



**Growing Mid Wales
Partnership Meeting
County Hall , Llandrindod Wells, Powys, LD1 5LG
Friday, 6th January 2017
10.30 a.m. – 12.40p.m.**

Attendees

Councillor Barry Thomas, Powys County Council (Chair)
Councillor Ellen Ap Gwynn, Ceredigion County Council (Vice-Chair)
Ann Elias, Ceredigion County Council (AE)
Ann Watkin, Welsh Government (AW)
Ceri Stephens, Mid Wales Manufacturing Group
Claire Miles, Mid Wales Regional Engagement Officer (CM)
Councillor Tony Thomas, Powys County Council (TT)
Councillor Gareth Lloyd, Ceredigion County Council
Dr Rhodri Llwyd Morgan, Aberystwyth University
Gareth Price, Mid Wales Regional Tourism Forum (GP)
Hazel Lubran, CAVO
Jane Lewis, RLSP (JL)
Jenni Thomas, Powys County Council
John Jones, Welsh Government (JJ)
Mike Shaw, Ceredigion County Council (MS)
Mr Keith Henson, Coleg Ceredigion
Nia Williams, Hywel Dda University Health Board & the Mid Wales Healthcare Collaborative
Paul Griffiths, Powys County Council (PG)
Russell Hughes-Pickering, Ceredigion County Council
Sarah Thomas, NFU Cymru (ST)

In attendance

Gerwyn Evans, Visit Wales, Welsh Government (GE)

