



**Growing Mid Wales
Partnership Meeting Minutes
Y Siambr, Neuadd Cyngor Ceredigion
Thursday, 6th October 2016
14.00pm –16.25pm**

Attendees

- Councillor Barry Thomas, Powys County Council (Chair)**
- Councillor Ellen Ap Gwynn, Ceredigion County Council (Vice-Chair) (2pm-4pm)**
- Ann Elias, Ceredigion County Council (AE)**
- Ann Watkin, Welsh Government (AW)**
- Arwyn Watkins, RLSP (ArwynW)**
- Claire Miles, Mid Wales Regional Engagement Officer (CM)**
- Councillor Alun Williams, Ceredigion County Council (Cllr AW)**
- Councillor Gareth Lloyd, Ceredigion County Council (2pm – 4pm) (Cllr GL)**
- Gareth Price, Tourism Forum Mid Wales (GP)**
- Huw Morgan, Ceredigion County Council (HTM)**
- Hywel Davies, University of Wales Trinity St. David (HD)**
- Jacqui Weatherburn, Coleg Ceredigion (JW)**
- Jane Lewis, RLSP (JL)**
- Mike Shaw, Ceredigion County Council (MS)**
- Paul Griffiths, Powys County Council (PG)**

In attendance

- Rob Halford, Welsh Government**
- Nerys Lewis, Cylch Caron Project Manager, Ceredigion County Council**

<p>1. Introductions and Apologies</p>	<p>Apologies were received from:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jeremy Patterson, Chief Executive, Powys County Council • Councillor Avril York - Portfolio Holder Regeneration and Planning, Powys County Council • Russell Hughes-Pickering – Ceredigion County Council • Paul Evans – Venture-Automotive • Mared Jones – Farmers Union of Wales • Barry Liles – RLSP • Jenni Thomas – Powys County Council • Ceri Stephens – Mid Wales Manufacturing Group • Jane Davidson – University of Wales Trinity St David • Dr Rhodri Llwyd Morgan – Aberystwyth University
<p>2. Minutes of meeting from</p>	<p><u>Minutes of the Meeting held on 29th July 2016.</u></p>

<p>29th July 2016 and Matters Arising (Appendix A)</p>  <p>Appendix A - Draft GMW Partnership Min</p>	<p>The minutes of the Meeting held on the 29th July, 2016, were agreed to be a true record of the meeting. There were no matters arising from the Minutes.</p>	
<p>3. Feedback from meeting with Cabinet Secretary for the Economy and Infrastructure</p>	<p>The Chair(BT) and the Vice-Chair (EAG) provided feedback on their recent meeting with Ken Skates AM, Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure. It was reported that the meeting was open and they were able to discuss the needs of Mid Wales including skills, employment, keeping young people in the area, together with the other aims of the GMW Partnership.</p> <p>They noted that Ken Skates AM had acknowledged and endorsed the role of the GMW Partnership as the joint body to promote the economy and skills in the region.</p> <p>They had invited Ken Skates AM to attend the next GMW Partnership meeting to be held on the 6th January 2017 in Llandrindod Wells, Powys. <i>WBT</i></p> <p>The Chair and Vice-Chair reported that they now saw the importance of meeting with Lesley Griffiths AM, Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs, because of the importance of that portfolio in the rural economy and because of the impact of 'Brexit' on agriculture.</p> <p>Action: Meeting to be arranged between Lesley Griffiths AM and the Chair & Vice-Chair of the GMW Partnership.</p>	
<p>4. Mid Wales Regional Engagement; update (Appendix B)</p>  <p>Appendix B Cross Sector Working Group</p>  <p>Appendix 1.docx</p>  <p>Appendix 2.docx</p>	<p>MS provided a detailed update to the Partnership on the meetings of the Cross Sector Working Group held on the 8th and 14th September 2016.</p> <p>Updates were provided on:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Learning and Skill Partnership – Regional Delivery Plan for Employment Skills • Consideration of a proposal to develop specialised collaborative research facilities to support animal health work with companies at Aberystwyth University • Consultation responses • Regional proofing of the following new and emerging projects: 	

