



Cyngor Sir
CEREDIGION
County Council

Neuadd y Sir / County Hall
Llandrindod Wells
Powys
LD1 5LG

Neuadd Cyngor Ceredigion
Penmorfa
Aberaeron
Ceredigion
SA46 0PA

Andrew R T Davies MS,
Chair: Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee,
Welsh Parliament,
Cardiff Bay.

7 July, 2025

Sent by e-mail only:
SeneddEconomy@senedd.wales

Dear Chair,

Business Support Landscape

Thank you for your letter dated 11th June, 2025 in relation to the above. Please find below the responses to the questions contained in your letter.

- *How do the activities of the Growth Deal fit within the wider business support landscape?*
 - The Growth Deal is a capital fund that supports large scale economic infrastructure. Business support is a suite of support provided primarily via Welsh Government via its Business Wales service.
 - The Growth Deal supports capital economic projects in key sectors and whilst draws in private sector investment and engagement with businesses – it is wholly complementary to the Business Wales offer.
 - Officer teams regularly engage on these aspects and ensure continual awareness of provision and plans.
- *How do you ensure you develop projects or funding schemes that add to rather than duplicate existing business support provision? For example, how does the scope of the Mid Wales Commercial Property Investment Fund differ from the commercial property loans offered via the Development Bank of Wales?*
 - Conversations were had between officials as proposals were designed. The Mid Wales Commercial Property Investment Fund was developed on the basis of evidenced demand and need. The Offer by Development Bank is a loan, whilst the product we have is a grant.

- *What involvement you expect to have in the Welsh Government's review of business support, including any potential improvements you would wish to see being taken forward as a result of the review?*
 - We expect that we will be engaged in this review and have the opportunity to input.
 - We would like to see more thought given to the tailoring of provision to meet the needs and demands of the Mid Wales economy. The example of the Commercial Property Investment Fund underlines that whilst national programmes and policy have taken a certain approach – there are gaps and challenges in Mid Wales that need to be addressed.
 - We have a significant amount of micro/small businesses, as well as a mix of larger businesses – but not a lot in the middle.
 - Cuts in recent years to the budget of Business Wales (due to loss of EU funds) has seen a diminishing of resource on the ground, and anecdotally, we feel this is an area that we should be collectively focusing on moving forward with Government.
 - We would also like to be considered a key strategic partner in the design of future programmes – if we are governing regional partnerships in Welsh regions in conjunction with cross-sector partners – then it would be amiss not to ensure that the intelligence from all of that efforts do not directly feed into the design of things moving forward. Examples here being the Regional Skills Partnership and its cluster groups – significant effort is being made by the private sector to identify and tackle skills barriers and gaps – that have a bearing on business support needs.

Yours sincerely,



Councillor Bryan Davies
Leader of Ceredigion County Council
Joint Chair of the
Growing Mid Wales Board



Councillor Jake Berriman
Leader of Powys County Council
Joint Chair of the
Growing Mid Wales Board