

MINUTES OF A SUSTAINABLE FUTURES EXECUTIVE GROUP MEETING

held on 10th December 2013

Chamber, Penmorfa, Aberaeron

Present: Jane Davidson (Chair), Peter Austin (Ceredigion County Council), Chris Clark (DWP), Gary Hall (HCT), Keith Henson (Coleg Ceredigion), Allan Lewis (Ceredigion County Council), Hazel Lloyd Lubran (CAVO), Mari Morgan (Ceredigion County Council), Dylan Rees (Careers Wales), Dee Reynolds (TPMW), Ann Stokoe (Menter Aberteifi), Cllr Alun Williams, Dewi Williams (Antur Teifi),

Lead Body: Eirlys Lloyd, Gareth Rowlands, Mike Shaw, Katharine McGuire

In attendance: Keri Thomas (Natural Resources Wales), Rachel Thomas (Natural Resources Wales), Paul Jones (Inform Swansea), Elid Morris (Regional Learning Partnership), Anne Howells (Aberystwyth University)

Apologies: Louise Amery (Aberystwyth Arts Centre), Alun Davies (Twristiaeth Ceredigion Tourism), John Davies (Food Centre Wales), Donna Evans (Careers Wales), Huw Merfyn Hughes (Aberystwyth University), Steve Jones (Tai Ceredigion), Cllr Gareth Lloyd, Keith Morgan (Ceredigion County Council), Ann Watkin (Welsh Government), Alun Williams (Ceredigion County Council), Huw Williams (Ceredigion County Council), Caryl Wyn-Jones (Farmers Union of Wales)

	Agenda item	Summary of discussions	Decisions / Actions	When & Who
1	Apologies	The Group noted the apologies.	Noted	
2	Disclosure of Personal/Prejudicial Interests	Ann Stokoe declared an interest in Items 8f and 9b. Hazel Lloyd Lubran declared an interest in Item 9a. The Chair declared an interest in Items 9b and c.	Noted	
3	To agree minutes of meeting 12/11/13	The Group agreed the minutes, subject to clarification of the last paragraph of Minute 5. This related to a piece of work which the RLP would be undertaking on tourism in the New Year and how the Tourism Partnership Mid-Wales could be involved with this and other work developing tourism projects jointly with the Swansea Bay City Region.	Agreed, subject to amendment	Lead Body
4	Matters Arising (not elsewhere on the agenda)	None.		

5	Flooding in Ceredigion Coastal Communities	<p>The Group received a presentation by Keri Thomas of Natural Resources Wales. He explained the most recent Shoreline Management Plan [available at www.westofwalesmp.org] and gave examples of projected potential flooding levels at different points in the future in specific communities. This indicated the number of properties potentially affected and depths as well as the current and proposed approaches to protection in each location.</p> <p>It was noted that this was a critical issue facing the County. Although it was already high on the Council's Corporate Risk Register, it was agreed that officers should emphasise the issue to Cabinet and the Local Service Board. It was noted that a wider discussion with towns and communities and their councils was needed.</p>	Emphasise coastal flooding issues as critical for main towns on coast and key infrastructure routes and railway to Aberystwyth.	Lead Body
6	Regional Learning Partnership: E-Portal	<p>The Group received a presentation by Elid Morris of the Regional Learning Partnership and Paul Jones of Inform Swansea. It was explained that the E-portal for employment, skills and education was the third pillar of the RLP. It had been piloted in Swansea as Inform Swansea and this model was explained. A roll out beyond Swansea was now being scoped.</p> <p>The Group agreed that a roll out to Ceredigion should be taken forward. The RLP would start work on this and seek input from members of the Group.</p>	Take forward development of e-portal for Ceredigion. A further report to be made to SFEG in March 2014	RLP

