



## Ireland Wales Programme 2014-2020

Programme Monitoring Committee - Meeting 7

Thursday 23rd November 2017 10.15a.m

Swansea University Campus, Swansea

		Papers
	10:00 – 10:15 Tea and Coffee on arrival	
1	10:15 – 10:25 Welcome, Opening and Introduction - Sioned Evans Chair and David Kelly Joint Chair	
2	10:25 – 10:35 Minutes of PMC Meeting 6 including action points – 9 <sup>th</sup> May 2017 Kilkenny – Sioned Evans	IWPMC1420(07)01
3	10:35 – 10:55 EU Transition Update	Oral
4	10:55 – 11:00 Programme Update - Managing Authority – Mike Pollard	Oral
5	11:00 - 11:10 Joint Secretariat Programme Update and Development Report Linda Weaver	IWPMC1420(07)02
6	11:10 – 11:20 Communications Update – Mike Pollard	IWPMC1420(07)03
7	11:20 – 11:45 Project Presentation - CALIN	
8	11:45 – 11:50 PMC Arrangements – Sioned Evans	Oral
9	11:50 – 12:00 Boosting growth and cohesion in EU border regions - Marianne Van De Vorle	Oral
10	12:00 – 12:15 Any Other Business/Date of next meeting	
	12:15 – 13:00 Lunch	
11	13:00 - End Brief Tour of Swansea University Campus	



## **Ireland Wales Programme 2014-2020**

Programme Monitoring Committee – Meeting 7  
The Swansea Bay Campus, Swansea, Wales  
23<sup>rd</sup> November 2017

A list of attendees is shown at Annex 1.

A list of apologies is shown at Annex 2.

### **Agenda Item 1 – Welcome – Opening and Introductions**

1. The Chair Sioned Evans (SE), welcomed members to the Swansea Bay University Campus and the seventh PMC of the 2014-2020 Ireland Wales Programme. The Chair noted the number of alternates and new members around the table and requested that all attendees introduce themselves.

Please note that Annex 1 lists those that attended and Annex 2 records the apologies.

2. SE thanked the members from Ireland for travelling over to attend the meeting, and welcomed the EU Desk Officer Marianne Van De Vorle.
3. SE thanked Professor Richard Davies from the Swansea University for hosting last night's meal and providing the venue for the meeting along with arranging a tour of the campus for members.
4. SE explained to the members that despite the efforts of the Joint Secretariat (JS) this meeting was not quorate as defined within the Terms and Conditions. In order to be quorate the PMC require a minimum of 13 members to be present and unfortunately there were 12, consequentially SE informed members that no official decisions could be taken. SE said that she felt the meeting should go ahead in order to keep the momentum of the valued discussions that are derived

from these meeting and to continue to build on the relationships between both countries.

5. SE welcomed Des Clifford (DC) to the meeting and explained that DC would be providing members with an update in terms of EU Transition.
6. SE took the opportunity to update members on the recent approval of the More Than a Club project, confirming that with this approval the programme's committed funds now totalled a little over €40million.
7. SE welcomed David Kelly (DK) to Co-Chair the meeting.
8. DK expressed his wish to maintain the momentum of PMC discussions. DK thanked Professor Richard Davies for hosting the PMC and the evening meal.

### **Agenda Item 3 EU Transition Update**

9. DC apologised for the change in the agenda's running order as a consequence of his need to return to Cardiff to meet his visitors from Berlin.
10. DC updated the members regarding Welsh Government's current position. Currently, phase 1 also known as the Article 50 negotiations are well under way and are reaching a critical stage as phase 1 i.e. December 14th and 15th meeting to enable negotiations to move towards phase 2. Phase 1 is focused on the terms of the UK's departure. DC mentioned that there are three main areas of discussion i.e. money, citizen rights and Ireland and the Irish Border issues.
  - a. Citizen rights – substantial progress has been made and would not be an issue going into the talks to move forward to phase 2;
  - b. Money – these discussions aim to resolve the extent to which the UK liabilities are, in financial terms as recognised by the European Union as a consequence of the Art 50 process. The UK Government Cabinet Sub-Committee on Europe met this week in London agreeing that the financial amount offered will need to be increased. No actual figures have been announced, and
  - c. Irish Land Border issues – Little progress has been made until now, The Irish Government has openly said that they would like written assurances prior to the commencement of phase 2 of the negotiations.

