



2.00pm, Wednesday 23 November 2022
Zoom

MINUTES

Present	
Name	Organisation
CLlr Darren Price (Chair)	Carmarthenshire County Council
Noelwyn Daniel	Carmarthenshire County Council
Mydrian Harries	Mid & West Wales Fire and Rescue Service
CLlr Elwyn Williams	Mid & West Wales Fire and Rescue Service Authority
Daron Herbert	Natural Resources Wales
Supt Stuart Bell	Dyfed Powys Police
Carys Morgans	Office for the Police and Crime Commissioner
Michael Thomas	Hywel Dda University Health Board
Marie Mitchell	Carmarthenshire Association of Voluntary Services
Wyn Morris	Department for Work and Pensions
Catherine Mealing-Jones	Brecon Beacon National Park Authority
Andrew Charles	Welsh Government

In attendance	
Name	Organisation
Gwyneth Ayers	Carmarthenshire County Council
Llinos Evans	Carmarthenshire County Council
Kate Harrop	Carmarthenshire County Council
Wendy Phillips	Carmarthenshire County Council
Amy Richmond-Jones	Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service
Dafydd Llywelyn	Office for the Police and Crime Commissioner
Sarah Hopkins	Sustain Wales
Gareth Jones	Carmarthenshire County Council
Richard Walters	Carmarthenshire County Council

1. Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

Apologies	
Name	Organisation
Barry Liles	University of Wales Trinity Saint David
Huwel Manley	Natural Resources Wales
Andrew Cornish	Coleg Sir Gâr

Maria Battle	Hywel Dda University Health Board
Jo McCarthy	Public Health Wales
Supt Clark Jones-John	Dyfed Powys Police
Christine Harley	Probation Service

CLlr Darren Price, Chair, welcomed everyone to the virtual meeting.

2. Real Living Wage

Dafydd Llywelyn, Chair of the Steering Group for the Mid and West Wales Region, and Sarah Hopkins, Director for Sustain Wales provided a presentation on the Real Living Wage and the work undertaken in Mid and West Wales. An overview was provided:

- The current Real Living Wage is £10.90, it is calculated annually by an independent organisation, Resolution Foundation, and overseen by Living Wage Commission. It takes into account the cost of living, particularly this year with the rise in energy costs, transport, rent, childcare costs etc.
- The Real Living Wage is paid to all workers over 18 in organisations supportive of the initiative while the national living wage is paid to all workers over 23.
- Since Covid, there has been an increase in momentum and interest in the number of accredited employers, with almost 500 currently in Wales.
- Based on ONS data, there are currently 144,000 workers across Wales not receiving a real living wage.
- To date, the accreditations have lifted almost 18,000 workers onto the Real Living Wage and put almost £67 million back into the pockets of low paid workers.
- Living Wage Places are areas across the UK that champion the Real Living Wage and have a three-year action plan.
- Mid and West Wales Region will be the first Real Living Wales region in Wales.
- The action plan has been in place for nine months.
- The targeted sectors include, agriculture, tourism, food, retail, hospitality and public.
- Data was provided to support the need for a Real Living Wage.
- Across the region, there are 103 accredited employers which has resulted in 2,762 employees being uplifted.
- Across Carmarthenshire, there are 28 accredited employers, which has resulted in 436 employees being uplifted.
- There are also employer benefits to the Real Living Wage, i.e., improved recruitment and retention of staff and links to wider staff well-being and health.
- A detailed report by Cardiff University is due before Christmas which will include benefits for employers across sectors.
- The Real Living Wage supports several Well-being Goals.

A number of members provided an update on the current position:

- MAWWFRS have carried out a job evaluation exercise and a new pay structure will be presented to their December Board meeting.
- NRW have already achieved Real Living Wage accreditation.
- CAVS are paying the Real Living Wage and are looking into applying for accreditation.

Questions were asked on the impact with contractors and the wider supply chain. The expectation was clarified and noted that this is something that can be developed over a period of time.

Darren Price thanked Dafydd Llywelyn and Sarah Hopkins for their presentation.

ACTION	
Contact Dafydd Llywelyn if interested in being involved in the Real Living Wage Steering Group	All

3. Internet of Things

Gareth Jones, Digital Programme Manager, Swansea City Deal, provided a presentation on The Internet of Things (IoT), which is a concept of connecting things that have not previously been connected.

- The aim is to provide data to make decisions. The first example of IoT was a Coca-Cola vending machine notifying when it needs to be refilled.
- Examples were provided of where this is used in our everyday lives, e.g. sensors in bins sending a signal when they need to be emptied. IoT is a growing industry.
- There are various connectivity media e.g. 3G, 4G, 5G, wireless, broadband and LoRaWAN. LoRaWAN can be connected simply and cheaply, using a low bandwidth, with its advantage being long range, low power, small level of data and low cost.
- Across the region, there are over 240 LoRaWAN gateways with Carmarthenshire leading the way.

Dyfed Powys Police are a good example of how to use the technology for various projects.

Dafydd Llywelyn suggested a gateway could be sited at Police HQ. It was confirmed that initial discussions in relation to this had taken place.

Darren Price thanked Gareth Jones for his presentation.

ACTION	
Contact Gareth Jones to discuss opportunities for LoRaWAN Gateways	All
Confirm update on gateway at Police HQ, arrange for IT colleague to contact Heddwyn Thomas, DPP, to progress and feedback to Dafydd Llywelyn	Kate Harrop

4. Cost of Living

Noelwyn Daniel provided an update on the event recently held in Llanelli. There were around 100 in attendance from various organisations. The key outcomes were:

- Need to raise awareness of the support currently available.
- Have a consistent message.
- Ensure that all contacts are maximised.
- There is a lack of co-ordination around access to work for young people e.g. apprenticeships, graduate programmes etc.
- Need to improve information on available transport.
- Not all residents are digitally literate and therefore miss out on key information and support.

Next steps

- Highlight and promote the vast amount of unclaimed benefits
- Support food banks
- Career support in schools

- Look at traditional ways of communicating to reach those who are not digitally literate.
- Share best practice and map what everyone provides.
- Re-establish Hwb Fach Y Wlad in addition to the three Hwbs located in the main towns.
- Enhance the level of support provided in the three town Hwbs by having additional dedicated officers e.g. housing, employability, trading standards, Citizens Advice Bureau. This is to commence on 1 December.

ACTION	
Circulate summary of feedback from Cost of Living event (26.10.2022)	PSB Support Team
Contact Noelwyn Daniel if interested in providing support and advice within the customer service Hwbs in Ammanford, Carmarthen and Llanelli.	All

5. Minutes and Matters arising

28 September 2022

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

It was noted that the access system for the Llandeilo office has been established and is now available for multi-agency working.

Action Log

Updates were provided on previous actions.

ACTION	
Inform staff that the Llandeilo office is now available for staff to use	All

6. Any Other Business

The following two items were circulated for information:

- Play & Early Years Integration
- Environmental Grant opportunity

7. Dates of future meetings

- 19 January 2023 (1.30pm)
- 28 February 2023 (2pm)
- 25 April 2023 (2pm)