



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE CYD-BWYLLGOR CRAFFU TYFU  
CANOLBARTH CYMRU / GROWING MID WALES JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
HELD AT ZOOM ON WEDNESDAY, 1 DECEMBER 2021**

**Ceredigion County Council:**

County Councillors C Davies, K Evans and W Thomas

**Officers:**

R Hughes-Pickering, Corporate Director, C Jones-Evans, Strategic Manager, L Edwards, Democratic Services, C Williams and L Evans, Scrutiny and Standards Officer

**Powys County Council:**

County Councillors J Berriman, M J Dorrance, D O Evans, K M Roberts-Jones and R G Thomas (Chair)

**Officers:**

N Brinn, Executive Director, Economy and Environment, P Griffiths, Consultant, C Turner, Chief Executive, N Williams, Joint Project Officer and L Richards, Scrutiny Officer

**Regional (GMW) Officers:**

C Martin, Operations Manager, A Caesar-Homden, Regional Skills Partnership Manager,

<b>1. APOLOGIES</b>
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An apology for absence was received from County Councillor E Evans,

<b>2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>
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There were no declarations of interest.

<b>3. MINUTES</b>
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The Minutes of the last meeting held on 22 October 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

<b>4. MID WALES GROWTH DEAL</b>
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**i) Final Deal Agreement**

Members were provided with an update on progress towards the Final Deal Agreement. The Portfolio Business Case had been considered by the Board in October followed by an Accountable Officer Review. Ten

recommendations had been made but none were understood to be of such significance as to delay the Final Deal Agreement.

The Final Deal Agreement will be similar to the Heads of Terms Agreement and represents a political commitment that the case for a Growth Deal has been made. The date for sign off of the Agreement is still to be finalised but it is hoped that this will be before Christmas. The Agreement will not be made public until such time as it has been formally signed.

The Growth Deal will be for £110M over a 10 year period. This period will commence when the first annual grant offer letter is received for the Deal, which is anticipated to be during the summer of 2022. The funding will be subject to an annual review and approval process. The Portfolio Management Office will support the Economic Development services in both Authorities in bringing forward project development and horizon scanning of further opportunities. There will be no defined minimum intervention rate – each project will be different, and the case needs to be made for public investment as part of the business planning process.

The Committee asked if there was a Risk Register for the Growth Deal and were informed that each portfolio had a risk register which could be considered by the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

## ii) **Corporate Joint Committee**

The Committee received a presentation on the Corporate Joint Committee (CJC) by the Joint Project Officer.

The Committee noted the option to add additional members and asked how many. The regulations do not specify the number and this would be decided by both Leaders. Appointees could be someone external to both organisations.

Members also questioned how TRACC would respond to losing their autonomy and being taken under the CJC. TRACC had agreed the recommendation. It was noted that the TRACC area was not exactly coterminous with the area covered by the CJC.

## **5. REGIONAL SKILLS PARTNERSHIP**

The Committee had received a report by the RSP Manager and were given a presentation to summarise the report.

Members noted that ongoing research would feed into the needs of various sectors which would include schools. It was clear that this could drive delivery at a Further Education level, but it was not so clear how this might affect secondary education. The RSP is purely an advisory body and its activities will filter out to different

sectors. Discussions are ongoing regarding sharing careers information. The RSP will also lead on the Young Person's Guarantee once the specification document has been signed off by Welsh Government. With regards to closer working with schools, it is hoped to encourage businesses to go into schools to help deliver specialist areas of the curriculum to support teaching staff.

Market intelligence reports will be available on the website once agreed by the Welsh Government.

In addition to attracting inward investment, Members highlighted the need to 'grow our own'. Inward investment was necessary to grow the economy. Research into graduate destinations and retention will be undertaken to help identify where they are moving to and what other areas are doing to attract and keep them there. What are we not doing in Mid Wales to keep learners here.

A request was made for a flow chart of decision-making processes from the Board down and including the RSP. (Included at the end of these minutes.)

Further research and data analysis is planned to build an evidence base of what is currently being delivered and where, to support learners and meet employers needs and to identify current and future skills gaps and employer demands. The RSP is working with both education and economic regeneration colleagues. Intelligence will be obtained from Data Cymru, the Skills Gateway and Business Wales. The RSP meets regularly with Business Wales. It was considered that there was a need to strengthen references to the Welsh language. As part of the RSP membership review, the Welsh Language School will be invited to nominate a representative to sit on the RSP Board.

## 6. WORK PROGRAMME

It was suggested that the Committee should initially receive strategic updates from each of the eight Workstream Leads to provide an overview. Members requested that papers be provided in advance to allow them to focus on each topic. It was further suggested that Governance should be included on the agenda to provide an update on how Agreements were progressing.

### Outcomes:

- **The next meeting will be on Wednesday 23 February 2022 at 2pm**
- **The agenda will comprise;**
  - **an update on the Inter Authority Agreement (version 3) which is to be considered by the Board on 15 December 2021**
  - **Final Deal Agreement**
  - **Portfolio Business Case**
- **Energy Strategy**
- **Digital Strategy**

- The Regional Skills Partnership will be considered again in the summer of 2022

**7. TERMS OF REFERENCE AND GOVERNANCE UPDATE**

The Chair, Vice Chair had discussed with Councillor Berriman his concerns regarding the Terms of Reference of the Committee. It was agreed these would be monitored and considered again in October 2022.

**County Councillor R G Thomas**

Llywodraethiant / Governance

