




**Growing Mid Wales  
Partnership Meeting - Minutes  
Council Chamber, Powys County Hall, Spa Road East, Llandrindod Wells, Powys, LD1  
5LG  
Wednesday 24 June 2015, 10.00am – 12.00pm**


Attendees


Councillor Ellen ap Gwynn, Leader of Ceredigion County Council (Chair)  
 Councillor Barry Thomas, Leader of Powys County Council  
 Councillor Gareth Lloyd, Portfolio Holder for Regeneration  
 Councillor Avril York, Portfolio Holder Regeneration and Planning  
 Councillor Alun Williams, Chair, TraCC  
 Dr Rhodri Llwyd Morgan, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Aberystwyth University  
 Kathryn David, University of Wales, Trinity St David  
 James Harrison, Chair, Mid Wales Economic Forum  
 Gareth Price, Chair, Mid Wales Regional Tourism Forum  
 Doug Hughes, Chair, Newtown Local Growth Zone  
 Arwyn Watkins, Elected Representative of the Regional Learning Partnership  
 Paul Evans, Business Lead on Powys Stronger Communities Programme Board  
 Jacqui Weatherburn, Coleg Ceredigion  
 Hazel Lloyd-Lubran, CAVO  
 Allan Lewis, Ceredigion County Council  
 Mike Shaw, Ceredigion County Council  
 Ann Elias, Ceredigion County Council  
 Paul Griffiths, Powys County Council  
 Susan Bolter, Powys County Council  
 Sarah Jowett, Powys County Council  
 Ann Watkins, Welsh Government  
 Rhys Morris, Welsh Government  
 Lisa Cascarini, Powys County Council (minute taker)


1.	<p><b>Introductions and Apologies</b>          Councillor Ellen ap Gwynn welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made around the room.</p> <p>Apologies received from:          Huw Morgan, Ceredigion County Council          Elid Morris, Manager of Regional Learning Partnership          Ceri Stephens, Mid Wales Manufacturing Group and Chair of Mid Wales Chamber of Commerce          Delyth Evans, Chair, Teifi Valley Local Growth Zone          Duncan Hamer, Deputy Director, Entrepreneurship &amp; Delivery WG          Carl Cooper, PAVO</p>	
2.	<p><b>Minutes of meeting from 30 March 2015</b>          The minutes were agreed to be a true record of the meeting, proposed by Councillor Barry Thomas.</p>	

	<p><u>Matters arising</u> Page 4, rail services had been raised with the Minister and concerns have been taken on board by Officers. There is a need to ensure with the change in franchise, that the link to Birmingham continues with the hourly service and there is an improved link to Cardiff.</p> <p>The new rail service has started on the Cambrian Line. This is currently very good and well populated, it is a positive development.</p>	
3.	<p><b>Terms of Reference – Finalise</b> Amendments to the ToFR were brought together following the last meeting. Mike Shaw took the Partnership members through the document.</p> <p>Councillor Alun Williams queried the need for the Mid Wales Health Care Collaborative to be invited to meetings. <b>Action:</b> Councillor Williams to provide contact details for Lisa Cascarini</p> <p>Councillor Avril York asked if other organisations should be invited onto work streams when they are set up. It was agreed this would happen as required.</p> <p>A discussion had taken place during the previous meeting regarding the Agricultural sector. <b>Action:</b> Mike Shaw to provide contact details for Lisa Cascarini</p> <p>James Harrison supported the suggestions made as both sectors have a big impact on the economy. James suggested it should be a flexible list rather than set. The Federation of Small Businesses should also be included.</p> <p>Councillor Ellen ap Gwynn felt inviting specialist knowledge was important to the Partnership. The Partnership must have flexibility moving forward. Expanding the Partnership is the right thing to do but it must expand at a manageable scale, and for the moment it was advisable to invite organisations and representatives in response to the agenda and as the need arises. There is a lot of interest in developing the Partnership at present, and it was recommended that for the present it is important that the Chair of the partnership should come from the public sector. This initiative is being supported by the Economy, Science and Transport Minister and in this initial period it was seen as important to have continued leadership at the political level by Ceredigion and Powys to keep the momentum and get the Partnership moving. Membership and the Terms of Reference can therefore be reconsidered in the future, once the Partnership is more settled.</p> <p>Arwyn Watkins suggested that members sitting on the Partnership must pass information onto their sectors. Councillor Ellen ap Gwynn agreed with this.</p> <p>A discussion took place regarding the Local Growth Zones within Powys as Brecon is currently inactive so not represented. It was agreed by the Partnership that currently the Local Growth Zones be represented by Newtown and Llandrindod Wells.</p>	<p><b>AW / LJC</b></p> <p><b>MS / LJC</b></p>

