

**Growing Mid Wales
Partnership Meeting
Room 1, Canolfan Rheidol, Aberystwyth, SY23 3UE
Friday, 24th March 2017
10:00- 12:25p.m.**

Attendees

- Ann Elias – Ceredigion County Council
- Arwyn Watkins – NTFW/ RSLP
- Bronwen Morgan – Chief Executive – Ceredigion County Council
- Ceri Stephens – MWMG
- Claire Miles – Mid Wales Regional Engagement
- Cllr. Alun Williams – Ceredigion County Council
- Cllr. Gareth Lloyd – Ceredigion County Council
- Councillor Barry Thomas – Leader, Powys County Council (Vice-Chair)
- Councillor Ellen Ap Gwynn – Leader, Ceredigion County Council (Chair)
- Dr. Rhian Hayward – Aberystwyth University & Aberystwyth Innovation & Enterprise Campus
- Jan McDonald, Powys County Council
- Jane Lewis – RLSP
- Jenni Thomas – Powys County Council
- John Jones – Welsh Government
- Mared Jones – FUW
- Mike Shaw – Ceredigion County Council
- Paul Griffiths – Powys County Council
- Rob Halford – Welsh Government
- Vivienne Lewis – Welsh Government

In attendance

- Seren Jones – Ceredigion County Council
- Felicity Llewelyn – Powys County Council

1.	<p>Introductions and Apologies</p> <p>The Vice-Chair, Councillor Barry Thomas, Powys County Council, welcomed all to the meeting. The Vice-Chair explained that this was his last GMW Partnership meeting as he will be standing down as Leader of Powys County Council after the Election on May 4th 2017. The Vice-Chair noted that it had been a huge honour to Chair the</p>	
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	<p>GMW Partnership over the last year and was extremely proud of the work of the Partnership to date and wished the Partnership all the best for the future.</p> <p>The Chair of the meeting, Councillor Ellen Ap Gwynn, Leader of Ceredigion County Council, expressed her thanks to Councillor Barry Thomas for the joint working of the GMW Partnership and the work that had been achieved to date. The Chair wished Councillor Barry Thomas all the best with his retirement and noted that the Partnership look forward to working with the successor Leader of Powys County Council post May 2017.</p> <p>It was also noted for information that Dr Sue Fish will be returning to her GP role full time will no longer be a member of the Mid Wales Healthcare Collaborative.</p> <p>Apologies had been received from:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councillor Tony Thomas – Powys County Council • Ann Watkin – Welsh Government • Dr Rhodri Llwyd Morgan – Prifysgol Aberystwyth • Dr Sue Fish – Mid Wales Health Care Collaborative • Hazel Lloyd Lubran – CAVO • Hywel Davies – University of Wales Trinity St David • Jacqui Weatherburn – Coleg Ceredigion • Paul Evans – Venture- Automotive • Peter Howells – NFU • Russell Hughes- Pickering – Ceredigion County Council • Sue Bolter – Powys County Council 	
2.	<p>Minutes of meeting from 6th January 2017 and Matters Arising (Appendix A) Minutes of the 6th January 2017 were noted as a correct record by the Partnership.</p>	 2. DRAFT GMW MINUTES 06.01.2017
3.	<p><u>Matters Arising</u> There were no matters arising.</p>	
4.	<p>Meetings attended / represented at</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lesley Griffiths AM, CSERA; meeting 16th Jan 2017 • Julie James AM, Minister for Skills and Science: meeting 2nd February 2017 • Guto Bebb MP / OFCOM, Mobile Coverage Summit, 12th January 2017 • NAW Cross Sector Working Group: Cross border issues 	 4. JulieJameshostsMNO:  4. Guto Bebb MP- OFCOM.DOCX

