

**Growing Mid Wales  
 Partnership Meeting**  
**The Chamber, County Hall, Llandrindod Wells, Powys**  
**Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> July 2018**  
**10:30 – 13:10pm**

**Attendees**

Rosemarie Harris <b>(RH)</b>	Leader, Powys County Council <b>(Chair)</b>
Ellen Ap Gwynn <b>(EAG)</b>	Leader, Ceredigion County Council (Vice Chair)
David Powell <b>(DP)</b>	Chief Executive, Powys County Council
Andrew Cornish	Coleg Sir Gar
Ann Elias <b>(AE)</b>	Ceredigion County Council
Carwyn Jones-Evans	WLGA
Cllr. Dafydd Edwards <b>(Cllr. DE)</b>	Ceredigion County Council
Cllr. Martin Weale <b>(Cllr. MW)</b>	Powys County Council
Cllr. Rhodri Evans <b>(RE)</b>	Ceredigion County Council
Dr. Rhodri Llwyd Morgan <b>(RLM)</b>	Aberystwyth University
Eleanor Marks <b>(EM)</b>	Welsh Government
Emma Wilde <b>(EW)</b>	Mid Wales Manufacturing
Gareth Jones <b>(GJ)</b>	Powys County Council
Jane Lewis (JL)	RLSP
Jenni Thomas	Powys County Council
John Jones <b>(JJ)</b>	Welsh Government
Lisa Griffiths	Powys County Council
Matthew Williams <b>(MW)</b>	Federation of Small Businesses
Nigel Brinn <b>(NB)</b>	Powys County Council
Peter Davies MBE <b>(PD)</b>	Farmers Union of Wales
Rhian Hayward <b>(RHayward)</b>	Aberystwyth University
Rob Halford <b>(RHalford)</b>	Welsh Government
Rob Holt <b>(RH)</b>	Welsh Government
Rowland Rees-Evans <b>(RRE)</b>	Mid Wales Tourism
Sue Darnbrook <b>(SLD)</b>	Ceredigion County Council (on behalf of Eifion Evans)
Vanessa Naughton	Welsh Government
Mike Shaw <b>(MS)</b>	Mid Wales Regional Engagement Team

## In attendance

- Fiona Clancy – Riversimple Movement Ltd (in attendance for presentation only)
- Julia Chesney Roberts - Riversimple Movement Ltd (in attendance for presentation only)
- Peter Williams, WG
- Peter Morris - Powys County Council
- Seren Jones – Note taker – Ceredigion County Council

1.	<b>Introductions and Apologies</b>	
	<p>The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and introductions were made.</p> <p>Apologies were received from:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ann Watkin – WG</li> <li>• Arwyn Watkin – Cambrian Training</li> <li>• Ceri Stephens – Mid Wales Manufacturing Group</li> <li>• Cllr. Dafydd Meurig – Gwynedd County Council</li> <li>• Cllr. Dyfrig Siencyn – Gwynedd County Council</li> <li>• Cllr. Myfanwy Alexander – Powys County Council</li> <li>• Eifion Evans – Ceredigion County Council</li> <li>• Emyr Williams – Snowdonia National Park Authority</li> <li>• Hywel Davies – University of Wales Trinity St. David</li> <li>• Mr. Julian Atkins, Brecon Beacons National Park</li> <li>• Peter Howells, NFU</li> <li>• Peter Skitt – Hywel Dda University Health Board</li> <li>• Rhodri Griffiths – WG</li> <li>• Russell Hughes-Pickering – Ceredigion County Council</li> </ul>	
2.	<p><b>Declarations of Interest</b></p> <p>Eleanor Marks, WG, declared an interest in item 5 of the Agenda 'presentation on Broadband and Mobile Communications in the region; WG'.</p>	
3.	<p><b>Minutes and actions from last GMW Partnership on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2018</b></p> <p>The Chair was authorised to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> April 2018 proposed as a correct record by Cllr. MW, Powys County Council, and seconded by RRE, Mid Wales Tourism.</p>	
4.	<p><b>To receive presentation from Riversimple Movement Ltd</b></p>	
	<p>Fiona Clancy (FC) and Julia Chesney Roberts (JCR) from Riversimple Movement Ltd, (Riversimple) were welcomed to the meeting to provide a presentation on their business which is a UK based car</p>	

manufacturer of hydrogen powered fuel cell electric car vehicles based in Llandrindod Wells.

