

Appendix 2

Responses to consultation

Number 1

Q1. Submit your comments by Tuesday 12 December 2023: another pointless non jobs gravy train in Wales, that's the last thing we need.

Response

No further response is considered necessary or appropriate.

Number 2

The plan must start with the basics. 1. Cheap fossil free renewable energy for all residents of Mid Wales. 2. High speed digital / internet connection for all residents in Mid Wales. The completion of these two objectives would be self-fulfilling, generating the wealth required to archive all other required objectives for the corporate plan. The devil is of course in the detail.

Response

The comments made in this response are accepted as being key to the future of the regions wellbeing. There are already a range of initiatives contained within the plans of the constituent CJC organisations that seek to address these concerns. In addition, regional partnerships such as the Mid Wales Partnership and the Mid Wales Growth Deal have also identified opportunities to respond to these challenges. The CJC will inevitably have the opportunity to monitor progress of these initiatives both locally and more strategically.

Number 3

Firstly, this draft plan does not inspire confidence when it contains so many typo and grammatical errors. The author needs to learn how to use an apostrophe and engage a proofreader. Errors include: Page 9, Section 2.3, last para says employment has decreased by around 54% in 5 years. Should this be 5.4%? Page 14, Funding para, last sentence should readwell placed...., notwell place... Page 14, Delivery Landscape para should read ...have ceased to operate..., not ...have cased to operate... Page 22, last para should read ...can be evidenced in a..., not ...can be evidence in a... Page 24, section 5.1, first para should read ...forefront of the region's collaborative..., not forefront of the regions collaborative... Page 30, last para should read ...of the region's priorities..., not ...of the regions priorities... Page 39, last para should read ...fulfil all its requirements as..., not fulfil all its requirement's as... Secondly, by its own admission, much of the work that may be undertaken by this Committee is already being carried out by other bodies, including The Growing Mid Wales Partnership, The Joint Mid Wales Transport Plan, and The Mid Wales Growth Deal. Is it really necessary to add another layer of bureaucracy between the Future Wales Plan and Local Development Plans? Is this the best use of a budget of initially £170,000, which will no doubt rise over time, when so much of the Committee's work is covered by other organisations? I would suggest that a closer strategic working relationship between Ceredigion and Powys could be better

achieved by merging the two Councils. Two Councils serving a joint population of little over 200,000 people with two sets of infrastructure and two sets of back-office functions does not offer Council Taxpayers value for money.

Response

The response is noted, and the final document has been amended as per the comments received and has also been re-checked for other errors. The time the respondent has spent on reading the document and identifying these issues is acknowledged and appreciated. The comment relating to the need for an additional statutory body to focus on such things is also noted. The requirement to develop CJC's is statutory and beyond the powers of the constituent bodies, as is the structure of local government in Wales.

Number 4

It's great to see Councils in Mid Wales trying to work together. In order to have a robust public transport system the current rail services need to be working and reliable, many people have given up trying to use the Heart of Wales line. Locally available training and support of young people are vital to create a long-term future for the area. Many local colleges have closed or moved out of reach for those lacking personal transport (e.g. from Llandrindod Wells to Neath) in the past 10 years; these training in practical as well as academic subjects such as horticulture, engineering, hairdressing. I feel that the Powys suffers from lack of investment because of the spread nature of the population, but by losing transport, and training / education opportunities the area becomes less appealing to those living here and those who are looking to move here. From an environmental perspective I understand that it is difficult getting the balance right between providing work in a rural area and protecting ecology; farming practices and forestry can conflict with protecting water courses and soil structure. Changes to rural ways of life need to happen but be handled delicately and offering alternatives with similar financial rewards. There is a strong need to alternative fuel sources nationwide, but I do not believe that filling pristine countryside with pylons is the right way to go. Wales should be proud of and promote its beauty for wellbeing and tourism. As a recent purchaser of solar panels, I can see that covering the landscape in Windfarms is unnecessary, a mixed green-fuel economy is achievable and should be sought for Mid Wales. What about creating a new industry for Welsh grasslands - biofuel? This could be a way to reuse existing gas systems and create or replace employment for in rural areas. I look forward to seeing investment in Mid Wales.

Response

The respondent has clearly identified many of the challenges that the region faces, particularly relating to transport, training, skills and education as well as energy security. Members have indicated in previous fora their own concerns with these matters, and it is considered that they will continue to form a key part of plans in the future. Issues relating to transport will be a specific focus for the CJC as indicated in the Corporate Plan. The Mid Wales regional Skills Partnership will of course focus on matters relating to training, skills, and education. The recently adopted Mid Wales

Energy Strategy will consider matters relating to energy security both in the medium and long-term.

Number 5

Not answered.

Number 6

The plan is not loading and it is not accessible. Is this a statutory consultation? Why do you have to download a document before making comments. Why is the document not available in other formats.

Response

The document has been made available in accordance with all other consultations undertaken in this manner and has been accessible. As the respondent has remained anonymous it has not been possible to make efforts to contact the person to try and identify the reason for inaccessibility. The Communications Service is in receipt of this comment and will monitor any future accessibility problems. It is clearly disappointing that the respondent has not been able to contribute to the consultation exercise.

Number 7

Overall, in approval however, one size does not fit all. What may be appropriate for south Wales will not be for mid Wales. Poverty is being driven by climate change and the reaction to this. The push to sustainable options costs the end user lots of money. It limits their freedoms to travel for example if they cannot afford a low carbon vehicle but can afford a fully carbon use vehicle and are penalised for this. Grants need to be awarded for communities and their travel options must be fully supported and consistently applied. A more sustainable approach needs to be adopted the irony is that the rush is not sustainable as it will create poverty, loneliness and cut communities off. The hare and the tortoise story are a good analogy here... Do it but do it successfully. Use data from other countries similar countries (remote, hilly, etc). If this data is not available then pilot schemes. The population must not suffer due to inept planning.

Response

The CJC is developing and tailoring its response to challenges on a regional basis reflecting the needs of Mid Wales, which should go some way to reassure the respondent. It is considered that the regions plans are being developed in a timely fashion, considering long term solutions that are likely to be effective and appropriate for the residents of the region.