

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BWRDD TYFU CANOLBARTH CYMRU /
GROWING MID WALES BOARD HELD ON ZOOM ON
FRIDAY, 26 JANUARY 2024**

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PRESENT

Ceredigion County Council Members:

Councillor Bryan Davies, Leader and Cabinet Member for Democratic Services, Policy, Performance and People and Organisation **(BD) (Chair)**

Councillor Catrin M S. Davies, Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Customer Services **(CMSD)**

Councillor Clive Davies, Cabinet Member for Cabinet Member for Economy and Regeneration **(CD)**

Powys County Council Members:

Councillor James Gibson-Watt, Leader **JGW)**

Councillor Aled Davies **(AD)**

Councillor David Selby, Cabinet Member for a More Prosperous Powys **(DS)**

Officers:

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

Barry Rees, Corporate Director, Ceredigion County Council **(BR)**

Elin Prysor, Corporate Lead Officer: Legal and Governance, Ceredigion County Council **(EP)**

Duncan Hall, Corporate Lead Officer: Finance and Procurement, Ceredigion County Council **(DH)**

Justin Davies, Core Finance, Finance & Procurement, Ceredigion County Council **(JD)**

Carwyn Jones-Evans, Joint Strategic Lead, Growing Mid Wales/Ceredigion County Council **(CJE)**

Clive Pinney, Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Powys County Council **(CP)**

Cathy Martin, Operations Manager, Growing Mid Wales **(CM)**

Dave Owen, Digital Programme Manager, Growing Mid Wales **(DO)**

David Price, RSP Manager **(DP)**

Angharad Massow, Communications Officer, Growing Mid Wales **(AM)**

Alan Morris, Corporate Lead Officer: Contact, ICT & Digital, Customer Contact, Ceredigion County Council **(AIM)**

Diane Reynolds Director of Economy and Community Services, Powys County Council **(DR)**

Nicola Williams, Strategic Programme Delivery Manager CJC **(NW)**

Amy Waters, Senior Service Support Officer **(AW)**

Government Observers:

Gareth Ashman, Head of Regional and Local Growth, UK Government Wales

Peter James, Welsh Government

Jason Blewitt, Audit Wales

1. CROESO AC YMDDIHEURIADAU / WELCOME AND APOLOGIES
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Apologies for absence were received from Emma Palmer, Director of Corporate Services, Powys County Council, Councillor Keith Henson, Cabinet Member for Highways and Environmental Services and Carbon Management, and Neil Clutton.

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

3.	CYFATHREBU GAN LYWODRAETH CYMRU A LLYWODRAETH Y DU / COMMUNICATION FROM WELSH & UK GOVERNMENT:
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The Board considered the following 3 letters:

Letter 1: Portfolio Business Case Development - GOV Letter and Portfolio SRO Response

Letter 2: Feedback on Private Sector Investment Strategy V2 - GOV Letter and Portfolio SRO Response

Letter 3: Sites & Premises Programme - GOV Letter and Programme SRO Response

The Board noted the letters for information.

4.	COFNODION DRAFFT Y CYFARFOD DIWETHAF / DRAFT MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING 16/10/2023
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The minutes of the last meeting held on 16th October 2023 were agreed as a correct record.

5.	PARTNERIAETH SGILIAU RHANBARTHOL CANOLBARTH CYMRU / MW REGIONAL SKILLS PARTNERSHIP (DAI PRICE)
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David Price the RSP Manager gave an update on the Regional Skills Partnership. The purpose of the report was to provide an update on the progress of the Regional Skills Partnership, in particular:

- RSP board
- Creation of RSP Website
- Data and LMI
- Business Cluster Groups and their role
- Careers Guidance

There were no further questions or comments from the Board.

6.	CYLLID / FINANCE
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6.1 – 6.3 The Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2023

The Board considered the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2023. Regulation 10(1) of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 (as amended) requires that Responsible Financial Officer of Growing Mid Wales board sign and date the statement of accounts, and certify that it presents a true and fair view of the financial position of the body at the end of the year to which it relates and of that body's income and expenditure for that year. The financial transactions for the Growing Mid Wales Joint Committee for the year

ended 31 March 2023 were summarised in the Annual Return which was included in Appendix 2.

