

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BWRDD TYFU CANOLBARTH CYMRU /
GROWING MID WALES BOARD HELD AT BY ZOOM ON TUESDAY, 28 MARCH
2023**

PRESENT

Ceredigion County Council Members:

Councillor Bryan Davies, Leader and Cabinet Member for Democratic Services, Policy, Performance and People and Organisation **(BD)**

Councillor Catrin M S. Davies, Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Customer Services **(CMSD)**

Councillor Keith Henson, Cabinet Member for Highways and Environmental Services and Carbon Management **(KH)**

Councillor Matthew Vaux, Cabinet Member for Partnerships, Housing, Legal and Governance and Public Protection **(MV)**

Powys County Council Members:

Councillor James Gibson-Watt, Leader **JGW) (Chair)**

Councillor Aled Davies **(AD)**

Councillor Matthew Dorrance, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for a Fairer Powys **(MD)**

Councillor David Selby, Cabinet Member for a More Prosperous Powys **(DS)**

Officers:

Barry Rees, Corporate Director, Ceredigion County Council **(BR)**

Elin Prysor, Corporate Lead Officer: Legal and Governance, Ceredigion County Council **(EP)**

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

Duncan Hall, Corporate Lead Officer: Finance and Procurement, Ceredigion County Council **(DH)**

Carwyn Jones-Evans, Joint Strategic Lead, Growing Mid Wales/Ceredigion County Council **(CJE)**

Clive Pinney, Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Powys County Council **(CP)**

Cathy Martin, Operations Manager, Growing Mid Wales **(CM)**

Aggie Caesar-Homden, Partnership Manager - Mid Wales Regional Skills Partnership, Growing Mid Wales **(ACH)**

Nigel Brinn, Executive Director Economy and Environment, Powys County Council **(NB)**

Nicola Williams, Joint Strategic Lead, Growing Mid Wales/ Powys County Council **(NW)**

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

Government Observers:

Gareth Ashman, Head of Regional and Local Growth, UK Government Wales

Ann Watkin, Head of Strategy, Operations Alignment and Planning, Welsh Government

Peter James, Senior Strategy & Operations Manager, Welsh Government

1.	CROESO AC YMDDIHEURIADAU / WELCOME AND APOLOGIES
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The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Clive Davies, Cabinet Member for Economy and Regeneration CCC, Councillor Amanda Jenner PCC, Eifion Evans Chief Executive CCC, Caroline Turner Chief Executive PCC, Arwyn Davies, Corporate Manager: Growth and Enterprise CCC, Russell Hughes-Pickering Corporate Lead Officer: Economy and Regeneration CCC.

2.	DATGELU BUDDIANNAU PERSONOL / DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST
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There were no declarations of personal interest reported.

3.	COFNODION DRAFFT Y CYFARFOD DIWETHAF / DRAFT MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING 17.02.2023
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The minutes of the last meeting held on 17th February 2023 were agreed as a correct record.

4.	PARTNERIAETH SGILIAU RHANBARTHOL CANOLBARTH CYMRU / MW REGIONAL SKILLS PARTNERSHIP
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The Regional Skills Partnership Manager reported on the Spring Employer Engagement Event held on 23rd March at the Metropole Hotel in Llandrindod Wells. At the event, facilitated by Alun Jones, former Chief Executive of Menter a Busnes, the 3-year Employment and Skills Plan and Action plan was formally launched. There were 56 attendees, 20 businesses plus stakeholders. This was the first event of its kind for the RSP and it was encouraging to see 20 employers in attendance. The RSP team were in the process of establishing the Employer Cluster Groups and would continue to use networks and business forums to encourage further and more meaningful engagement.

The Leaders of Powys and Ceredigion County Councils paid tribute to Aggie Caesar-Homden who was moving on from the role of Regional Skills Manager and thanked her for all her work in developing the RSP and forging links with businesses.

5.	BARGEN TWF CANOLBARTH CYMRU / MID WALES GROWTH DEAL
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The Board's approval was sought to submit the Strategic Portfolio Business Case v2.1 and Private Sector Investment Strategy DRAFT v2.0 to the UK and Welsh Governments for review by the Welsh Cities and Growth Deal Implementation Board meeting on 29th March as part of consideration of issuing a Grant Award Letter for the Mid Wales Growth Deal. The Board was not being asked to approve individual projects or the funding for them. It was confirmed that projects and funding had not been fixed yet and that there was flexibility to bring other projects forwards. Included in the pack were the Implementation Plan,

the Integrated Assurance and Approval Plan, the Communications Strategy and the Risks and Issues Register.

The Portfolio Assurance Review (PAR) took place 14th - 17th February and the Mid Wales Growth Deal was given an **AMBER/GREEN** rating which was very positive. The report praised the progress of the Growth Deal and provided 10 recommendations to aid the further development and implementation, all of which were achievable, and some were already in the process of being planned/actioned. An Action Plan would be developed to take these forward. This report also formed part of the assurance process with Government and supports the release of the Growth Deal funding.

The Board discussed whether the 4% top slice to support the Portfolio Management Office was an appropriate amount. Officers advised that this was an appropriate amount to fund posts supporting the Growth Deal. CJE would circulate a note to the Board on the details of the top slicing and setting out the approach taken by the other Welsh growth deals. It was noted that in North Wales a lower amount was top sliced but that the local authorities there were contributing significantly more.

It was confirmed that project sponsors were aware of the indicative sums for their projects and that they had been advised that they may have to look at other sources of funding or to phase projects if the full funding was not available.

It was moved by Councillor Bryan Davies and seconded by Councillor Keith Henson and unanimously

RESOLVED to approve the submission of the Strategic Portfolio Business Case v2.1 and Private Sector Investment Strategy DRAFT v2.0 to the UK and Welsh Governments for review by the Welsh Cities and Growth Deal Implementation Board meeting on 29th March as part of consideration of issuing a Grant Award Letter for the Mid Wales Growth Deal.

6.	UNRHYW FATER ARALL / ANY OTHER BUSINESS
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None

7.	DYDDIADAU CYFARFODYDD NESAF / DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS
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23 June 2023 – Virtual

29 September 2023 – Virtual

15 December 2023 – Virtual

**County Councillor James Gibson-Watt
Chair**