings across the region to seek the views of communities about priorities for their local areas.

Alun Davies last night hosted the second town hall style public meeting of the taskforce at Merthyr's Red House, the arts and creative industries centre in the Old Town Hall.

Speaking following the meeting he said:

"We can feel that understanding and awareness of the work of the taskforce is growing and the engagement sessions we've held to date have been invaluable in helping to shape our priorities.

"It is vital however we continue to work with and listen to communities throughout the lifetime of the taskforce.

"From the discussions we've had with the public so far, some key themes have emerged. These include the importance of linking businesses with local schools to give young people the confidence and skills they need to enter into the world of work and the importance of linking infrastructure like industrial sites, schools, colleges and transport initiatives together, ensuring true connectivity for the valleys.

"I would urge anyone who feels passionately about where they live to engage with the work of the taskforce and have their say. We're here to listen and your views will help shape our shared vision for the valleys."

The taskforce was set up by the Welsh Government in July and aims to build on work previously undertaken across the South Wales Valleys in a more coordinated and targeted way to meet the needs of valley communities.

To learn more about the work of the taskforce or to sign up to attend one of the public meetings, please visit the [Facebook](#) page.