

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BWRDD TYFU CANOLBARTH CYMRU /
GROWING MID WALES BOARD HELD BY ZOOM ON WEDNESDAY,
3 FEBRUARY 2021**

PRESENT

Ceredigion County Council Cabinet Members:

Councillor Ellen ap Gwynn, Leader of Ceredigion County and Cabinet Member for Policy Performance, Partnerships and Democratic Services **(EAG) (Chair)**

Councillor Dafydd Edwards: Cabinet Member for Highways and Environmental Services together with Housing **(DE)**

Councillor Catrin Miles: Cabinet Member for Learning Services and Lifelong Learning **(CM)**

Councillor Rhodri Evans: Cabinet Member for Economy and Regeneration **(RE)**

Councillor Gareth Lloyd, Cabinet Member for Finance and Procurement Services and Public Protection Services **(GL)**

Powys County Council Cabinet Members:

Councillor Rosemarie Harris Leader of Powys County Council **(RH)**

Councillor Aled Davies, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Countryside and Transport **(AD)**

Councillor Phyl Davies, Portfolio Holder for Education and Property **(PD)**

Councillor Heulwen Hulme, Portfolio Holder for Environment **(HH)**

Councillor Iain McIntosh, Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, Planning and Housing **(IM)**

Fiona Stewart, Chair of the Economic Strategy Group **(FS)**

Officers:

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

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

Nigel Brinn, Corporate Director Economy & Environment, Powys County Council **(NB)**

Clive Pinney, Solicitor to the Council, Powys County Council **(CP)**

Carwyn Jones-Evans, Strategic Manager Mid Wales Growth Deal **(CJE)**

Paul Griffiths, Advisor **(PG)**

Russell Hughes-Pickering, Corporate Lead Officer: Economy & Regeneration, Ceredigion County Council **(RHP)**

1.	CROESO AC YMDDIHEURIADAU / WELCOME AND APOLOGIES
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The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2.	DATGANIADAU O FUDDIANT PERSONOL / DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST
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There were no declarations of interest reported.

3.	COFNODION Y CYFARFOD DIWETHAF/ MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING 4/12/2020
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The minutes of the last meeting held on 4th December 2020 were agreed as a correct record.

4.	BARGEN TWF CANOLBARTH CYMRU: ADRODDIAD CYNNYDD A CHAMAU NESAF/ MID WALES GROWTH DEAL: PROGRESS BRIEFING AND NEXT STEPS
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CJE gave an update on ongoing work since the Leaders had signed the Heads of Terms with Ministers on 22nd December. With the signing of the Heads of Terms, work was underway to develop the full deal agreement.

Governance & Assurance

The governance arrangements were being reviewed in readiness for the delivery phase of the deal. The Monitoring Officers were looking at extending the current Interim Authority Agreement for the time being. This would be brought to the next meeting in March for consideration.

Communications & Engagement

There had been a lot of positive press coverage for the signing of the Heads of Terms on 22nd December. In addition, the Leaders had spoken at an event organised by the Institute of Directors (IoD) and AberInnovation on the 15th December, bringing together an influential network of leaders across the public and private sectors to discuss the region's economy.

Capacity & Resourcing

Verbal indication had been received that the application for funding from ESF Priority 5 was progressing well. Approval was expected within a fortnight. Once funding had been secured recruitment could begin to establish the Portfolio Management Office.

Full Deal Agreement

Officers were seeking guidance and clarity from both Governments on the requirements and expectations of documentation and detail to support Full Deal Agreement.

Portfolio Development

A further officer workshop with civil servants from both Governments, under the direction of Joe Flanagan was held on 16th December. Officers were currently working on finalising the first draft of a Strategic Portfolio Business Case (SPBC), and would be consulting the Board and the ESG shortly. The Strategic Case had been drafted in full and the Economic Case had been partly drafted, with the long-list drafted and the workstreams further developing and refining the initial short-list. CJE outlined the progress in each of the workstreams:

- Applied Research and Innovation Applied Research and Innovation: SQW had been appointed to undertake a detailed mapping of applied research and innovation activity in Mid Wales.
- Agriculture, Food & Drink: No formally commissioned activity had been undertaken in this area yet.

- Digital: expert support had been commissioned to address connectivity issues in Mid Wales.
- Energy: the main area of focus was the development of a feasibility proposal on the Hydrogen Economy in Mid Wales. Funding had been secured through a joint co-operation bid across the two Local Action Groups, supported by Rural Development Programme funding.
- Strengthened Tourism Identity: No formally commissioned activity had been undertaken in this area yet. RH suggested joint promotion with organisations such as Visit Wales
- Supporting Enterprise: ongoing Sites & Premises review.
- Transport: the main regional priorities under this heading were being considered as part of the ongoing work of the GMW Regional Transport and Connectivity Group
- Skills and Enterprise: working to establish a Regional Learning and Skills Partnership (RLSP)

CJE and PG responded to concerns raised about keeping the Board involved and engaging with businesses. They stressed that officers were not taking decisions on what was included in the long-list but were looking to ensure that the initial shape of the portfolio was in place for the Board to comment and engage on, and to invite views and input from other key groups such as the ESG and Partnership. This was anticipated to happen by the next Board meeting in March. A joint meeting of both Cabinets had been arranged for 18th February to brief them on progress and the ESG would be convened to look at the Strategic Portfolio Business Case. The Chair of the ESG welcomed the opportunity for the group to review the document and she particularly welcomed the inclusion of connectivity and skills in the SPBC as both issues had long been seen by businesses as a block to development.

5.	BWRDD: DIWEDDARIAD AR Y GYLLIDEB REFENIW 2020/21 / GMW BOARD: UPDATE ON REVENUE BUDGET 2020/21
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The Board received an update on the revenue budget. CJE would be talking to both governments about future financial support.

6.	PARTNERIAETH SGILIAU A DYSGU RHANBARTHOL (PSDRH): DIWEDDARIAD CYNNYDD A CHAMAU NESAF / REGIONAL LEARNING AND SKILLS PARTNERSHIP (RLSP): PROGRESS BRIEFING AND NEXT STEPS
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NB reported that there had been a very positive meeting with Welsh Government to discuss next steps, timings and the allocation of resources beyond the initial £30,000 already allocated. A letter requesting confirmation of funding was ready to be sent to the Minister for Economy, Transport and North Wales. This confirmation was needed so the recruitment of the RLSP Manager could proceed.

Meetings would be arranged with the Leaders to consider the membership of the RLSP. There was agreement that the RLSP should be user led rather than provider led and it was noted that the chair would come from the private sector.

7.	UNRHYW FATER ARALL / ANY OTHER BUSINESS
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None.

8.	DYDDIADAU CYFARFOD NESAF / DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS
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11 March 2021 – Virtual
11 June 2021 – Virtual
29 September 2021 – Virtual
10 December 2021 - Virtual

**County Councillor Ellen ap Gwynn
Chair**