

Barriers to Growth of Social Enterprises & Small Businesses

Rhyl Athy Regeneration

Brief

The aim of the research was to help RAR and its partners decide how best to support the growth and development of small businesses and social enterprises in Rhyl.

The study had three strands:

- Identifying perceived barriers
- Assessing the actual barriers
- Recommending costed actions to overcome the barriers.



Activities

- Desk-top research into their context and background
- Strategy review emphasised the importance Welsh Assembly Government, Department of Trade and Industry, Denbighshire County Council, Rhyl Area Partnership place on them
- Consultations with key stakeholders to understand perceived barriers which were tested with local businesses and social enterprises through questionnaire surveys.



Outcome

The study clarified the importance of these two sectors to the local economy.

Recommended greater co-ordination between the various agencies working to improve the area. However there are a number of barriers that are common throughout Wales, not just in Rhyl which require remedy at a higher level.

Five key projects were identified:

- Pilot Grant Fund to increase start-up funding for new social enterprises to 2-3 years
- Appoint Social Enterprise Advisor, working across Denbighshire
- Create Social Enterprise Network sub-group of the Rhyl Business Network
- Build Social Enterprise Resource Centre to bring together complementary projects
- Develop good quality workshops offering start-up units (0-200 sqm) and grow-on space (200-500 sqm).

The study is being used by RAR to support a funding bid to the WDA and Welsh Assembly Government for a Social Enterprise Centre in Rhyl.