7	WG Consultation on Direct Payments to Farmers	A draft response from the Group had been agreed by correspondence and submitted to Welsh Government. The Group formally agreed this and noted the NFU response.	SFEG response formally agreed and NFU response noted	
8a	Horizon 2020: Overview and Aberystwyth University Perspective	<p>The Group received a presentation from Anne Howells of Aberystwyth University. She gave an overview of the Horizon 2020 Programme and EU funding and projects at Aberystwyth University. There was an emphasis in the Horizon 2020 programme on SME and industry involvement and the new WEFO Horizon 2020 unit could help advise those from outside the HE sector on the programme.</p> <p>The value of EU funding to Aberystwyth University and thus to the wider County was clear. It was noted that the Horizon 2020 programme was encouraging co-operation between academics and non-academics and offered a huge opportunity for the County to benefit.</p>	The importance of HE and Horizon 2020 funding for the future of the local economy was noted	
8b	Economic Regeneration Strategy	Work had been continuing on the strategy document. It was hoped to be able to circulate the next version after Christmas.	Noted	

8c	Regional Collaboration	<p>The updates on the Regional Learning Partnership, including 14-19 activities, pilot work, and the emerging model for the Regional Delivery Plan for Employment and Skills, were noted.</p> <p>It was noted that the participation of Aberystwyth University was vital for the success of the RLP.</p> <p>It was agreed that the RLP should be a standing item on the Group's agenda in order to canvass views and discuss issues and ensure the needs of providers and potential learners in Ceredigion were met.</p>	Noted. Add RLP as standing item to future agendas	Lead Body
8d	ERDF and ESF (2014-2020)	<p>The draft programme documents had now been released.ⁱ</p> <p>It was reported that the application processes would be different from the last round. Applications would go straight into business planning after dialogue with a Project Development Officer to explore strategic fit of the idea. The appraisal phase would comprise nine mini-assessments. There would be a mobilisation phase at the beginning of projects, whereby if benchmarks were not met the project could be cancelled. The process would open in January 2014, when detailed information would be available on the Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO) website.</p> <p>Eligibility rules would be the same for ERDF, ESF and EARDF.</p>	Noted	

8e	Axis 4 Update: LEADER 2014-20 – Future LAG (Expressions of Interest)	A workshop had been held for the Local Action Group (LAG) to discuss emerging themes, and the LAG would be meeting again the following week to take this further. The timetable was challenging, as Expressions of Interest had to be submitted by the end of January. Discussions were also being held with other local authorities. It was clear that there was an expectation by WG that there would be fewer bodies handling claims in the future.	Noted	
8f	Ceredigion Social Enterprise Growth Fund	An update was tabled on extension requests from projects.	Noted	
9a	Quarterly Project Progress reports for CER52, CER54	The Group endorsed the progress reports for CER52 and CER54.	Endorsed. Submit to Welsh Government	Lead Body
9b	Quarterly Project Progress reports for CER24, 55, 56	The progress reports for CER24, CER55, and CER56 had been circulated electronically on 21 st November for comments and approval by written procedure. No adverse comments had been received. The Group endorsed the progress reports.	Endorsed	
9c	Project Amendment Forms (PAF) – CER55, CER56	The PAF's for CER55 and CER56 had been circulated electronically on 21 st November for comments and approval by written procedure. No adverse comments had been received. The Group endorsed the PAF's.	Endorsed	

9d	Destination Management Plan	The Ceredigion Destination Management Plan had gone out to consultation, with a closing date of 10 th January 2014. It was noted that this was a partnership document rather than a County Council one, and the consultation was being led by Tourism Partnership Mid-Wales. Members were invited to respond to the consultation individually. If they wished to input to a Sustainable Futures response, they should send views to Katharine McGuire by 3 rd January. A draft response would be circulated to the Group by correspondence.	Members submit views to Lead Body. Lead Body circulate draft response	10/01/14 Lead Body
10	Any Other Business	There was none.		
11	Date of Next Meeting	The next meeting was scheduled for 20 th January 2014.		

ⁱ Draft Structural Funds Operational Programmes for Wales (ERDF & ESF West Wales and the Valleys and East Wales): <http://wefo.wales.gov.uk/programmes/westwalesvalleys/erdf-esf-summary/?lang=en>

<http://wefo.wales.gov.uk/programmes/westwalesvalleys/westwalesvalleysop/?lang=en>

Draft Economic Prioritisation Framework: <http://wefo.wales.gov.uk/applyingforfunding/funding2014-2020/epf/?lang=en>

Guide for project sponsors about how and when to apply for funding from the new EU Structural Fund Programmes for Wales: <http://wefo.wales.gov.uk/applyingforfunding/funding2014-2020/draftqanda/?lang=en>