**PRELIMINARY FINDINGS**

- Identification of three clusters of ERDF investments, Swansea, Port Talbot, and Ebbw Vale, where projects complement each other as part of an integrated development strategy.
- A large proportion of 2000-06 ERDF investment in Swansea was linked to the regeneration of the former docks, now SA1. Around £17.5m was invested in redeveloping the area or improving links with the city centre. Swansea University received £70m in both programmes for research infrastructure.
- Port Talbot received £77m in infrastructure investment, of which 80% funded transport schemes, part of a long-term programme of transport improvements, freeing brownfield land and enhancing the TEN-T network. Transport investment was part of an integrated regeneration strategy for Port Talbot to provide new job opportunities, linked to increased activity at the port and inward investment for the new development areas.

**CONCLUSIONS AND FOLLOW-UP ACTIONS**

The next phase of the work will explore the economic impact this has had on local communities.

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**PROBLEM SETTING AND DATA SOURCES USED**

The ERDF has supported key infrastructure projects in Wales. An evaluation completed at project delivery, or shortly afterward, cannot investigate how infrastructure is used. Thus, this evaluation uses stakeholder interviews, documentary analysis, and user, resident and business surveys to investigate infrastructure usage and maintenance; how projects work together for the benefit of regional economies, residents, and businesses; and to consider the feasibility of undertaking an impact evaluation.