



Growing Mid Wales Partnership

Present:

Councillor Ellen Ap Gwyn – Leader: Ceredigion County Council
Councillor Rosemarie Harris – Leader: Powys County Council

Councillor Myfanwy Alexander – Cabinet Portfolio Holder: Adult Social Care and the Welsh Language (Powys County Council)
Councillor James Evans – Cabinet Portfolio Holder: Economic Development, Housing and Regulatory Services (Powys County Council)
Councillor Dafydd Edwards – Cabinet Portfolio Holder: Highways and Environment including Housing (Ceredigion)

Ann Elias – Ceredigion County Council
Ann Watkin – Welsh Government
Arwyn Davies – Ceredigion County Council
Arwyn Watkins – Cambrian Training
Caroline Turner – Chief Executive: Powys County Council
Ceri Stephens, Mid Wales Manufacturing Group
Eifion Evans – Chief Executive: Ceredigion Council
Gareth Jones – Powys County Council: Professional Lead: Regeneration
Jane Davidson – University of Wales: Trinity Sant David
Jenni Tomos – Welsh Government
Gemma Christian – Welsh Government
Mark Dacey – Neath Port Talbot Group of Colleges
Matt Morden, Coleg Sir Gar and Coleg Ceredigion
Nicci Hunter – Welsh Government
John Jones – Welsh Government
Nigel Brinn – Director: Powys County Council
Nina Davies – Powys County Council
Peter Davies – Farmers Union of Wales
Rhodri Griffiths – Welsh Government
Rhodri Lloyd Morgan – Aberystwyth University
Rhys Horan, Welsh Government Energy Service
Rowland Rees-Evans – Mid Wales Tourism
Russell Hughes-Pickering (Ceredigion)
Steve Hughson – Chief Executive: Royal Welsh Show
Vanessa Naughton – Welsh Government

In attendance: Alison Gregory, Jon Booth and Chris Odling-Smee – The Marine Group – for item 3

Apologies: Alan Davies – Managing Director, Farmers Union of Wales
Carwyn Jones-Evans – Ceredigion County Council
Claire Miles – Mid Wales RET
Emma Wilde – Mid Wales Chamber of Commerce
Emyr Williams – Snowdonia National Park
Jane Lewis – SW and MW Regional Skills Partnership
Julian Atkins – Brecon Beacons National Park Authority

Minutes from a meeting of the Growing Mid Wales Partnership held on Friday 18th October 2019 in The Council Chamber, Ceredigion County Council, Aberaeron.

		Action
1.	<p>MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING – 12th JULY 2019</p> <p>The minutes from the previous meeting held on Friday 12th July 2019 were confirmed as a correct record subject to amending the reference in item 7b (Brexit Our Land) to read: ‘There had been close working between WLGA and the National Farming Union of Wales’ not ‘There had been close working between WLGA and the National Farming Union and Farming Union of Wales’.</p> <p>There were no matters arising from the Minutes for discussion/update that would not be discussed as part of the agenda.</p>	
2.	<p>MID WALES GROWTH DEAL</p> <p>During discussion and update particular reference was made to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Government Endorsement - the UK Government had recently re-iterated its support for the Mid Wales Growth Deal and had announced that it would commit £55 million over 15 years to support growth activity. There would continue to be lobbying of Welsh Government to seek support for a four region Growth Deal model as opposed to a three region model b. Under-Secretary of State in the Wales Office – Kevin Foster MP, Under-Secretary of State in the Wales Office would be meeting with the Leaders of Ceredigion and Powys County Council’s to discuss the Mid Wales Growth Deal on 22nd November c. Governance – Ceredigion and Powys have formerly established a Joint Committee to ensure that appropriate governance arrangements are now in place. This means that the role of the Partnership will evolve d. Strategic Bid – there’s a requirement to submit a proposition document for the Mid Wales Deal to the UK and Welsh Governments by March 2020 e. Economic Strategy Group – the group would be a very important partner. The deadline for nomination for the post of Chair of the ESG was today. It would be important to appoint to the Chair position f. Regional Skills Partnership (Mid Wales Region) – the Welsh Government support, in principle, the establishment of a regional Mid Wales skills partnership. There would be further consideration in relation to practicalities. It is expected that the Welsh Government would confirm its position in writing shortly g. Communications Strategy – attendees agreed the draft strategy which had been circulated with the papers for today’s meeting. The strategy would remain flexible and evolve over time. It would be important for messages about programmes of work to be communicated and managed. Attendees accepted changes in relation to the below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Key Messages 2.3 – Ambition – unique selling points for the region should be referred to in this part of the document i.e. low carbon energy and how the region is very well placed to support activity within the relevant theme ii. Influence and Interest Matrix 3.2 – there are areas where impacts and interest ratings were suggested for review i.e. universities. There could be a range of additional partners recognised in the matrix, however, the chart could become overwhelming i.e. Royal Welsh Agricultural Society, Centre for Alternative Technology could be included iii. Audience 3.1 Introduction – it was felt that residents should be recognised as a group 	
3.	<p>MARINE GROUP (REGIONAL TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE)</p>	

