



Monitoring Report

Project	Mid Wales Programme Office (ref MA-P-KS/5882/19)
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Progress

Progress in 2019/20 has centred on developing formal governance and strengthened working arrangements that has resulted in tangible progress in the regional work programme. This has culminated in a formal document that will be submitted to both Governments in May 2020 to take our proposals forward.

Since 1st November 2019, the additional resource provided by the Welsh Government funding has enabled a programme office approach to support the Growing Mid Wales regional programme. This was mapped out in the initial proposal paper submitted for the funding and has supported direct Local Authority expenditure on:

- Programme Lead (40% of eligible salary costs)
- 4x Workstream Leads (60% of eligible salary costs)
- 1x Workstream SRO (10% of eligible salary costs)
- 2x Strategic Advisors
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Evidence of eligible expenditure to the amount of over £90,000 on the above cost headings has been provided to enable a claim drawdown from Welsh Government of £45,000 in 2019/20.

This has supported additional activity that has been identified through the regional work programme, and has included the development of the Strategic Economic Plan and Growth Deal Roadmap that will now be submitted to both Governments in May 2020, this has required:

- Overall programme co-ordination and strategic engagement.
- Desktop review of existing documentation and baseline evidence.
- Co-ordination and engagement with Government and wider regional activity.

- Establishing new governance structures (Joint Committee, ESG & Management Group) and supporting arrangements.
- Targeted stakeholder communication and engagement to develop and refine Workstream content to produce baseline document.
- Development of a website spec with input from Business Wales.

Significant officer time and effort has been spent over the past few months to galvanise stakeholders across the region to a vision and approach that moves us forward as a region. The resulting document that shortly will be submitted to Governments is a comprehensive, and evidence-based document that gained the support of a number of stakeholders and had detailed input from the Economic Strategy Group.

Originally, the document was scheduled to be submitted to Governments by March 2020 – but the Coronavirus pandemic has meant that we had to take stock and review our approach and timescales. We have seen the impact the virus has had, and continues to have on our economy – and we are not yet certain as to the length and depth of the impacts to the future.

We have spent the last month as a region reviewing the content of the document, conversed across both Local Authorities and with the Chair of the ESG – and conclude that the content and approach remain valid. Whilst the economic baseline in this document will inevitably change, the approach remains valid in putting forward a collaborative way of working that brings together regional partners together with Governments to work for the betterment of the Mid Wales economy.

Whilst we do not yet know the medium-long term economic outcomes of the virus on our economy, we do know that the scale of the challenge will be huge. It will also place a far greater emphasis and importance on working together not only between Local Authorities, but across all relevant partners in Mid Wales.

Activities Planned for Next Quarter

The principle task of the next quarter (Q2 2020) is to ensure the document outlining our Strategic Economic Plan and Roadmap to a Growth Deal is submitted to both Governments as soon as possible.

The document will go to a meeting of the Growing Mid Wales (Joint Committee) on 11th May 2020, and will be formally submitted to officials thereafter.

We have outlined a suggested pathway in our proposal document, however this will need formal discussion and response from both Governments to collectively map out the collective ambition and expectation for the next 6-12 months for the region.

Programme Risks /Mitigation



GMW Risk Register
v0.4.docx

A copy of the programme risk register is attached – however this version was drafted of outstanding risks and mitigations before the Covid-19 pandemic and covered the period up until the end of the reporting period of this claim.

It is unavoidable that Covid-19 will likely bring further challenges and risks to the Growth Deal programme – however these will need further clarification in relation to our proposals in formal dialogue with both Governments.

Programme Milestones

We are currently working to an indicative timeline of milestones that will be proposed in our submission to Governments soon. However, these are to be formally discussed and negotiated with Government.

Q2 2020:

- Submission of the Strategic Economic Plan and Growth Deal Roadmap to both Governments.
- Initiate formal negotiations with both Governments around the Growth Deal and Recovery Planning
- Formal Governance Arrangements Operational
- Develop Implementation Plan & Engagement Strategy

Q3 2020:

- Agree and Communicate Implementation Plan
- Further develop regional capacity & capability (Programme Office)
- Detailed Programme development & Project SOCs invited

Q4 2020 – Q1 2021:

- Prioritisation and Categorisation (front runner projects and secondary phase)
- Front runner projects invited to develop Outline Business Cases (OBCs)
- Detailed negotiations with both Governments to establish (Financial & Economic Case - and structuring of Heads of Terms).
- Second Governance Agreement (IAA) developed to cover Delivery Phase.
- Initial Outline Business Cases for front runner projects developed. Assessment & review to proceed to Full Business Case (FBC) development.

Q2 2021:

- Heads of Terms Agreed.
- Full Business Cases assessed & reviewed.
- Delivery of initial projects begins (Q2 2021).

Any other comments/issues (expand box if necessary)

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