- *Go Wales Archive Through Work Experience*
- *High Performance Computing Wales II*
- *Industry Wales Project*

Discussions referred to the Regional Learning and Skill Partnership – Regional Delivery Plan for Employment and Skills and the Vice-Chair noted that she and Ceredigion County Council Chief Executive, Bronwen Morgan, had met with Jane Lewis and Barry Liles of the RLSP the previous day (5th October 2016) to discuss concerns. The Vice-Chair noted that the Plan is currently very much Swansea Bay City Region focused and doesn't provide enough attention on the needs of mid Wales or the GMW Partnership's priorities and focus. JL noted that the next draft of the Regional Learning and Skills Partnership's Regional Delivery Plan would be likely to be ready by the end of March 2017 with a view to finalising the plan for submission to Welsh Government by the 28th July 2017. JL stated that during that time a draft will be presented to the Growing Mid Wales Partnership for discussion so that the Plan can be agreed by the 28th July 2017

JL noted that they had had plans to launch the Regional Learning and Skills Partnership's Regional Delivery Plan later in October but that date had now been postponed to the beginning of December. JL stated that it would not be possible to incorporate the views of GMW into the current document but an addendum to the Plan would be created.

It was noted that the Chair and Vice-Chair have requested a meeting with the Minister for Skills and Science, Julie James AM to discuss the skills within the Mid Wales region.

The GMW Partnership agreed to the recommendations contained in MS Report being:-

- To welcome the Regional Learning and Skills Partnership's Regional Delivery Plan for Employment and Skills and the approach taken but ask that the issues raised at the Cross Sector Working Group be included and specifically addressed in the Plan:
 - a. To recognise and address the potential shortfalls in the regional labour force, (noting the dependency on labour from other European countries in key local businesses).
 - b. Acknowledge and address difficulties in recruiting labour and filling potential apprenticeships even where appropriate opportunities may be available.
 - c. Highlight the need to value the standing of local employment and the local labour force as

	<p>destinations for school leavers in the community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> d. Although there is reference in the Plan to the particular challenges of this region of access to training and availability when needed but they are overwhelmed by an urban focus, the approach adopted by the Plan fails to acknowledge the impact, size and reach of the dispersed rural economy across the Mid Wales and Swansea Bay City Region areas. e. To re-iterate the preparation of the Plan in 2016, while allowing for more interaction and discussions, failed to allow sufficient time for formal consideration by this Partnership of the final draft and that future preparations need to make the final draft available in time for its consideration by the Partnership. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following discussion, the Partnership agreed to confirm the identification of the Mid Wales ERDF Priority 4.4 Operation as “Vet Hub1”, noting the alignment with the Partnership’s “Framework for Action” document and the opportunities to create a Welsh Centre for Veterinary Science, animal health and the specialised facilities to host collaborative research with companies accommodated in these facilities in the region. • Following discussions the Partnership agreed that the following draft responses be submitted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Ken Skates AM’s in response to the consultation on Priorities for the Economy (Appendix 1) with the addition of a further point on the need to develop a new regional policy for Wales in the context of the current changes. b. National Assembly for Wales into the Inquiry into the Future of Agricultural and Rural Development Policies in Wales (Appendix 2) with a further penultimate paragraph on animal health and veterinary science • To welcome the ESF WWV and EW Operations, Go Wales Achieve Through Work Experience but seek further clarification on the eligibility of those resident in EW and accessing HE opportunities within FE and in the Marches area. And to continue to work with local contacts to ensure that the operations can maximise their contribution to the Partnership’s Framework. 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To welcome and support the operation - High Performance Computing Wales II because of its contribution to this region's strategic approach outlined in "Framework for Action". And to continue to work with local contacts to ensure that the operations can maximise their contribution to the Partnership's Framework. • Although the Cross Sector Working Group had recommended that the Partnership not to support the operation, 'Industry Wales Project', further information had now been received and it was therefore appropriate to give further consideration to the operation and in particular its contribution within the private sector in the region. A revised recommendation will be presented to the Partnership when this is completed. <p>The Chair thanked MS for his report to the GMW Partnership meeting today.</p>	
<p>5. GMW Framework Document</p>	<p>Reference was made to the GMW Framework Document, copies of which were distributed at the meeting.</p> <p>Discussions ensued regarding a launch event for the Document. The possibilities had been discussed at the Cross Sector Working Group and in particular how to involve key private sector stakeholders. Members agreed that there would be an opportunity to launch the document at the Royal Welsh Winter Fair to be held at Builth Wells on the 28th and 29th November 2016 with invited private sector representation and also extending an invitation to the Minister, Ken Skates AM. A concern was raised that using the Winter Fair would reinforce an image of the region's economy being primarily agricultural and detract from other growing sectors in the region.</p> <p>Action: Launch event arrangements be explored for the Royal Welsh Winter Fair on either the 28th or 29th November 2016. (CM/MS/JT)</p>	
<p>6. EU Transition</p>	<p>Rob Halford, WEFO, Welsh Government, provided an update on the EU Transition to date. Key points highlighted were as follows:-</p> <p>Article 50 is likely to be triggered during Spring 2017. It would take 2 years following that to negotiate a way forward.</p> <p>RH noted that the Partnership and stakeholders should operate on a "business as normal" basis and keep momentum in going forward with investments, whilst recognising the risk involved. There was need to take each project on "a risk by risk basis and be prepared for what comes next". RH reported that since</p>	

