



REPORT TO THE GROWING MID WALES BOARD

26th September 2022

TITLE:	Mid Wales Regional Skills Partnership – Progress Update
AUTHOR:	Aggie Caesar-Homden, RSP Manager. Aggie.caesar-homden@powys.gov.uk

1. Purpose of the Report.

- 1.1. To provide Members of the Growing Mid Wales Board with an update on progress of the Mid Wales Regional Skills Partnership.

2. Decision Sought.

- 2.1. To note progress to date.

3. Background and Relevant Considerations

- 3.1. Since the last GMW Board meeting the RSP Manager, together with the other RSP Managers across Wales, have met regularly with WG Civil Servants to discuss and agree the future work programme and associated deadlines.
- 3.2. The approved Guidance Note was issued in May 2022. Following internal WG discussions with Policy Leads over recent months, the deadlines have been amended.
- 3.3. The content will be refreshed on a six-monthly basis and reissued to RSPs to reflect any changes to policy direction and progress against key milestones. Also, given the turbulent economic times we are living in, with war in eastern Europe, legacy Brexit issues and an ongoing pandemic, WG may need to refocus at short notice to needs arising from unexpected change.
- 3.4. WG will need to retain the ability to commission new work, “in year.” For example, an analysis of the skills needs of the Social Care Sector, and Creative Sector skills needs and the need for RSPs to work closely with Creative Wales.

4. Forward Work Programme

- 4.1. The RSP continues to provide a regional perspective to inform national and UK sector skills strategies and to provide baseline data for FE planning, using employer led intelligence and LMI data.

- 4.2. RSPs are required to provide a 3-year Employment and Skills Plan (2022 – 2025) and action plan which will identify priorities for regional investment that supports jobs and growth in the Mid Wales region.
- 4.3. The plan will be supplemented by a number of annexes which will focus on different policy areas that feature in the Programme for Government.
- 4.4. Relevant policy leads from across Welsh Government are working closely with RSPs to provide additional context and provide updates from their areas.
- 4.5. Key deliverables for the next 12 months are required for each of the below areas:
 - Employment and Skills Plan 2022 – 2025
 - Digital skills
 - Net Zero skills
 - National Occupational Standards (NOS)
 - Further Education and Apprenticeships
 - Welsh Language
 - Young Persons Guarantee
- 4.6. The forward programme of work in itself is large, with WG flexibility to review and commission additional work every six months there will be resource implications in order to deliver the level of outputs required.
- 4.7. To support this area of activity, the annual Employment and Skills survey has been distributed through business contacts, partners and RSP Board members. The deadline for participation is 9th September 2022.

5. RSP Grant Award Letter

- 5.1. The RSP has now received a copy of the Grant Award Letter and Schedule 2 Targets documents. Funding has been approved for the next three years until 2025.
- 5.2. In accordance with terms of the Grant Award letter, the RSP Activity Report and Invoice Claim were submitted at the end of July 2022.

6. Young Persons Guarantee.

- 6.1. The Programme for Government (PfG) sets out an ambitious commitment to deliver the Young Persons Guarantee, giving everyone under 25 the offer of support into work, education, training, or self-employment.
- 6.2. The guarantee was set to ensure no lost generation across Wales due to the predicted economic downturn and the huge rise in unemployment as a result of Covid and Brexit.
- 6.3. Following a successful Quick Quote exercise, Hatch Associates were commissioned to provide technical support for this piece of work.
- 6.4. A mapping exercise of current provision has been undertaken and shared with Working Wales. Hatch have provided a draft report looking at barriers to provision and progression as part of the desktop research report and Action Plan.

- 6.5. A progress update was provided by Hatch to the RSP Board at the previous meeting held on 8 June 2022.
- 6.6. WG have verbally confirmed that there will be further work needed in this policy area and additional information will be provided in due course.
- 6.7. Recruitment has commenced for a second RSP Project Officer to lead on the Young Persons Guarantee activities and to support the work of the wider RSP team.

7. RSP Board Annual Meeting and RSP Board Chair Recruitment.

- 7.1. The RSP Annual Meeting is to be held on Monday 12 September where a new Chair will be announced.
- 7.2. Business leaders and economic experts are being sought to express an interest to become Chair of the RSP Board.
- 7.3. The RSP has also put out a call to share the opportunity for business leaders to join the Board / cluster groups.
- 7.4. These opportunities have been advertised through both Local Authorities and the Growing Mid Wales newsletter as well as through social media.

8. Growing Mid Wales Newsletter

- 8.1. The Growing Mid Wales newsletter was released on 22nd August with the links copied below.
- 8.2. [Cylchlythyr Tyfu Canolbarth Cymru \(office.com\)](#) or [Growing Mid Wales Newsletter \(office.com\)](#)
- 8.3. In this edition there is a focusing on the Mid Wales Regional Skills Partnership – what it is, the progress so far, its future plans, and also the current Mid Wales Employment and Skills Survey which closes on midday Friday **09 September**.

9. RSP Board Logo

- 9.1. Welsh Government requires RSPs to have their own websites. In developing the Mid Wales RSP website, branding guidelines have been reviewed.
- 9.2. Currently, the RSP shares the Growing Mid Wales logo. As a high-level strategic partnership it is felt that having an identifiable brand would be beneficial to the RSP.
- 9.3. Comparing the logos for other growth deal/partnerships across Wales, the format is to use the main logo with additional text to reflect the RSP.
- 9.4. With this in mind, the proposal is to follow suit of North Wales and Cardiff Capital Region RSPs:

Ambition North Wales:



Ambition North Wales RSP:



Cardiff Capital Region:



Cardiff Capital Region RSP:



9.5. For Mid Wales RSP, the mock up below is the preferred logo. It was felt that different colours for Welsh and English text helps to differentiate the languages at a glance and would be easily recognised as a brand.



Decision Sought

9.6. For GMW Joint Committee members to approve the proposed RSP logo as above.

10. Legal Implications

10.1. There are no legal implications arising from this report.

11. Human Resources Implications

11.1. There are no HR implications arising from this report.

12. Financial Implications

12.1. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

13. Appendices

13.1. None