

**Gwybodaeth Ychwanegol at y Cyfarfod Llawn
Information Further to Plenary**

Cyhoeddir ymatebion yn yr iaith y'u darparwyd, gyda chyfieithiad Saesneg o ymatebion yn y Gymraeg.

Responses are published in the language in which they are provided, with a translation into English of responses provided in Welsh.

**Gwybodaeth ychwanegol at OAQ(4)0237(LGC) a gyhoeddwyd gan Huw Lewis, y
Gweinidog Tai, Adfywio a Threftadaeth, ar 19 Chwefror 2013
Information further to OAQ(4)0237(LGC) issued by the Minister for Housing,
Regeneration and Heritage, on 19 February 2013**

At/To Lindsay Whittle:

Carl Sargeant has asked me to write in response to your question at Oral Assembly Questions on 30 January, when you requested information about Pontypool town centre.

I understand that you are concerned about the decline of Pontypool and you asked the Minister what discussions have been held with the local council regarding funding for improvements to the town centre.

You will be pleased to know that the improvements to the main high street, which you referred to, are part of a larger £14m European regeneration project that has recently commenced in Pontypool and these improvements will continue until December 2015. The Pontypool Settlement Area project aims to increase the vitality, viability and attractiveness of Pontypool and its neighbouring settlements. As well as the street works, grants are being offered to businesses in the town centre to upgrade their properties and the indoor market will soon undergo a major refurbishment.

The Welsh Government is providing significant match funding to support this project and just over £3.5m has been committed from my Regeneration budget towards the works. Further funding has been committed by Cadw, the Heritage Lottery Fund, the private sector and the local council. My officials are in regular contact with the local council to co-ordinate the project and to discuss funding opportunities. This has recently resulted in additional funding being allocated to acquire land which will be used for a new car park in the town centre.

Looking forward, future investment decisions will be based on the outcome of my ongoing review of regeneration activity and I will be announcing the results of this review on 11 March. My officials will continue to keep the council updated on this review.