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LEADER/RSPB/Cynidr, What is the future for the Upland Farming in Wales beyond CAP, 15th March 2017 • Vodafone / New Statesman Roundtable; ‘Digitalised Progress: Realising the digital potential of Wales’, 1st March 2017 • Ken Skates AM CSEI / National Infrastructure Commission; Wales Stakeholder Day 17th March 2017 <p>Detailed updates were received on the above meetings. Further information can also be found in the attached Reports. The following was noted:-</p> <p><u>Lesley Griffiths AM – CSERA Meeting – 16th January 2017</u> The Chair, Vice-Chair and MS attended a meeting with Lesley Griffiths AM. Noted that support was received to pursue with the GMW Partnership Meeting and regional concerns discussed.</p> <p><u>Julie James AM, Minister for Skills and Science: meeting 2nd February 2017</u> Update was provided on the above meeting where the importance of skills/ broadband for the region was discussed as well as science policy issues affecting the region and skills challenges here.</p> <p><u>Guto Bebb MP / OFCOM, Mobile Coverage Summit, 12th January 2017</u> Noted that Ceri Stephens, Mid Wales Manufacturing Group represented the Growing Mid Wales Partnership at the meeting. Discussions took place re telephone signal at public buildings and improving access to signal across the region and in Wales. Discussions also took place regarding increasing mobile mass from 15 meters and 25 meters to improve coverage.</p> <p><u>NAW Cross Sector Working Group: Cross border issues</u> Briefing note was circulated from the meeting for the Partnership’s information.</p> <p><u>LEADER/RSPB/Cynidr, What is the future for the Upland Farming in Wales beyond CAP, 15th March 2017</u> Noted that this included information about Rural Policy in future and opportunities for both large & small scale intervention projects.</p> <p><u>Vodafone / New Statesman Roundtable; ‘Digitalised Progress: Realising the digital potential of Wales’, 1st March 2017</u></p>	 <p>4. NAW Cross Sector Working Group - Cros</p>
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	<p>The Chair reported on this meeting and noted that the message was emphasised at the meeting that the region cannot function and develop without all networks in place and Wales needs roaming opportunities, and to look at moving on from 4G to 5G coverage.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p>Presentation by Welsh Government: Aligning the Apprenticeship Model to the needs of the Welsh economy - Apprenticeship Levy</p> <p>Presentation was received from John Jones, Welsh Government re the Apprenticeship Levy (a copy of which is attached). The presentation focused on:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Details of the Apprenticeship Policy • Delivery Priorities • Actions going forward • Details re the Apprenticeship Levy • Details re the Flexible Skills Programme • New Employability Programme <p>Detailed discussion ensued and opportunity for questions followed.</p> <p>CM asked whether the Flexible Skills Programme, working with clusters of SMEs, could be available in Mid Wales, and then would there be scope to open up to sector clusters across a wider geographical area? It was agreed for JJ and CM to have further discussion outside of the meeting.</p> <p>Action: JJ & CM to discuss further.</p> <p>It was also agreed that it is important to look at Local Authorities Workforce Development Plans and how apprenticeships are being used throughout the workforce to upskill employees and retain jobs and young people within authorities.</p> <p>The Chair thanked JJ for his presentation today.</p>	 <p>GMWP Skills Programmes Update.1</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Regional Learning and Skills Partnership: Update:</p> <p>Jane Lewis (JL) provided an update on the Regional Learning & Skills Partnership. JL noted that they are in the process of writing the next draft plan to the Welsh Government. JL noted that they were tasked by the Welsh Government to obtain more industry engagement to inform the plan & recommendations contained therein. JL stated that they have consulted over the last 2 months with sector cluster groups across the region and over 100 businesses which have provided a lot</p>	

	<p>of information. Information has also been included regarding the Welsh Language Act and how the Future Generations Act is influencing development within sectors.</p> <p>JL noted that the plan has to be submitted to the Welsh Government by the 28th July 2017 and would seek the GMW Partnership's approval prior to that. The Plan will also be placed with the Regional Board on the 11th May 2017.</p> <p>Concern was raised that the deadline to Welsh Government was also the date of the next GMW Partnership meeting and therefore there would not be sufficient time for the Partnership to consider the Plan. Because of the difficulties in rearranging the date of the next Partnership meeting, it was agreed that the Plan documents be circulated to and comments invited from all Partnership members be email, discussed at a Cross Sector Working Group and a draft response circulated by email for discussion prior to the RLSP Board meeting on 20th July.</p> <p>Action: Secretariat to re-arrange the circulation of the documents to enable comments to be submitted to the RLSP.</p> <p>The Partnership also agreed to nominate Mike Shaw to continue as the Growing Mid Wales representative on the Regional Learning and Skills Partnership Board.</p> <p>Action: MS to continue to represent the GMW Partnership on the Regional Learning and Skills Partnership Board.</p> <p>JL stated that the draft Regional Employment & Skills Plan South West & Mid Wales & Employer Engagement Update would be circulated to all following the Partnership meeting today.</p> <p>Action: Secretariat to circulate the draft Regional Employment & Skills Plan South West & Mid Wales & Employer Engagement Update to all.</p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p>Mid Wales Regional Tourism Forum, update, (meeting 7th February 2017)</p> <p>Minutes of the Mid Wales Regional Tourism Forum were circulated and noted following agreement at the last Partnership meeting (6th January 2017) for links to be developed with the Tourism For Mid Wales.</p>	 <p>7. Mid Wales Regional Forum Minut</p>

