



Partneriaeth Tyfu Canolbarth Cymru / Growing Mid Wales Partnership

**Dydd Llun 15 Chwefror 2021
Monday 15th February 2021**

10.30am
Cyfarfod Rhith
Virtual Meeting


AGENDA

Attendance:-

Councillor Rosemarie Harris, Leader of Powys County Council (**Chair**)
Councillor Ellen ap Gwynn, Leader of Ceredigion County Council (**Vice-Chair**)
Ann Elias, Ceredigion County Council (**AE**)
Ann Watkin, Welsh Government (**AW**)
Arwyn Davies, Ceredigion County Council (**AD**)
Arwyn Watkins OBE, Cambrian Training (**ArW**)
Catherine Lewis, NPTC Group of Colleges (**CL**)
Ceri Stevens, Mid Wales Manufacturing Group (**CD**)
Claire Miles, Ceredigion County Council (**CM**)
Councillor Gareth Thomas, Gwynedd County Council (**Cllr.GT**)
Councillor Iain McIntosh, Powys County Council (**Cllr.IM**)
Councillor Phyl Davies, Powys County Council (**Cllr.PhD**)
Councillor Rhodri Evans, Ceredigion County Council (**Cllr.RE**)
Dr. Caroline Turner, Chief Executive, Powys County Council (**CT**)
Dr. Rhian Hayward, Aberinovation (**RH**)
Dr. Rhodri Llwyd Morgan, Aberystwyth University (**RLIM**)
Fiona Stewart, Managing Director Greenman Festival and Chair of the ESG (**FG**)
Gareth Jones, Powys County Council (**GJ**)
Gareth Rowlands, Ceredigion County Council (**GR**)
Gavin Bown, NRW (**GB**)
Gwilym Jones, University of Wales Trinity St. David (**GJ**)
Hywel Davies, University of Wales Trinity St. David
Helen Jones, Visit Wales (**HW**)
Jane Lewis, Carmarthenshire County Council (**FS**)
Lowri Gwilym, WLGA (**LG**)
Marie Evans, Ceredigion County Council (**ME**)
Mark Dacey, NPTC Group of Colleges (**MD**)
Matthew Willis, Hywel Dda Health Board (**MW**)
Paul Griffiths, Advisor (**PG**)
Peter Davies MBE, Farmers Union of Wales (**PD**)
Rowland Rees-Evans, Mid Wales Tourism Forum (**RRE**)
Russell Hughes-Pickering, Ceredigion County Council (**RHP**)
Steve Hughson, Chief Executive of the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society (**SH**)

In attendance:

Derek Walker, Chief Executive of the Wales Cooperative Centre
 Jenny Holloway, Chief Executive of Fashion Enter

| | | Amg. / Enc. |
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| 1. | <p>Ymddiheuriadau / Apologies for absence. Apologies for absence were received from:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eifion Evans, Chief Executive – Ceredigion County Council • Carwyn Jones-Evans – Ceredigion County Council • Councillor Dafydd Edwards – Ceredigion County Council • Nia Williams – Hywel Dda Health Board • Nigel Brinn – Powys County Council • Peter Howells – NFU • Peter Skitt – Hywel Dda Health Board • Rhodri Griffiths – Welsh Government | |
| 2. | <p>Derbyn Cofnodion cyfarfod blaenorol PTCC a gynhaliwyd ar 03 Rhagfyr 2020 / To receive the Minutes from the previous meeting of the GMWP held on 03 December 2020</p> <p>The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 3rd December 2020 were confirmed as a correct record proposed by Councillor Ellen Ap Gwynn, Ceredigion County Council and seconded by Fiona Stewart, Managing Director of Greenman Festival and Chair of the Economic Strategy Group.</p> | Amg. / Enc. |
| 3. | <p>Diweddariadau Rhanbarthol Ehangach / Wider Regional Updates i. Canolfan Cydweithredol Cymru / Wales Co-operative Centre</p> <p>Derek Walker (DW), Chief Executive of the Wales Co-operative Centre was welcomed to the meeting and provided the attached presentation to Members.</p> <p></p> <p>GMWP meeting - Wales Coop presentat</p> <p>The presentation focused on the following key points:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • About the Wales Cooperative Centre • Social Businesses in Wales: 2015 to 2019 • The social businesses difference • A case study • Their offer • Their ask <p>An opportunity for questions followed.</p> <p>DW stated that he will forward a link to the Wales Cooperative Centre website to all and to the Social Business Wales Enterprise website which contains further information.</p> | |

NV, PAVO, stated that that he will be in touch with DW for further discussions.

ii. Fashion Enter

Jenny Holloway (JW), Chief Executive of Fashion Enter was welcomed to the meeting and presented the attached presentation to



Our Ambitions
Fashion Enter Wales.p

Members.