11. DC felt that should the UK Government adopt the recommendations put forward in a Welsh Government White Paper a significant amount of the issues relating to the Irish Border would be addressed. In reality DC confirmed that if the UK Government were to take the negotiating instructions from Welsh Government (as set out in the White Paper) a significant amount of issues around the land border would evaporate i.e. retain access to the single market through negotiations on a bi-lateral basis and the UK remain part of a renegotiated customs union.
12. WG remain engaged with the UK Government regarding the negotiation's representing Welsh interests.
13. DC confirmed that on December 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> the Heads of Government will get together with EU representatives, with the ambition of securing an agreement to open the door to phase 2 of the negotiations. This phase will address the future relationship between the EU and the UK Government.
14. The EC have been clear that they will not open further discussions and move into phase two without sufficient progress being made in phase 1. If there is no agreement made at the December European Council meeting, this could be seen as a critical stage in the withdrawal of the UK from the EU given the deadline in March 2019 DC confirmed.
15. DC declared that it is not the desire of WG and the UK Government to see the implementation of the World Trade Arrangements.
16. DC highlighted some WG priorities:
  - a. The future relationship that Wales wants with the EU is, while Wales may not be part of the EU it wants to remain a European Country;
  - b. WG want to continue to have access to Interreg on a similar basis to those countries outside the EU, following the approach in Norway, this is negotiable, therefore continuing the relationship with Wales and Ireland;
  - c. Maritime boarder – the joint interest in maximising this asset given the high percentage of goods that are shipped from Ireland via Wales to the European market;
  - d. Border Issues – concerns with regards to possible tariffs that disadvantage Welsh ports and encourage traffic through alternative ports i.e. Scotland. These are circumstances that WG would not want to see arise.

- e. Talks are continuing between the two Ministers and dialogue is actively occurring via the T Shop, with the next meeting taking place in January. It is anticipated that the Ministers will meet up early next year in Dublin.

17. The Chair thanked DC for his update and opened the agenda item up for discussion.

- a. A question was asked regarding the best way to avoid a 'crisis'; loss of skills in sectors such as health and construction; stating that the proposed timescale of a transition period should be greater than 2 years and moving towards 5 years. DC agreed and confirmed that businesses were also in agreement regarding the economic damage happening in the UK and Wales. DC explained that from discussions with businesses the effect of Brexit is not waiting until March 2019 but in fact it has already started to take affect. DC appreciates the loss of skills etc along with its potential to impact both now and in the future of the Welsh economy. DC highlighted that business are making strategic plans now and as a consequence there are instances where investment decisions were not being made in favour of Wales due to the current uncertainty. DC referred to a recent White Paper 'Securing Wales' Future' produced by the WG within which 1 of the 6 key points highlighted was regarding the transition period and in particular its length. In that it may well prove too short to enable the UK to conclude a successful withdrawal agreement and a new trading relationship with our EU partners.
- b. Observations were also made by members regarding the impact on the tourism sector, noting a 7% drop in Ireland. The PA3 Call was referenced by members with the view that it would positively impact visitor numbers. Continuing on the tourism theme it was noted that Wales was currently experiencing a spike with a caveat that there was uncertainty as to how long this would last. In particular it was noted that hoteliers are currently experiencing difficulties in recruiting staff. DC outlined that Welsh Government does have a positive view of migration from the EU into Wales and is aware of the impact that this will have on many sectors including tourism, academia and the NHS should this not be handled correctly. Once again DC referred to the document produced by WG and presented to the UK Government to assure members of WG wishes regarding migration. Welsh Government feels that migration and the free movement of people should be linked to employment needs as there are

- benefits to both the UK/Wales and the EU (people should come with a job offer or with a short term view to sourcing one i.e. 3-6 months).
- c. In response a question was asked, should migration be restricted to only those with job offers or should the humane side of cases be taken into account i.e. refugees, when determining the numbers to be accepted. DC confirmed that Welsh Government has no constitutional powers over refugee policy (Non EU citizens), this is exclusively a UK area of competence. DC summarised that WG Ministers would want Wales to make a humane contribution to the wider issues of the distribution of refugees in Europe.
  - d. David Kelly (DK) asked what DC thoughts were re: Brexit talks moving to Phase two December 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> given some of the discussions that have taken place on for example the Irish border? DC confirmed it was a difficult to respond one way or the other at this juncture. If the requirements to move the negotiations to next stage were based on the recognition of mutual interest in the long term then there could be a call for optimism. In the long term there is obvious interest in the UK and EU having agreement in how to manage affairs in for example trade. DC offered caution as these negotiations are about mutual interest, consideration must be offered to the complicated set of political concerns in UK Government. There is also a set of political issues across the 27 European States which add a further level of complexity. If the UK is perceived to have terms and conditions available to it which are equal to or greater than those countries that are members of the EU this would not be a workable situation. For example if the UK were to walk away with better terms and conditions than Canada who have spent many years working on their trade agreement questions would be raised from within the EU countries.
  - e. In response to a members concern regarding the continued references to the land border issues and the perceived lack of UK Government engagement on the sea border, an Irish member acknowledged that it does not get the attention in comparison to the land border but reassured members that it is not forgotten. DK explained that the Peace Process receives a higher profile.
  - f. It was noted that people/business from Ireland want a soft border between the north and south of the country and Ireland and the UK due to the potential impact a hard border may have on the Irish exports going to the UK. It was also noted that Sterling was having an immediate effect on business given its current rate and the impact this would have on

business' margins.

