

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BWRDD TYFU CANOLBARTH CYMRU / GROWING
MID WALES BOARD HELD BY ZOOM ON THURSDAY, 11 NOVEMBER 2021**

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) (Chair)**

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 **(RH)**

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

Councillor Heulwen Hulme, Portfolio Holder for Environment **(HH)**

Councillor Iain McIntosh, Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, Planning and Housing **(IM)**

Officers:

Eifion Evans, Chief Executive, Ceredigion County Council **(EE)**

Dr. Caroline Turner, Chief Executive, Powys County Council **(CT)**

Carwyn Jones-Evans, Strategic Manager Mid Wales Growth Deal **(CJE)**

Lowri Edwards, Corporate Lead Officer: Democratic Services **(LE)**

Nigel Brinn, Corporate Director Economy & Environment, Powys County Council **(NB)**

Paul Griffiths, Advisor **(PG)**

Russell Hughes-Pickering, Corporate Lead Officer: Economy & Regeneration, Ceredigion County Council **(RHP)**

Arwyn Davies, Corporate Manager Ceredigion County Council **(AD)**

Elin Prysor, Ceredigion County Council **(EP)**

Ffion Lloyd, Ceredigion County Council **(PA)**

Stephen Johnson, Corporate Lead Officer: Finance & Procurement, Ceredigion County Council **(SJ)**

GMW Portfolio Management Office (PoMO)

Cathy Martin, Operations Manager **(CM)**

1.	WELCOME AND APOLOGIES
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Councillor Gareth Lloyd apologised that he would be joining the meeting late

2.	DATGANIADAU O FUDDIANT PERSONOL / DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST
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There were no disclosures of personal/prejudicial interests

3.	COFNODION DRAFFT Y CYFARFOD DIWETHAF 11/06/21 / DRAFT MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING 11/09/21
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The minutes of the last meeting held on 21st September 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

4.	GOVERNANCE: PRIVATE SECTOR ADVISOR GROUP
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The Role and Terms of Reference for the Economic Advisor Group / Third Interim Authority Agreement was presented by Paul Griffiths. It was noted that the terms of reference include changes from those adopted for the Economic Strategy Group, reflecting the future needs of the Growth Deal as work progresses to more detailed proposals involving Programmes and Projects. Changes include the retitling of the group as 'Economic Advisory Group' for clarity, with membership set at a maximum of six members to allow for a rapid turnaround. It was proposed that the group does not appoint a Chair, and that the group is supported and facilitated by Officer ensuring equal status to all members, that everybody's voice is heard as well as direct feedback to Leaders of Authorities. Any Member who develops a material interest will be required to step down from the group. It was noted that the report sets out the recruitment proposals, for consideration by the Members.

The following amendments were proposed:

Section 3.3: to stipulate Chief Executive 'or Leader' and insert additional paragraph noting the role of Leader as observer, rather than adviser, with an option to attend the meetings.

Section 4.2: to include 'Leaders', as follows "will report on a regular basis to the Leaders and to the Chief Executives".

Section 4.2: to stipulate that discretion delegated to the Leaders may be applied should they be appropriate, to appoint additional members to the group, thus removing the restriction to 6 members.

Section 5.8: to stipulate that four members attending the meeting would make to meeting quorate, and to demote EAG as opposed to ESG

RESOLVED:

To approve the contents of the report alongside the draft Terms of Reference, together with appropriate changes considered necessary to allow recruitment to the Economic Advisory Group, subject to the amendments.

5.	EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC
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The report relating to item 5 is not for publication as it contains exempt information as defined in paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act

1972 as amended by the Local Government (Access to information) (Variation) (Wales) Order 2007. If, following the application of the Public Interest Test, the Council resolves to consider this item in private, the public and press will be excluded from the meeting during such consideration, in accordance with Section 100B(2) of the Act.

Members were requested, when dealing with the item, to consider whether to exclude the public and press from the Meeting.

It was **RESOLVED** to exclude the public and press during consideration of item 6 below on the basis that the report contained exempt information.

6.	EXEMPT ITEM: MID WALES GROWTH DEAL: DRAFT FINAL DEAL AGREEMENT
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Carwyn Jones-Evans provided an update in relation to schedule for signing the Final Deal Agreement with the Joint UK Government Board, noting that it is anticipated that it will be signed in the week leading up to Christmas. The next challenge relates to supporting and encouraging the projects to bring forward the details, proposals and timescales, understanding the barriers, providing advice and support.

It was noted that there may be a risk that some projects may drop-out as a result of receiving alternative funding, or failure to resource and not proceed as planned. Therefore there needs to be strong continued encouragement, with a ready pipeline of alternative proposals for recommending to the board. This has been identified as part of the risk register beyond the Final Deal agreement.

Cathy Martin noted that they are currently engaging with each of the projects, asking what stage they're at and what support they require in order to gauge a better understanding of the timescales. The portfolio will need updating annually, to denote where we're at, and details of applications for future consideration. It was also noted that other projects on the longer list would continue to be developed to see if they can come on board at some time in the future, or if other sources of funding become available.

It was noted that both authorities had received Levelling-up Funding, and needed to be aware of state aid funding where there is cross-over between funding.

The Committee agreed to:

- **Approve the draft Final Deal Agreement (FDA);**
- **Authorise the Chief Executives, in consultation with both Leaders, to make minor amendments to the draft Final Deal Agreement that may be required to secure the agreement;**
- **Authorise the Leaders to sign the final document with both Governments on behalf of both Councils and the Board;**
- **Bring the signed final document back to the first available GMW Board meeting after signing.**

The public and press were then invited to enter the meeting.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a) Members highlighted concerns regarding the effect of phosphates, TAN15 and flood maps on developments in some areas and implications on economic development and potential delays to projects. Councillor Iain McIntosh noted that he had met with two organisations that can produce phosphates stripping facilities at a significantly lower cost than that suggested by Dŵr Cymru, noting that he would circulate this information.

The Committee agreed to invite experts from both authorities to the next meeting with an aim to lobby together. It was also agreed that Iain

- b) To ask that the GMW Partnership Board considers giving approval at its meeting on Monday for the inclusion its logo on the Regional Economic Framework document.

Both authorities were congratulated on their successful Levelling-up Funding applications, and congratulations were extended to all the staff who had been working on these bids.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held at 11.00am on 10 December 2021 via video-conference

**County Councillor Rosemarie Harris
Chair**