	<p>A discussion took place concerning attendance at meetings and whether deputies could attend in the absence of named representatives. It was agreed that in ideal circumstances the named representative should attend but deputies would be allowed. The deputies should be well briefed to ensure business continuity and they would be expected to act as full members when in attendance.</p> <p>Councillor Ellen ap Gwynn requested approval of the Terms of Reference, they were agreed, following amendments discussed at the meeting. <b>The Partnership agreed to include Mid Wales Health Care Collaborative, Federation of Small Businesses and National Farmers' Union / Farmers' Union of Wales as members of the Partnership.</b></p> <p><b>Action:</b> Mike Shaw to forward the amended version to the next meeting of the Partnership.</p>	<p><b>MS</b></p>
<p>4.</p>	<p><b>Mid Wales Economy – Presentation from Allan Lewis and Susan Bolter</b></p> <p>Sue Bolter and Allan Lewis presented on the Mid Wales Economy. A copy of the presentation is included in the minutes.</p> <p>Councillor Ellen ap Gwynn raised concerns that the student figures were incorrect. The figure represents the number of students with no jobs at all.</p> <p>Doug Hughes felt that Mid Wales was attracting businesses and although young people may leave to further their education many return in later life.</p> <p>Councillor Avril York felt it was important to make sure Mid Wales had a vibrant economy to attract young people. There is a need to reverse the current trend of youngsters moving away. Mid Wales requires good housing, education and leisure which will encourage young people to want to live here.</p> <p>Jacqui Weatherburn felt that working in Mid Wales needs to be made more attractive, offering a progression route in employment, people cannot see the next move up in career progression.</p> <p>Arwyn Watkins raised the need to recognise that it is sometimes difficult to make investment when there is very little unemployment in Mid Wales. As it is almost full employment, it is also difficult to fill vacancies with those with the right skills.</p> <p>Councillor Ellen ap Gwynn suggested Manon Antoniazzi be invited to a future meeting because of the huge importance of tourism to the region's economy. <b>Action:</b> Ann Watkins to provide contact details for Lisa Cascarini</p> <p>Paul Griffiths suggested taking the presentation and comments forward and turning it into an action plan. When a draft action plan has been produced it can then be shared with the Partnership. It is important to receive comments between meetings to avoid unnecessary delay so that it can be agreed at the next meeting.</p>	<p> Ms Overview of economic challenge.</p> <p><b>AW / LJC</b></p>

	<p>Councillor Alun Williams felt it was important to make a case to WG suggesting that geographically Mid Wales is a key strategic position. It could be the all Wales meeting place, the centre of all Wales activity.</p> <p>James Harrison suggested setting up a network for information and communication as people are not aware of jobs in Mid Wales. That may solve some of the issues. Reference was made to the previous Llwybro Routes programme which previously operated in Mid Wales.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> James Harrison to contact Ann Watkin directly.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> LA Officer to prepare the action plan for next meeting.</p>	<p><b>JH</b></p> <p><b>LA Officers</b></p>
5.	<p><b>Support for Businesses – Rhys Morris, Business Wales WG</b> Rhys Morris delivered a presentation on Support for Businesses. A copy of the presentation is included in the minutes.</p> <p>Councillor Avril York asked if the SME’s and micro businesses were included. Rhys Brown advised they were.</p> <p>Arwyn Watkins requested that apprentices were given access to the information.</p>	 <p>Business Wales Level 1-4 presentatic</p>
6.	<p><b>EU Regional Engagement – Mike Shaw</b> Mike Shaw advised this is an opportunity to look at projects that are coming though European funding streams and other projects to get better outcomes for the region.</p> <p>He explained what “regional engagement” means for and in Mid Wales and illustrated this with an example drawn from the third sector.</p> <p>Funding for ‘regional engagement’ is available through the European Programmes and the Powys and Ceredigion County Councils had started to apply for this. The detailed plans were required quickly as Welsh Government wanted to see ‘regional engagement’ underway by autumn.</p> <p>Councillor Ellen ap Gwynn suggested the Partnership needed to focus on what is required in Mid Wales; it is an important opportunity to get the Growing Mid Wales Partnership’s voice heard and our priorities listened to. Paul Griffiths felt it was critical that the Partnership is seen to move this forward as pace is critical. The Authorities need to work together on the detail. The strength of the Partnership will allow this work to continue. Doug Hughes emphasised the need to find a way of working that would facilitate the involvement and contribution of the private sector. Councillor Avril York felt it was important to make sure all areas work together as there are different European funding streams and it was noted that the programmes for both East Wales and West Wales and the Valleys are similarly worded.</p> <p>Mike Shaw highlighted the realities of scoping this work, staffing and other arrangements as the funding split is roughly 82% Ceredigion and 18% Powys.</p>	

