



Growing Mid Wales Partnership Meeting

Committee Room A, Powys County Council,
County Hall, Llandrindod Wells
Friday 8th January 2016

Present:

Councillor Ellen ap Gwynn, Leader of Ceredigion County Council (**Chair**)
Susan Bolter, Powys County Council
Carl Cooper, PAVO
Hywel Davies, University of Wales Trinity St. David (representing Dr. Jane Davidson)
Steve Doodson, Principal NPYTC Powys Campuses
Ann Elias, Ceredigion County Council
Paul Griffiths, Powys County Council
James Harrison Chair, Mid Wales Economic Forum
Keith Henson, representing Jacqui Weatherburn, Coleg Ceredigion and Teifi Local Growth Zone
Russell Hughes-Pickering, Ceredigion County Council
Aled Jones, FUW County Executive Officer Brecon & Radnor
John Jones, Welsh Government
Eirlys Lloyd, Ceredigion County Council
Elid Morris, Manager of Regional Learning Partnership
Huw Morgan, Ceredigion County Council
Gareth Price, Chair, Mid Wales Regional Tourism Forum
Gary Reed, Aberystwyth University
Mike Shaw, Ceredigion County Council
Ceri Stephens, Mid Wales Manufacturing Group and Chair of Mid Wales Chamber of Commerce
Councillor Barry Thomas, Leader of Powys County Council (Vice Chair)
Ann Watkin, Welsh Government
Nia Williams, Mid Wales Health Collaborative
Councillor Avril York, Portfolio Holder Regeneration and Planning

In attendance:

Melanie Hardwick, Powys County Council (Minute-taker)
Gill Hamer, Director, The Marches Local Enterprise Partnership
Seren Jones, PA to Directors, Ceredigion County Council
Graham Wynn, Chairman, The Marches Local Enterprise Partnership

1.	Introductions and Apologies Councillor Ellen ap Gwynn welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made. Apologies were received from:	
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	<p>Dr Jane Davidson, University of Wales, Trinity St David Paul Evans, Business Lead on Powys Stronger Communities Programme Board Jack Evershed, Chair of Mid Wales Health Collaborative Sue Fish, Mid Wales Health Collaborative Dr Ruth Hall, Chair of Mid Wales Health Collaborative Peter Howells, NFU Doug Hughes, Chair, Newtown Local Growth Zone & Representative of All Powys Growth Zones Mared Rand Jones, FUW County Executive Officer Ceredigion Councillor Gareth Lloyd, Ceredigion County Council, Cabinet Member for Regeneration Hazel Lloyd-Lubran, CAVO Arwyn Watkins, Elected Representative of the Regional Learning Partnership Jacqui Weatherburn, Coleg Ceredigion and Teifi Local Growth Zone</p>	
2.	<p>Minutes of meeting</p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting held on 28th September 2015 were agreed as a true record.</p>	
3.	<p>Emerging Action Plan</p> <p>Mike Shaw provided an update on progress on the draft Action Plan, a copy of which is attached to the minutes, for information.</p> <p>During discussion, particular reference was made to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information still awaited on Health & Social Care • Information continues to be inputted into the plan. If partners are yet to provide input, they need to do this as soon as possible. • The Action Plan is work in progress and is constantly being reviewed. • It was hoped that the Action Plan would be agreed and finalised at the next meeting. It would then become a 'living' document. • Setting a timeline to get information from partners would be useful. • 'Housing Supply' should be included with the plan. • Apprenticeships: Noted that funding from WG is limited. Need to promote apprenticeships to young people as well as older individuals. Close work with careers and schools is needed to ensure that young people are receiving the right guidance and advice. Need to work closely with them to ensure that the young people are aware of apprenticeships and what qualifications are needed for jobs. John Jones, Welsh Government agreed to look into the impact of the Department for Business Innovation and Skills 'Apprenticeship Levy'. Noted that funding is received from Westminster to WG. • Need to highlight FE within the Action Plan. • Broadband: The roll out of superfast broadband continues in Ceredigion with a wide areas now able to buy a superfast broadband service. Within Powys the roll out is going according to plan. The interactive website; http://www.superfast-cymru.com provides much information. The roll-out has received additional funding and has been extended. Challenges remain for the more rural and isolated areas however WG's Access Broadband Cymru scheme can be available. • Phone Signal Coverage: Noted that mobile phone coverage across the region is an issue. 	<p style="text-align: right;"> Action Plan 2nd Draft (January)2.docx</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ALL</p> <p style="text-align: center;">JJ</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer Science: Noted that some companies in were struggling to recruit locally to jobs within this sector. Aberystwyth University have a large number of students graduating with these skills. • Courses offered at NPTC College Newtown included BTEC level 3 in engineering along with literacy/numeracy/Welsh Bacalaureate skills. <p>There was disappointment that the Action Plan was not more progressed.</p>	
4.	<p>The Marches Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)</p> <p>The Chair welcomed Gill Hamer, Director of The Marches LEP and Mr Graham Wynn, Chair of The Marches LEP to the meeting. A copy of the presentation is attached to the minutes for information.</p> <p>The presentation covered the background of the Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP), the Strategic Economic Plan (SEP), LEP Projects, Governance and the Common Economic Challenges.</p> <p>The Chair and the Vice Chair thanked both Gill and Graham for their very interesting and informative presentation.</p>	 <p>20160108 Growing Mid Wales.pdf</p>
5.	<p>Strategic Transport Update</p> <p>An update on Strategic Regional Transport was presented by Ann Elias (attached).</p> <p>During discussion particular reference was made to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estimated 43% increase in Passengers on the Cambrian Railway Lines. • New report out identifying the cost of £750 million to reopen the Carmarthen to Aberystwyth Railway line. • WG releases their new publicity campaign for the Cardiff Metro system that will be implemented over the next 8years and beyond. • New franchise arrangements confirm by the DFT for West Midland Rail, Northern & Trans Pennine Express, should set a standard for the new Wales & Borders franchise. • Accelerated HS2 programme will see the connection to Crewe 6 years earlier by 2027. Estimated £755m to come to Wales under the Barnett Formula. • North Wales holds a rail summit to identify to the UK minister responsible for Rail that partnership working across the North Wales region shows that England and Wales want the same things. • WG Enterprise and Business Committee calling for evidence relating to the rail infrastructure and should Wales control funding for Rail in Wales. • The future of Bwcabus hangs in the balance as funding to continue and extend the project is sought. • DFT freight statistics inform that we have more articulated vehicles and light vans on our roads. • Mobile Phone Coverage in Mid Wales: Mike Shaw to produce an update report for the next meeting. Attached to the minutes, is the joint letter which was sent from Ceredigion and Powys CC to The Right Honourable John Whittingdale MP 	 <p>Transport Update.docx</p>

