

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

CABINET
9th May 2019

REPORT AUTHOR: Corporate Director (Economy and Environment) and
Head of Legal and democratic Services

SUBJECT: Approval of Draft Inter Authority Agreement for
Agreeing the Heads of Terms for the Mid Wales Growth
Deal

REPORT FOR: Decision

1. Summary

1.1 This report is to request Cabinet to approve a draft Inter Authority Agreement for Agreeing the Heads of Terms for the Mid Wales Growth Deal (see Appendix 1).

2. Background

2.1 Growing Mid Wales is a regional partnership and engagement arrangement between the private and public sectors, and with Welsh Government. The partnership seeks to represent the region's interests and priorities for improvements to our local economy.

2.2 Cabinet regularly receives minutes of the Growing Mid Wales Partnership. Members include:

Welsh Government
Powys County Council
Federation of Small Business
National Farmers Union Cymru
Mid Wales Health Collaborative
Mid Wales Manufacturing Group
Stronger Communities Programme Board (Powys)
Regional Learning Partnership for South and Central Wales
University of Wales Trinity St David
NPTC Group – Brecon Beacons Campus / Newtown Campus
Powys Association of Voluntary Organisations
Snowdonia National Park Authority
Ceredigion County Council (represented by Councillor Ellen ap Gwynn,
Councillor Rhodri Evans and Councillor Dafydd Edwards)
Trafnidiaeth Canolbarth Cymru
Farmers Union of Wales
Mid Wales Regional Tourism Forum
Central Wales Economic Forum
Powys Local Growth Zones
Sustainable Futures – Ceredigion Regoanl Partnershuo
Aberystwyth University
Coleg Ceredigion
Ceredigion Association of Voluntary Organisations
Gwynedd County Council

Brecon Beacons National Park Authority

- 2.3 The IAA will put in place the governance to assist the Executive Management Team and the Programme Office to carry forward work to achieve the growth deal funding for the Mid Wales Region. These arrangements will also serve to enable governance of the partnership between the two Councils to develop and implement a 15 year Regional Economic Strategy based on the findings and the review carried out by the consultants from AECOM. The IAA also supports the setting up of an Economic Strategy Group which will be an independent group formed from private sector businesses. The Chair from this group will sit on the Joint Committee but in an advisory capacity only. If agreement is also reached with Welsh Government to allow a Regional Learning & Skills Partnership to be formed for the Mid Wales Region, the IAA will also support that arrangement and provide governance for the RLSP. Attached at appendix B is the proposed Terms of Reference for the Joint Committee.

3. Options Considered / Available

3.1

Options:-

- Continue with Mid Wales Partnership in form of a voluntary arrangement
- Establish a formal joint committee with stakeholders having observer status (North Wales model)
- Establish a company, sector led Economic Development company in which all current partners are represented i.e. Authorities, FE's & HE's, Private sector companies – all with equal status on the board
- Joint Cabinet Model similar approach to the joint committee but formed by both Cabinet's. Private sector could be stakeholders having observer status only. (Cardiff and Swansea model)

Pros & Cons:-

- Continue with Mid Wales Partnership in form of a voluntary arrangement
Pros: Already established and understood by partners. No additional running costs or other overheads.
Cons: Unlikely to satisfy Government that partnership with Ceredigion is sufficiently formalised. Decision making not entirely open and transparent.
- Establish a formal joint committee with stakeholders having observer status (North Wales model)
Pros: A tried and tested model operating in North Wales. Open and transparent and accountable open to formal scrutiny.
Cons: Does not formally engage private sector, higher education or other stakeholders. Additional ongoing overheads to manage.
- Establish a company, sector led Economic Development company in which all current partners are represented i.e. Authorities, FE's & HE's, Private sector companies – all with equal status on the board
Pros: Will formally engage private sector, higher education and other stakeholders in the governance arrangements. Is innovative, will appeal to private sector.
Cons: Will have set up costs and ongoing administration requirements. Less transparent than joint committee or joint Cabinet models.

- Joint Cabinet Model similar approach to the joint committee but formed by both Cabinet's. Private sector could be stakeholders having observer status only. (Cardiff and Swansea model)
Pros and Cons: Same as joint committee, though potentially more transparent as Cabinet model is more recognised by the public.

4. Preferred Choice and Reasons

- 4.1 The preferred choice is the formation of a Joint Committee as this gives a more formal structure to the partnership between both Councils and sets out clearly the areas of responsibility for each Council.
- 4.2 In order to ensure that appropriate governance arrangements are in place, it is proposed that Cabinet approves the draft "Inter-Authority Agreement for Agreeing the Heads of Terms for the Mid Wales Growth Deal" ("the IAA) attached as Appendix 1. This is an Agreement between Ceredigion County Council and Powys County Council. The Agreement will continue for the duration of the project, being the development of the Outline Business Case for the Mid Wales Growth Deal and for approval of Heads of Terms with the Welsh Government and the United Kingdom Government.
- 4.3 The terms of IAA has not yet been finalised and on 19th March 2019 Ceredigion's Cabinet granted delegated authority to its chief legal officer to make minor amendments to the draft IAA. It is recommended that Cabinet grant delegated authority to the Leader in consultation with the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to make minor amendments to the draft IAA in Appendix 1

5. Impact Assessment

- 5.1 Is an impact assessment required? No

6. Corporate Improvement Plan

- 6.1 The Growing Mid Wales Partnership is based on developing and enabling a vibrant economy that will bring prosperity and sustainability to the region. The formation of an IAA puts in place the governance between both Councils to oversee and support the development of the work and activity to achieve a growth deal and a regional economic strategy both covering a 15 year development and implementation programme. This relates to the objectives and outcomes from the Economy section of the Councils Vision 2025

5. Communications

Have Communications seen a copy of this report? No

6. Support Services (Legal, Finance, Corporate Property, HR, ICT, Business Services)

- 6.1 Legal: The recommendations can be supported from a legal point of view

6.2 Finance: The Finance Manager notes the contents of the report, the IAA requires a specific reserve to be set up for this committee and that should an over spend occur both Authorities will share equal burden of the over spend. The IAA also notes the requirement for both parties to agree a recovery proposal for the existing and future budgets and where funding should be sourced. The budget currently available for the committee if funded from reserves, a permanent budget will be required to be found to fund a 15 year programme.

7. Scrutiny

Has this report been scrutinised? No

8. Statutory Officers

8.1 The Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) commented as follows: "I note the legal comments and have nothing to add to the report."

8.2 The Head of Finance (Section 151 Officer) notes the comments of the Finance Manager. Any additional funding required to fund the arrangement will need to be identified as part of the Councils Medium Term Financial Strategy.

9. Members' Interests

The Monitoring Officer is not aware of any specific interests that may arise in relation to this report. If Members have an interest they should declare it at the start of the meeting and complete the relevant notification form.

Recommendation:		Reason for Recommendation:	
<p>(i) To approve the Draft Inter-Authority Agreement for agreeing the Heads of Terms for the Mid Wales Growth Deal (Appendix 1).</p> <p>(ii) To grant delegated powers to the Corporate Lead Officer-Legal & Governance to make minor amendments to the Inter Authority Agreement, in conjunction with Powys County Council. More significant changes to be authorised by Cabinet</p>		<p>To ensure that appropriate governance arrangements are in place.</p>	
Relevant Policy (ies):			
Within Policy:		Within Budget:	Yes
Person(s) To Implement Decision:		N/A	
Date By When Decision To Be Implemented:		N/A	
Contact Officer Name:	Tel:	Email:	
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