



**Growing Mid Wales
Inaugural Partnership Meeting - Minutes
Neuadd Cyngor Ceredigion, Penmorfa, Aberaeron, CEREDIGION, SA46 0PA
Monday 30 March 2015, 2.00pm – 4.00pm**

Attendees

Councillor Ellen ap Gwynn – Leader of Ceredigion County Council
 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
 Delyth Evans – Chair, Teifi Valley Local Growth Zone
 Gareth Price – Chair, Mid Wales Regional Tourism Forum
 Doug Hughes – Chair, Newtown Local Growth Zone
 Paul Evans – Business Lead on Powys Stronger Communities Programme Board
 Barry Liles – Chair, Regional Learning Partnership
 Elid Morris – Manager of Regional Learning Partnership
 Ceri Stephens – Mid Wales Manufacturing Group
 Hazel Lloyd-Lubran – CAVO
 Huw Morgan, Ceredigion County Council
 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 Watkin, Regional Engagement Officer WG
 Duncan Hamer, Deputy Director, Entrepreneurship & Delivery WG
 Lisa Cascarini, Powys County Council

1.	<p>Introductions and Apologies Councillor Ellen ap Gwynn welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made around the table.</p> <p>Apologies received from: Peter Lathbury – PAVO Arwyn Watkins(Cambrian Training) – representing Regional Learning Partnership</p>	
2.	<p>Purpose of Meeting Councillor Ellen ap Gwynn introduced the meeting stating that this is an historic day for Mid Wales in terms of regeneration and economic</p>	

	<p>development with the encouragement of the Minister for Economy Science and Transport, Mrs Edwina Hart. This is an opportunity to develop a strong and consistent case for Mid Wales. This is a challenging time and there is a need for the private and public sectors to work together.</p> <p>The two Leaders acted on the Minister's request to develop a Mid Wales Regional approach which was subsequently endorsed by both Cabinets. The Partnership will support delivery of local growth zones, engage with the wider business community and promote economic development priorities for the region</p> <p>Councillor Ellen ap Gwynn asked if anyone had any comments. It was suggested that consideration should be given to the Mid-Wales health collaborative agenda as the Partnership moves forward.</p> <p>Councillor Barry Thomas agreed with Councillor Ellen ap Gwynn that the Partnership will benefit the Mid Wales economy as it is often felt that the Counties of Ceredigion and Powys are left out. Hopefully close working with Welsh Government departments, and in particular with the Wales European Funding office (WEFO), will help attract investment and move Mid Wales forward.</p>	
<p>3.</p>	<p>Terms of Reference</p> <p>Allan Lewis advised he had prepared a draft ToFR, which reflected the views of the Minister and the two local authorities. No objections have been received from the Minister and there was an acknowledgement that a flexible approach was needed as the Partnership moves forward.</p> <p>Allan Lewis advised the next step is to scope the respective strategies in Powys and Ceredigion. This piece of work will create a high level strategic document holding key messages and priorities for the region. Comments would be welcome from Partnership members.</p> <p>Allan Lewis reiterated that the Minister has received the proposal and is pleased with progress to date, the Minister sees the work of the Partnership crossing a number of portfolios so the Minister has consulted with other Cabinet Ministers and is waiting for feedback. The Minister has requested meetings with the Chair and Vice Chair to receive regular briefings on progress.</p> <p>Nominations for Chair and Vice Chair were requested. Councillor Barry Thomas proposed Councillor Ellen ap Gwynn as Chair, this was seconded and agreed by all present. Councillor Ellen ap Gwynn proposed Councillor Barry Thomas as Vice Chair, this was seconded and agreed by all. (It was noted that an agreement has been reached that Ceredigion will Chair the first year and Powys will provide administration, and these roles would swap for next year).</p>	

