**REGIONAL LEARNING AND SKILLS PARTNERSHIP**

**BOARD MEETING**

**MINUTES OF THE ADDITIONAL MEETING HELD**

**Wednesday 19th February, 14:30**

**The Beacon, Llanelli**

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| **Name** |  | **Representing** |
| Andrew Beer | AB | Manufacturing Chair |
| Kevin Foley | KF | Digital Chair |
| Angela Maguire-Lewis | AML | NTFW |
| Angela West | AW | MEDR |
| Barry Walters | BW | Chair of Provider Group |
| Eleri Lewis | EL | Welsh Government |
| Elwen Evans | EE | Higher Education |
| Amanda Daniels | AD | Coleg Sir Gar |
| Jane Lewis | JL | RLSP Manager |
| Dean Ward | DW | RLSP Chair |
| George Ried | GR | Tourism Chair |
| Lianne Thomas-Jones | LTJ | DWP |

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| Item |  | Actions |
| 1 | **Presentation on Degree Apprenticeships from UWTSD and Swansea University**  Emily Hunt from UWTSD and Maria Moller from Swansea University presented to the board on the degree apprenticeships offer.    DW thanked both presenters for their valuable time and insightful presentations to the board. He emphasised the importance of the topics discussed and encouraged all board members to engage further by reaching out to Emily and Maria for more information on degree apprenticeships. He highlighted the potential benefits and opportunities these programs could offer to the organisation and its members. |  |
| 2 | RSP Chair Activity update  DW provided the board with a comprehensive update on recent activities. DW reported that he had attended several events on behalf of the RLSP, engaging with new companies to encourage their participation in cluster groups. DW emphasised the significant impact these clusters have on the work of the RLSP and informed the board that he will be attending the next round of cluster group  meetings.  Additionally, DW participated in the RLSP away day, where he had the opportunity to meet the entire team. He reiterated his commitment to supporting all board members and understanding their challenges. |  |
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| 3. | Skills and Talent Programme:  To consider the recommendations from the Provider Group on the following pilot projects:   1. Semicon   JL informed the members SEMICON-WEST is a pilot project led by Swansea University and CSconnected that aims to strengthen Wales's semiconductor skills pipeline by bridging the talent gap from primary education to industry professionals. The Welsh semiconductor industry is on course to create over 3,000 jobs by 2025, requiring new qualifications, outreach, and training resources.  **After an extensive discussion and** **several concerns were discussed, it was**  **AGREED that the project would be refused.**   1. Now Manufacturing/Energy and Environment   JL informed the group that the three applications covering different elements for the NOW programme of Energy, Environmental and Manufacturing.  The Net Zero Wales (NOW) Manufacturing project is one of five initiatives, alongside NOW Law, NOW Energy, NOW Management, and NOW Environment, aimed at addressing key skills gaps in South West Wales. The programme focused on developing expertise in sustainable manufacturing, resource management, and advanced production techniques relevant to Freeport operations and the renewable energy sector.  **After an extensive discussion, it was AGREED that the project would be approved.**  c.         Hwb 360  JL informed the members of the project which is advancing Sustainability and Wellbeing In the South West Region. Accredited by AIM Qualifications and Assessments, the initiative aims to empower individuals to support their company’s sustainability goals and adopt sustainable practices.  **After an extensive discussion and several concerns, it was**  **AGREED that the project would be refused**  B To receive an update on projects and spend.  JL raised concerns regarding a project with Swansea University that should have been completed by now. The project experienced a delayed start, but there had been no claims of progress reports submitted. To address these concerns, a meeting  had been scheduled with Swansea University to discuss the matter further.  JL informed the Board that a further application from UWTSD was also behind schedule and a meeting had been arranged to discuss the issue around delivery.  JL confirmed with the board that a project closure report will be given at the next board meeting. | ACTION - a project closure report will be given at the next board meeting. |
|  | **Medr update**  AW provided an update on Medr, and all the details from her update are included in the attachment.  A close-up of a logo  AI-generated content may be incorrect.  A black and white sign with a red and white text  AI-generated content may be incorrect. |  |
|  | **Welsh Government Update**  EL provided an update on Tata, noting that there has been no change in the React Programme since November. However, there has been a significant shift in the way support is accessed. Previously, individuals residing outside of Neath Port Talbot sought assistance from their respective local authorities. Now, these individuals are turning to NPT for help. This change has led to an increase in the number of people accessing the fund. Additionally, the number of job fairs has risen, and the support hub continues to perform well, effectively referring individuals to the most appropriate resources and services. Notably, the recent job fair saw an impressive attendance of 417 individuals. These developments indicate a positive trend in the support provided to the community. |  |
|  | **Manager’s update on activity**  JL provided an update on recent activities, highlighting that the 4 RSP and 4 Chairs had a productive meeting with the Minister, with the primary focus on achieving net zero. This is a significant area of interest, and the discussions were centred around the necessary steps to reach this goal. During Apprenticeship Week, the RLSP attended several events, which offered valuable opportunities for engagement. One notable success was the Explore Engineering initiative, which has been very well received. Building on this momentum, efforts are now underway to develop Explore Digital and Explore Green, aiming to broaden the scope of career exposure for young learners. Additionally, the team has been actively participating in parents' evenings, engaging with parents to discuss how young learners are receiving career advice. This direct communication is essential for ensuring that parents are well-informed and involved in their children's career development. Furthermore, JL has contributed to the review of the apprenticeship programme, providing important feedback to help shape its future direction. |  |