	<p>concerning mobile phone coverage in Mid Wales. Gwynedd Council have also sent a similar letter. To date no response has been received.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action Plan: Agreed to link in road schemes within the Action Plan. • Transport Officers Group (The Marches): Would welcome Anne Elias to attend the next meeting of the Group. • Hereford Council: Noted that Hereford Council have a plan in place/growth bid concerning work on the South Wye Ring Road. • Connect Midlands: Ann to be informed about this. • Aberystwyth to Carmarthen Line: Ministerial backing to invigorate the whole wales network and Cambrian line. Many people from mid wales travel to Cardiff. • Community Transport: within Powys there are 19 community transport schemes. There is a smaller network in Ceredigion. Agreed to work with Ann on Community Transport matters. • West Midlands Rail Franchise: Reported by Paul Griffiths that a letter has been received by the Chief Executive from West Midlands Rail Franchise – agreed that this should be included within the work programme. TOGG Group and Midlands Connect are involved in work surrounding this matter. • Mobile Phone Coverage: Getting networks to share masts. Stronger action required by Government. The Chair reported that there is a roaming service available when travelling abroad and also available to visitors to this country but in the UK this is something we cannot obtain. • Delivery of Goods: Need to make a case to Government over ensuring that our goods can be delivered via our road/rail networks. <p>The Vice Chair welcomed the report and noted that it was very pleasing to see the work going on with transport and that the Partnership’s officer would be involved in future meetings of the Marches Transport Officers Group.</p>	 <p>soniat-20151223-1508.pdf</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Regional Engagement Update</p> <p>Mike Shaw gave an update on Regional Engagement. A copy of the presentation is attached to the minutes for information.</p> <p>During discussion, particular reference was made to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. None of the regional bids have yet been approved – so funding not on stream yet b. Role and purpose now formally launched and recognised in particular the value of a regional focus on joining delivery up and achieving better outcomes is acknowledged. c. Work is underway and there is much now to do in the next months. • Progress on funding bid • Launch and Recognition of role • Progress on Programmes • Approved ERDF Operations • ERDF developing operations • Approved ESF operations • ESF developing • Work for the next quarter 	 <p>Regional Engagement Presenta</p>

7.	<p>Request for Support from North Wales Economic Ambition Board</p> <p>A request for support had been received from the North Wales Economic Ambition Board for an all-Wales bid for European Entrepreneurial Region status. The status brings recognition to Wales, contributes to the 'Wales in Europe' activities and gives opportunity to promote entrepreneurship. Bids to be submitted in March 2016. Discussion are on-going to develop the bid. A small working group is to be established and the 4 regions will be involved. A briefing event is to be held in Brussels at the end of January.</p> <p>Following discussion the group agreed, in principle, to endorse the application.</p> <p>Mike Shaw undertook to circulate further information to the Group to enable further discussion.</p> <p>It was agreed to receive a presentation at the next meeting from Welsh Government on the youth entrepreneurship / REAP.</p>	<p>MS</p> <p>AW</p>
8.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>a. Business Involvement</p> <p>The Chair raised that there had been no nominations from Powys or Ceredigion FSB and reminded Members that nominations should be submitted as soon as possible.</p> <p>b. Meeting regarding the State of the Agricultural Economy</p> <p>The Chair advised that she had recently attended a meeting, by invitation of Leader of Carmarthenshire County Council, to discuss the state of the agricultural economy (in particular the dairy and lamb sectors) to discuss what authorities would be doing to support the rural economy. The meeting had involved Leaders from Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire and Ceredigion County Council's.</p> <p>The Chair reported that she had asked that Powys County Council should attend. She agreed to raise this again.</p>	
9.	<p>Date of Next Meeting 26th April 2016.</p> <p>It was agreed to include a paper, on 'Cross Border Collaboration' on the agenda for this meeting.</p>	

**COUNCILLOR ELLEN AP GWYNN
CHAIR**