

**Environment and Rural Affairs Roundtable
People and Communities Working Group**

3rd Meeting: 7 November 2017 10:30 – 14:30

**Banw & Vyrnwy Rooms, Ladywell House, Newtown, Park Street, Newtown,
SY16 1JB**

Key Points and Actions

Group Members in attendance

Ceredigion County Council / Growing Mid Wales Partnership
Independent 1
FUW
Independent 2
Gwynedd County Council
WLGA
CLLD Consultation Group (LAG Representative)
Welsh Fisherman's Association
Severn Wye Energy Agency
Cardiff University
Llais y Goedwig
CLLD Consultation Group (FLAG Representative)
NFU Cymru
WEFO

Welsh Government officials in attendance

Welsh Government Official 2 (Chair)
Welsh Government Official 3
Welsh Government Official 6
Welsh Government Official 9
Welsh Government Official 10
Welsh Government Official 11

Apologies

Terri Thomas – Deputy Director of Rural Development
NRW
WCVA
PAVO
Wales Federation of Young Farmers Clubs

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair, welcomed members to the third meeting and welcomed new members. Those present introduced themselves to the group.

2. Minutes and Actions of the last meeting

[The Chair] asked members whether they had any amendments to the minutes. None were put forward and the minutes were agreed by the group. An update on the action points from the last meeting was also given. Some action points were brought forward to this meeting's agenda.

3. Update from other Working Groups

[Welsh Government Official 3] provided an update on the work of the other sub groups. The Cabinet Secretary's Roundtable met on 25th October 2017. The Land Use sub-group met on the 6th November 2017. There are meetings scheduled for the following sub-groups before the next People and Communities sub-group meeting in December.

The Trade and Supply Chains Sub Group - 21 November

The Air and Climate Sub Group - 24 November

The Seas and Coast Sub Group - 28 November

Members can therefore expect to start receiving output from the other sub-groups during December 2017 and January 2018.

4. Agree Terms of Reference

The draft terms of reference (TOR) were agreed and accepted. [Welsh Government Official 3] pointed out that the Membership details would need to be updated as new members have recently joined the group.

Action: Membership details of the TOR to be updated following new members joining

5. Future Work Programme

The Future Work Plan paper was circulated in advance of this meeting. [The Chair] gave an overview of his thinking behind his drafting of the paper and asked members for their comments and any suggested amendments. [The Chair] said the next 2 months can be a time where the group can be more influential and put forward to the group that they look at prioritising a couple of areas to focus on. He stressed the fact that any opinions put forward to the Cabinet Secretary need to be well founded and that when papers are being produced they need to be done so with logic, sound evidence and done with high ambition.

A discussion followed on the usefulness of knowing how the current programme is working, have any lessons been learnt from the previous programme and what direction they should be going in. [WEFO] advised the group on what information was available and that there was not enough data at this point to complete an evaluation on the programme to date. The group discussed other sources of evidence besides evaluations such as Academics.

Action: [Welsh Government Official 3] to set up library of reports identified and work with WEFO RME to make information available for members to draw on

Action: [WEFO] to circulate RDP Research summaries to group

6. Agree Visions paper

The Visions paper was circulated in advance of this meeting.

Discussions were broad. They considered the value of clarifying the meaning of community resilience; whether the focus would be rural or broader; that the document would have more weight with the “ambition” part more to the fore; clarifying ambiguities in some of the wordings, (notably in respect of natural resources; broadening the view of economic action; that solutions for urban are not necessarily the best for rural; and the place of language was understated.

Discussion also considered whether the key messages might be better delivered in a shorter document, perhaps using a more graphically-based presentation.

It was agreed that [The Chair] redraft the paper and recirculate. Members should comment by correspondence if possible, with a view to adopting the paper at the next meeting and having it available for the meeting of the full Roundtable in January. [The Chair], [Welsh Government Official 11] and [Welsh Government Official 3] would discuss an alternative presentation once the key messages were agreed by the Group.

7. Agree Digital Connectivity paper

The Digital Connectivity paper was circulated in advance of this meeting. [Gwynedd CC] gave an overview of the background to the paper and the group were asked for any comments. [Cardiff University] put forward the need to cross reference this paper with the Visions paper. The group were asked to send any remaining comments to [Gwynedd CC] in order for the paper to be redrafted and recirculated to the group.

8. Any other Business

No other business.