

**CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**PORTFOLIO HOLDER DELEGATED DECISION**  
**by**  
**COUNTY COUNCILLOR MARTIN WEALE**  
**(PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR THE ECONOMY AND PLANNING)**  
**26 September 2018**

**REPORT AUTHOR: Deputy Chief Executive**

**SUBJECT: Support for Mid Wales Growth Deal**

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**REPORT FOR: Decision**

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**1. Summary**

- 1.1 The Mid Wales Growth Deal will be the most significant project affecting the economic prosperity of the region. The Growth Bid is in development and we are working closely with our key partner (Ceredigion County Council) in order to develop a set of projects that will be subject to negotiation between UK Government, Welsh Government and the region.
- 1.2 In addition to the Mid Wales Growth Deal there will be a significant opportunity for Powys and its partners to deliver a range of public and private funded projects. The level of activity, complexity and short timeframe requires additional short term capacity and specific expertise to deliver the programme.

**2. Proposal**

- 2.1 The Council will need to engage additional support from someone with a track record of delivering projects whilst working with a range of organisations. An individual has been identified who can start in early October.
- 2.2 It is important that the person has a clear understanding of strategic economic development issues facing unitary authorities and can develop and support delivery in a partnership based approach involving the private and public sectors.
- 2.3 The initial engagement will be for a period of 3 months for up to an average of 3 days per week. The engagement may need to be extended depending on progress with the Mid Wales Growth deal.
- 2.4 The key task will be to focus on the Mid Wales Growth Deal where the council and partners will need to finalise proposal for negotiation by

autumn 2019. The proposals will be the subject of three way negotiations between UK Government, Welsh Government and the Mid Wales region (led by local authorities).

- 2.5 Other tasks will include reviewing significant projects outside of the Growth Deal.

### **3. Options Considered / Available**

- 3.1 An alternative would be to seek a 'strategic partner'; typically, this involves a longer term commitment. This would not be a cost effective approach.
- 3.2 An existing member of staff could be released and the post backfilled. However, this is not appropriate given the short term need for a skill set different to those currently available.
- 3.3 Clearly we could 'do nothing' in response to the requirement. This would be a significant risk to delivery given current capacity.

### **4. Preferred Choice and Reasons**

- 4.1 The preference is to engage external support to ensure there is capacity and specific skills to deliver the Mid Wales Growth Deal.

### **5. Impact Assessment**

- 5.1 Is an impact assessment required? No
- 5.2 If yes is it attached? Not applicable

### **6. Corporate Improvement Plan**

- 6.1 The proposal helps support delivery of the economic objectives in Vision 2025 (the Corporate Improvement Plan) agreed by County Council on 17 April 2018.

### **7. Local Member(s)**

- 7.1 The proposal has a county wide impact.

### **8. Other Front Line Services**

Does the recommendation impact on other services run by the Council or on behalf of the Council? No

### **9. Communications**

Have Communications seen a copy of this report? Yes

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

10.1 Legal: The recommendations can be supported from a legal point of view.

10.2 Finance: The proposal can be funded from the reserve set up at the end of 2017/18 to support the Mid Wales Growth Deal. The financial implication will be capped at £25,000.

**11. Scrutiny**

Has this report been scrutinised? No

**12. Data Protection**

If the proposal involves the processing of personal data then the Data Protection Officer must be consulted and their comments set out below.

Not applicable.

**13. Statutory Officers**

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

13.2. The Head of Financial Services (Deputy Section 151 Officer) notes the comments from Finance and adds: "The work to be undertaken will assist in drawing a significant level of investment for the Mid Wales Growth deal. The cost of the work is at an appropriate level for consultants of this nature and therefore represents value for money."

**14. Members' Interests**

The Monitoring Officer is not aware of any specific interests that may arise in relation to this report. If the Portfolio Holder has an interest, he/she should declare it, complete the relevant notification for and refer the matter to Cabinet for decision.

<b>Recommendation:</b>	<b>Reason for Recommendation:</b>
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<b>To engage additional capacity to develop the content and business cases supporting the Mid Wales Growth Deal</b>	<b>To support the delivery of the Mid Wales Growth Deal</b>
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<b>Relevant Policy (ies):</b>	
<b>Within Policy:</b>	<b>Y</b>
<b>Within Budget:</b>	<b>Y</b>

<b>Relevant Local Member(s):</b>	<b>Not applicable</b>
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<b>Person(s) To Implement Decision:</b>	<b>Acting Deputy Chief Executive</b>
<b>Date By When Decision To Be Implemented:</b>	<b>As soon as possible</b>

<b>Is a review of the impact of the decision required?</b>	<b>N</b>
<b>If yes, date of review</b>	
<b>Person responsible for the review</b>	
<b>Date review to be presented to Portfolio Holder/ Cabinet for information or further action</b>	

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**Background Papers used to prepare Report:**