

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL

**County Council
18th October 2018**

REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Rosemarie Harris, Leader

SUBJECT: Question from County Councillor Diane Jones-Poston

Can the Leader update the council on the progress of the Mid Wales Growth Deal?

Response

The Mid Wales Growth Deal is at an early stage but beginning to move quickly to the next stage of the process. It is important to note that this remains a 'potential' Deal until sign-off by central government. To develop the position a series of joint informal cabinets have been held with Ceredigion County Council. The work is also supported by the existing Growing Mid Wales Partnership that, along with the Leaders and officers from both councils, also includes attendees from the business sector, Welsh Government, Higher Education, Agriculture and Tourism. Officers met with senior Civil Servants from Central Government and Welsh Government to establish the approach to be taken for potential projects. A key part of the Deal will be the involvement of the business sector and this will be via an Economic Board to support delivery.

As part of the approach to delivering the Deal a wider regional economic action plan is being researched and drafted with external support from Aecom Ltd. This work is a joint commission involving Powys, Ceredigion and Welsh Government. As part of the process a series of workshops have been held involving businesses, regional groups and the Higher Education sector. The regional economic action plan will be a framework to help inform the Deal. Wales already has 3 existing Deals and contact has been made and we have also met with Shropshire County Council to raise awareness given the close transport links.

As help raise awareness of the Deal there will be an event held at the Senedd and another in Westminster.

There will be an update for all Councillors on the Mid Wales Growth Deal at a member development session over the coming weeks.