



Partneriaeth Tyfu Canolbarth Cymru / Growing Mid Wales Partnership

Dydd Llun 14 Chwefror 2022

Monday 14 February 2022

2.00 pm

Cyfarfod Rhith

Virtual Meeting

Attendance:-

Councillor Ellen ap Gwynn, Leader of Ceredigion County Council (Chair) **(CIIR EAG)**

Aggie Caesar-Homden, Growing Mid Wales **(ACH)**

Andrew Cornish, Coleg Sir Gar **(AC)**

Ann Elias, Ceredigion County Council **(AE)**

Ann Watkin, Welsh Government **(AW)**

Arwyn Watkins OBE, Cambrian Training **(ArW)**

Carwyn Jones-Evans, Ceredigion County Council **(CJE)**

Cathy Martin, Growing Mid Wales **(CMn)**

Ceri Stephens, Mid Wales Manufacturing Group **(CS)**

Claire Miles, Growing Mid Wales **(CMs)**

Councillor Dafydd Edwards, Ceredigion County Council **(CIIR DE)**

Councillor Rhodri Evans, Ceredigion County Council **(CIIR RE)**

David Madge **(DM)**

David Owen, Ceredigion County Council **(DO)**

Diane Reynolds, Powys County Council

Dr. Rhodri Llwyd Morgan, Aberystwyth University **(RLIM)**

Eifion Evans, Ceredigion County Council **(EE)**

Gareth Jones, Powys County Council **(GJ)**

Gareth Marston, Ceredigion County Council **(GM)**

Gary Mitchell, PAVO **(GMI)**

Gavin Bown, Natural Resources Wales **(GB)**

Hywel Davies, University of Wales Trinity St David **(HD)**

Lowri Gwilym, WLGA **(LG)**

Marie Evans, Ceredigion County Council **(ME)**

Mark Dacey, NPTC Group of Colleges **(MD)**

Nia Williams **(NW)**

Peter Davies **(PD)**

Rowland Rees-Evans, Ceredigion County Council **(RRE)**

Sarah Groves-Philips, Ceredigion County Council **(SGP)**

Stacey-Jayne Oakham, Growing Mid Wales **(SJO)**

Val Hawkins, Mid Wales Tourism **(VH)**

Simultaneous Translation of this meeting was provided by Sian Jones from Cyfaith.

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. She advised that this would be her final meeting in the chair as she was not standing as Leader of Ceredigion County Council following the meeting. She was very pleased that the Mid Wales Growth Deal had been signed by the UK and Welsh Governments on 13th January.

<p>1.</p>	<p>Apologies for absence Apologies for absence were received from:- Arwyn Davies, Ceredigion County Council Councillor Rosemarie Harris, Leader of Powys County Council (Vice-Chair) Councillor Phyl Davies, Powys County Council Doug Hughes, Hughes Architects Dr Caroline Turner, Chief Executive, Powys County Council Glenn Bowen, Wales Co-operative Centre Nick Venti, PAVO Nigel Brinn, Powys County Council Peter Howells, NFU Cymru Peter Skitt, NHS Yvonne Connolly, UK Government</p>
<p>2.</p>	<p>Minutes The minutes of the last meeting held on 16th September 2021 were agreed as a correct record.</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>Mid Wales Growth Deal – Progress Update Cathy Martin gave an update on progress since the Growth Deal Final Deal Agreement had been signed on 13th January 2022. The Portfolio Management Office was now putting processes in place to take the portfolio forward in 2022. Digital Programme: a business case was being finalised by the team and steering group. Arrangements were underway to establish programme governance, and plan when the business case could be reviewed and approved by the Board. Sites and Premises Programme: an outline programme had been drafted and conversations had been held with the Welsh Government property team. There is a significant demand for site and premises development, however there are considerable hurdles to be worked through in partnership with Governments and the private sector. Work is underway to accelerate development on this programme. Projects: all projects on the current shortlist of the SPBC had been asked to submit updated Strategic Outline Cases (SOCs) from the end of January through to May for review by the PoMO. The team would then assess anticipated development timescales and the timing of when the GMW Board and the Economic Advisory Group could review and comment on proposals.</p>