18. SE thanked DC for his time and contribution to meeting.

**Agenda Item 2 – Minutes of PMC Meeting 6 including action points – May 9<sup>th</sup> 2017 Kilkenny**

19. SE explained to the members that as a consequence of this PMC failing to be quorate, and in line with the PMC Rules of Procedure, the draft minutes from the 6th PMC held in Kilkenny would not be formally approved during this PMC meeting. The formal approval process would be undertaken via written procedure in due course after this PMC meeting has concluded.

20. SE asked members for any comments or narrative that needed to be incorporated? SE informed the Committee that these draft minutes were yet to receive sign off by colleagues in the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform in Ireland, however this would be undertaken.

21. SE confirmed that in the absence of any requests to propose any amendments and with no observations put forward the approval of these minutes would now be made via written procedure.

**Agenda Item 4 – Programme Update – Managing Authority**

22. SE introduced Mike Pollard (MP) to lead this agenda item.

23. MP felt that further to DC item he would take the opportunity to update members on the work being undertaken on Interreg with UK Government and devolved administration colleagues pushing along the ETC agenda. The lines of communication in terms of Interreg are very open with Business Energy and Industrial Strategy who have the policy lead at a UK level for ETC and with Department of Communities and Local Government who hold the operational lead. MP noted that quarterly UK management meetings are held across all programmes with a UK/Welsh interest. Furthermore regular telephone catch ups are held with colleagues in Northern Ireland and Scotland which continue to prove very important at this juncture given the uncertainty around Brexit. MP stated that the UK Government are pressed for their plans regarding Interreg's current programmes, over and above what is already known about the Treasury Guarantee. MP stated that along with Wales, the other devolved administrations

including our Irish Government colleagues from DERP, who were unable to attend today's meeting, are interested to know how the 2014-2020 programmes are going to play out. MP assured members that the UK Government are continually asked for greater transparency, however little is forthcoming despite the full and open lines of communication. MP has asked UK Government for a greater understanding around the possibility of a transition period further to the Prime Minister's Florence speech and how this would align with Interreg programmes. MP said that Partners are also asking how finances will flow post 2019, MP assured members that the Treasury Department is aware of the nuances of the programme.

24. MP referenced the recent conference jointly run by Welsh Government and the Committee of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR) which was held in Cardiff on the 16<sup>th</sup> November, during which the Cardiff Declaration document was signed. This Declaration sets out the key political messages to the European Commission and European Parliament, and UK Government. In an ETC context MP informed members that this stresses the importance of future participation of UK Nations in any future EU ETC programmes and advocates that in the case of a 'no agreement' post Brexit Co-operation framework with the EU 27 that the EC open the possibility of UK devolved administrations including the Welsh Government to participate directly in European programmes. MP re-iterated the importance of signing the declaration as a clear statement made by the First Minister on behalf of the Welsh Government declaring their continued desire to engage with European programmes. The First Minister also re-affirmed the Welsh Government's desire to develop relationships with key partners, including deepening the engagement with Ireland outside of the EU, building on the close bond that is already in place between the two nations in developing a successor programme with the Irish Government beyond 2020.

25. SE opened the agenda item to members for discussion.

26. A member asked for additional information as to where the funding will be coming from post 2019 given that a large proportion of programme funding will be required after this time. MP confirmed that he was in discussions with UK Government in order to obtain further clarification and at this point he could not confirm what financial mechanisms will be in place. MP assured members that as more information was available he would let members know. Jane McMillian (JM) took to assure members that WEFO is still working on the premise of the Treasury's Guarantee which covers the Ireland Wales Programme, and states that projects approved up until the point at which UK departs the EU will be



covered by the Guarantee. JM reiterated that currently we are not aware what mechanisms will be in place post March 2019.

27. DK asked how the Treasury Guarantee aligns itself with a possible move to change the date of March 2019? JM confirmed that the guarantee stands as per the March 2019 date, however with regards to the possibility of transitional period and the mechanics of funding, these are all matters that are yet to be decided. JM confirmed that WEFO are currently working to this deadline in terms of approving projects to ensure the maximum financial benefits to Wales.

