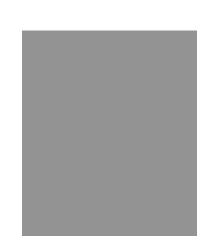
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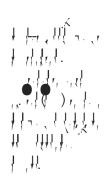
The Heads of the Valleys benefit from some important opportunities, including:

- **■ !**;!
- $\equiv \ , \ \ , \ , \ , \ , \downarrow \land \downarrow$
- **■**!}} !!,!}
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The area does, however, also face some significant challenges, including:

- **|** | | |

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- 4, ,



An attractive and well-used natural, historic and built environment

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A vibrant economic landscape offering new opportunities

- 4 **(**) (

A well-educated, skilled and healthier population

- 7 | , |
- 8 ,||

An appealing and coherent tourism and leisure experience

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Public confidence in a shared bright future

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■ The upgrading of the A465 Heads of the Valleys road , , |

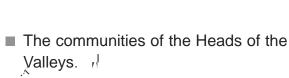


Positive developments in the South East Wales labour market.

■ Continued major public investment in the area, / /

■ Housing renewal. ∤,

■ The accessible countryside and rich historic and built environment .



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• 64%

| 16 % |
| 71%

• 41% 15
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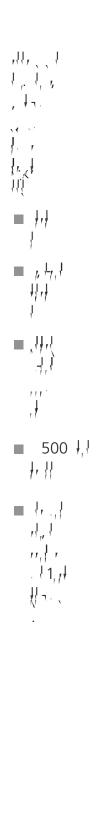
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64.3% | 2004) , | | (, 32.5% | 2003 | 30.7% | 2004) , |



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SP1: A Sub-Regional Approach to the Regeneration of Settlements

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EARLY ACTIONS & CLEANER VALLEYS TASK FORCE

■ \}

■ SP5: Joined-Up Solutions for Business

■ SP6: Linked Opportunities for Businesses and Individuals

■ SP7: Improving Health Through Prevention



■ SP8: Integrated Lifelong Learning

EARLY ACTIONS - CONSTRUCTION SKILLS CHARTER



■ SP11: Visualising the Strategy

SP12: Pro-Active Communications and Engagement
■ !!,} ■ !, !,! ■ .!,!!



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■ ÕMaking the connectionsÕ Đr. ्\,,,\

KEY PROGRAMME LINKAGES

An attractive and well used natural, historic and built environment will:

- attract investment and encourage growth of related businesses eg environmental technologies, waste recycling
- ☐ lead to health benefits, for example through exercise and active lifestyles
- create jobs and volunteering, work experience and training opportunities
- increase the demand for a mix of local services, in turn generating jobs locally
- reduce the effect of dereliction on health and wellbeing.

A vibrant economic landscape offering new opportunities will:

- provide an impetus for the enhancement and maintenance of natural and built assets
- create a buoyant labour market that drives education, careers advice and training provision
- contribute to better health and higher educational attainment
- ☐ lead to community and business confidence.

A well educated skilled and healthier population will

- be able to overcome the key barriers to employment skills and health
- equip the workforce to respond to labour market needs
- raise aspirations and give people confidence in their abilities and their future.

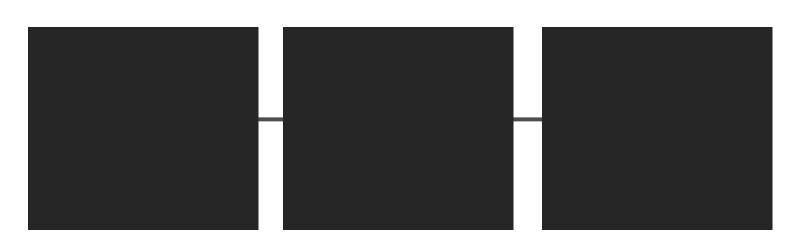
An appealing and coherent tourism and leisure experience will

- contribute to the enhancement of urban and rural spaces
- provide jobs and opportunities to develop sector skills
- ☐ lead to health benefits through active lifestyles.

Public confidence in a shared bright future will:

- encourage active involvement in delivery
- help to attract investment.





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N.	,ÍI,	64.3% (2004)
		30.7% (2004)
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		36.0% (2004)
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Wales: A Better Co Commitment	ountry Overall Contribution	Explanation
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Summary Comments:

The chart shows the estimated future investment through public sector organisations in the Heads of the Valleys over the next three years against our five key priorities.

- Environment c£300m, including improvements to Merthyr Tydfil, Ebbw Vale, Bargoed, Abertillery, Blaenavon and Mountain Ash town centres
- Economy c£500m, including the next phase of the A465(T) dualling
- Education, skills and health c£2bn, including a commitment to deliver a new hospital and a new Learning Campus on the former Ebbw Vale Steelworks site
- Tourism and leisure c£50m, including local authority investment in community facilities
- Public confidence c£10m, including Communities First projects
 Other c£140m, including local authority spending such as personal social services

Key issues such as raising skills levels and helping people into work will be priorities throughout the lifetime of the Programme. To complement this ongoing work, we have identified a number of key areas which will act as a focus for investment in the first three years of the programme. These are:

- 2006/07: Major environment (landscape-scale) projects
- 2007/08: Renewal of key town centres
- 2008/09: Development of the tourism and leisure offer

By concentrating on one key theme each year, our aim will be for the Strategy to act as a focus for the alignment of the business plans of stakeholder organisations, as well as adding momentum to communication and marketing activities. We will deliver a 'critical mass' of programme activities to maximise impact, capture the public imagination and build confidence.