

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BWRDD TYFU CANOLBARTH CYMRU /
GROWING MID WALES BOARD HELD BY ZOOM ON WEDNESDAY, 26TH MAY
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 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)**

Economic Strategy Group:

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

Officers:

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

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

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

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

Lowri Edwards, Corporate Lead Officer: Democratic Services **(LE)**

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

Paul Griffiths, Advisor **(PG)**

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

Arwyn Davies, Corporate Manager Ceredigion County Council **(AD)**

In attendance: Elgan Hearn, Powys Local Democracy Reporter

1. CROESO AC YMDDIHEURIADAU / WELCOME AND APOLOGIES
--

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies received: Steve Hughson, Chief Executive of the Royal Welsh Agricultural Society and Stephen Johnson, Corporate Lead Officer: Finance & Procurement, Ceredigion County Council

2.	DATGANIADAU O FUDDIANT PERSONOL / DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST
-----------	--

Fiona Stewart declared an interest in respect of a potential proposal from the Green Man Festival.

3.	COFNODION Y CYFARFOD DIWETHAF/ MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING 03/02/2021
-----------	--

The minutes of the last meeting held on 11th March 2021 were agreed as a correct record. CP advised the revised IAA would be brought to the next meeting on 11th June.

4.	MID WALES GROWTH DEAL: PORTFOLIO DEVELOPMENT
-----------	---

- Report: planning and resourcing for achieving full deal agreement

CJE gave an update on the development of the portfolio. Fortnightly meetings with civil servants of both governments had helped to clarify what was expected but it was clear that formal feedback on the documentation and arrangements established could only realistically be expected upon formal submission of the proposition to Governments.

He explained that work was underway to develop the Portfolio in the manner expected by Government. Officers were undertaking conversations with project proposers in each case and encouraging the development of their proposals to a level of detail that could help the Board and ESG to start making informed decisions against the emerging Portfolio and determine the mix of projects that would be put forward for initial consideration by Governments in the Autumn.

Whilst this work was continuing, it was clear that that significant short term capacity constraints exist within the Local Authority teams working on developing the Growth Deal in order to achieve Full Deal Agreement (FDA) by the end of 2021 as they juggled their continued response to Covid and business support, new funding opportunities and ever increasing expectations locally.

It was therefore proposed to urgently commission external capacity to help programme-manage the remaining work to FDA, further develop the Portfolio Business Case and associated Programme Business Cases. It would be imperative to bring in an experienced team, that had directly relevant experience in achieving similar works in other Deals. The value of the works was estimated to be in the order of £80,000 and as the Board had not yet having confirmed its budget for 2021/22 it was proposed this work taken forward under the delegated authority of the Chief Executives to authorise direct contributions to fund this work.

The Board agreed with this approach to ensure that the Full Deal Agreement is achieved by the end of 2021.

DECISION: to urgently commission external capacity to help programme-manage the remaining work to FDA, further develop the Portfolio Business Case and associated Programme Business Cases and that the Chief Executives have delegated authority to authorise direct contributions to fund this work.

5.	REGIONAL SKILLS PARTNERSHIP: PROGRESS UPDATE
-----------	---

NB advised that the first meeting of the Regional Skills Partnership Board had taken place on 12 May. He agreed to circulate details of the RSP Board to members. Aggie Caesar-Homden had been appointed as Manager and Adrian Watson had been appointed the interim Chair for the next 6 months following interview by EAP and RH.

FS reported that colleagues on the ESG did not feel that the usual ways of connecting businesses with training providers did not work and that they would like to see a learning and skills database developed for Mid Wales. EAP also wanted to see a database developed setting out what employers wanted from HE, FE and training providers so that skills gaps could be addressed.

6.	UNRHYW FATER ARALL / ANY OTHER BUSINESS
-----------	--

None.

7.	DYDDIADAU CYFARFOD NESAF / DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS
-----------	--

11 June 2021 – Virtual
21 September 2021 – Virtual
10 December 2021 - Virtual

**County Councillor Ellen ap Gwynn
Chair**