	<p>he reported to the last Partnership, the Treasury had provided assurances that all operations approved in the first instance by the Autumn Statement (in August) and the in a subsequent statement, all operations approved before the UK leaves the European Union would continue to be funded to their planned conclusion subject to certain conditions. These assurances were helpful and stakeholders could now focus on the normal business of gaining approvals, ensuring draw down of the allocated funds and the achievement of the intended results. The Chair thanked RH for his attendance at the Partnership today and asked for these updates to continue to be provided as necessary.</p> <p>RH then answered Members questions.</p>	
<p>7. Presentation; Cylch Caron project</p>  <p>Growing Mid Wales.pptx</p>	<p>A presentation was received from Nerys Lewis, Cylch Caron Project Manager, Ceredigion County Council, on the progress of the Cylch Caron Integrated Resource Centre project. The Cylch Caron Integrated Resource Centre will meet the care, health and housing needs of those in and around the Tregaron area within Ceredigion.</p> <p>A copy of the Presentation is attached for information.</p> <p>Key points featured:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The background of the project • The current situation • Partnership Commitment • Community Resilience • The Vision for the Project • The Cylch Caron Model • Lessons Learnt <p>The Chair thanked Nerys Lewis for her informative presentation to the Partnership today and wished every success for the Cylch Caron Project.</p> <p>An opportunity for questions followed.</p>	
<p>8. The Marches LEP Joint Meeting 14th November 2016</p>	<p>MS noted that a joint meeting between the GMW Partnership and the Marches LEP had been arranged for Monday, 14th November, 2016, at Ludlow Race Course between 11am and 2pm. All members of the GMW Partnership are invited to attend.</p> <p>MS noted that an Agenda for the day will be drawn up between officers during the next week.</p> <p>The Chair requested for all Members to note the date in their diaries. A diary marker will also be circulated.</p>	

