

We'll be prepared for prison job needs



The former Ferodo Site near Caernarfon will be the site of a new N.Wales prison

A NORTH Wales council has started preparing for the opening of a new prison.

Earlier this month Gwynedd Council welcomed the announcement that a jail to serve North Wales is to be built on the former Ferodo Site near Caernarfon.

Although the first inmates will not be locked up in the new prison for several years, the council is already looking to take advantage of the economic opportunities from the development. They will try to ensure training opportunities are provided tailored to the needs of the prison service.

The prison is expected to employ around 700 people and is forecast to inject £7 million into the Gwynedd economy annually.

Gwynedd Council's development portfolio holder, Dewi Lewis, said: "This is one of the most important developments in this area for some time, it's important that we start preparing for it now so that the people of Gwynedd are top of the list when it comes to opportunities and jobs."

"We will be holding talks with our partners in the Assembly Government and Westminster, as well as in health, education and the local business sector and trade unions while carrying out the groundwork before the jail opens."

The Ministry of Justice has not yet decided whether it will be a mixed or single-sexed prison, or whether it will house young offenders.

A planning application is being prepared for submission to Gwynedd Council.

After that it may have to go to a public inquiry before it gets the go-ahead, meaning the first brick might not be laid until late 2011.

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