



David TC Davies MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Wales

Ken Skates AS/MS
Minister for Economy, Transport and North Wales

Os yn galw gofynnwch am/If calling please

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Ein cyf/ Our ref: EaG/RH/GMW

Eich cyf/Your ref: KS/05827/20

Dyddiad/Date: 23rd October, 2020

Annwyl David and Ken,

We thank you both for your positive letter of the 13th October, 2020 in response to our published document earlier this year, and for the positive comments made on our progress to date. This enables us to start the formal negotiations on the Mid Wales Growth Deal.

We are both clear about of the huge potential that the Growth Deal can play as a long-term investment vehicle to attract and catalyse private sector investment in the region, and share your vision of the important role it can play in the recovery phase post Covid-19.

The Vision for Mid Wales has developed from extensive evidence gathering and engagement in the region on its key priorities, and we are heartened to see the positive recognition from both Governments of the work undertaken to date. We are also pleased that there is positive recognition and affirmation of the approach we have taken to develop the Deal on a Portfolio basis. In learning from other City and Growth Deals in Wales, we are clear that we require the flexibility to be able to bring forward mature proposals over the 15-year lifetime of the Deal in order to make transformational change with the support of the private sector in the region.

Work is ongoing between our officers and with your officials to shape the Portfolio, further refine Governance and Assurance arrangements, establish management structures and strengthen communications. However, both of our private sector colleagues and ourselves now want to see the strategic conversations turn quickly to firm commitments and clear milestones. Full clarity on expectations and milestones are paramount to understanding the critical path. Collective clarity and agreement on the critical path will in turn ensure we can continue to engage with the confidence we have enjoyed to date, with the private sector and our key partners, to build delivery confidence in the Deal to realise its full potential.

We understand our officers will be meeting with officials from both Governments within the next fortnight to discuss the initial scope and pathway to agreeing Heads of Terms. Whilst it is our collective ambition to sign Heads of Terms in the Autumn, we are mindful that we all have competing time pressures in these unprecedented times. We would therefore ask that a joint meeting between us all as political leaders be arranged at the appropriate time in the coming weeks in order to ensure we do not slip beyond the end of the calendar year.

Yn gywir / Yours sincerely,



**Y Cynghorydd / Councillor
Rosemarie Harris**

Executive Leader, Powys County Council

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**Y Cynghorydd / Councillor
Ellen ap Gwynn**

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