The presentation focused on the following key points:-

- The factory
- Who they work with
- The Fashion Technology Academy (FTA)
- The future

An opportunity for discussion and questions followed.

Members commented that it was great to see Fashion Enter investing in Newtown and retaining jobs within the mid Wales region with exciting and ambitious proposals for future growth and development.

MD, NPTC Group of Colleges, stated that he will be in touch with JH to talk about apprenticeship opportunities for leavers from further education.

SH, CE of the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society, stated that the wool aspect is very interesting and that the Royal Welsh would support such initiative particularly as the wool industry is currently the biggest loss for farmers at the moment.

RE stated that he welcomes any innovative ideas for wool as it is currently the biggest loss for farmers. RE asked if Fashion Enter is likely to be affected by business being taken up by online retailers and whether this is something that will be taken forward. JE stated that they would like to look at a home furnishing line and promoting a 'Made in Wales' collection.

iii. AberInnovation

Dr. Rhian Hayward MBE (RH) was welcomed to the meeting and presented the attached presentation to Members:-



AberInnovation -
GMWP update v1.ppt

The presentation focused on the following key points:-

- Background of AberInnovation

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timeline attached –fully open for collaborative R&D from 1st April 2021 • Current core activities • Challenges to catalysing innovation • Future opportunities <p>An opportunity for discussion and questions followed.</p> <p>JH stated that she would like further discussion around STEM in Action for schools and would like to engage further to see more women engineers.</p> <p>EAG asked if further information could be provided on the developing challenge fund and how it will work. RH stated that they have been learning about the challenge fund set up by Cardiff City region and the understanding is that it is a fund in the region that goes towards running a series of workshops where the public sector have an opportunity to say what the challenges are that need solving as a region and to invite the private sector to provide solutions to the challenges. It also provides companies with a starting point for technology funding and other funding to entice investors.</p> <p>The Chair stated that she is aware of the Cardiff Challenge fund and asked if RH would be seeking Growth Deal funding or whether it would be alongside. RH stated that it could either be part of the Growth Deal or run alongside.</p> <p>LG stated that Challenge Funds are a key feature of the UK Industrial Strategy and we need to position ourselves to be able to access and make the most of them going forward.</p> <p>The Chair thanked all for their presentations today.</p> | |
| 4. | <p>Bargen Twf Canolbarth Cymru – Diweddariad am y Cynnydd / Mid Wales Growth Deal – Progress Update</p> <p>Llofnodi Penawdau'r Telerau / Signing of Heads of Terms</p> <p>PG stated that Members will be aware of the signing of the Heads of Terms (HoT) before Christmas. PG stated that commitments are increasing towards the Growth Deal and the portfolio business case is being developed in tandem with WG and the UK Government. The Portfolio Business Case is being worked on in more detail which reflects the Vision for Growing Mid Wales document published last year, and is based upon the five business case model approach developed by Joe Flanagan who the team are working directly with.</p> <p>PG stated that it is a 15 year programme with £110mil total commitment from both Governments. PG stated that what is included in the regional portfolio will not always be funded by the Growth Deal, but allows us to have a catalyst of projects and programmes to access other funds if more suitable. Having all projects in one place will allow for having vision and a shared ambition.</p> | Amg./Enc. |

