



Partneriaeth Tyfu Canolbarth Cymru / Growing Mid Wales Partnership

Dydd Llun 24 Mai 2021

Monday 24 May 2021

10.00am

Cyfarfod Rhith

Virtual Meeting

Attendance:-

Councillor Ellen ap Gwynn, Leader of Ceredigion County Council (Chair) **(EAP)**

Councillor Rosemarie Harris, Leader of Powys County Council (Vice-Chair) **(RH)**

Ann Elias, Ceredigion County Council **(AE)**

Ann Watkin, Welsh Government **(AW)**

Arwyn Davies, Ceredigion County Council **(AD)**

Arwyn Watkins OBE, Cambrian Training **(ArW)**

Carwyn Jones-Evans, Ceredigion County Council **(CJE)**

Claire Miles, Ceredigion County Council **(CM)**

Councillor Gareth Thomas, Gwynedd County Council **(Cllr.GT)**

Councillor Iain McIntosh, Powys County Council **(Cllr.IM)**

Councillor Phyl Davies, Powys County Council **(Cllr.PhD)**

Councillor Rhodri Evans, Ceredigion County Council **(Cllr.RE)**

Dafydd Wyn Morgan, Cambrian Mountains Initiative (DWM)

Dr. Caroline Turner, Chief Executive, Powys County Council **(CT)**

Dr. Rhian Hayward, Aberinnovation **(RH)**

Dr. Rhodri Llwyd Morgan, Aberystwyth University **(RLIM)**

Eifion Evans, Ceredigion County Council **(EE)**

Esther Wakeling, Cambrian Mountains Initiative **(EW)**

Gareth Jones, Powys County Council **(GJ)**

Gareth Rowlands, Ceredigion County Council **(GR)**

Gavin Bown, NRW **(GB)**

Geraint Rees, Powys County Council **(GR)**

Glenn Bowen, Wales Co-operative Centre **(GIB)**

Gwawr Price, Visit Wales **(GP)**

Gwilym Jones, University of Wales Trinity St. David **(GJ)**

Jo Weale, Powys County Council, **(JW)**

Marie Evans, Ceredigion County Council **(ME)**

Mark Dacey, NPTC Group of Colleges **(MD)**

Matt Morden, Coleg Ceredigion **(MM)**

Nia Williams, Hywel Dda Health Board **(NW)**

Nick Venti, PAVO **(NV)**

Nigel Brinn, Powys County Council **(NB)**

Peter Davies MBE, Farmers Union of Wales **(PD)**
 Rowland Rees-Evans, Mid Wales Tourism Forum **(RRE)**
 Russell Hughes-Pickering, Ceredigion County Council **(RHP)**
 Steve Hughson, Chief Executive of the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society **(SH)**

<p>1.</p>	<p>Ymddiheuriadau / Apologies for absence. Apologies for absence were received from:- Lowri Gwilym, WLGA Derek Walker, Chief Executive of the Wales Cooperative Centre Rachel Garside Jones, Welsh Government Steffan Roberts, Welsh Government Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn, Gwynedd County Council Emma Wilde, Mid Wales Chamber of Commerce Peter Davies, NFU Stella Owen, NFU Ceri Stephens, Mid Wales Manufacturing Group Councillor Dafydd Edwards, Ceredigion County Council Rhodri Griffiths, Welsh Government Peter Skitt, Mid Wales Joint Health Committee</p>
<p>2.</p>	<p>Derbyn Cofnodion cyfarfod blaenorol PTCC a gynhaliwyd ar 3 Rhagfyr 2020 / To receive the Minutes from the previous meeting of the GMWP held on 3 December 2020 The minutes of the previous meeting held on 3 December 2020 were confirmed as a correct record subject to correction of the date under item 2, and the correction of</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>Bargen Twf Canolbarth Cymru – Diweddariad am y Cynnydd / Mid Wales Growth Deal – Progress Update CJE gave a verbal update and confirmed that he would provide a written update of the progress made and circulate papers for the meeting of the Growing Mid Wales Board on Wednesday to members of the Partnership.</p> <p>With the Heads of Terms having been agreed at the end of 2020, the political drive from the Growing Mid Wales Board was to achieve Full Deal Agreement within the calendar year (2021). The portfolio was being developed and there were fortnightly meetings with civil servants in both Governments to ensure regular dialogue on progress, and to continue to clarify expectations and detail required.</p> <p>Officers were undertaking conversations with project proposers in each case and encouraging the development of their proposals to a level of detail that could help the Board and ESG to start making informed decisions against the emerging Portfolio and determine the mix of projects that would be put forward for initial consideration by Governments in the Autumn.</p> <p>Whilst this work was continuing, it was clear that that significant short term capacity constraints exist within the Local Authority teams working on</p>

