

## **CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL**

**County Council  
12<sup>th</sup> July 2018**

**REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Rosemarie Harris, Leader**

**SUBJECT: Question from County Councillor Emily Durrant**

**The Mid Wales Growth Deal presents us with a timely opportunity to bring great investment to our County. Given the vast sums of money available and the potential impact on the economic and social landscape of Powys, what measures are in place to ensure an equitable and open approach to the selection of projects and their development? Will the Leader please set out timelines, decision-making and consultation processes to prioritise which projects Powys County Council will recommend for inclusion in the Deal and the scrutiny arrangements that will apply?**

### **Response**

A potential Growth Deal for Mid Wales is a major opportunity to help drive economic growth across the region. The deal will focus on bringing investment to the region as well as increasing economic activity that will benefit local business. The Council will be working with the Growing Mid Wales Partnership, local stakeholders and the Welsh Government to identify the best way to strengthen the region's economy, and the engagement and support of the private sector will be central to this process.

On behalf of the Growing Mid Wales Partnership, the Council has appointed AECOM consultants to prepare an Economic Action Plan for Mid Wales. Work is underway to identify the issues and opportunities facing the economy and on developing a clear vision and priorities for the region. The aim of the Action Plan will be to develop a programme of strategic interventions to help transform the Mid Wales economy that can be delivered through a range of funding sourcing including a Growth Deal. An email will shortly be circulated to all members on the Economic Action Plan which will include an online survey to feed into the process which Members are encouraged to participate in. The Economic Action Plan is scheduled to be completed in the Autumn and where possible will include early stage business cases for key investments.

The Growth Deal will be a negotiation between UK Government, Welsh Government and the Mid Wales Region, the latter being led by Powys and Ceredigion County Councils. The details of the process are to be confirmed, however, it is envisaged that governance structures will be set up over the next 12 months and business cases for prioritised interventions will need to be ready for discussion by Summer 2019. Members will be kept updated on the proposed consultation and decision making process as they develop.