	<p>Action: GMW Partnership Members to note the date in their diaries.</p> <p>Action: Diary Marker to be circulated (Admin)</p>	
<p>9. Strategic Transport Quarter 3 2016 Update (Appendix C)</p>  <p>Appendix C - Strategic Transport U</p>	<p>AE presented the attached Strategic Transport Quarter 3 update..</p> <p>AE noted that within the WMR Franchise, there appeared to a potential effect on the Mid Wales Cambrian Line as services will operate along the same section of track as the WMR Franchise between Shrewsbury and Birmingham. AE noted that as part of their brief, there was desire to replacing less frequent Arriva Trains Wales Service but WMR have now confirmed that existing connectivity between Birmingham International and mid Wales is also important to them and it was their view that it should not be reduced in anyway from the current arrangements.</p> <p>AE noted that this is encouraging and welcomed the opportunity to work with the West Midlands Franchise to increase connectivity to Mid Wales.</p> <p>The Chair thanked AE for her update.</p>	
<p>10. TraCC governance and reporting to GMW (Appendix D)</p>  <p>Appendix D - TraCC Management Group R</p>	<p>HTM presented a Report to the GMW Partnership on the future of the TraCC governance and reporting to GMW to change the format of the TraCC meetings to fit with the GMW Partnership.</p> <p>HTM provided a brief background of the TraCC work which was established around 10 years ago whereby three Local Authorities (Ceredigion, Powys and Gwynedd) moved in to a regional transport consortium model encouraged by Welsh Government, which was a move to align strategic highway planning on a regional basis which would feed in to national planning.</p> <p>It was noted that in going forward the existing format of TraCC officer and Board meetings are resource-intensive for Council Members and for senior officers and many update reports are being reported twice at both TraCC and GMW meetings.</p> <p>HTM noted that at a recent TraCC Management meeting held on the 28th of September, the TraCC Board supported Option B:--</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. An officer only level group meeting for TraCC engagement to discuss operational and policy level collaboration (as a GMW Connectivity and Infrastructure Group). ii) An annual TraCC Meeting for Council Members of TraCC 	

	<p>Board (In order to keep the inter-authority agreement on collaboration active) and ensure good governance.</p> <p>iii) Bring TraCC and GMW Partnership together once a year (Annual Regional Transport Day/ Meeting) focusing on improving strategic communications, accessibility and infrastructure across the GMW region.</p> <p>iv) The GMW Partnership meetings would receive a report from the Growing Mid Wales Connectivity & Infrastructure Working Group each quarter.</p> <p>And recommended” To implement the proposed option B) for the operation of the TraCC Management Group and Board, for 12 months from 1st October 2016 and continue the work of regional transport officer as outlined above and agree to undertake the lead role for rail on behalf of the three local authorities”</p> <p>The GMW Partnership was fully supportive and also agreed to support Option B (as above).</p> <p>The Partnership highlighted the need to be inclusive and because the TraCC Board worked under an inter-authority agreement that included Gwynedd Council, it was important to continue to have their support and work together with them. It was agreed therefore that the Chair write to Gwynedd Council formally to invite Gwynedd Councils two portfolio members for Transport and the Economy to attend the Growing Mid Wales Partnership meetings.</p> <p>HTM noted that all this work conforms to priority 5 of the GMW Framework for Action.</p> <p>Action: To implement Option B as above (AE/HTM) and write to Gwynedd Council to join Growing Mid Wales.</p>	
<p>11. Update on Mid Wales Health Care Collaborative (Appendix E)</p> <p> Appendix E - Progress Report on tl</p>	<p>Dr SF provided an update to the Partnership on the Mid Wales Health Care Collaborative (MWHCC) (Further information on which can be found in the attached Report which was presented at a recent Ceredigion Public Service Board meeting recently.)</p> <p>MWHCC are continuing to focus their work in providing maintaining and improving health and social care in the mid Wales region. There are recruitment problems due to a lack of skills and training opportunities in the region for health and social care. They will be working with Aberystwyth University to develop a Centre of Excellence which will address some of these issues. Interest has also been shown by Cardiff and</p>	

	<p>Swansea Universities to place students in the Mid Wales region to provide experience of working in a rural area.</p> <p>JW, Coleg Ceredigion, noted that Coleg Ceredigion offer Health and Social Care provision and also Childcare level 1, 2, and 3 and that Coleg Sir Gar and Coleg Ceredigion are working together to develop electronic packages. JW would welcome further discussion with Dr SF on this work that has been undertaken.</p> <p>MWHCC had been launched by Welsh Government in 2015 with £100k funding allocated for two years to the establishment of the collaborative. Dr SF noted that they are hoping for an early announcement by Vaughan Gething AM, Cabinet Secretary for Health, Wellbeing and Sport, on the preferred option for the MWHCC Partnership in going forward.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Dr SF for her update and acknowledged the tremendous amount of work undertaken by the MWHCC Partnership.</p>	
<p>12. Any Other Business.</p>	<p>There were no additional matters to be reported today.</p> <p>The Chair thanked all for their attendance.</p>	

W B Thomas 6/1/17.

**COUNCILLOR BARRY THOMAS
CHAIR**