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| | <p>PG stated that there is a significant need to meet strong governance assurance and management requirements by both Governments.</p> <p>PG stated that the discussions will begin with businesses through networks such as the GMW Partnership however expectations will need to be managed effectively. PG stated that the whole purpose of the Growth Deal is to ensure it promotes the jobs, productivity, talent and opportunities in the Mid Wales region in a positive way.</p> <p>PG stated that they are now considering a long list of projects within the context of a portfolio of works which will be refined over a period of time and will eventually form a short list. PG stated that they are also working closely with businesses through the ESG and ensuring that businesses time is being used most effectively.</p> <p>PG stated that the capacity will be increased and the PMO should be in place over the next few months.</p> <p>PG stated that it is now important to move from the signing of the HoT as quickly as possible to a legally binding agreement in order to meet everyone's desires and make a difference to the communities in the mid Wales region.</p> | |
| <p>5.</p> | <p>Partneriaeth Dysgu a Sgiliau Rhanbarthol – Diweddariad am y Cynnydd / Regional Learning and Skills Partnership – Progress Update</p> <p>PG stated that Members will be aware that the two authorities have agreed and signed a ToR for an RLSP for the mid Wales region which sets out the Constitution and how the Chair is appointed.</p> <p>PG stated that the recruitment process for an RLSP manager is ongoing and it is hoped a manager will be in post in March via a secondment in order to ensure the post is filled as quickly as possible by someone with the right skills and knowledge.</p> <p>PG stated that both Leaders of Ceredigion and Powys have written to the Ministers to seek confirmation of funding for the RLSP.</p> <p>PG stated that Expressions of Interest requests will be published this week for the appointment of a Chair and Vice-Chair of the RLSP.</p> <p>A letter will be published to organisations for membership representation for the RLSP and as that starts to form, the work programme can be developed with the manager in post.</p> <p>PG stated that a meeting was held with Huw Morris, Welsh Government, and he was keen to progress and to accept proposals going forward with advice and encouragement.</p> <p>PG stated that he will circulate an update report to Members post-meeting with further details.</p> | |

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| | The Chair thanked PG for the update today and was pleased to hear the progress being made. | |
| 6. | <p>Diweddariadau Busnes / Business Updates</p> <p>i. Rhaglen Targeddu Buddsoddiad mewn Adfywio / Targeted Regeneration Investment Programme</p> <p>GR provided a brief update to Members on the TRI Programme since December. GR stated that Members will be aware that we applied for a budget of £1.5mil to fund a new thematic scheme but this was limited to 50% of regional budget and due to the regional budget being reduced, the thematic budget was reduced £1.26mil. GR stated that this has been approved at the Capital Panel and now Ministerial approval is awaited and it is hoped the scheme will be launched during March. Initially it is a 1 year scheme and it is hoped it will be extended subject to WG Elections and bids will be need to be made for subsequent year budgets. The scheme has been designed with a regeneration focus and is a wide ranging scheme. Draft applications and guidance have been drawn up and are currently with Powys County Council to finalise.</p> <p>The management administration is similar to existing thematic TCPIF. It is expected that there will be some overspend but this will be carried forward in to the next thematic.</p> <p>GR stated that there has been a relaxation of funding conditions by WG for this financial year. WG have indicated that there is no longer a need for all monies to be used by the end of March but it needs to be committed which enables projects such as the Autopalace and the Green Infrastructure Project in Lampeter to utilise more of a budget from this year rather than next year which will result in more money available for new development and capital projects. Discussions are ongoing with WG.</p> <p>GR confirmed that this funding is town centre specific. AD stated that discussions are ongoing with WG Regeneration team and they do acknowledge how the transforming town funds impacts small rural town settings. AD stated that they are also willing to play a key role in discussing other sources of funding.</p> <p>ii. Adroddiad y Tîm Ymgysylltu Rhanbarthol / Regional Engagement Team Report</p> <p>CM provided a short update on the work of the RET following a pre-circulated report to Members. CM stated that the main activity for the past few months has been supporting the work of wider regional projects. CM stated that the Mid Wales RET have been involved in facilitating regional networks and meetings with regards to several themes under the portfolio. CM stated that Members should also have received a copy of the regional promotional booklet which highlights current successes of recent ESIF and RDP funding programmes in Mid Wales and demonstrates the significant activity being undertaken</p> | <p>Amg. / Enc.</p> <p>Amg. / Enc.</p> <p>Amg. / Enc.</p> |