1.	<p>Introductions and Apologies</p> <p>The Chair welcomed Councillor Tony Thomas to his first GMW Partnership meeting as Powys County Council's Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Planning.</p> <p>Apologies had been received from:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arwyn Watkin – Cambrian Training,• Barry Liles, Coleg Sir Gar.• Councillor Alun Williams, Ceredigion County Council (Cllr AW)	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr Sue Fish, Hywel Dda Health Board. Nia Williams, Executive Project Officer, attended on her behalf. • Hywel Davies – University of Wales Trinity St David • Jacqui Weatherburn, Coleg Ceredigion. Mr Keith Henson, Head of Commercial Services and Enterprise, attended on her behalf. • Jeremy Patterson, Chief Executive, Powys County Council. • Mared Jones – Farmers Union of Wales • Rob Halford, Welsh Government <p>AW asked that the meeting note that Ken Skates AM, Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure was aware of the meeting but unfortunately unable to attend. She confirmed that the Cabinet Secretary would be made aware of the future meeting dates.</p>	
2.	<p>Minutes of meeting from 6th October 2016 and Matters Arising (Appendix A)</p> <p>Minutes of the 6th October 2016 were noted as a correct record by the Partnership subject to the addition of the apology of Councillor Avril York, Powys County Council, in the Minutes.</p> <p>Action: Secretariat to amend Minutes to record Councillor Avril York’s apology.</p> <p><u>Matters Arising</u> Item 3; Action. Meeting with Lesley Griffiths AM It was reported that the Chair and Vice-Chair of GMW will be meeting with Lesley Griffiths AM on the 16th January 2017.</p>	 <p>DRAFT final GMW Minutes 06.10.2016.1</p>
3.	<p>Tourism Sector Presentations: Gerwyn Evans (Visit Wales, WG) and Gareth Price (Mid Wales Regional Tourism Forum, Chair and member of GMW)</p> <p>Gerwyn Evans gave a detailed presentation on Tourism in the Mid Wales region.</p> <p>Key points focused on:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employment in Tourism in Wales • Potential Visitor Spend to Wales • Overview of the Tourism Region 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Levels of engagement & external engagement • Businesses supported by Visit Wales • Review of the Tourism Investment Support Scheme • European Funding & Tourism Attractor Destinations • Details re Coastal Communities Fund • Details re Revenue Funding • Visitor attractions in Mid Wales • Attracting & how to attract Mid Wales as an ideal base for businesses. <p>A copy of the Visit Wales presentation is attached.</p> <p>Gareth Price spoke around the attached Visit Wales Travel Booklet and the diagrammatic presentation of the widely diverse tourism offer accessible to visitors to the region.</p> <p>An opportunity for questions and discussion followed.</p> <p>It was emphasised that when the Chair and Vice Chair met with Ken Skates AM, Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure, he recognised the importance of tourism for the Mid Wales economy and drew attention to the need to work together as a region to coordinate the tourism offer across the region.</p> <p>TT commented on the importance of migrant workers in the tourism sector in Mid Wales and potential workforce availability challenges post-Brexit.</p> <p>Partnership agreed to a standing agenda item being included on their Agenda to report on the Mid Wales Tourism Forum meetings to provide a strategic overview and how progress in the sector is contributing to the wider work of the Partnership. It was noted that the Mid Wales Regional Tourism Forum meets three times a year and therefore a report would be able to be provided to each of the Partnerships following those meetings.</p> <p>Action: Reports to be provided from the Mid Wales Regional Tourism Forum meetings to the GMW Partnership meeting following.</p>	 <p>growingmidwales060 1v2.pdf</p>  <p>VISIT WALES Travel booklet.pdf</p>
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4.	<p>Feedback from joint GMW and Marches LEP Meeting (14th November 2016).</p> <p>CM introduced a report on the meeting. She thanked the Members who had attended the meeting in Ludlow and noted that positive feedback has been received. The meeting received a number of presentations and shared key economic issues were discussed.</p> <p>CM explained that following the meeting, an officers group has met to review and progress actions; these are set out in the attached report.</p> <p>It was noted that a further joint meeting with the Marches LEP is intended to be arranged before the end of the year.</p> <p>The Partnership was made aware of other meetings on related cross-border issues and it was agreed that the Chair and Vice-Chair or appropriate representative should attend as required.</p> <p>On a separate note, it was noted that Ceri Stephens, Mid Wales Manufacturing Group, would be representing the GMW Partnership at a meeting on mobile telephony with Wales Office at the Ofcom offices in Cardiff.</p> <p>The Chair noted that the meeting was extremely useful and productive. He highlighted concerns that there was greater representation from businesses on the Marches LEP. It was agreed that discussions need to take place on how to attract greater business representation at GMW partnership meetings. The Chair requested for this to be an agenda item at a future GMW Partnership meeting for discussion.</p> <p>Action: Item to be placed on Agenda item for a future Growing Mid Wales Partnership Meeting.</p>	 <p>4.Feedback on MLEP mtg Nov.docx</p>
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<p>5</p>	<p>Draft response: National Infrastructure Commission</p> <p>Welsh Government had sought responses to a consultation on a National Infrastructure Commission by 7th January 2017. A draft GMW Partnership response had been developed by the Partnership's Infrastructure and Connectivity Working Group and presented for discussion.</p> <p>Councillor Tony Thomas raised concerns over the practicality of the response to Question 3. Following discussion it was agreed to revise the response to Question 3 to read as;</p> <p><i>'We believe the Commission should advise on future delivery of programmes and work. In addition to the significant infrastructure proposals for Wales planned for the next 10 years, in the immediate future we will see the UK's exit from the European Union and, as such, it is important that the decisions we are currently aiming to implement are sense checked and properly assessed against the rapidly changing landscape in Wales. This will ensure Wales can achieve the best possible economic outcomes for its regions and communities.'</i></p> <p>The Partnership agreed that the draft response be submitted subject to the above amendment.</p>	 <p>5.Covering report and recommendation NICA</p>
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<p>6.</p>	<p>National Development Framework</p> <p>Welsh Government had recently published a ‘Call for Evidence and Projects for the proposed National Development Framework for Wales’. The Partnership received the attached report and considered a process for the Partnership to develop a joint regional response and submit regionally important projects. It was noted that the response is required by the 7th March 2017.</p> <p>Partnership agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That Members note the invitation to submit evidence and projects; • The Cross Sector Working Group be asked to draft a response, to include evidence and regionally important projects. (All Partnership members are able to attend or be represented at the Cross Sector Working Group); and, • That the draft regional response be circulated by email for comment and agreement before being signed off by the Chair and Vice Chair of the Partnership, to meet the submission date of 7th March 2017. 	 <p>6. GMW Paper - National Development</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Annual review of progress</p> <p>MS presented an Annual Review report, explaining that it was opportune for a review of the Partnership’s to date and to look forward to the coming year. A report setting some of the key projects approved/operating/or completed in the Region and key achievements for the region to date. MS explained that there were further projects (for example Business Wales deliveries) to be added to the report but that it would form a means of regular reporting of progress in future meetings.</p> <p>The Partnership acknowledged and noted the progress made to date.</p> <p>Partnership discussed the difficulties of capturing progress of pan-Wales operations that are delivering in the Mid Wales region, especially ESF funded projects. AW acknowledged that Business Wales information</p>	 <p>7. Twf Canolbarth Cymru annual review :</p>  <p>GMW Key projects - app...</p>

