



# Growing Mid Wales Newsletter

**July Update 2022**

**Welcome to the first Growing Mid Wales newsletter!**

As we welcome both new and returning stakeholders, this is a brand new newsletter containing an update on Growing Mid Wales developments.

As there are many new faces around the virtual table, we've included an overview of Growing Mid Wales, the journey so far and the plan to progress over the coming months.

In this edition, we also shed some light on the governance process involved with Growth Deal project proposals to explain the steps needed to be taken from being an initial planning phase of the spending proposal right through to the final investment decision.

This newsletter will become a regular way to communicate with our stakeholders/members and we will always be looking at ways to improve the way we deliver our news. So, if you have any feedback, comments or relevant content to feature here, we'd love to hear from you.

Helping to grow opportunity in Mid Wales,

***The Growing Mid Wales Team***

**Read on for:**

- What is Growing Mid Wales?
- Board News
- Project Delivery Stages: Understanding the Governance Process for project developments
- Looking Ahead

## What is Growing Mid Wales?

Growing Mid Wales is a regional partnership and engagement arrangement between the private, public and third sectors, and with Welsh and UK Government.

Since its establishment in 2015, a lot of progress has been made. Local, regional and national stakeholders have demonstrated a real commitment to work together to help drive economic growth through a shared vision in the region.

### **Our Aims:**

1. Encourage interaction with businesses, higher and further education, and with public and private sector stakeholders
2. Identify key themes and sectors, and priorities for investment
3. Support business-led innovation, enterprise and investment in Mid Wales
4. Secure wider collaborative and transformational working with key partners organisations and the business community
5. Agree roles, responsibilities and improved delivery arrangements in the promotion of economic development
6. Ensure broad input and engagement that will help advise on the Growth Deal

Further information including news about all the teams that sit within Growing Mid Wales can be found on the website: [www.growingmid.wales](http://www.growingmid.wales)<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup><https://www.growingmid.wales>

## Board Meeting News



**The Growing Mid Wales Board Meeting** took place on **21.06.2022**. Here's an update on what was discussed:

Progress is being made with the projects within the Growth Deal Portfolio with the submission of **Strategic Outline Cases (SOC)** being considered now for progression to the next phase.

The **Economic Advisory Group (EAG)** is all set up and ready to help advise on the strengths or weaknesses of projects being developed as part of the Mid Wales Growth Deal Portfolio. It will provide business-sector experience and knowledge to assess the various project proposals as they move through to the next stage.

Programme Development - **Digital**: Connectivity provision across the region is a priority. The GMW team are working through a long list of interventions and opportunities to help identify proposals that can accelerate plans. Welsh Government, UK Government and the major providers in the area have plans to invest in digital development and the GMW team will ensure that the work they carry out will complement and if possible accelerate these plans.

**Mid Wales Regional Skills Partnership (RSP)** - A Green Skills Report, developed by Data Cymru and the four Wales RSP Managers, was launched on 23 March and can be viewed here<sup>2</sup>. It has been shared with Welsh Government for consideration. The report forms a baseline for further deep dive work into the sector for the new 3-year Employment and Skills Plan 2022-2025.

The Young Persons Guarantee: An ambitious commitment giving everyone under 25 the offer of support into work, education, training, or self-employment has been set out through a Programme

---

<sup>2</sup><http://www.growingmid.wales/documents>

for Government. Engagement exercises are being carried out to understand barriers to provision and progression with the results feeding into an action plan.

The RSP Board has established three initial cluster groups to act as expert advisors to the RSP Board. They are: Training Providers, Businesses and Public Services. These cluster groups will focus on specific areas to help identify skills gaps, needs and demand across the region to help support businesses and to feed into the new 3-year Employment and Skills Plan.

During the GMW Board Meeting, two elected Cabinet members were nominated to sit on the RSP Board, one from each of the two Local Authorities. The Leader of Ceredigion County Council, Bryan Davies, nominated Wyn Thomas Ceredigion County Council Cabinet Member for Schools, Lifelong Learning and Skills. James Gibson-Watt, Leader of Powys County Council nominated David Selby, Powys County Council Cabinet Member for a More Prosperous Powys.

## Project Delivery Stages: Understanding the Governance Process for Growth Deal project proposals



The Growth Deal, set within the broader Vision for Growing Mid Wales, will play a key role alongside a range of other strategies and investments from the public and private sector to bring prosperity to the communities and businesses of the region. The Growth Deal is required to follow the **5 Case Business Model methodology** of appraisal developed by Welsh Government and HM Treasury where project sponsors (applicants) have to demonstrate development against 5 key dimensions: Strategic Case, Economic Case, Commercial Case, Financial Case, Management Case.

This involves the preparation of three business case phases: Strategic Outline Case, Outline Business Case, Full Business Case with each section being revisited and updated as the project proposal evolves.

Proposals will be appraised at each of these phases to ensure that they meet the requirements to progress to the next phase and ultimately be considered for funding.



1 - Mid Wales Growth Deal Project Delivery Stages

## Looking Ahead

Keep up to date with Growing Mid Wales news, developments on activity and organisations we support by following our Twitter and Linked In pages:

<https://twitter.com/growingmidwales>

[www.linkedin.com/company/growing-mid-wales](http://www.linkedin.com/company/growing-mid-wales)<sup>3</sup>

We're eager to reach out to as many organisations and businesses across Mid Wales as possible. You can make this possible by following, liking and sharing our pages.

**Disclaimer:** As a Growing Mid Wales Stakeholder you receive these e mails so that we can share news and information with you on a regular basis. You can inform us if you no longer wish to receive these emails by emailing [growingmidwales@ceredigion.gov.uk](mailto:growingmidwales@ceredigion.gov.uk).



<sup>3</sup><https://www.linkedin.com/company/growing-mid-wales>