	<p>It was noted that Mid Wales Regional Tourism Forum have appointed a new Chair and the Partnership agreed that he would be invited to attend future GMW Partnership meetings.</p> <p>Action: Chair of the Mid Wales Regional Tourism Forum to be invited to future Partnership meetings. (Admin).</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p>National Development Framework, To confirm response agreed by email</p> <p>Reference was made to the attached report which notes the GMW Partnership response to Welsh Government's call for evidence projects for a new National Development Framework (NDF) for Wales.</p> <p>It was noted that three cross sector working groups of GMW came together with policy officers from both Ceredigion and Powys County Council and worked together to produce the regional response.</p> <p>Noted that the response was circulated to Partnership members to agree and comment prior to submission to Welsh Government on the 6th March 2017.</p> <p>The Partnership noted and confirmed the response submitted to the Welsh Government.</p> <p>It was noted that the NDF is not likely to be approved until 2020.</p>	 <p>8. NDF Cover Template .pdf</p>  <p>8. GMW National Development Framew</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p>To consider a response to the WG consultation White Paper "Reforming Local Government: Resilient and Renewed" (due 11th April)</p> <p>BM presented the attached Report regarding the Welsh Government's consultation on 'Reforming Local Government: Resilient and Renewed' for the Partnership to agree to send a broad response (draft attached) following the letter sent to the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government, Mark Drakeford AM, on the 19th December 2016, stressing the importance of the GMW Partnership to regional economy in Mid Wales and the importance to continue with the work.</p> <p>BM took the Partnership through the draft response in detail and detailed discussions ensued.</p>	 <p>9. Reforming Local Government - Resilient</p>

	<p>The Partnership agreed to the draft response, however, wished to add further emphasis regarding:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building Our Industrial Strategy; the green paper from UK Government • Emphasise the importance of GMW to the Mid-Wales region • Investing in Central Wales to achieve a cohesive Wales • Skills and apprenticeships challenges • Work with clusters to help develop the economy. 	
<p>10.</p>	<p>Cross Sector Working Group meetings - Regional Engagement Update Report, Quarter 1 2017</p> <p>MS provided a detailed update on Regional Engagement Quarter 1, 2017. Further information can be found in the attached document.</p> <p>MS drew the Partnership's attention to the final bullet point on the first page regarding SmartCymru. MS noted that part of it supports Welsh Government and part of it can be business led. MS noted that it was important for Mid Wales Manufacturing to be aware as there is an opportunity to work more closely there.</p> <p>It was noted that at the last Partnership (6th January 2017), discussion took place on the open call for research innovation operations, 45 proposals have been submitted; a couple of which are from Welsh Government and a number from the Growing Mid Wales Region.</p> <p>The GMW Partnership agreed to the recommendations contained in MS report as follows:-</p> <p>Welsh Government: WWV and EW Operations; Arbed 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ask WEFO and the WG Arbed team to provide greater clarity on the definition of target areas for these operations; • To seek clarification from Welsh Government on acceptable evidence to be used in applications from local authorities, and; • To refer the need for common data to evidence fuel poverty to the Welsh Local Government Association. 	 <p>10. Regional Engagement Report (</p>