	<p>Minister's response to public opinion. Given the connections of the region with the West Midlands and North West, it is important to work with both neighbouring English regions/authorities and the Welsh Government.</p> <p>Councillor Ellen ap Gwynn expressed concerns about some possible changes to rail services and in particular the possibility that the through services beyond Shrewsbury to Birmingham Airport to the regular connections to London might be lost as the Wales Rail Franchise is reshaped and retendered.</p>	
5.	<p>Presentation on Skills and Learning – Elid Morris Barry Liles and Elid Morris were welcomed to the meeting. Barry is the Chair and Elid is the Manager of the Regional Learning Partnership. A copy of the presentation is embedded in the minutes.</p> <p>Elid Morris provided some background on the RLP, with its main purpose as a strategic partnership developing an agenda on skills and working collectively to highlight and inform workforce and skills needs. The partnership started in 2007 and covers Mid and South West Wales. It is a consortium, including provider led organisations, to ensure a greater awareness and understanding of the training skills needs of the region and to provide an employer voice. The work progressed by the RLP impacts on the skills agenda for the region.</p> <p>Elid Morris suggested utilising the RLP resource to provide statistics to support work in the Growing Mid Wales region. There is a role for the RLP at a strategic level to support economic development.</p> <p>Dr Rhodri Llwyd Morgan advised the Partnership of the development of the Aberystwyth Innovation and Enterprise Campus which is very exciting. It is not just about a research and science but also a National centre of excellence to draw inward investment, new businesses and further innovative research .The initiative is supported with funding from BBSRC, European Structural Funds and Welsh Government. The University is working closely with Ceredigion CC.</p> <p>Dr Rhodri Llwyd Morgan also updated the meeting on a campaign to open rail links in Carmarthen, the future of agricultural and other projects which are relevant to this forum and could be a catalyst for change.</p> <p>Susan Bolter updated the Partnership on wind turbines in Powys. The Public Inquiry Inspectors report was submitted on 8 December 2014 to WG and a decision will be announced following the General Election in May. There are currently more applications for solar power, as the subsidies have been reduced for wind turbines.</p>	 <p>March Presentation Growing Mid Wales</p>

	<p>Huw Morgan advised that the WLGA had recently developed a toolkit for energy generation projects with particular focus on larger schemes</p> <p>Councillor Barry Thomas updated the Partnership on the 21st Century Schools Programme in Powys. PCC are currently focusing on the south of county, and will shortly be considering plans for both Mid and North Powys.</p> <p>Gareth Price stated that the tourism business sector is an important part of the Mid Wales economy and young apprentices should be encouraged into the tourism industry. Tourism supports many small and medium sized businesses. The Partnership is a welcome opportunity to flag up funding needs and communicate on ambassador schemes.</p> <p>The Partnership agreed it was good to hear about positive examples that reflect the strategic aims of the Mid Wales area.</p>	
6.	<p>Any other business</p> <p>It was suggested inviting Manon Antoniazzi Chief Executive Officer of VisitWales to a future meeting to present on Tourism.</p> <p>It was suggested inviting Ann Beynon to a future meeting to discuss ICT infrastructure, superfast broadband and connectivity.</p> <p>Councillor Ellen ap Gwynn thanked everyone for attending, this first important meeting of the Partnership and key issues discussed will be captured for inclusion, to be agreed by the Chair and Vice Chair, in a press release.</p> <p>Doug Hughes emphasised the role of the private sector and the importance of capturing and using the contribution made. He was keen to see activity arising from discussion which will form the basis for an action plan.</p> <p>Councillor Alun Williams suggested it was important to promote the work of the Partnership. Growing Mid Wales is as just as relevant and important to the Wales as is the concept of the city regions. We are a large area of Wales and hold the rest of the country together, and of equal footing and importance.</p> <p>PCC and CCC will work together on a press release. Councillor Ellen ap Gwynn thanked PCC and CCC officers who had worked hard to put the Partnership together and also thanked everyone for their contribution.</p>	

Date of next Partnership meeting Wednesday 24 June 2015, 10.00am – 12.00pm
Council Chamber, County Hall, Spa Road East, Llandrindod Wells, LD1 5LG