



**Growing Mid Wales
Partnership Meeting**
The Chamber, Penmorfa, Aberaeron, SA46 0PA
10.30 a.m. Friday, 13th April 2018
10:40 - 12:50pm

Attendees

Rosemarie Harris (RH)	Leader, Powys County Council (Chair)
Ellen Ap Gwynn (EAG)	Leader, Ceredigion County Council (Vice-Chair)
Alun Williams (AW)	Ceredigion County Council
Ann Elias (AE)	Ceredigion County Council
Ann Watkin (AnW)	Welsh Government
Ceri Stephens (CS)	Mid Wales Manufacturing Group
Claire Miles (CM)	Regional Engagement Officer
Dyfrig Siencyn (DS)	Gwynedd County Council
Eifion Evans (EE)	Ceredigion County Council
Emma Wilde (EW)	Mid Wales Manufacturing Group
Gareth Jones (GJ)	Powys County Council
Gareth Lloyd (GL)	Ceredigion County Council
Gareth Rowlands (GR)	Ceredigion County Council
John Jones (JJ)	Welsh Government
Lisa Griffiths (LG)	Powys County Council
Matthew Williams (MW)	FSB
Mike Shaw (MS)	Ceredigion County Council
Paul Griffiths (PG)	Powys County Council
Peter Davies (PD)	FUW
Peter Howells (PH)	NFU
Phyl Davies (PH)	Powys County Council
Rachel Clegg (RC)	RLSP
Rhian Hayward (RH)	Aberystwyth University
Rhodri Griffiths (RG)	Welsh Government
Rhodri Llwyd Morgan (RLIM)	Aberystwyth University
Rob Halford (RHa)	Welsh Government
Rob Holt (RHo)	Welsh Government
Rowland Rees-Evans (RRE)	Private Tourism Chair
Russell Hughes-Pickering	Ceredigion County Council
Vanessa Naughton (VN)	Welsh Government
Vivienne Lewis (VL)	Welsh Government

In attendance

Bob Perkins (BP) AECOM
Gareth Brown (GB) AECOM
Seren Jones Ceredigion County Council

Katherine Saunders Observer, Aberystwyth University

1. Introductions and Apologies	
<p>The Chair welcomed Peter Davies to the meeting who will now attend the GMW Partnership meetings on behalf of the Farmers Union of Wales (FUW) in place of Mared Jones.</p> <p>The Chair welcomed Vanessa Naughton, Welsh Government, to the meeting who will be attending to represent WG Homes and Places while Vivienne Lewis will be on maternity leave. The Chair thanked Vivienne Lewis for her contribution to the Partnership and wished her well.</p> <p>Emma Wilde was welcomed to the meeting who will be attending future GMW meetings on behalf of Mid Wales Chamber of Commerce.</p> <p>Cllr. Ellen Ap Gwynn (EAG) then invited Cllr. Rosemarie Harris (RH) to assume the Chair of the GMW Partnership to for the forthcoming year (2018-19). RH thanked EAG for all her work to support the Partnership in the last year. RH stated that it is excellent that GMW had been recognised in the Chancellor's budget speech last autumn. RH referred to the progress being made jointly between Ceredigion and Powys with joint Cabinet meetings taking place with another scheduled for the 3rd May 2018.</p>	
<p>Apologies were received from:</p> <p>Cllr. Martin Weale – Powys County Council Sandra Isaac – Coleg Ceredigion Julian Atkins - Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Paul Evans – Venture Automotive</p>	
2. Minutes and actions from last GMW Partnership on 12 January 2018	
<p>The Chair was authorised to approve the Minutes of the 12 January 2018 on behalf of the Partnership; the Minutes will be published and presented to the Cabinet at both Ceredigion County Council and Powys County Council.</p>	
Matters Arising	