	<p>Swansea University: WWV Operation; ASTUTE 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To welcome the operation and the potential contribution of Aberystwyth University in the operation and To welcome the possibility of a further parallel operation in East Wales, that could be accessed by companies in Powys. To explore further the interactions and cross referrals between the ASTUTE 2020 operation, other operations engaging with growing businesses and also with other more general programmes supporting research and innovation in businesses, so as to maximise the regional impact of these operations. <p>Welsh Government, Regeneration WWV Operation; ‘Building for the Future’:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To confirm the previously agreed prioritised projects: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Swyddfa'r Sîr, Aberystwyth Old Post Office site, and, Cambrian Quay (Cardigan Mash) To add a fourth regional priority project; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Cardigan Market building. <u>Not to prioritise</u> ‘Yr Hen Ysgol Gymraeg’ within this operation. <p>The Chair thanked MS for his update today.</p>	
<p>11.</p>	<p>Economic Prioritisation Framework</p> <p>MS presented the attached reporting regarding the revision of the Economic Prioritisation Framework (EPF). The EPF is a document that is used by WEFO and sets investment context within the 4 regions of Wales. The 4 regions have been tasked to revise and update the Framework. The Mid Wales framework was last updated in 2016 and will now be revised and updated in readiness for submission by the 29th March 2017.</p> <p>The Partnership noted the progress for completion by March 29 2017 and Members to bring forward suggestions for inclusion in the revision.</p>	 <p>11. Revision of the Economic Prioritisation</p>

<p>12.</p>	<p>Future of Regional Policy in Wales, to note developments</p> <p>RH presented the attached Paper to the Partnership. RH noted that Brexit will be triggered on Wednesday 29th March 2017. RH noted that WG have been engaged in dialogue with the UK Government as to what that will mean for Wales. The White Paper is being used to secure Wales's future and within that document, assertion has been made that Wales should continue to benefit a similar greater level of funding. There are competences to the way in which money is deployed here in Wales compared to UK Government level and the paper reflects concerns expressed at Growing Mid Wales meetings. The paper tries to suggest a couple of principles and foundations of what comes next which should be part of a consultation in the next coming months.</p> <p>The paper will be used for discussion at EU Advisory Groups.</p> <p>It was agreed that a seminar to discuss the paper would be useful later during the year.</p>	 <p>12 Grwp Cyngori ar Ewro Dyfodol Polisi RI</p>
<p>13.</p>	<p>A Freight Strategy for Mid Wales</p> <p>AE noted that funding had been received from Welsh Government to take forward a Freight Strategy for Mid Wales jointly with the Marches LEP. Consultants will now work with Wales on mapping and networking and on freight needs across the region. Some engagement had already taken place at the Mid Wales Manufacturing Event and a meeting will be held with a number of key businesses across the region arranged by Welsh Government on the 6th April 2017.</p> <p>CS noted that she attended the Cross-Sector Working Group in Cardiff and WG noted that any decision on investment must be evidence based.</p> <p>Cllr Alun Williams noted that he would like to see the desirability of rail freight included in the strategy to see what is possible/ what businesses want and what would prohibit it from happening. AE noted Cllr AW's comment.</p> <p>AE noted that a joint document will be completed in April and presented at the next meeting of the Partnership in July 2017.</p>	 <p>13. A Freight Strategy for Mid Wales</p>

<p>14.</p>	<p>To consider a response to Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, Consultation on green paper “Industrial Strategy”, (due 17th April)</p> <p>Reference was made to the attached Report regarding a response to the UK Government’s Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, and consultation on green paper “Building our Industrial Strategy”.</p> <p>It was noted that the document covers ten ‘pillars’ some of which deal with non-devolved, partly and fully devolved matters for Mid-Wales and places strong emphasis</p> <p>MS noted that the purpose of introducing this today was to raise the document’s profile as it is very important and requires engagement. It is important to keep the dialogue with Welsh Government and build that into the final response.</p>	 <p>14. Building Our Industrial Strategy R</p>
<p>15.</p>	<p>Connectivity and Infrastructure Working Group, Update for Quarter 1, 2017</p> <p>AE presented the attached report to the Partnership on strategic transport matters and the work of the Connectivity Infrastructure Group.</p> <p>AE drew the Partnership’s attention to two consultations currently underway:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Wales and Borders Rail Franchise - Welsh Government Consultation – Consultation ends May 2017. 2) Bus Services - Welsh Government consultation: Consultation ends 31st May 2017. <p>AE raised concerns about the proportion of local transport funding coming to the region. Members agreed to write to the Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure to express these concerns.</p> <p>The Chair thanked AE for her update today.</p>	 <p>15. Connectivity and Infrastructure Report</p>
<p>16.</p>	<p>Correspondence received:</p> <p>Information was circulated from the Food Innovation Wales Conference which was held at Celtic Manor recently.</p>	

	A new brochure describing the Aberystwyth Innovation and Enterprise Campus was also circulated.	
17.	Any Other Business There were no additional matters for discussion.	
18.	Future date: 28th July 2017	