	<p>could be included.</p> <p>Action: AW would seek Business Wales information to support regular reporting of progress to the Partnership.</p>	
8.	<p>Work Plan for coming year</p> <p>The attached Report on a Work plan for the Partnership's activities for 2017 was introduced and explained in detail.</p> <p>Following discussion the Partnership agreed the report and Work Plan for 2017.</p>	 <p>8.Report Draft Work Plan for 2017.docx</p>
9.	<p>Regional Engagement Report</p> <p>MS introduced the Regional Engagement Report to the Partnership and provided a detailed update on the work undertaken.</p> <p>The GMW Partnership noted the recommendations and agreed to the recommendations contained in the report being:-</p> <p><i>Social Enterprise Accelerator</i> For the GMW Partnership to welcome and support the proposed <i>Social Enterprise Accelerator operation</i>, and continue to work with Welsh contacts to ensure that the operation can maximise their contribution to the Partnership's framework.</p> <p><i>Open Call for Research and Innovation Operations</i> To note and support the three projects currently being developed by Aberystwyth University acknowledging the contribution they would make to the region and their alignment with the Growing Mid Wales Partnership's Framework for Action document. And therefore to continue to work closely with Aberystwyth University to ensure all projects that enter business development stage can maximise their contribution to the partnership's Framework for Action.</p>	 <p>9.Covering report etc Regional engagement.</p>

<p>10.</p>	<p>Connectivity and Infrastructure Working Group, Update for Quarter 4, 2016</p> <p>AE provided an update on Quarter 4, 2016, on transport across the region.</p> <p>Rail</p> <p>The Wales & Borders Franchise is moving forward. It was noted that a two day event had been arranged in Welshpool to allow for bidders to explain their offer. This should feed into the criteria for the franchise on which Welsh Government are expected to consult on in March 2017. As part of this franchise, there will be a new trains but not for the whole franchise area. It was noted that work is taking place with Network Rail to discuss other solutions to rolling stock in this region.</p> <p>The improvements (which include better access) at Machynlleth Railway Station are now completed, but AE stated that news is still awaited on the extension of the car park there.</p> <p>WG have applied for £6.8m to the UK Government through the NSF2 for a new station at Bow Street which includes a new train platform and interchange, car parking and bus stops, as well as a new roundabout on the A487 Trunk Road. AE noted that they hope to hear the financial decision from the DFT by the end of March 2017.</p> <p>Cross Border Links</p> <p>GMW officers group continue to work with Marches LEP on the transport agenda.</p> <p>MS noted that following confirmation to bring the work of TraCC in line with the Partnership, the action has been completed and more meetings will take place with Gwynedd to discuss that.</p> <p>The Chair thanked AE for her update to the group and the contents of the Report were noted.</p>	 <p>10.Connectivity and Infrastructure Report (</p>
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<p>11.</p>	<p>Correspondence received: Letter from Wales Co-operative Centre 08.11.2016</p> <p>The attached letter had been received from the Wales Co-operative Centre, dated the 8th November 2016, seeking a representative from Growing Mid Wales to sit on their strategic advisory group in their Headquarters in Caerphilly. It was noted that the Wales Co-operative Centre would pay for travel costs to meetings.</p> <p>The Partnership agreed that their representative would be either Claire Miles or Mike Shaw (Claire & Mike to decide as necessary).</p> <p>Noted that further background information regarding the meetings is to be received.</p>	 img-Y21143718-0001.pdf
<p>12.</p>	<p>Representation from Carno Station Action Group and Green Holidays in Wales at GMW Partnership.</p> <p>The Chair noted that a request had been received for representation on the Partnership from Carno Station Action Group and Green Holidays Wales. Following discussion, it was agreed to refer to the Partnership's Connectivity and Infrastructure Working Group for them to take forward as part of their engagement with other stakeholders.</p> <p>Action: AE to invite representation from at The Connectivity and Infrastructure Working Group to consider arrangements for the group to engage with Carno Station Action Group and Green Holidays in Wales and other stakeholders.</p> <p>The Chair also noted that a request had been received from Dr Rhian Hayward MBE, Aberystwyth University, to become a member of the GMW Partnership Group. It was noted that Aberystwyth University is already a Member of the GMW Partnership and represented by Dr Rhodri Llwyd Morgan. The Partnership would be more than happy to welcome Dr Hayward MBE to attend the GMW Partnership meetings to contribute to discussions and to attend on behalf of Dr Rhodri Llwyd Morgan if he is unable to attend.</p>	For discussion

13.	Any Other Business There were no additional matters to be reported today.	
14.	Future date: 24th March 2017 at 10.00am in Meeting Room 1, Canolfan Rheidol, Aberystwyth.	