	<p><u>TRIP Regeneration Investment Programme (TRIP)</u></p> <p>GL stated that he recollects discussion at the last meeting that the third sector and private sector were to be part of the ad hoc TRIP Regeneration Investment Programme Assessment Panel; however, this has been omitted from the Minutes. This was confirmed by VL who stated that the discussion did take place at the last meeting and it is appropriate for it to be included in the Minutes. The Chair stated that this could be picked up later in the Agenda and included within the Minutes of today's meeting.</p> <p>DS stated that he was uncomfortable with the wording of the Minute (Page 6) - below, and requested that the Minute is removed..</p> <p><i>'GM noted that in terms of Gwynedd, the North West may not receive sufficient opportunity, and that there is a focus towards the East. The Chair highlighted that South Gwynedd was not included within the fund allocation to Powys and Ceredigion.'</i></p> <p><u>Progress and Action Plan for the Year Ahead</u></p> <p>Following the action at the last meeting for CM/MS to contact the offices of Ken Skates AM and Jake Berry AM to request a meeting re: Growing Mid Wales, at which Ceredigion and Powys are represented, EE confirmed that a letter has been sent but no response has been received to date.</p> <p>For accuracy, the Vice-Chair noted that Jake Berry is an MP and not an AM.</p>	
3.	<p>To receive presentation from the consultancy appointed to develop '<i>Evidence Based regional Programme of Interventions</i>' on behalf of the Partnership.</p> <p>The Chair welcomed Bob Perkins (BP) and Gareth Brown (GB) from AECOM who have been commissioned to develop an 'Evidence Based Regional Programme of Interventions' on behalf of the Partnership in order to develop a Regional Economic Plan for Mid Wales. The commission has been overseen by a Steering Group which included representatives from WG, Ceredigion and Powys. An Inception Meeting was also held yesterday.</p> <p>Please see attached a copy of the presentation provided.</p>	
	 18-04-12 Growing Mid Wales Partnership	

<p>The presentation focused on the following key points:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information about AECOM • Information about the commission • Potential focus for interventions • The project approach • The Partnership's role • Project timescales <p>The Chair stated that it will be important to include the business community in this work going forward. The Chair also stated that it is important that this work now gathers momentum and is part of the GMW officers group's agenda. BP & GB stated that there will be regular communication with the Partnership in order to ensure the correct direction of travel.</p> <p>EE stated that it is important to focus on the unique selling points of Mid Wales and focus on what is unique to the area.</p> <p>Discussion took place as to how best to include the business community in this work going forward. RRE, MTW, stated that he has a raft of contacts in the tourism and agriculture industry and would be happy to share these contacts with BP and GB after the meeting.</p> <p>MW, FSB, also confirmed that he would be happy to engage in the process to establish any interventions to support businesses across the spectrum given the importance of self-employed and micro businesses in this work.</p> <p>RG stated that there is a strong tie between businesses and academia in the region, and he and his team will fully support any work going forward.</p> <p>RHo confirmed that there is a Regional Tourism Forum being held on the 20th June 2018, and he would be able to convene some discussions at that forum in order to increase intervention rates.</p> <p>CS also confirmed that MWCC also have some events in the pipeline which AECOM would be welcome to attend.</p> <p>It was agreed that a stakeholder engagement workshop would be beneficial to progress this work.</p> <p>AnW noted that discussions had taken place in the inception meeting held yesterday (12th April 2018) regarding a need for an engagement plan. AnW stated that it would be beneficial to circulate the</p>	
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	<p>engagement plan to Members for input and for it to be monitored carefully and closely. In addition, AnW stated that the publicity of the consultancy appointment is crucial to inform the region of this piece of important work underway. AnW stated that she would be happy to explore this via CCC and PCC local authority communication teams.</p> <p>The Chair thanked BP and GB for their presentation today.</p> <p>ACTION: Stakeholder Workshop to be arranged</p>	CM
4.	<p>To receive a verbal update on Joint Powys / Ceredigion Council Cabinet meetings and arrangements being discussed</p> <p>EE provided a verbal update on the joint Cabinet meetings which have been taking place between Ceredigion and Powys Councils. EE stated that now GMW has received recognition within the growth deal, it has put some pace in to the discussions of the two partner agencies.</p> <p>Following the last meeting held on the 9th, February, 2018, EE stated that a single governance arrangement for the region is being established, and MS (CCC) and LG (PCC) have been tasked with producing an IIA between CCC and PCC to demonstrate to WG and the Wales Office that there is firm commitment in place. EE stated that consideration will also be given as to how the IIA will include neighbouring authorities. EE stated that the draft document will be presented to the next joint Cabinet meeting on the 3rd May 2018.</p> <p>EE stated that an Economic Strategy Plan for the region is also being developed. An Economic Strategy Group is being convened and is undertaking investigative work to include identifying companies within the private sector who have not yet been engaged with.</p> <p>EE stated that there is a raft of private multinational companies in the region who can contribute to the local economy massively and reported following a workshop recently held in Ceredigion where large businesses in the county attended and provided presentations. EE stated that one thing that came apparent from the workshop was the need to be more learner focused and to address the need to keep learners in the Mid Wales area following their higher education studies. EE stated that this should also be the focus for the public and private sector. The Economic Strategy Plan will be discussed further at the next joint Cabinet on the 3rd May 2018.</p> <p>DS stated that he would be keen to discuss Gwynedd's role going forward and felt uncomfortable that Gwynedd were not a full partner of the growth deal. EE stated that there are governance arrangements in place which state that Authorities can't be a member of more than one</p>	

