



REPORT TO THE GROWING MID WALES BOARD

26th January 2024

TITLE:	Mid Wales Regional Skills Partnership Report
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1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1. The purpose of the report is to provide an update on the progress of the Regional Skills Partnership, in particular:
- RSP board
 - Creation of RSP Website
 - Data and LMI
 - Business Cluster Groups and their role
 - Careers Guidance

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1. The RSP team has reviewed its functions through discussion with the existing team and wider GMW teams, political leaders, senior officers and many stakeholders and businesses.
- 2.2. It is from these discussions we have been able to define what Mid Wales would measure as success for the RSP whilst aligning the activity to WG requirements for the RSP.
- 2.3. In summary the RSP team and board will aim to successfully deliver against the WG national RSP outcomes as specified as well as deliver the priorities specifically highlighted by businesses and senior key officials in the region in section 5 of this document.
- 2.4. This short review highlighted some gaps in our current approach. The document explains what those gaps are and how we will resolve them.

3. Background

- 3.1. Regional Skills Partnerships aim to analyse and influence the provision of skills based on regional economic need, to support growth and key infrastructure projects in each region. The Regional Employment and Skills Plans build on and

support priorities identified by Enterprise Zones, City Deal, City Regions and cross border collaborations.

- 3.2. The plans are refreshed every three years and provide recommendations to Welsh Government to influence the prioritisation and deployment of skills funding including Apprenticeship and Further Education allocations.
- 3.3. Within their regions RSPs are also involved in ongoing research, Labour Market Intelligence, development, and delivery of ESF projects, ensuring that regions are strategically aligned with European funding bids, and working with anchor companies and other companies of regional importance.
- 3.4. Currently across Wales there are 4 Regional Skills Partnerships.

4. Mid Wales RSP

- 4.1. As described in the national RSP context above, to be successful, the Mid Wales RSP must ensure that the priority sectors for the region are supported by national data that is underpinned by local business intelligence.
- 4.2. Through this process we will be able to focus the role of the RSP to ensure that:
 - The RSP bridges the gap between education, skills and regeneration to create a strong and vibrant economy underpinned by innovation, growth, and a capable workforce.
 - The RSP functions as a partnership which works with business leaders and stakeholders to identify current and future skills needs across the region.
- 4.3. To achieve, the RSP will aim to deliver four key deliverables:
 - Produce and analyse labour market intelligence (LMI) to inform current and future priorities.
 - Review regional skills provision.
 - Influence decisions on skills, training, and education.
 - Act as a strategic body that represents regional interests.
- 4.4. The Mid Wales RSP is part of the Growing Mid Wales programme and aligns itself closely with this activity. Therefore, the RSP reports directly to the GMW board.

5. Implementation Progress

RSP Board

- 5.1. A proposal was presented to the RSP board that recommended the board membership is reduced from 47 members to approximately 25. Ensuring that the new business cluster structure is represented. Each cluster chair will automatically have a position on the board alongside other key decision makers in the region such as FE, HE, LA, and the Growth Deal.

- 5.2. This proposal was excepted by the RSP and then presented to the GMW Board for approval. This was also approved.
- 5.3. Letters have been sent to existing and new board members explaining the change in board membership and their position within the RSP.
- 5.4. The new board structure has now been established and the first meeting of the new board will take place Monday the 29th of January 2024.

6. Creation of RSP Website

- 6.1. We must ensure that the work of the RSP is visible and transparent. Therefore, after approval by the GMW Board we have engaged with a web design company and the RSP website is under construction. The website will be available from February 2024.
- 6.2. The Data Observatory which will sit on the website will be an accessible resource for all regional LMI - launch in late February 2024.

7. Data and LMI

- 7.1. Part of the RSP role, as identified in earlier statements, is the collation and analysis of data and Labour Market Intelligence to ensure it is current and relevant.
- 7.2. The way in which the RSP proposes to achieve this is by taking a three stepped approach:
 1. Work with a third-party data analysis company that will provide annual in-depth priority sector analysis, identifying current skills and recruitment levels, as well as emerging trends and predictions in growth for each sector.

The tender process has now been completed and a contractor has been appointed. Work has begun and will be complete by March 2024.

2. Mid Wales employment and skills surveys will be collated each year; this will provide an up to date Mid Wales business perspective on the skills and recruitment landscape.

Skills surveys has now been completed, with 111 responses. Data is now being collated as a result. A report on the responses will be available in February 2024.

3. Mid Wales Sector cluster groups will review and sense check all data collated and provide an expert view for that sector.

10 of the 11 cluster groups have been established and 6 groups have now met.

7.3. We have established 9 business cluster groups and 2 support cluster groups who will all have met for the first time through the months of November, December, January. All chairpersons have been appointed and ToR have been created.

