

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BWRDD TYFU CANOLBARTH CYMRU /
GROWING MID WALES BOARD HELD ON ZOOM ON THURSDAY, 12 DECEMBER
2024**

PRESENT

Ceredigion County Council Members:

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

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

Councillor Clive Davies, Cabinet Member for Cabinet Member for Economy and Regeneration **(CD)**

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

Powys County Council Members:

Councillor Beverley Baynham **(BB)**

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

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

Councillor Corinna Kenyon-Wade **(CKW)**

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

Officers:

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

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

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

Carwyn Jones-Evans, Portfolio SRO Growing Mid Wales **(CJE)**

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

David Price, RSP Manager, Growing Mid Wales **(DP)**

Diane Reynolds Director of Economy and Community Services, Powys County Council **(DR)**

Peter Jones, Growth Deal & Projects Performance Manager, Growing Mid Wales **(PJ)**

Steve Lesbirel, Chair Economic Advisory Group **(SL)**

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

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

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

Daniel Burgess, Head of Economy and Climate Powys County Council **(DB)**

Fiona Brennan, Assured Consulting (Observer) **(FB)**

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

Government Observers:

Gareth Ashman, Head of Regional and Local Growth, UK Government Wales **(GA)**

Ann Watkin, Head of Strategy, Operations Alignment and Planning, Welsh Government **(AW)**

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| 1. | CROESO AC YMDDIHEURIADAU / WELCOME AND APOLOGIES (CYNGH/CLLR BRYAN DAVIES) |
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Apologies for absence were received from Emma Palmer, Chief Executive Powys County Council.

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| 2. | DATGANIADAU O FUDDIANT PERSONOL / DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST |
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None

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| 3. | COFNODION DRAFFT Y CYFARFOD DIWETHAF / DRAFT MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING 26/07/2024 |
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The minutes of the last meeting held on 26 July 2024 were agreed as a correct record.

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| 4. | PARTNERIAETH SGILIAU RHANBARTHOL CANOLBARTH CYMRU / MW REGIONAL SKILLS PARTNERSHIP (DAI PRICE) |
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The RSP Manager gave an update on the activities of the Regional Skills Partnership. He advised that RSP team was working with training providers, Further Education providers and engineering businesses to develop appropriate qualifications to support the growing Net Zero/ Green skills technology sector.

He also advised that there was wariness from businesses about taking on apprentices at this time.

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| 5. | BARGEN TWF CANOLBARTH CYMRU / MW GROWTH DEAL (CARWYN JONES-EVANS) |
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5.1. Diweddariad Portffolio Strategol / Strategic Portfolio Update

CJE reported significant challenges on securing match funding, pressure on project costs, delivery readiness and business case development.

To address these challenges, he has been appointed as the Senior Responsible Officer to oversee the Growth Deal and report directly to the Chief Executives of both Councils. In 2025 the Board would be meeting bi-monthly to enable quicker decision making.

Despite the challenges, it was looking likely that elements of the Portfolio would be entering delivery early in 2025.

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| 6. | BARGEN TWF CANOLBARTH CYMRU / MID WALES GROWTH DEAL (CATHY MARTIN) |
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The Operations Manager provided an overview of the programmes and projects within the Portfolio. Work is continuing to develop business cases for projects within the Digital Programme, and for the Sites & Premises Programme work is progressing on the forerunner projects at Horeb and Newtown.

With regards to the standalone projects:

- All 8 projects had received Strategic Outline Case approval.
- 1 OBC had been approved (Elan Valley Lakes).
- 1 OBC had been submitted for approval in this governance cycle (Cynefin).
- 2 projects will adopt a Programme 'Light' approach (GFIP and Montgomery Canal Restoration).
- 2 projects are in the early stages of developing their OBCs (FMIC and MWAMC)
- 1 project is showing very little progress (Aberaeron Harbour)
- 1 project is officially on hold (Tir Glas).

Due to the position for all projects being much clearer and a reasonable pathway forward identified, the general status across all projects is amber, with 6 self-assessments indicating a RAG status of amber, and a further 2 indicating a current position of red. RAG Status for previous period was Amber/Red.

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| 7. | DULL O YMDRIN AG ACHOSION BUSNES / BUSINESS CASE APPROACH (CATHY MARTIN) |
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The Board noted a phased delivery approach had been agreed by the Portfolio Delivery Board. This would allow sequencing and phasing of project delivery which would ease early delivery pressures. The first approach, Project Hybrid would be applied to the Cynefin and Elan Valley Lakes projects and would allow them to gain outline business case approval and then submit subsequent multi work-packages for final business case approval on a phased basis. The second approach, Programme Light, would be applied to the Green Futures Innovation Park and Montgomery Canal Restoration projects. This would enable both projects to develop a phased approach to both securing match funding and planned project delivery. Programme 'Light' means guidance would be applied proportionately and therefore may not necessarily be subject to the same assurance regime as the MWGD's formal programmes (Digital and Sites & Premises).

An approach has been agreed with Welsh Government's Office for Project Delivery – and has been agreed by the Portfolio Delivery Board. It was confirmed that Welsh Government was content with the approach and that it was consistent with Treasury and Welsh Government guidance and therefore the projects could proceed with confidence.

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| 8. | CYLLID / FINANCE (DUNCAN HALL) |
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Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2024

RESOLVED to approve the Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2024.

EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

Members were requested, when dealing with the following items on the agenda to consider whether to exclude the public from the Meeting.

RESOLVED to exclude the public and press from the meeting.

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| 9. | ACHOS BUSNES BARGEN TWF CANOLBARTH CYMRU I BENDERFYNU YN EI GYLCH / MWGD BUSINESS CASE FOR DECISION (CATHY MARTIN) |
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The Board considered the Business Justification Case for the Local Intervention Fund project.

RESOLVED

- 1. To approve the Business Justification Case for the Local Intervention Fund subject to delegated authority for the Section 151 and Portfolio SRO to be satisfied with the resourcing arrangements prior to implementation.**
- 2. To grant delegated authority to the Sites and Premises Programme Board to oversee and direct the operation of the Fund, including the ability to authorise grant awards to the Fund's projects, provided activity remains compliant with the Fund parameters set out in the BJC.**

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| 10. | ACHOS BUSNES BARGEN TWF CANOLBARTH CYMRU I BENDERFYNU YN EI GYLCH / MWGD BUSINESS CASE FOR DECISION (CATHY MARTIN) |
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The Board considered the Outline Business Case for the Cynefin project.

RESOLVED

- 1. To approve the Outline Business Case for the Cynefin project subject to delegated authority for the Section 151 and Portfolio SRO to be satisfied with the resourcing arrangements prior to implementation.**

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| 11. | UNRHYW FATER ARALL / ANY OTHER BUSINESS |
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None.

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| 12. | DYDDIADAU CYFARFODYDD NESAF / DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS |
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5 February 2025.

County Councillor Bryan Davies
Chair