

**BWRDD CYSGODOL TYFU CANOLBARTH CYMRU / SHADOW GROWING MID
WALES BOARD HELD AT COUNTY HALL, LLANDRINDOD WELLS ON 20TH
NOVEMBER 2019**

17:00pm – 19:05pm

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)**

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 (Chair) **(RH)**

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

Councillor James Evans, Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, Housing and Regulatory Services **(JE)**

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)**

Nina Davies, Head of Housing & Community Development, Powys County Council **(ND)**

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

Carwyn Jones-Evans, Growth and Major Developments Service Manager, Ceredigion County Council **(CJE)**

Llion Bevan, Communications Officer, Ceredigion County Council **(LB)**

Elin Prysor, Head of Legal, Ceredigion County Council **(EP)**

**1. Croeso ac Ymddiheuriadau
Welcome and Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Phyl Davies and Heuwen Hulme.

The Chair welcomed Fiona Stewart, the Chair of the Economic Strategy Group.

2. Declarations of Personal Interest

There were no disclosures of interest.

3. Minutes of the last meeting 01/07/2019

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on the 15th October 2019 were agreed as a correct record.

Matters Arising

EE reported receipt of a letter from Andrew Clark who had taken over responsibility for skills at Welsh Government advising that he had decided to put the Learning and Skills Partnership on hold until a review was complete. This contradicted the instruction from the Minister. It was agreed that EE would speak to Huw Morris and if necessary follow up with a letter from the two Leaders to the Minister.

4. Update and Programme Development

CJE gave an update on progress to date and feedback from key meetings with civil servants from Welsh and UK governments. Civil servants expected the £55m funding announced by the former Secretary of State to be secure even if there was a change in government, and that it would be matched by funding from Welsh Government. CT cautioned that the funding spread over 15 years would not go far and that the Board needed to strike the right balance between being ambitious and realistic. The Board agreed on the need for meeting with new Secretary of State as soon as possible after the election.

FS said that from a business perspective it was important that Mid Wales looked investment ready. She looked on the funding promised by Government as seed money. She highlighted reluctance from the business sector in getting involved in public sector projects particularly if finance and structures were not in place. She wanted the Mid Wales Growth Deal projects to be different from projects put forward by other growth deal regions, highlighting Mid Wales as a good place live and do business. She noted that there did not seem to be any operational funding to support the ESG and officers acknowledged that it did have to be formally supported.

It was accepted that long lead in times to seeing money come into the region would lead to scepticism. The Board agreed that it was important to get the website up and running and positive stories out into the press.

The paper outlined further work required to shape the work/engagement to date into tangible proposals for investment through the creation of “workstreams”. Each workstream will have a defined Lead Officer and SRO – to ensure a structured approach to managing and reporting progress.

Workstream	SRO	Lead
Advanced Research & Innovation	Russell Hughes-Pickering	Arwyn Davies

Energy	Nigel Brinn	Tom Yeo
Tourism	Nina Davies	Jenni Thomas
Food	Russell Hughes-Pickering	Arwyn Davies
Skills	Eifion Evans	Aber Uni (tbc)
Connectivity	Nigel Brinn	Gareth Jones
Business	Nina Davies	Gareth Jones

CJE accepted the point made by RH that agriculture should be included in the food workstream.

It was agreed

- 1. To note overall progress to date and feedback from key meetings.**
- 2. To agree the way forward and next steps for programme development.**

5. Governance Update

Inter Authority Agreement

CP reported that there were a number of minor amendments to the Inter Authority Agreement.

It was agreed that both Leaders sign the Inter Authority Agreement.

Regional Scrutiny Arrangements

The Shadow Board considered the paper drafted by the Scrutiny Manager at PCC and Corporate Lead Officer at CCC on joint scrutiny arrangements. It was not proposed to start scrutiny until the Board was up and running but to have the arrangements in place. It was noted that the scrutiny programmes for both councils should be aligned.

It was agreed

- (i) To approve the broad principles set out in paragraph 1.4 of the report for the establishment of a Growing Mid Wales Board (Joint Committee) Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee;**
- (ii) That officers be asked to prepare Terms of Reference for the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration by the Joint Committee.**

Economic Strategy Group

Fiona Stewart was the Chair, Steve Hughson the Vice-Chair. A number of the business people approached had declined to get involved. The Chair of the ESG didn't feel that the group had to be too large, preferring to have a smaller group keen to work with the Board. She would like to see more diversity on the ESG. The business people involved would be investing their time and would therefore not looking to join a talking shop.

Regional Learning & Skills Partnership

EE would brief the Leaders and CT on his discussion with Huw Morris so any further action could be considered.

6. Regional Programme Office

CJE set out the proposed structure of the Regional Programme Office that would support the management and delivery of regional activity for Growing Mid Wales. Initially, the Regional Programme Office would be virtual, with officers located across a number of locations, but all working to the same objectives, in a structured and co-ordinated manner. The Regional Programme Office would be accountable to the GMW Management Group. The Shadow Board would be asked to sign off the job descriptions.

Both Councils were currently supporting through staff time in kind but revenue funding was urgently required. Officers had approached WEFO as a possible funding source and by the time of the next meeting would have identified the budgets available.

It was agreed

- 1. To approve the approach to establishing a Programme Office to support the management and delivery of regional activity for Growing Mid Wales.**
- 2. To authorise officers to submit a bid for revenue funding from Welsh Government.**
- 3. To authorise officers to design a complementing bid for ESF funding (subject to final approval on the bid prior to submission).**

7. Any Other Business

Due to election purdah restrictions, Fiona Stewart had not been formally announced as the Chair of the ESG. It was suggested that it could be done on 17th January when members of the Shadow Board, the ESG and Growing Mid Wales Partnership would have an opportunity to meet.

8. **Date of the next meeting**
21 February 2020 – 14.00, Ystwyth, Aberaeron

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