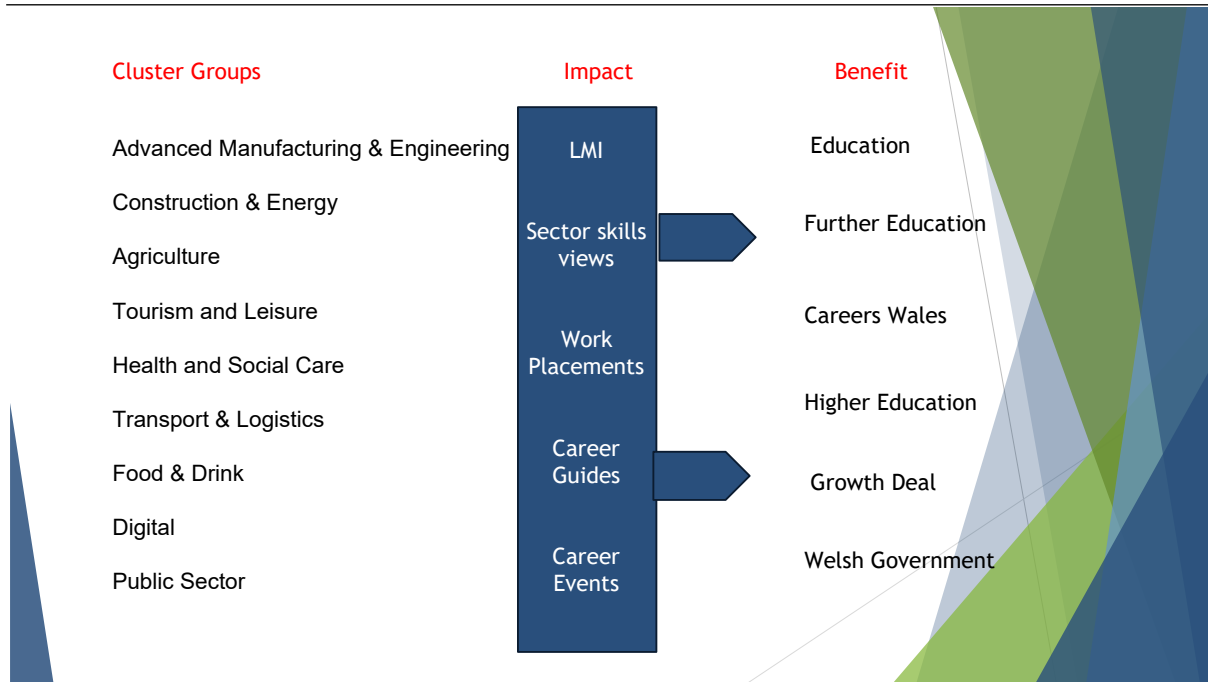
- Advanced Manufacturing & Engineering (Applied Research & Innovation)
- Construction & Energy
- Agriculture
- Tourism & Leisure
- Health & Social Care
- Transport & Logistics
- Food & Drink
- Digital
- Public Sector
- Support Cluster Groups
- Training Provider/Employability Group
- Young Person Guarantee

7.4. As group members they have agreed through the ToR to;

- Produce and analyse labour market intelligence (LMI) to inform current and future priorities. For your sector.
- Review and develop regional skills provision specific to your sector to inform the 3-year Employment and Skills Plan and Action Plan
- Influence decisions on skills, training, and education specific to your sector.
- Create and update a careers guide for your specific sector.
- Provide and influence the sector to participate in work experience.
- Provide and influence the sector to provide career advice to young people and education.
- Act as a sector leading group that represents regional interests.

8. Careers Guidance

- 8.1. RSP team has prioritised the objective of careers guidance for young people. This has been highlighted as a priority for the region.
- 8.2. After consultation with many education providers, businesses, and LA representatives it has been recognised that the current careers guidance service is no longer fit for purpose and that a new model needs to be developed.
- 8.3. The RSP has started to gather information from partners and young people through surveys that has will demonstrate our current provision.
- 8.4. We will then set out what provision could and should look like. Utilising the RSP business cluster structure we believe we can introduce a structure that will ensure that schools, Local Authorities and partners will have direct access to a business base, who can provide careers advice, work placements and other opportunities.



8.5. To successfully manage this model, a dedicated resource from either the Careers Wales service or from LA/ schools who will work with the RSP cluster groups will be required. However, the RSP will maintain management of the cluster groups on an ongoing basis. This resource is still to be established.

9. Legal Implications

9.1. None.

10. Human Resources Implications

10.1. None.

11. Financial Implications

11.1. None.

12. Appendices

12.1. None