	<p>Representatives from the Marine Group attended the meeting to update on projects undertaken to re-model harbour areas and to turn them into vibrant marinas. Projects to-date had been very successful and there are plans to roll out similar projects in other areas where feasible. It is the view of the Marine Group that the Welsh coastline is unique in terms of its geography and natural beauty. Plans for Aberystwyth are in their infancy in comparison to other areas, however, the Aberystwyth project is moving at a steady pace. Plans for Aberaeron are in very early stages. There's a very strong local focus for all Marine Group projects (local employment, training, use of local produce etc.). Linking with Local Authorities and partners in areas where there are development considerations is very important. Rhodri Griffiths – Welsh Government commented that Marine Group projects were a good fit with the 'local/place' agenda for the region.</p>	
4.	<p>REGIONAL ECONOMIC FRAMEWORKS</p> <p>Developing a regional economic framework would support delivering on the 'Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015' and the 'Prosperity for All' Welsh Government policy. In May the Welsh Government established a team to support activity. The Welsh Government would work to a three region arrangement and would be linking with Local Authorities and partners in those areas in order to arrive at a shared vision. It would be important for regional sign up across all areas. It was reported that there are currently in the region of 130 live plans/strategies which relate to economic matters. It is the intention that Local Authorities and partners would co-design the local framework. The local plan would need to recognise Welsh Government and UK plans. The Growth Deal programme would sit within the wider economic framework. The Mid Wales Economic Framework was in its infancy and in the SWOT phase. The next phase would take the form of local engagement and consultation.</p>	
5.	<p>REGIONAL ENERGY VISION</p> <p>It would be important for good governance arrangements and local ownership of a regional energy plan. It is expected that the low carbon economy would grow fast and that the Mid Wales region would feature highly in schemes. In the last decade energy consumption across Wales had reduced. This trend, with changing behaviours, was expected to continue. It would be important for the Partnership to engage and to be kept updated on the plan and its progress. Attendees were urged to attend a workshop session that would be held in November. In the north of Wales where an energy plan had been introduced sub-group monitoring arrangements had been put in place.</p>	
6.	<p>NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK – WELSH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION</p> <p>Representatives from the Welsh Government updated on the National Development Framework consultation. During discussion and update particular reference was made to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Planning Act 2015 (National Development Framework) – legislation had required that Local Authorities identify areas for development at a very high/strategic level (a level that had been missing). The period of the NDF would be from 2020-2040 and there would be a five year review. The NDF would replace the Welsh Spatial Plan b. Local Development Plans – LDPs would need to have regard to the NDF. There could be scope to develop a Mid Wales LDP c. Policy Introductions – 33 new policies would be introduced to support delivering on the NDF 	

	<p>d. Regional Footprint – the NDF would work to a three region arrangement. It was suggested by attendees that the position should be reviewed and that the Mid Wales Region should be a region in its own right</p> <p>e. Local Focus – it was the view of attendees that the NDF didn't recognise local needs across the mid Wales region. Rural needs in terms of infrastructure, social housing, skill gaps, business support, connectivity etc. are not features in the document to-date</p> <p>f. Final Document – it is expected that the final document would be ready in the autumn with a view to adopting from 2020</p> <p>g. Consultation Responses – each Local Authority area would be responding as would the National Park areas in their own right. It was agreed that it would also be important for a Partnership response to reflect mid Wales as a region. It was agreed that any views regarding a regional response should be fed to Claire Miles/Carwyn Jones-Evans within a week</p>	All
7.	<p>TARGETED REGENERATION INVESTMENT PROGRAMME</p> <p>There's £6.5 million available over the three years (2018-2021) to support activities. Bid submissions in order to drawdown the maximum amount of funding would be important. The programme may be extended to cover five years i.e. from 2018 – 2023. A number of projects had secured funding.</p>	
8.	<p>EUROPEAN STRUCTURAL FUND – REGIONAL ENGAGEMENT REPORT</p> <p>Arwyn Davies – Ceredigion would circulate an update report to the membership and apologised that the paper had not been provided in advance of today's meeting. The immediate issues are in relation to Brexit and considering arrangements for administering funding to support projects when the UK leaves the EU.</p>	Arwyn Davies
9.	<p>CONNECTIVITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE WORKING GROUP – QUARTER 3 UPDATE</p> <p>Ann Elias confirmed that contractors are on-site at Bow Street Rail Station to undertake works (a good example of partnership working). In discussing matters the Chair remarked at how the rail network of Mid Wales are not featured in the National Development Framework. It was felt that the NDF should recognise the strategic corridors as they are importance to Mid Wales.</p> <p>The Partnership welcomed the Connectivity and Infrastructure Working Group Quarter 3 update report distributed with papers for the meeting.</p>	
10.	<p>WELSH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATIONS</p> <p>a. Food and Drink Action Plan</p> <p>The deadline for responding to the Welsh Government Food and Drink Action Plan had passed, however, the Welsh Government would accept feedback from the Partnership. It was agreed that the food and drink sectors are very important to the local economy and could become more so in the future. There would be local projects within the relevant theme to support activity in this area. While noting that the plan would focus on productivity it was felt that it should also recognise growers/providers i.e. farming. The view of the Partnership should be provided.</p> <p>b. Sustainable Farming and Our Land</p> <p>It was the view that the Mid Wales Region should be strongly represented in the Welsh Government Sustainable Farming and Our Land consultation. The</p>	<p>Claire Miles</p> <p>Claire Miles</p>

	deadline for consultation would be 30 th October. Carwyn Evans-Jones/Claire Miles would respond on behalf of the Partnership	
11.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING The next meeting would be held on 17 th January 2020 in Llandrindod Wells. It was suggested by Councillor Rosemarie Harris, Leader, Powys County Council that it may be appropriate to receive an update at a future meeting from those operating the Centre for Alternative Technology near Machynlleth.	Claire Miles

**COUNCILLOR ELLEN AP GWYNN - LEADER
CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL
IN THE CHAIR**