	<p>growth area. EAG stated it is vitally important to include Gwynedd in discussions going forward. It was noted that there have been some conflicting messages regarding the flexibility of the Growth Deal.</p> <p>ACTION: EAG stated that a meeting had been scheduled with Lord Bourne, Wales Office, and further clarity would be sought at that meeting.</p> <p>EE stated that both Cabinets also wanted to look at the future branding for GMW in order to give GMW an identity of its own. EE stated that the options for the branding will presented under agenda item 4 for decision.</p>	
5.	To consider and agree branding options for the Partnership	
	<p>MS (CCC) & LG (PCC) presented the branding options for GMW going forward. MS stated that following discussion at the last meeting and at the GMW Officers Group on the 9th March 2018, it has been agreed that a distinctive and unique logo is required to capture what GMW is about. MS & LG have worked jointly with their internal communications team and professional designers and four options are being presented to Members today for consideration. (Please see attachment below).</p> <p> LOGO - GMW 20180413.pdf</p> <p>Following consideration of each logo, the Partnership agreed to option 6 subject to strengthening the focus on the Mid Wales area.</p> <p></p> <p>PD, wished to note that he did not agree with this logo as it is not specific enough in terms of the clear boundaries of Mid Wales etc.</p>	
6.	Targeted Regeneration Investment Programme (TRIP)	
	<p>GR presented the attached Report relating to the Targeted Regeneration Investment Programme (TRIP), and presented the report in detail to Members.</p> <p>  Regeneration Plan MID WALES Report 13.4.18 v3.pcREGIONAL REGENER</p>	

1. The Regeneration Plan

GR presented the Regeneration Plan to Members which is a document prepared by WG to map out and coordinate regeneration activity in the region for the next 10 years. GR explained that the document will be a live document which will evolve as necessary. However, it was noted that WG required a draft plan to be submitted and signed off. Annex 1 (attached above) was submitted in draft to WG on the 7th March 2018 and positive feedback has been received.

Members noted the details of the Partnership's Mid Wales Regeneration Plan and agreed its content.

2. Process for Identifying and Selecting Investment Ideas for TRIP Funding

GR noted that this work in progress. GR stated that this ties in with the Regeneration Plan for investment into the region's 6 market towns to target regeneration activity. GR stated that at the last GMW, it was said that this funding would be available to all sectors. GR explained that an open call for expressions of interest has been held via Sell2Wales with a closing date of today (13th April 2018), however, GR stated that the portal would be closing at 5pm due to maintenance therefore the deadline has been extended to Monday morning (16th April 2018). The Open Call will seek expressions of interest for regeneration project ideas from all sectors, which will then be scored and assessed and the best ideas will then be included in the Regeneration Plan. It was noted that 22 expressions of interest had been received to date.

Members noted the process in place for identifying specific investment ideas that might qualify for TRIP funding. Members also noted the extension of time to Monday morning due to the Portal closing at 5pm for maintenance.

GR stated that Members will need to appoint an Assessment Group to score and assess each expression received. GR stated that the Group will require a representative from each local authority who have the delegated powers to make decisions. It will also be beneficial to have a representative from the third and private sector.