	<p>The Partnership considered the emerging proposals for the delivery of the Regional Engagement function in the mid Wales region and the likely timetable, endorsed the approach and <b>agreed</b>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) In the Mid Wales region, the Regional Engagement function would be part of the role of the Growing Mid Wales Partnership.</li> <li>b) The proposed arrangements supporting the Partnership’s role in undertaking these tasks.</li> <li>c) To note that Ceredigion County Council is acting as lead beneficiary for the Partnership to deliver the Regional Engagement function in the Mid Wales region and that Powys County Council is acting as joint beneficiary in this.</li> <li>d) The submission of business plans for applications to Wales European Funding Office by Ceredigion County Council on behalf of the Growing Mid Wales Partnership to enable these arrangements to be put in place.</li> <li>e) Interim arrangements to ensure the regional proofing process can be delivered on behalf of the Partnership prior to the final agreements with Wales European Funding Office.</li> <li>f) Officers are to feedback when further information is received.</li> </ul>	<b>MS</b>
7.	<p><b>Private Sector Involvement in Growing Mid Wales – letter received</b></p> <p>The private sector partners had written to Councillor Ellen ap Gwynn advising how they would like to see the Partnership operate and how it could be structured. They confirmed they are committed to seeing benefits to Mid Wales. They felt it was important to look at arrangements in other rural regions as well as the experience of Local Enterprise Partnerships.</p> <p>Councillor Ellen ap Gwynn suggested inviting the North Wales Ambition Board to a future meeting.</p> <p>James Harrison suggested rather than inviting the Ambition Board to attend a meeting, a paper could be prepared for a future meeting learning from the experience, structures and the work programmes of the following; The Highlands and Islands Enterprise The Marches Local Enterprise Partnership.</p> <p>Jacqui Weatherburn advised she would be keen to see both suggestions in parallel.</p> <p>Paul Griffiths was keen to hear from the Highlands and Islands as they are similar in rurality and appeared, from an earlier presentation, to be successful. Councillor Ellen ap Gwynn suggested a conference call presentation at next Powys meeting. <b>Action:</b> LJC to discuss with ICT if this is possible.</p> <p>James Harrison confirmed he was happy to give the time to this work investigating the West Midlands experience.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> the Partnership <b>agreed</b> to receive reports back on these two Boards.</p>	<b>LJC</b>  <b>JH</b>
8.	<p><b>Any other business</b></p> <p>“Regional Prioritisation of proposals for West Wales and the Valleys ERDF Programme funding for Town Centre Building Regeneration Schemes”</p>	 GMW 240615 Additional item Tow

<p>The attached paper was tabled and Mike Shaw explained the background to Welsh Government developing a proposal to tackle redundant or underused town centre buildings to submit to the Welsh European Funding Office. Funding is available through the West Wales and the Valleys ERDF Programme. There is no parallel opportunity under the East Wales ERDF Programme, but that the West Wales and Valleys Programme allowed for expenditure outside the region where the investment supported the eligible region, but that such support required the specific approval of the All Wales Programme Monitoring Committee.</p> <p>The partners considered each scheme that had come forward and the scores for each.</p> <p>Following discussion, the Partnership;  <b>Endorsed</b> the prioritisation of three 'ready to go' and three other 'pipeline' schemes which were close to being ready :</p>	 <p>Use it or lose it - proposed schemes.c</p>														
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="244 763 671 801">Town Centre</th> <th data-bbox="671 763 1236 801">Scheme</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="244 801 671 871">Aberystwyth</td> <td data-bbox="671 801 1236 871">Swyddfa'r Sir, Marine Terrace. Hotel development</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="244 871 671 940">Aberystwyth</td> <td data-bbox="671 871 1236 940">Old Post Office site, Aberystwyth Mixed town centre uses A3</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="244 940 671 1010">Cardigan</td> <td data-bbox="671 940 1236 1010">Lloyds Wharf Leisure and tourism</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="244 1010 671 1079">Cardigan ('pipeline' scheme)</td> <td data-bbox="671 1010 1236 1079">Mwldan Community Hub</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="244 1079 671 1149">Aberystwyth ('pipeline' scheme)</td> <td data-bbox="671 1079 1236 1149">Old College, King Street Aberystwyth Mixed uses</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="244 1149 671 1267">Ystradgynlais ('pipeline' scheme)</td> <td data-bbox="671 1149 1236 1267">The Welfare, Brecon Road Cultural and community uses</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Town Centre	Scheme	Aberystwyth	Swyddfa'r Sir, Marine Terrace. Hotel development	Aberystwyth	Old Post Office site, Aberystwyth Mixed town centre uses A3	Cardigan	Lloyds Wharf Leisure and tourism	Cardigan ('pipeline' scheme)	Mwldan Community Hub	Aberystwyth ('pipeline' scheme)	Old College, King Street Aberystwyth Mixed uses	Ystradgynlais ('pipeline' scheme)	The Welfare, Brecon Road Cultural and community uses	<p><b>MS</b></p> <p><b>MS</b></p>
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<p><b>Agreed</b> to request Welsh Government to seek specific approval for 'out of region' investment to support the Ystradgynlais proposal, and;  <b>Requested</b> a further paper be presented to a future meeting on EU Programmes of funding.  <b>Actions:</b> Officers seek further information on the possibility of a parallel scheme across the East Wales region using domestic funding.</p>															

**COUNCILLOR ELLEN AP GWYNN  
CHAIR**

**Date of next Partnership meeting Monday 28 September 2015, 2.00pm  
Ystwyth Room, Penmorfa, Aberaeron, Ceredigion**