



Cyngor Sir
CEREDIGION
County Council

Eifion Evans
Prif Weithredwr
Chief Executive

Canolfan Rheidol, Rhodfa Padarn,
Llanbadarn Fawr, Aberystwyth. SY23 3UE

Julie James MS,
Minister for Climate Change,
Welsh Government

by e-mail only:
correspondence.Julie.James@gov.wales

Dyddiad
Date

8 August, 2023

Gofynnwch am
Please ask for

Eifion Evans

Llinell uniongyrchol
Direct line

01545 572004

Fy nghyf
My ref

EE/SGP/SAD

Ebost
Email

ChiefExecutive@ceredigion.gov.uk

Dear Julie James MS,

Mid Wales Strategic Development Plan (SDP)

I write to you in my capacity as Chief Executive of the Mid Wales Corporate Joint Committee (CJC), to request a meeting to discuss developing the Mid Wales SDP and the implications for existing Local Development Plans (LDPs).

The Mid Wales region comprises of Ceredigion (CCC) and Powys (PCC) Local Authorities and Bannau Brycheiniog National Park (BBNPA), and it is our firm intention to jointly produce the Mid Wales SDP as quickly as possible. We acknowledge that this is a resource intensive exercise and, to make best use of, and develop, the existing capacity and resources we have, we would value a conversation around options for progressing or not progressing individual LDPs.

The Mid Wales CJC is uniquely placed to make progress on an SDP that properly describes a vision for the region based on our rurality, resources, and resilient communities. Whilst the NRW Interim advice on Planning and Phosphates, has delayed progress on the LDP reviews at CCC and BBNP, Powys, being subject to a 'drop dead date', is preparing a replacement LDP. Overall, however, the CJC is of the view that this hiatus is an opportunity to rethink our collective approach and reprioritise resources to focus on a progressive new plan for the region.

The CJC has organised subgroups, including an SDP subgroup, which has started to map out budgets, timelines, and processes in accordance with the SDP Regulations. By doing so, we have recognised the potential savings to be made should an SDP be the principal plan to be progressed with existing resources (LDP teams and budgets) of the two local authorities being directed towards it.

Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a Saesneg. Cewch ateb Cymraeg i bob gohebiaeth Gymraeg ac ateb Saesneg i bob gohebiaeth Saesneg. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh and English. Correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and correspondence in English will be answered in English. Corresponding in Welsh will not involve any delay.

Prif Weithredwr / Chief Executive :
Cyfarwyddwyr Corfforaethol / Corporate Directors :

Eifion Evans
Barry Rees
James Starbuck

It is recognised that this would potentially leave Powys without a “live” plan for an additional two years, but given the legal view we have been provided with from Planning Officer Society Wales that their current plan would continue to carry material weight where its policies are locally focused and in accordance with Future Wales, they are of a mind to work together to prioritise the SDP for the CJC.

We would therefore welcome the opportunity to explain and expand on our position and to take soundings and indeed receive Ministerial support for this approach to support the Government in its ambitions to secure early SDP coverage and quickly move to the submission of a Delivery Agreement for ministerial sign-off.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eifion Evans', with a stylized flourish below the name.

Eifion Evans
Chief Executive
Mid Wales Corporate Joint Committee