

**Growing Mid Wales
Partnership Meeting**

Ystafell 1/ Room 1, Canolfan Rheidol, Aberystwyth

Tuesday, 16th October 2018

18:00pm – 20.00pm

Attendees

Rosemarie Harris (RH)	Leader, Powys County Council (Chair)
Ellen Ap Gwynn (EAG)	Leader, Ceredigion County Council (Vice Chair)
David Powell (DP)	Chief Executive, Powys County Council
Eifion Evans (EE)	Chief Executive, Ceredigion County Council
Professor Robert Brown (RB)	University of Wales Trinity St. David
Nia Williams (NW)	Mid Wales Joint Committee
Carwyn Jones Evans (CJE)	WLGA
Nicola Thornton-Scott (NTS)	NPTC Group of Colleges
Arwyn Watkins OBE (ArW)	Cambrian Training
Jenni Thomas (JT)	Powys County Council
Lisa Griffiths (LG)	Powys County Council
Ann Watkin (AW)	Welsh Government
Vanessa Naughton (VN)	Welsh Government
Ann Elias (AE)	Ceredigion County Council
Russell Hughes-Pickering (RHP)	Ceredigion County Council
Cllr. Peter Davies MBE (PD)	FUW
Ceri Stephens (CS)	Mid Wales Manufacturing Group
Emma Wilde (EM)	Mid Wales Chamber
Matt Morden (MM)	Coleg Ceredigion & Coleg Sir Gar
Dr. Rhodri Morgan (RM)	Aberystwyth University
Rhian Hayward (RH)	Aberystwyth University
Claire Miles (CM)	Mid Wales Regional Engagement Officer
Mike Shaw (MS)	Ceredigion County Council
Gareth Jones (GJ)	Powys County Council
Jane Lewis (JL)	RLSP
Cllr. Rhodri Evans (RE)	Ceredigion County Council
Cllr. Gareth Lloyd (GL)	Ceredigion County Council
Cllr. Myfanwy Alexander (MA)	Powys County Council
Cllr. Martin Weale (MW)	Powys County Council


In attendance

Bob Perkins – AECOM

Gareth Brown – AECOM

Seren Jones – Note taker – Ceredigion County Council

<p>1.</p>	<p>Introductions and Apologies</p> <p>The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.</p> <p>Apologies were received from:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cllr. Ioan Thomas - Gwynedd County Council• Andrew Cornish - Coleg Sir Gar• Steve Hughson – Royal Welsh Agricultural Society• Rebecca Williams - CLA.• Mark Dacey - NPTC Group• Cllr. Martin Weale - Powys County Council• Rob Holt - Welsh Government• Terri Thomas - Welsh Government• John Jones – Welsh Government• Cllr. Dafydd Edwards - Ceredigion County Council• Emyr Williams - Snowdonia National Park• Hywel Davies - University of Wales Trinity St. David• Nigel Brinn - Powys County Council• Gwawr Price - Welsh Government• Peter Skitt - Hywel Dda Health Board• Doug Hughes - Hughes Architects• Paul Evans - Venture Automotive• Cllr. Rowland Rees-Evans – Ceredigion County Council	
<p>2.</p>	<p>Minutes and actions from last GMW Partnership on 13th July 2018</p> <p>Minutes agreed as a correct record subject to the following amendment:-</p> <p><u>Vision</u></p> <p>PD queried if the insertion of the word 'bilingual' in to the vision statement (as agreed at the last GMW Partnership 13/07/2018) has been completed? RH stated that it should have been if it was agreed at the last partnership. RH requested for the Minutes be amended to reflect it that it was agreed.</p>	