	<p>developing the Growth Deal in order to achieve Full Deal Agreement (FDA) by the end of 2021. The Board would be asked to approve the urgent commissioning of external capacity to help programme-manage the remaining work to FDA, further develop the Portfolio Business Case and associated Programme Business Cases.</p>
4.	<p>Partneriaeth Sgiliau Rhanbarthol – Diweddariad am y Cynnydd Regional Skills Partnership – Progress Update</p> <p>JW gave a verbal update. She advised that the first meeting of the Board had taken place on 12 May with the next meeting scheduled for 7 July. She also advised that the new Regional Partnership Manager would be taking up post on 8 June. EAP informed the meeting that following interview, Adrian Watson had been appointed the interim Chair for the next 6 months and that the Board would make its own appointment after that time.</p>
5.	<p>Business Updates</p> <p>i. Targeted Regeneration Investment Programme</p> <p>GJ outlined the Welsh Government funding programme for the regeneration of town centres:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transforming Towns Programme 2021-22 • Place Making Grant • Town Centre Revenue Funding • Strategic projects <p>GJ advised that the schemes were overseen by panels in each local authority and by a regional panel. RH noted that there were a lot of villages in the region that also needed help. She and EAP would raise this in the WLGA Rural Forum.</p> <p>ii. Regional Engagement Team Report</p> <p>CM reported on the work being undertaken to support delivery and alignment of the Mid Wales Growth Deal. She also gave an update on Coastal Upland Heritage and Tourism (CUPHAT). This was a scheme being developed by Aberystwyth University, in conjunction with Dyfed Archaeological Trust, University College Dublin and The Discovery Programme Ireland to promote sustainable tourism in the coastal uplands that border the Irish Sea, leading to the creation of sustainable communities and landscapes.</p> <p>RESOLVED to regionally endorse the CUPHAT operation in development by Aberystwyth University, with the caveat that discussions take place with relevant regional stakeholders in order to avoid potential duplication of activity.</p> <p>iii. Connectivity and Infrastructure Working Group</p> <p>In addition to the items set out in her report, AE noted the restructure of rail services in England announced by the UK government and that a hydrogen powered bus was being piloted by Traws Cymru in Aberystwyth.</p>
6.	<p>Government(s) Update</p>

	<p>i. WG Regional Economic Frameworks and related regional matters</p> <p>AW reported that the new Minister for the Economy Vaughan Gething MS was keen to meet partners in the region. The new administration would publish its programme for government shortly and it was clear that tackling climate change would be at the heart of government policy with Julie James MS having been appointed Minister for Climate Change.</p> <p>She also advised that Welsh Government had a commitment to having regional economic framework in place and would continue to work with regions. There was funding for three strategic programmes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Internet of Things project • Small Capital Business Fund • Capital infrastructure project funding. <p>There was also funding available to support businesses through the Economic Resilience Fund, the Cultural Recovery Fund for freelancers in the arts, culture, heritage and the events sector and the Residential Outdoor Education Fund.</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Wider Regional Updates</p> <p>Cambrian Mountains Initiative – presentation</p> <p>EW and DWM gave a presentation on the work of the Cambrian Mountains Initiative to raise the profile of the Cambrian Mountains and maintain the upland way of life. </p> <p>Amongst the projects the Initiative had undertaken, they had</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launched of the Cambrian Mountains Astro Trail. • Worked with the media to raise awareness. • Developed a local produce marque. • Worked with consultants to create and action plan for joining up access and recreation opportunities. <p>They were currently consulting on the landscape status of the region to help create a sustainable upland economy. EW explained that this did not mean that they would be looking for the area to be designated as a national park or AONB. RH cautioned that placing a designation on the region could have downsides and restrict opportunities for economic development. She agreed with diversification but there was a limit to the number of tourism venues before the market became saturated and she noted that upland farms were only suitable for livestock farming. EW explained that they were looking for a designation that would be supported by the communities and that would help grow the economy. She noted that there were some crops that could be grown in upland areas. PH from the NFU said that farmers would be wary of having a designation placed on the region. He noted that farming could make a contribution to lowering carbon emissions.</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>Consultation – Improving Broadband for Hard To Reach Premises</p> <p>i. Draft regional response for consideration</p>

	<p>CM informed the meeting that the RET team would be pulling together a regional response to the UK Government's consultation on Improving Broadband for Hard To Reach Premises.</p>
9.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>It was highlighted that under Item 4 – RSP update that the new RSP required a nomination of a representative on behalf of the Growing Mid Wales Partnership. After a short discussion, it was felt that further information was required in order to make a nomination.</p> <p>Action – Regional officers to provide Chairs and GMW Partnership with further information regarding RSP Membership in order to make a decision regarding nomination.</p>