A copy of the presentation is attached:-



RS\_GrowingMidWales  
180713.pdf

The presentation covered the following points:-

- Rivesimple's purpose to pursue systematically, the elimination of the environmental impact of personal transport;
- The development of clean cars that are affordable, convenient and fun to drive;
- Why the market needs alternatives to petrol and diesel vehicles;
- Overview of their Riversimple Rasa car;
- The vehicles being sold on an all-inclusive one monthly direct-debit covering all costs, servicing and maintenance etc.;
- Their Product development plans for a light commercial van.

Rivesimple thanked Powys County Council and the WG for the support they have received to date to establish their business.

An opportunity for discussion and questions followed from Members:-

JJ queried what the biggest challenges are for recruiting skills to a rural area like Llandrindod Wells?


FC stated that they work with a number of colleges and universities and do offer apprenticeship schemes which do attract a number of applicants.

EM queried what the feedback from user experience has been like. FC stated that user feedback has been positive and people are very excited about it.

RRE stated if Riversimple will be looking to do more in Mid Wales? How will this work? FC stated that they are in discussion with Powys County Council for their first manufacturing site within the County.

FC stated that Abergavenny will be used as a refuelling point on a trial basis.

EAG queried if Riversimple are able to access supplies within a reasonable radius of Llandrindod Wells? FC confirmed that all supplies

	<p>are UK based at the moment. More motoring companies are relocating to Wales which would eventually bring more suppliers in to Wales. AE queried if Riversimple have thought about renting the cars to car clubs? FC stated that they would be happy to explore having car clubs as a customer. They would be able to rent the car for a period of time and manage it how they wish.</p> <p>FC noted that the NHS and NRW have shown interest in the car for carpooling purposes.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Fiona Clancy and Julia Chesney for their informative and exciting presentation to the GMW Partnership today.</p>	
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>To receive presentation verbal report / presentation on Broadband and Mobile Communications in the region; WG</b></p>	
	<p>Peter Gwyn Williams (PGW), WG, attended the meeting to provide a presentation on Broadband and Mobile Communications in the region.</p> <p>A copy of the presentation is attached below</p> <p> 20180709 - Growing Mid Wales - ICT Infras</p> <p>The presentation covered an overview of WG's 'Taking Wales Forward 2016-2021' project to "Bring people together digitally by offering fast reliable broadband to every property in Wales".</p> <p>The presentation covered the following points:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Post Superfast Cymru Programme and the funding available;</li> <li>• Details of Superfast Broadband (30Mbps+);</li> <li>• Details of Ultrafast Broadband (100Mbps+)</li> <li>• Details of WG's Mobile Action Plan</li> <li>• How they will look to improve mobile coverage and capacity for the customer;</li> <li>• Details of the new Emergency Services Network (Home Office);</li> <li>• Details of Mobile Services Extended Area Services (EAS)</li> <li>• Information regarding 'Internet of Things'</li> </ul> <p>An opportunity for discussion and questions followed.</p> <p>RE queried why the WG prioritise rural properties when there are some villages with no access due to Cabinet capacity being full. RE stated that businesses are struggling in rural areas.</p>	

	<p>PGW asked to be informed of where these areas are as WG do keep a close eye on villages with capacity problems. EAG queried why there is no data roaming in Britain as yet?</p> <p>PGW stated that there are some UK companies who are now offering data roaming sim cards for the UK.</p> <p>Cllr. DE asked how WG are communicating different services and technologies with communities?</p> <p>PGW stated that they have previously sent mass market mail outs to residents and are also embarking on a targeted marketing campaign.</p> <p>The Chair thanked PGW for his presentation today. PGW stated he would be happy to discuss any concerns or queries Members may have following today's meeting.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p><b>To receive a progress update on the AECOM Consultancy; 'Evidence based programme of interventions'.</b></p>	
	<p>GJ provided a progress update on the AECOM consultancy work to date. AECOM have been appointed on behalf of the GMW Partnership to develop an evidence base programme of interventions to form a Regional Economic Action Plan.</p> <p>GJ stated that today's update report includes the draft Baseline Report which is attached at Appendix A and provides a draft summary at this stage of key issues and opportunities identified principally through the evidence base.</p> <p>GJ stated that a range of stakeholder engagement events have taken place, and following discussion regarding an emerging vision for the region at the GMW AECOM Workshop held in Llandrindod Wells on the 14<sup>th</sup> June 2018, GJ presented the vision statement below:-</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>“Mid Wales will be a prosperous, culturally distinctive rural region offering inclusive, sustainable economic growth and the highest possible quality of life for its residents, driven by technological innovation, high quality education, connectivity and jobs.”</b></p> <p>Members supported the vision statement, however, PD, FUW, requested that the word 'bilingual' is included to demonstrate that bilingualism is important to the Mid Wales region. This was noted.</p> <p>Next steps:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An online survey supported by a press release, social media,</li> </ul>	