3.	<p>To receive presentation on the AECOM findings and draft final 'Evidence Based Regional Programme of interventions</p>	
	<p>Bob Perkins & Gareth Brown of AECOM attended the Partnership meeting to provide a presentation on their findings and draft final 'Evidence Based Regional Programme of interventions.</p> <p>A copy of the presentation is attached below.</p>  <p>18-10-16 Growing Mid Wales Partnership</p> <p>The presentation covered the following points:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress to date • Consultations undertaken • Overarching themes • Vision • Programme Objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Skills & Workforce ▪ Innovation ▪ Business ▪ Digital ▪ Transport ▪ Next steps <p>An opportunity for questions followed.</p> <p>It was agreed that it would be beneficial for a copy of the presentation and the final draft of the Regional Economic Plan be circulated to Members for further consideration and for an opportunity for feedback to be provided.</p> <p>The Chair thanked AECOM for their presentation this evening.</p>	
4.	<p>To receive update on the Growth Deal bid</p>	
	<p>David Powell (DP), Deputy Chief Executive of Powys County Council, provided an update to all on the potential Growth deal bid. DP stated that it is important to note that it is still a potential growth deal at present.</p> <p>DP stated that meetings have taken place with Lord Bourne and another is to be scheduled shortly.</p> <p>DP stated that both Powys and Ceredigion Cabinets have met informally to discuss some broad principles that both Cabinets feel can be rolled</p>	

out across the region. DP stated that while it is fortunate to have two Local Authority's as part of the growth deal, it is still a deal for the region and it will be critical to engage with the private sector on this.

DP stated that there are 6 thematic areas being proposed which overlap with those contained in the draft Regional Economic Plan. Different projects will fall out of these thematic areas.

Next steps:-

Engagement will take place with the private sector as UK & Welsh Government are seeking more evidence to back up proposals.

A further informal joint Cabinet meeting will be held on the 7th November 2018 to agree Governance arrangements.




EE stated that that it is critical to ensure that the correct forum is available for engagement with the private sector in order for them to feel that there is value and purpose for them to be engaged. EE stated that an Economic Strategy Group will be established which will be driven by the private sector and will feed in to the Joint Committee.



AW provided a brief update on the two city deals underway at the moment (one for Cardiff and the other for Swansea), and the emerging Growth Deal for North Wales and stated that it is important to distinguish the difference between city deals and growth deals based on the USPs of the region.


AW stated that the work AECOM are undertaking is fundamental as it will set the context in which the growth deal will emerge in alignment with the UK and Welsh Government's ambitions. AW stated that the governance will have to lie with the Local Authorities for receipt of the funding but it will be an overall deal for the region.

LG stated that a visit is planned to the Senedd on the 31st January 2018 which will be an excellent opportunity to showcase the mid Wales region. RH stated that it is understood that Cabinet Secretary, Ken Skates, will speak at the day in the Senedd.

RH, Welsh Government, provided a verbal update on an oral statement provided by the Cabinet Secretary, Mark Drakeford this afternoon (16th October 2018) in context of the work ongoing on a future without structural funds.

5.	<p>To consider GMW response to the WG consultation “Support for Welsh Farming after Brexit”</p>	
	<p>Claire Miles (CM), Mid Wales Regional Engagement Officer, presented the attached presentation relating to feedback to Welsh Government’s ‘Brexit and our land’ consultation which closes on the 30th October 2018 in order for the Partnership to formulate a response. A copy of the presentation, covering report and draft response is attached below.</p> <p>CM explained that the covering report and draft response have already been circulated to Members, and some comments have already been received which have been taken in to account.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  Brexit and Our Land.pptx </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  Covering Report - Brexit and Our Land </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  Brexit and Our Land Consultation Draft Re </div> </div> <p>The presentation covered the following points:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background to the Consultation • The Main Changes proposed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No element of direct payments to farmers – this will be phased out ▪ New schemes will be accessible to all land owners. • Feedback to date & Questions to be asked • WG’s proposed transition period (transition from 2020 to be completed by 2025) <p>An opportunity for questions followed.</p> <p>Key points:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback has indicated that there needs to be a cap on payments. • CJE stated that he has been part of drafting the WLGA response to this consultation. CJE stated that Wales are a step ahead in terms of recommendations they are offering as part of the transition period. CJE stated that it is difficult to respond when we don’t know the extent of Brexit at the moment and what sectors will be most affected and stated that there is not enough detail on the recommendations and that we can only speak on principles. CJE stated that their response will be considered by the WLGA’s Rural Forum next week and will be a strong and comprehensive response. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RE stated that he would like to see the draft response amended from “the Partnership welcomes the basic principles” as he doesn’t believe the Partnership does. The Partnership Members agreed to this. • RE also stated that removing direct payments will be detriment to the welsh language. • Noted that there needs to be more reference to farmers and not ‘land managers’. • There is no mention of rural or food production. • The funding should not be available to land owners who don’t produce food. • MA stated that this is not just about food producers but resident food producers. <p>The Chair thanked CM for her presentation today and requested that she links with CJE at the WLGA to cross reference both responses.</p> <p>A final draft will be circulated to Members shortly for approval.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p>To receive the Regional Engagement Update Report – Quarter 3, 2018</p>	
	<p>Mike Shaw (MS), provided an update on Regional Engagement Activity for Quarter 3. Copies of the update reports are attached below.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">   </div> <p>Regional Engagement Update Draft Regional Engagement Update Draft Revision: Update Q3 2018.docx</p> <p><u>TRIP Update</u></p> <p>MS stated that a letter has been received by Welsh Government approving the final version of the Mid Wales Regional Regeneration Plan.</p> <p>Good progress is being made on taking the projects forward. WG officials have visited the projects in Powys and Ceredigion with Council officers and further progress is taking place to progress these.</p> <p>The regional position is being monitored and managed by the GMW officers group and will report to the GMW Partnership regularly.</p>	