Members agreed to appoint a steering group to assess and score the Expressions of Interest. The Chair requested both local authorities to undertake the selection process for the steering group.

	<p>GR stated that a timetable also needs to be agreed and GR advised that it would be best for the steering group to meet sooner rather than later as the selection process will need to be completed by the middle of May 2018.</p> <p>Members noted the tight timescale attached to the work and agreed that the Group should meet at an early date.</p> <p>CM queried if there is any conflict of interest in CCC and PCC being involved in the scoring process? GJ stated that the process is being delivered regionally and will be regionally endorsed via the Partnership. GJ stated that there are governance structures in place to allow that to happen.</p> <p>GL stated that WG will be making the final decision. The Partnership will only endorse the best ideas to benefit the region.</p>	MS
7.	<p>RLSPSWMW report and update on Action Plan</p> <p>RC presented the attached Report which focused on the preparation and progression of the RLSP for 2018 and the specific focus on the GMW footprint.</p> <p> Mid Wales Report  RLSP Employment RLSP.pdf Skills Action Plan</p> <p>RC noted that previously the RLSP document had been a lengthy document, however, at the request of WG, the new document will be a shorter and sharper document underpinning evidence to WG based on full time vocational further education and work base learning in the region. The document will no longer be a public document. RC assured Members that the same level of engagement will take place with the Partnership and Members will have an opportunity to engage and feed in to the plan.</p> <p>RC also stated that it is the intention of the RLSP this year to focus on two separate economic areas being the Swansea Bay City Region and the GMW area in order to make it easier for specific recommendations to be made for each area.</p> <p>RC stated that they are in the process of gathering robust employer evidence via electronic surveys. RC stated that there are 7 cluster groups operating with Ceredigion & Powys and the RLSP would like to increase this to get as many businesses involved in discussions as possible.</p> <p>RC stated that the RLSP want to increase engagement with secondary schools in the region and RC welcomed any opportunity to</p>	

	<p>attend Career Fayres etc. RC apologised for the RLSP being unable to attend the Careers Fayre held in Aberystwyth recently due to the inclement weather. Noted that 180 learners in Powys were recently surveyed regarding apprenticeships and career advice available, which is useful evidence moving forward.</p> <p>EAG stated that she is unhappy with the way the RLSP deals with the Mid Wales region and stated that region will be pressing for its own RLSP that is appropriate for the area. EAG stated that she was unhappy not to see Ceredigion HCT (which have strong links to main employers in the region) referred to in today's reports. RC stated that they had struggled with employer engagement in the region last year but will look to improve this year on year. MS stated that the RLSP will need to engage with AECOM Consultants, who will require a fuller picture of the consultations undertaken with businesses. RC stated that there would be no problem with this.</p> <p>MW stated that he would like further engagement between the RLSP and the self-employed workforce to ensure training needs are met. RC stated that the RLSP will be strengthening this and will remain committed to working with the self-employed workforce.</p> <p>JJ stated that employer engagement is fundamental to support the RLSP and stated that he and his team would be more than happy to help with this work.</p> <p>EE stated that it is important that RLSP focuses on the skill sets that are required in the region to allow young people to stay in the Mid Wales area and have access to high level jobs. RC stated that this is something the RLSP are working on.</p> <p>The Chair requested that the RLSP 2018 document is placed on the Agenda for the next GMW Partnership meeting to be held on the 13th July 2018.</p> <p>ACTION: RLSP 2018 Document to be placed on the Agenda of the GMW Partnership meeting on 13th July 2018.</p>	RC/Admin
8. To receive Regional Engagement update report	MS presented the attached report and recommendations regarding an update to Regional Engagement during Q1.	
	 Regional Engagement report Q2 2018.pdf  Growing Mid Wales Partnership response  Draft ESF priority - public service reform. <p>The following key points were noted:-</p>	

1. ERDF WWV and EW Priority 1 Call

MS noted that this closed at the end of March and catalogue bids have been submitted from the region.

Members noted the developments and linkages with the emerging consultancy work.

2. Events and meetings attended

MS listed a number of events and meetings which have been attended over the quarter.

