

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BWRDD TYFU CANOLBARTH CYMRU /
GROWING MID WALES BOARD HELD BY ZOOM ON WEDNESDAY, 15
DECEMBER 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 Myfanwy Alexander, Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Welsh Language **(MA)**

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

Councillor Phyl Davies, Portfolio Holder for Education and Property **(PD)**

Officers:

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

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

Aggie Caesar-Homden, RSP Manager **(ACH)**

Justin Davies, Corporate Manager Core Finance, Ceredigion County Council **(JD)**

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

Paul Griffiths, Advisor **(PG)**

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

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

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

Diane Reynolds Head of Economy and Digital Services, Powys County Council **(DR)**

GMW Portfolio Management Office (PoMO)

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

1. CROESO AC YMDDIHEURIADAU / WELCOME AND APOLOGIES
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Apologies were received for Councillor Heulwen Hulme, Dr. Caroline Turner, Chief Executive, Powys County Council and Nigel Brinn, Executive Director Economy & Environment, Powys County Council.

The Chair welcomed Councillor Myfanwy Alexander who was attending in place of Councillor Iain McIntosh who had resigned from the Powys County Council Cabinet.

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 / DRAFT MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING 11/11/21
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The minutes of the last meeting held on 11th November 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

An update on phosphates would be added to the agenda of a future meeting.

4.	BARGEN DWF CANOLBARTH CYMRU DIWEDDARIAD CYNNYDD / MID WALES GROWTH DEAL: PROGRESS UPDATE
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The Board was advised that it was unlikely that the Final Deal Agreement would be signed before Christmas because Ministers were unavailable. Officers would continue to press for the formal sign off of the agreement, but it may be the first two weeks of January before Ministers were available and the FDA was signed. The two Leaders had written to the Secretary of State for Wales to express their disappointment.

CJE advised that the technical processes were proceeding satisfactorily and that the documentation had been produced to the standard required. The Treasury had requested a small number of amendments. A joint board between the UK and Welsh Governments had been held on 14th December to review the FDA and while there had been no formal feedback, it was understood that the meeting had gone well with no obstacles to it being agreed.

CM advised that the next assurance review was planned for March 2022. The Portfolio Management Office (PoMO) would be reviewing processes and structures.

CM advised that the Accounting Officer Review (AOR) of the Portfolio Business Case (PBC) and supporting documents had been completed and a final report received by the Senior Responsible Officers (SROs). Overall the report was very positive with only 10 recommendations intended to strengthen the PBC, assist with the mitigation of risks and improve the prospect of successful delivery. An Action Plan had been developed and agreed with SROs for the implementation of the recommendations. This had been circulated to UK and Welsh Governments and the PoMO was waiting for feedback regarding which revisions need to be incorporated pre-FDA, and what could be done afterwards.

The PoMO was mapping out the key steps and actions to transition from FDA to Deal delivery. An implementation plan was being developed for the Digital Programme, which would set out the steps for establishing a programme board and bringing forward the programme business case to the GMW Board in the New Year.

Work had been undertaken recently by the steering group to establish and test out an assessment and prioritisation methodology for the 80 or so projects on the long-list.

Sites and Premises Programme: Through the initial work twelve potential strategic sites for Mid Wales had been identified. A plan was being put in place to review these key sites - deliverability, restraints and more detailed discussions with land owners to determine initial priorities in terms of the GD intervention.

Project Development

The majority of projects had submitted a progress update form and these are in the process of being reviewed. The next stage was for projects to submit revised SOC's for formal review.

The approval and assurance process was currently being mapped out, and would be discussed by GMW Management Group initially, before approval of the approach by GMW Board.

5.	LLYWODRAETHIANT / GOVERNANCE
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The Board considered the third iteration of the Inter Authority Agreement that set out the principle of the governance and management of the MWGD. IAA3 was intended to commence once the Final Deal Agreement (FDA) was signed between the two Councils and would remain in force and effect for the period of the Growth Deal.

The Growing Mid Wales Board (GMWB) would remain the executive joint committee with the membership consisting of 10 elected member representatives by the Councils (5 each). All advisory panels of the GMWB were re-established in a consultative capacity, to provide advice to the GMWB.

The previous Economic Strategy Group had been reconstituted as the Economic Advisory Group with new terms of reference. The Chair no longer had voting rights on the GMWB.

The terms of reference of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Regional Skills Partnership remained largely unchanged from IAA2.

The terms of reference Growing Mid Wales Management Group, established under IAA1 to co-ordinate professional officer advice and management to the GMWB, had been evolved to support the delivery of the Deal. Its membership comprised senior officers from both Councils, with observers from both Governments.

The role and function of the Portfolio Management Office in the context of the MWGD had now been defined within IAA3. They provide professional support and advice to the GMWB on the delivery of the MWGD Portfolio.

The administrative functions had been divided as follows:

Administrative function	Responsibility
Human Resources	Ceredigion
Clerk to the GMWB	Both Councils shall appoint an individual to act as Clerk who will be responsible for supporting the administrative requirements of the GMWB on an alternate basis in accordance with Clause Error! Reference source not found. (GMWB)
Legal Services	Powys
Monitoring Officer	Powys
Treasurer and Section 151 Officer	Ceredigion as Accountable Body
Communications	Ceredigion, supported by the PoMO
Procurement	Powys
Translation	The Council holding the GMWB Meeting
IT	Ceredigion
Internal Audit	Powys
Democratic Services	Powys
Secretariat services to the EAG	Powys, supported by the PoMO

The Scheme of Delegation in Schedule 1 of IAA3 also set out those matters which were for the Management Group, for the Board and which were reserved for the Councils.

RESOLVED

- 1. To note the scope and key matters relating to the third Inter-Authority Agreement (IAA3), that will cover the delivery phase of the MWGD.**
- 2. To recommend to the Cabinets of both Authorities that IAA3 is agreed, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.**

6.1. Approve annual return for 2020/21

Justin Davies, Corporate Manager Core Finance, Ceredigion County Council advised that the Responsible Financial Officer of Growing Mid Wales Board had certified that the accounts presented a true and fair view of the financial position of the body at the end of the year to which it relates and of that body's income and expenditure for that year.

He further advised that Audit Wales had audited the Annual Return and their report is included in Appendix1 to the report. Their Audit certificate and opinion stated – 'It is our intention to issue an unqualified certificate and report for the year ended 31 March 2021 and there are no matters in respect of the opinion which we wish to draw to your attention.'

RESOLVED that the Board approves the Annual Return for the year ending 31 March 2021.

6.2. To confirm the revenue Budget 2021/22 and set out the principles of the base budget for the lifetime of the MWGD

RESOLVED that the Board approves the Annual Budget for the year 2021/2022 of £216,038 to be funded equally by Ceredigion and Powys County Councils.

7. UNRHYW FATER ARALL / ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair thanked officers for their reports.

8. DYDDIADAU CYFARFODYDD NESAF / DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS
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11 March 2022 – Virtual
21 June 2022 – Virtual
26 September 2022 – Virtual
12 December 2022 – Virtual

**County Councillor Ellen ap Gwynn
Chair**