Audit Wales have audited the Annual Return and their report was included in Appendix 1. Their Audit certificate and opinion states – ‘It is our intention to issue an unqualified certificate and report for the year ended 31 March 2023 and there are no matters in respect of the opinion which we wish to draw to your attention.’ Jason Blewitt, Audit Wales was in attendance.

It was proposed and seconded and RESOLVED

- To approve the Annual Return for the year ending 31 March 2023.

6.4 – 6.5 Proposed 2024/25 revenue budget for Growing Mid Wales Board.

The Board considered the 2024/25 revenue budget for delivery of the Mid Wales Growth Deal.

A proposed revenue budget for 2024/25 for the GMW Board totalling £617,343 was outlined in Appendix 1 of the report. The proposed budget would support the following posts:

- Growth Deal Operations Manager
- Digital Programme Manager
- Sites & Premises Programme Manager
- Projects & Performance Manager
- Portfolio Analysis & Support Officer
- Senior Service Support Officer (part-time)
- Senior Communications Officer (part-time)
- Democratic Officer (part-time)
- Strategic Lead Officers (contribution)

Resourcing requirements would be kept under review. The PAR (assurance review) due in May 2024 will provide a view on team resourcing with the shift from Development to Delivery. Specific roles noted above are also subject to change.

The proposed 24/25 Budget assumes revenue funding of £417,343 which is a 3.5% top slice based on the Year 2 Growth Deal Funding from both governments during 2024/25. This is subject to annual performance and approval from governments.

The £100,000 funding is proposed to continue each from both Powys and Ceredigion County Councils.

It was proposed and seconded and RESOLVED

- To approve the Annual Budget for 2024/2025 of £617,343 as outlined in Appendix 1, which includes a £100,000 contribution each from both Ceredigion County Council and Powys County Council.

7.	BARGEN TWF CANOLBARTH CYMRU / MW GROWTH DEAL (CATHY MARTIN)
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Cathy Martin provided the Board with a brief overview of the progress and next steps relating to the Mid Wales Growth Deal. Since the last reporting period the work of the team had been focused on updating the Outline Business Case (OBC) Appraisal Framework in line with the recommendations from the Critical Friend Review and subsequently undertaking appraisals, exploring governance processes such as options for delegated authority and change management protocol and ensuring that there is consistency across Programmes and Projects and overall Portfolio approach.

Digital Programme – an Outline Business Case for the Mobile/ 4G project has been drafted and presented to Programme Board with a workshop being held with specific focus on the Economic case and the Options Assessment. A final draft is expected to be submitted for appraisal in January.

Sites & Premises Programme – following approval of the Programme Business Case work is continuing on progressing the two Front-Runner projects proposed. A marketing strategy is being developed along with proposals around the potential establishment of a Local Intervention Fund.

Projects - of the 9 standalone projects, to date all shortlisted projects have submitted Strategic Outline Cases and two Outline Business Cases have been submitted. There has been a delay in submissions of some OBCs with extensions agreed into early 2024.

An overview of the governance and next steps were provided to the Board.

The Board considered the progress update and greater clarity was provided in relation to the questions raised on the digital programme.

8.	<u>EITHRIO'R CYHOEDD / EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC</u>
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RESOLVED to exclude the public and press will be excluded from the meeting during such consideration, in accordance with Section 100B(2) of the Act.

9.	<u>ARFARNIADAU PROSIECT / MW GROWTH DEAL PROJECT APPRAISALS (CATHY MARTIN)</u>
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Resolved to approve the recommendation in the report.

10.	<u>UNRHYW FATER ARALL / ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u>
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None

11.	<u>DYDDIADAU CYFARFODYDD NESAF / DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS</u>
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19 Ebrill 2024 – Rhithiol / 19 April 2024 – Virtual

County Councillor Bryan Davies
Chair