	<p>and networks and direct mailing to invite wider input from the private sector and organisations across the region.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow up and more detailed consultation will take place with businesses, Regionally Important Companies and representatives from key sectors including learning and skills, agriculture, advanced manufacturing and tourism.</li> <li>• A long list of interventions will prepared for evaluation and consultation.</li> </ul> <p>The Chair thanked GJ for his update today.</p> <p><b>Action: GJ to include ‘bilingual’ within the vision statement to demonstrate that bilingualism is important to the Mid Wales region.</b></p>	GJ
7.	<b>To receive a verbal update on recent Meetings – Growth Deal</b>	
	<p>DP provided an update on a recent meeting held on the 5<sup>th</sup> July 2018 in London between Powys &amp; Ceredigion Chief Executives and officers, and officers of the UK Government, regarding the potential Growth Deal for Mid Wales (DP stressed that it is still a potential Growth Deal at this stage).</p> <p>DP stated that it was a positive meeting and a general direction of travel for the potential Growth Deal was discussed. DP noted that the potential Growth Deal for Mid Wales is looking similar to the one for North Wales. DP stated that Ministers will need to be assured that the Mid Wales region can deliver significant projects.</p> <p>DP stated that the role of the private sector was strongly stressed as a key requirement and driver for the potential Growth Deal.</p> <p>DP stated that the commitment of both Local Authorities and that both have set aside money was positively received. DP stated that it was confirmed that any money from central government will be capital only and not revenue and that the private sector will be expected to contribute a third of the funding.</p> <p>DP stated that the Growth Deal will be considered and signed off by the Treasury and it is hoped an announcement will be received by the end of 2019.</p> <p>An Economic Strategy Group of private companies is to be established.</p> <p>DP stated that regular meetings are likely to take place in London while this work is being taken forward.</p>	



	The Chair thanked DP for his update today.	
<b>8.</b>	<b>Inter Authority Agreement</b>	
	<p>SLD provided an update on behalf of Eifion Evans, Chief Executive of Ceredigion County Council, on the progress of the Inter Authority Agreement (IAA) to date.</p> <p>A first draft of the IAA has been created and a second draft is now being worked on with input from both Ceredigion &amp; Powys legal teams. SLD provided an update on the content of each Schedule attached to the IAA.</p> <p>Schedule 1 is suggesting a joint committee arrangement without the role of MO and Section 151 Officer, although, these could be joined at a later stage. Voting rights will be included with equal voting rights for each Council and one vote for the Chair of the Economic Strategy Group and the Chair of the Regional Learning and Skills Partnership.</p> <p>Schedule 2 is the description and function of the Economic Strategic Group which will be led by the private sector.</p> <p>Schedule 3 is the description and function of the Regional Learning and Skills Partnership which will be led by Aberystwyth University.</p> <p>Other areas will focus on dispute resolution, liability clauses etc.</p> <p>A final draft agreement will be presented to the next joint informal Cabinet meeting between Ceredigion and Powys County Councils in the early autumn.</p> <p><b>Action: A final draft Inter Authority Agreement to be presented to the next joint informal Cabinet meeting between Ceredigion and Powys County Councils in the early autumn.</b></p>	EE/DP
<b>9.</b>	<b>To receive the Regional Engagement Update Report – Quarter 2, 2018</b>	
	<p>MS presented his draft Regional Engagement Update Report – Quarter 2 which was circulated prior to the meeting and highlights the work undertaken during the last quarter.</p> <p><b><u>ERDF Priority 1 Call for Research and Innovation Proposals</u></b></p> <p>MS noted that two proposals from the Mid Wales region have been prioritised following their successful bids submitted under the Research and Innovation call launched last November:-</p>	

1. Circular Economy Hub for Wales – Pan Wales-Riversimple Movement Ltd.
2. BECACON – WW&V and EW – Aberystwyth University

MS stated that all proposals will be considered by a Cross Sector Working group before the end of the month to discuss the impacts for Mid Wales, and the opportunities around these proposals and the draft responses for agreement by the GMW Partnership.