3. Response to the Welsh Government's consultation paper “Regional Investment in Wales after Brexit”

MS noted that a response to WG's consultation on regional investment following Brexit has been submitted. MS thanked Partners for endorsing the draft response via e-mail. The final response is attached for information.

4. ERDF Priority 4.4 Regionally prioritised investments (WWV only, Ceredigion only eligible in Mid Wales region)

MS stated that at the GMW Officers Group held on the 9th March 2018, officers agreed to recommend to the Partnership to prioritise two projects be submitted for bid funding under WWV ERDF Priority 4.4:

- Tai Ceredigion; Canolfan Dulais; Creation of business spaces for SMEs and Social Enterprises in a new building on a site in Lampeter. The enterprises will target employment opportunities at Tai Ceredigion's tenants, many of whom are under or unemployed. Estimated total cost: £3,000,000; Match-funding: £2,000,000; ERDF £1,000,000.
- Aberystwyth University; Hen Goleg (south part); Creation of business spaces for SMEs and Social Enterprises in the sector of Creative Technologies and will result in 12 new jobs and increased opportunities. Estimated total cost £1,400,000; Match-funding £400,000; ERDF £1,000,000.

Members agreed the regional prioritisation of the above operations.



	<p><u>1. New ESF Priority; WEFO are seeking views from the region on a proposed new ESF Priority</u></p> <p>MS referenced the attached draft report which WEFO are seeking views from the region on to support the regional working in Wales and more formal working arrangements between local authorities which is relevant to the Partnership. MS stated that a response is required by the 20th May 2018.</p> <p>RH (WG) explained a little bit more about the draft report to Members. RH stated that they are trying to utilise in full the EU funding in the current programme and to utilise some funding to support the current EU funds in place in readiness for the UK leaving the EU next year. This particular funding will be towards developing capacity for regional arrangements and bolster regional competence. RH stated that a formal paper will be presented to the Programme Monitoring Committee during May for decision.</p> <p>Action: The Chair requested MS to draft a response on behalf of GMW and to circulate it to Members for comment prior to submission to WG.</p>	
9.	<p>To receive update report from the Connectivity and Infrastructure Group</p> <p>AE presented the Connectivity and Infrastructure's Group Report which was noted by the Group.</p> <p> Connectivity and infrastructure report.</p> <p>AE provided two key updates:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AE stated that Abellio Rail Cymru (ARC) have withdrawn from the franchise process due to the collapse of their partner Carillion. It is now down to two bidders. Notification of the successful bidder is likely to be during May 2018. • AE noted that following statistical updates received from WG relating to rail station and passenger usage, the growth is up for long distance travel in to Wales which is encouraging to note. Noted that the Cambrian Line has seeing a reduction in Numbers. <p>AW stated that he had attended a recent workshop regarding trunk roads in the region. AW stated that there is a good consensus of what is being developed in the region around the main priorities for improving trunk roads. AW stated that it is optimistic to see an ongoing programme in place for trunk roads.</p>	MS

<p>10. Any Other Business</p> <p>Retirement of Paul Griffiths</p> <p>It was noted that this is Paul Griffiths last GMW Partnership meeting as he will soon be retiring from Powys County Council. The Chair thanked PG for his invaluable contribution to the Partnership and to Powys County Council, and wished PG a happy and healthy retirement.</p> <p>TRIP Steering Group</p> <p>Following the decision made at agenda item 6 of the agenda for a steering group to be convened, RHP queried who should be part of that group. The Chair confirmed that the two authorities should approach non-local authority members to seek representation.</p> <p>Broadband & Mobile Phone Coverage</p> <p>EAG requested items relating to broadband and mobile phone coverage in the region at the next Partnership meeting on the 13th July 2018.</p> <p>ACTION: Broadband and Mobile Phone Coverage in the region to be included on the next GMW Partnership meeting Agenda on 13th July 2018.</p> <p>The Chair stated that the composition of the Partnership should be looked at to review whether any other organisations etc. should be invited to make a contribution.</p>	<p>Admin.</p>
<p>Future Meeting Dates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13 July 2018 at 10.30 am in Llandrindod Wells, Powys • 05 October 2018 at 10.30am in Aberaeron, Ceredigion 	

Leader of Powys County Council, Councillor Rosemarie Harris, Chair