



Ein cyf/Our ref KS/05827/20

Cllr Harris and Cllr ap Gwynn

13 October 2020

Dear Rosemary and Ellen,

We were pleased to be updated on the good progress being made in relation to the Mid Wales Growth Deal and to formally receive the region's Strategic Economic Plan & Growth Deal Roadmap at our meeting this summer. The document is a good starting point to begin formal negotiations and has been well written and structured, articulating the case for change and sets the Growth Deal in the context of a broader regional economic strategy for Mid Wales. The Growing Mid Wales Board has reached an important milestone in setting out their strategic vision and roadmap for a Growth Deal in Mid Wales.

We believe that the Growth Deal has an important part to play in the recovery phase post Covid-19 and alignment with Government policy and priorities will be an important consideration as you move forward. We are reassured that there has been extensive engagement and collaboration in the preparation of the proposal document, with a range of partners who have a stake in the regional economy and importantly key business leaders from across Mid Wales. The Deal must involve the private sector and we are pleased that an Economic Strategy Group was set up to inform the development of the proposal and the delivery going forward. We understand that it too has endorsed the proposal that has come forward - the active engagement of the private sector and broader stakeholders is key to developing a successful Deal. We are also encouraged to see that the learning from other Growth and City Deals across Wales and the UK has informed the development of the proposition document, particularly in terms of a Portfolio approach to ensure flexibility over the 15-year timeframe. Our discussion also recognised the need to bring forward mature proposals as they evolve and as part of the economic stimulus required to support immediate recovery and longer-term renewal.

Officials will continue to work closely with you to shape proposals and progress matters. We understand that a workshop was recently held to discuss a process and timeline to move towards a Heads of Terms and that there are now three main areas of focus to further develop the Mid Wales Growth Deal:

1. **Governance & Assurance** - to put in place the appropriate level of governance and assurance required over the entire lifespan of the Deal that reflects both the need to ensure proper management of public funds, and the delivery of the desired benefits and outcomes. The preparation of an Integrated Assurance & Approval Plan (IAAP), co-designed with Governments, should be a critical next step in the planning, co-

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

ordination and provision of assurance activities led by the region's Programme Management Office. The PMO should be adequately resourced to ensure it has the capacity and capability to successfully deliver the Deal over the 15-year timeframe.

2. **Portfolio Business Case Development** - further work is now required to develop the strategic Portfolio level Business Case setting out what the region intends to deliver and the outcomes to be achieved as a result of intervention. The Portfolio Business Case will need to clearly articulate the rationale for the interventions proposed and the outcomes to be achieved, including the level of private sector leverage envisaged. This should reflect the predominantly SME base of Mid Wales and the need to consider a suite of measures and outcomes which best reflect positive change for the Mid Wales economy and not be constrained solely by traditional growth measures such as GVA.
3. **Communications & Engagement** – a clear and comprehensive communications plan which includes a range of planned activities should be prepared to ensure that the Mid Wales Growth Deal maintains its profile and visibility, delivering consistent messages to a wide ranging audience and act as useful mechanism by which to manage expectation amongst key stakeholders, including the private sector to reinforce the collaborative approach to economic development being adopted in Mid Wales.

We remain committed to working closely and constructively with the Growing Mid Wales Board and wider regional stakeholders to explore how the Growth Deal can benefit the Mid Wales region, particularly as we look to the Covid-19 economic recovery phase and the end of the transition period.

Our Officials will continue to liaise with the region to help inform proposals and to support the next steps as part of a co-designed and co-owned process. We are keen to work with you to help realise the ambitions of agreeing Heads of Terms during the autumn, and a potential Full Deal Agreement early in 2021.

Yours sincerely



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