MS stated that the funding profile for regional engagement is currently being revised. MS reminded Members that an event took place during February 2018 to consider a response to the regional investment consultation. WG have now published the outcome of that consultation which will be considered by WG's Cabinet shortly.

RH confirmed that the outcome of the consultation exercise is being reported to the Cabinet on Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> July 2018. The Cabinet will be asked to agree to a programme of work to allow development of a future approach to regional policy in Wales which would mean Wales would receive replacement funding for the EU funding it will lose. If agreed, the work will involve cross departmental working within WG and would honour the commitment given in the consultation document to seek to co-design the regional policy approach with partners.

### **The Interreg Ireland Programme in Mid Wales**

MS presented The Ireland Wales 2014-2020 European Territorial Co-operation (ETC) programme and provided a brief update on the proposals Aberystwyth University are putting forward. MS noted that the eligible area includes Ceredigion but unfortunately not Powys.

### **Strength in Places Fund**

MS stated that Strength in Places Fund is a funding scheme which is part of the UK Government's Industrial Strategy, and expressions of interest have now been invited from research organisations. It was noted that Aberystwyth University are submitting a proposal 'The Agricultural Futures Innovation (AFI) Platform' and RH, Aberystwyth University, provided some further information regarding the proposal which will be submitted on the 25<sup>th</sup> July 2018.

RH stated that it is proposed the AFI Platform will be co-located with Aberystwyth University to operate across the extensive agri-food and farming businesses in Mid Wales (Ceredigion and Powys). The AFI



	<p>Platform will bring together businesses in the Mid Wales area operating in food, energy, and chemical supply chains with interdisciplinary experts from agriculture, biosciences, veterinary sciences, artificial intelligence and remote sensing/earth observation disciplines to develop more competitive regional products and services from agricultural land.</p> <p>The objectives for the project are to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create unique test beds for product and service development from lowland and upland holdings</li> <li>• Enable economically viable diversification of land use to alternative, post carbon products and services</li> <li>• Successfully integrate digital, big data and cyber security technologies into agricultural product and service developments of the future</li> <li>• Train and inspire the next generation of producers and suppliers to adopt technological advances and enable knowledge exchange.</li> </ul> <p>RH stated that they unsure at present how many jobs the AFI would create but the priority would be to create and safeguard jobs in the Ceredigion and Powys areas.</p> <p>PD, FUW, confirmed he would be happy to assist with liaising with farmers etc. A newsletter distributed via WG would also be another great way to engage with farmers.</p> <p>The GMW Partnership agreed to support the proposal to be submitted by Aberystwyth University on the 25<sup>th</sup> July 2018 noting the alignment with GMW’s ‘Framework for Action’ and to participate in the proposal, the development of the bid and in any advisory/ steering board.</p>	
<p><b>10.</b></p>	<p><b>To consider the ‘Employment and Skills Plan for SW and Mid Wales 2018’, RLSP</b></p>	
	<p>JL presented the draft ‘Employment and Skills Plan for SW and Mid Wales 2018’ to the Partnership. JL explained that this Report varies differently to the one produced last year.</p> <p>Following the request of the GMW Partnership, JL presented an Annual Report specifically for the Growing Mid Wales region which is a sub-regional breakdown of the main annual report for the entire region of South West &amp; Mid Wales. JL took members through it in detail. JL stated that this will be a plan for this year only, however, WG have asked that next year; a plan is developed for 3 years.</p>	

JL stated that research has been undertaken with employers and great feedback was received from a cross sector of businesses in Ceredigion and Powys.

JL stated that page 6 of the Report highlights the number of key sectors the RLSP are aware of which are operational or in development in the region. JL requested for the Partnership to inform her of anymore that should be included.