	<p>MS sought the Partnership's agreement that the GMW officer group can undertake the monitoring and management of the regional coordination of TRlp and report on these aspects regularly to the Partnership.</p> <p>The Partnership Members were in agreement with this.</p> <p><u>National Spectrum event, 18th September 2018</u></p> <p>MS provided an update to all on the above event supported by the Regional Engagement Team which took place at Aberystwyth University and was widely publicised and attracted world-wide interest.</p> <p><u>New ESF Priority</u></p> <p>Following Partnership's agreement at its meeting in March 2018 to agree principles of a response to WEFO on a draft document for discussion on seeking ESG support for regional working in Wales and for working arrangements in regional partnerships, the draft proposal for modification of programmes was refined and discussed at the All-Wales Programme Monitoring Committee in May and then subsequently agreed by written procedure and submission to the Commission as part of the Programme Modifications for East Wales and West Wales in the Valleys.</p> <p>The Commission is yet to respond fully, however, the East Wales Programme modification has been agreed. It is appropriate for the Partnership to be made aware of the opportunity to develop proposals for regional working. Initial discussions are being held to develop a Mid-Wales region-wide proposal which may include proposals to develop the efficiency and delivery of capacity of stakeholders to contribute to the ability of the region to mobilise and deliver public services to support the wide economic agenda.</p> <p>The Chair thanked MS for his update to the Partnership today and the contents of the report are noted.</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p>To receive the Partnership's Connectivity and Infrastructure Working Group's Quarter 3 Update</p>	
	<p>AE provided a report on the Connectivity and Infrastructure Working Group Q3 report to all, a copy of which is attached below.</p> <p></p> <p>Enclosure - Connectivity and infras</p> <p>Key points:-</p> <p>AE congratulated WG on Transport for Wales being awarded the Wales and Border franchise which commenced on the 14th October 2018 and</p>	

	<p>will be in place for 15 years.</p> <p>AE stated that WG have announced that there will be an increase to transport funding across Wales for the next 3 years which will underpin and support the strategic aims for transport going forward.</p> <p>The Chair thanked AE for the update today.</p>	
8.	Any Other Business	
	There were no additional items to discuss.	
9.	Future Meeting Dates	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friday, 11th January 2019 at 10.30am in County Hall, Llandrindod Wells, Powys • Friday, 12th April 2019 at 10.30am in The Chamber, Penmorfa, Aberaeron, Ceredigion • Friday, 12th July 2019 at 10.30am in County Hall, Llandrindod Wells, Powys • Friday, 11th October 2019 at 10.30am in The Chamber, Penmorfa, Ceredigion • Friday, 10th January 2020 at 10.30am in County Hall, Llandrindod Wells, Powys 	

Leader of Powys County Council, Councillor Rosemarie Harris, Chair