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sponsored column

## The public versus private debate

I seem to recall that it was the former First Minister who said that it was not that the public sector was too large in Wales, it was that the private sector was too small.

Of course, if that is the case, then we should ask ourselves what we can do to grow the private sector.

I do not think we can get away from the fact that if we want a significantly bigger economy in Wales, we need more people.

The good news is that there is plenty of space. If we head down that road (and I shall come onto the transport infrastructure in a moment), however, other factors come into play.

As a country, we would have to be able to attract more business into the area. No doubt, there are people at the Welsh Assembly considering such issues presently, but they need the help of the planners to make it happen.

Those businesses will need premises and the people working in them will need houses. Without the planners on board, it will not get very far.

We need a decent transport infrastructure. I almost feel like

**' We need a decent transport infrastructure. The A470 could do with being the M470'**

apologising for stating the obvious here. The A470 could do with being the M470. The train through to London from Swansea is great but what about the train from Swansea to Llandudno? We need high quality links to Cardiff Airport.

We need to have a superior workforce so we do not need to import one. We can grow this over a period of time by spending more per child on education than we currently do.

Is there an elephant in the room with regard to this debate? Well perhaps there is a whole herd. In these difficult times, tough decisions await us all.

If you want more clichés though, fortune favours the brave and it will be the brave decisions that will differentiate Wales from its neighbours in the gradual climb out of recession. Cuts will be inevitable according to the Government. I hope we can be innovative at the same time.