JL stated that page 8 focuses on the employer engagement. Engagement has taken place with 147 businesses across the region.

JL stated that the Report includes a number of issues identified by the region, and that the issues are very similar to those raised by employers in the South-West Wales region. It was noted that 57% of employers highlighted skills and recruitment challenges as an issue, and the growth deal is also a key topic for employers.

JL stated that the Vision is still in draft and requested GMWs input.

JL drew Members attention to page 16 of the Report which is about the Skills Development Fund. JL stated that they have worked with colleges across the region to look at areas which the skills Partnership felt additional funding was required. BIDS to WG have been submitted to WG for the £2.8mil which has been allocated to the area. No response has been received to date.

The remaining sections of the report focus on WG's Green Growth agenda and the Welsh language. JL stated that Welsh language is not something that is seen as a high priority for all employers, however, training through the medium of Welsh is a barrier which has been highlighted and which is being addressed.

The RLSP's recommendations for cost neutral changes in FE and apprenticeships in the region are included on a separate spreadsheet tabled today. JL asked Members to inform her if anything else should be included.

EAG thanked JL for the update today and stated that the Report is a much fuller analysis than what has previously been reported. However, noted that there is no mention throughout of any Higher Education courses and the learning pathways available through to higher education.

	<p>JL stated that unfortunately they are restricted to further education and apprenticeships and do not hold a remit for higher education courses.</p> <p>On behalf of Eifion Evans, Chief Executive of Ceredigion County Council, SLD stated that a £5k grant has been received to undertake the scoping of a learning partnership in Mid Wales, however, this is not enough to finance a full document. It is important that the document would address learning pathways and pathways to employment.</p> <p>RLI stated that this was an initial commission offered to Aberystwyth University and discussions remain ongoing with WG with regard to exact terms of reference.</p>	
<b>11.</b>	<b>To consider Growing Mid Wales response to the National Development Framework Consultation (NDF)</b>	
	<p>Peter Morris (PM), Powys County Council, presented the draft GMW Partnership response to the National Development Framework (NDF) and took the Members through the draft response in detail.</p> <p>PM stated that it is important for GMW to respond to this Consultation as this is required by the Planning Wales Act (prepared by WG) and will be the first development plan for a country/ nation and will set out planning policies for the whole of Wales. It will need to work for the Mid Wales region and that it is compatible with the work ongoing around the Growth Deal.</p> <p>EAG stated that the message of a footprint of 4 is a very important message to feedback. EAG stated that we must fight hard for recognition of a region which is developing and there is a need to focus on the option of strong communities across Wales.</p> <p>Members noted and agreed the draft response of the GMW Partnership to WG's consultation subject to any further comments being received and a final draft being circulated to Members prior to submission to WG.</p>	
<b>12.</b>	<b>To receive a verbal progress report on the Partnership's Communications Strategy.</b>	
	SLD stated that work to develop a GMW Communications Strategy is progressing.	
<b>13.</b>	<b>Connectivity and Infrastructure Working Group: June 2018 Update</b>	
	AE presented the Connectivity and Infrastructure Working Group: June 2018 Update Report to the Partnership.	

	<p>AE stated that KeolisAmey (the company who have been awarded the Transport for Wales franchise) will be invited to attend the next GMW Partnership meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2018.</p> <p>An update will be provided on a £100mil rail testing complex proposal for the Neath Valley / Ystradgynlais at the next GMW meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> October 2018.</p> <p>AE noted that Midland Connect's Annual Report "Routes to Growth" highlights cross border route to Mid Wales.</p> <p><b>Action: KeolisAmey (Awarded the Transport for Wales Franchise) to attend the next GMW Partnership meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2018.</b></p>	
<b>14.</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b>	
	<p>The Chair wished to congratulate Eleanor Marks for her appointment to be Director Wales for OFCOM. She will commence her new role in September 2018.</p> <p>LG raised a minor point of clarification. LG stated that JT has been working closely with Riversimple Ltd and they have been talking to a company in RCT which has the technology for body fibre for the cars. They are looking to have their manufacturing factory based within Powys.</p>	
	<b>Future Meeting Dates</b>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>05 October 2018 at 10.30am in Aberaeron, Ceredigion</b></li> </ul>	

**Leader of Powys County Council, Councillor Rosemarie Harris, Chair**