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| | <p>with regard to the 8 priority themes listed in the Regional Vision document.</p> <p>CM requested that members get in touch if they have not received a copy of the regional promotional booklet as yet.</p> <p>CM stated that they hope to fill the Regional Engagement Manager post as soon as possible and also to look at how the RET activity will fit with the PMO to be established in 2021.</p> <p>iii. Gweithgor Cysylltedd a Seilwaith / Connectivity and Infrastructure Working Group</p> <p>AE provided an update from the Connectivity and Infrastructure Working Group to all. AE stated that WG has confirmed £46mil of investment for the Dyfi Bridge work which will commence on site from the 1st March 2021. £3.4mil has been agreed to undertake improvement work on the railways east of Machynlleth which is often affected by flooding.</p> <p>AE reported that Bow Street Railway Station opened yesterday (February 14th 2021) and the first train was received in to the station. The station provides a pedestrian, cycle and bus connection to the AberInnovation campus.</p> | |
| <p>7.</p> | <p>Diweddariad gan Lywodraeth Cymru / Welsh Government Update</p> <p>i. Fframweithiau Economaidd Rhanbarthol a materion rhanbarthol cysylltiedig / Regional Economic Frameworks and related regional matters</p> <p>AW stated that the REF sets out the principles of how stakeholders in the region work in a more inclusive and collaborative manner going forward and is intended to influence national plans from a Mid Wales perspective. The ambition of the REF is to set out shared economic priorities across the public, private and third sector based on the principles and ways of working outlined in the Wellbeing and Future Generations Act. AW stated that they will be focusing in the short term on the need to respond to Covid-19 recovery.</p> <p>AW stated that a number of events were held at the end of last year. They engaged with young people and a productive session was had with a high school in the region. Bespoke engagement sessions were held with members of the partnership. AW stated that they are now focusing on the key issues and themes emerging and that there is alignment and consistency with wider strategic regional planning undertaken for the Mid Wales Growth Deal.</p> <p>AW stated that some of the issues raised was to build on distinct based assets and key opportunities such as AberInnovation, Aberystwyth University, IBERS, National Spectrum Centre, the Royal Welsh Showground and other industrial sectors. Energy and the environment has been identified as one of the key assets.</p> | |

AW stated that other themes highlighted were promoting enterprise, the unique heritage culture and the Welsh language. Also the need to build on quality of education provision and provide jobs for young people to encourage them to stay in the area and play a productive role in the economy of the future. Other themes were the opportunities for tourism with the region's natural assets and how to maximise higher value tourism in the area.

AW stated that they are in the process of collating all the information into a draft document which will be shared internally and externally with key partners before the document is finalised.

AW stated that the Minister was very pleased with the signing of the HoT and work will now take place collaboratively with officials to move the HoT to a final deal agreement.

AW provided an update on the funding available in light of Covid and the significant impact the lockdown has had on businesses.

AW stated that over 900 businesses in mid Wales have benefited from the funding pots to the tune of £14.5mil. In addition, £3.1 has been made available to just under 380 companies via sector specific funding. AW stated that some additional funding is being made available to support a small business fund and Powys County Council has already received a number of applications. AW stated that the Deputy Minister has also made an additional £3mil available for the foundation economy.

The Chair stated that the cross border working is vitally important to the region and asked if WG has looked at that. AW stated that the cross border working has been considered in developing the REF.

HJ, Visit Wales, stated that at the next Mid Wales Tourism forum, they will be looking at recovery and focusing on the next phases of reopening tourism which will be fed in to an All Wales Recovery Plan. A virtual engagement event will be held later in March.

SH as Chair of the Mid Wales Tourism Forum expressed his thanks to both Ceredigion and Powys County Council and Welsh Government for the support given to the tourism sectors in terms of managing the delivery of the funding and thanked the local Health Board for the delivery of the vaccination programme. SH stated that the Royal Welsh Showground has been offered as a free facility for the vaccination roll out.

SH stated that he looks forward to discussing the Welsh Culture Recovery Fund 2 as the events sector has been hit hard by the pandemic and welcomes support from members of the Partnership to develop a cultural recovery fund.

The cancellation of events in Wales to date has resulted in a £100mil loss to the economy of Wales.

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| 8. | Unrhyw Fater Arall / Any Other Business There were no additional matters to discuss. | |
| 9. | Dyddiadau Cyfarfodydd yn y Dyfodol / Dates of Future Meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dydd Llun 24 Mai / Monday 24th May – 10:00 am • Dydd Iau 10 Medi / Thursday 16th September – 2:00 pm • Dydd Llun 18 Tachwedd / Monday 15th November – 10:30 am | |