	<p>The Chair advised that she and Cllr Rosemarie Harris had been interviewing potential members of the Economic Advisory Group.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Regional Skills Partnership – Progress Update</p> <p>Aggie Caesar-Homden gave an update on the work of the Regional Skills Partnership. The Partnership continued to make good progress working with business leaders and stakeholders across the region to understand the skills provision and labour market needs, in order to drive investment that met the requirements of both employers and workforce.</p> <p>She reported that she was working with Data Cymru to develop a Mid Wales Skills Observatory and to provide data analysis support. Data Cymru was also working with the RSP to develop a Green Skills report. The RSP was involved in the Welsh Government’s Young Persons Guarantee engaging with businesses and reflecting their views.</p> <p>In response to a question from the Chair, ACH advised that she had not yet received any further information on the RSP’s role with regard to skills and further education.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Growing Mid Wales Partnership - Successes – Presentation</p> <p>Claire Miles gave a presentation on the achievements of the Partnership leading up to the signing of the Mid Wales Growth Deal on 13th January. This had been the culmination of a huge team effort by partners and stakeholders and the Chair thanked everyone involved for their contributions on getting to this point.</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Business Updates</p> <p><u>6.1 Targeted Regeneration Investment Programme</u> Gareth Jones reported on the Transforming Towns Initiative. 13 projects had been approved with a total grant commitment of approximately £1.4M. Work was going on to identify future strategic projects. Welsh Government had agreed to allow funding for projects under the Town Centre Property Investment Fund to be drawn down as long as spend was completed in this financial year. A further grant of £185,000 had been secured from Welsh Government to develop and implement digital solutions and training to support increased footfall, support businesses and visitor experience and add value to already existing investment within town centres.</p> <p><u>6.2 Regional Engagement Team Report</u> Claire Miles gave an update on the work of the Regional Engagement Team. Discussions had continued with Welsh Government on future regional investment. The Leaders had also attended a further meeting of the Strategic Forum for Regional Investment In Wales on the 17th January</p>

	<p>where future innovation policy was discussed. The Welsh Government budget published in December 2021 had given some indication that some ESIF- funded backbone operations that deliver key priorities (such as Apprenticeships and Business Wales) may continue beyond the lifetime of the current programme, but it was not clear at what scale and in what format. As the current ESIF programmes enter their final years, the Mid Wales RET would continue to work with national and regionally significant operations to map exit strategies and anticipated legacy of ESIF funded interventions in the region in order to determine potential future gaps in funding and delivery.</p> <p>The Team was involved in discussions with on the Shared Prosperity Fund. It was likely the fund would be structured around three key investment priorities, namely Communities and Place; People and Skills and Supporting Local Businesses.</p> <p>The first meeting of Mid Wales Strategic Employability Network took place on the 11th of February. The primary aim of the network was to bring existing employability training providers and relevant stakeholders that work with beneficiaries aged 14 plus together to ensure current delivery was aligned and working on the ground.</p> <p>6.3 <u>Connectivity and Infrastructure Working Group</u> Ann Elias gave an update on strategic transport issues affecting the region and the work of the Connectivity and Infrastructure Working Group. She confirmed that both the Llangurig and Llanon road improvement schemes had both been delayed by the Welsh Government decision to freeze projects until they had been assessed by the Roads Review Panel.</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Government(s) Update</p> <p>7.1 <u>WG Regional Economic Frameworks and related regional matters</u> Ann Watkin reported on the Regional Economic Frameworks published on 22 December 2021 which was part of Welsh Government’s commitment to regionally focussed economic development. WG had worked with partners in each of the regions including Local Authorities and associated regional bodies, to co-design a placed-based approach to economic development. There was close alignment with the Growth Deal priorities.</p> <p>AW sought endorsement from the Partnership for the Regional Economic Framework and permission to use its logo.</p> <p>The Chair noted that the Framework aligned well with Ceredigion County Council’s economic development strategy. GJ advised that Powys County Council Cabinet had endorsed the Framework.</p> <p>DECISION</p> <p>i. To endorse the Welsh Government’s draft Regional Economic Framework for Mid Wales.</p>

	<p style="text-align: center;">ii. To agree that the Growing Mid Wales Partnership logo is added to the final document for publication.</p> <p>AW advised that Welsh Government would work with officers from both authorities on a launch event, mindful of the pre-election period.</p> <p>7.2 <u>UK Government Update</u></p> <p>The UK Government official had sent apologies so this item was deferred.</p>
8.	<p>Wider Regional Updates</p> <p>8.1 <u>Digital Programme Update</u> David Owen advised that the final draft of the Programme Business Case had been completed and would be presented to the Growing Mid Wales Board on 11th March for approval.</p> <p>8.2 <u>Tourism</u> The Partnership received an update on the Growing Mid Wales Tourism Feasibility Study. The findings of the study would be reported to the next meeting.</p>
9.	<p>Any other business</p> <p>The Chair wished the Partnership every success for the future. Colleagues thanked Councillor ap Gwynn for her leadership and drive culminating in the signing of the Mid Wales Growth Deal together with Councillor Rosemarie Harris.</p>
10.	<p>Date of Next Meeting Monday 30th May 2022</p>