28. A member sought clarification regarding the timing of payments for individual projects in respect of the Treasury Guarantee i.e. paid at some point but not necessarily within the timescales projects would expect? JM confirmed that the implication from the Guarantee is that the payment would be covered within the timescales of the programme and the projects delivery profiles, further finite details are still to be confirmed. SE confirmed that Welsh Government and WEFO have accepted the wording of the Treasury Guarantee in terms of projects being covered until March 2019 and therefore working on the premise of 'business as usual' in that we are looking for the same quality of projects to meet our criteria for eligibility, WEFO are looking to accelerate the rate at which the projects are coming through.

29. In response to a members concerns regarding the possible effect on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector lead projects regarding untimely payments, SE stated that it is not the intention of the either the UK or Welsh Governments to expose 3<sup>rd</sup> Sector organisations financially and put cash flows at risk and any financial mechanisms would need to take this into account.

30. JM confirmed in response to a question of applying a set criterion against projects to determining eligibility for the Treasury Guarantee and funds being released, WEFO as the Managing Authority have set the strategy for the programmes, WEFO assess the projects and determine if they offer the strategic alignment. MP re-iterated that WEFO's processes are such that checks are made against value for money and fit with policy requirements. JM mentioned that one area that might be of concern is the performance of the programme and/or projects, however this is monitored by regular project review meetings that follow a clear formal procedure for each review meeting.

31. SE added that in terms of committing European funds, Wales is currently second in Europe but there is a difference in terms of following the profiled spend. JM

confirmed, this will continued to be monitored on a regular basis. WEFO staff, have regular review meetings with lead beneficiary's during which they communicate the need for them to adhere to their profiled spending and their indicators. SE said that as the Treasury Guarantee has not been nailed down the need is there for this programme and all European Programmes to be in a position to confirm that both the commitment and spending of the funds are in line with WEFO's expectations.

32. JM said that there are formal audit structured checks carried out in both Countries, in Ireland there are First Level Controllers and within Wales the Management Verification Checks Team fulfil these requirements. Programme checks take the form of financial, financial compliance of spend and the delivery of activity that the projects have confirmed within their business.
33. DK said that as part of the new 2014 -2020 programmes the ability to demonstrate that a project has delivered in line with its business plan aligns itself to the new performance framework.

### **Agenda Item 5 – Joint Secretariat Programme Update and Development Report**

34. Linda Weaver (LW), Head of the Joint Secretariat (JS) introduced the Programme Update Report which summarised the progress since the sixth PMC meeting in May 2017. It included a progress report on those projects in the appraisal system, an overview of grant commitment levels, and initial information on forecast outputs for those projects in the system. The N+3 expenditure targets were highlighted at paragraphs 17 and 18 of the report, noting that the first target will be end 2018.
35. The progress of each Priority Axis (PA) was summarised. Ten operations had now been formally approved in PA1 and PA2 and one in PA4. Section 6 headlines the financial commitment position of the programme; Table 1 provides a complete financial picture of business in the system and confirms a current programme commitment of 52%.

1. PA1 – LW confirmed that there are 6 approvals in Priority 1 with the latest being More Than a Club which was launch early this year;
2. PA2 – a total of 4 approvals, and
3. PA4 – one project approved, which is the TA project.

36. LW informed the PMC of the very healthy pipeline of proposals in business planning i.e. 22, however LW informed members that it was unlikely that all of these proposal will be taken through to a funding decision (for further information please refer to paper IWPMC1420(07)02 paras 8 and 9).
37. LW provided the members with the welcomed news that the JS are currently preparing their first PA3 project for approval namely Celtic Routes, and with the approval of this project the programmes commitment levels would increase to 54%.
38. LW updated the Committee on the PA3 Call held earlier in the year, noting a positive response which saw 25 proposals being submitted, 12 were Irish led and 13 Welsh led. With a total amount of ERDF funding requested of €36m.
39. A Technical Group meeting was held as a result of which 6 of the proposals progressed to business planning (4 Welsh led and 2 Irish led), requesting ERDF of circa €11.28m. In addition LW confirmed that 3 proposals were returned for further work, with a specified timeframe for re-submission representing ERDF funding of €5.0m. LW informed members that the 3 proposals returned for further work had in fact been re-submitted, it is the JS's intention to process these three via a written TG next week. The total potential commitment for PA 3 is €22.1m with €15.5 available. As a consequence of this the Programme Steering Committee (PSC) will have to undertake a competitive process. It is the intention of the JS to organise a PSC meeting in June 2018 in order to meet the tight timescales ahead to ensure that the maximum amount of funds can be committed.
40. To summaries LW said that there are 12 proposals in the system 9 are in business planning (for a list of the 12 proposals please refer to paper IWPMC1420(07)02 pages 5 and 6). LW highlighted that the minutes from the TG were attached to this paper for reference; these minutes detailed the decisions regarding the 25 proposals.
41. Six business plans had been considered by the PSC since the PMC last met in May, 2 of which were operations requiring funding decisions for approval i.e. PA1 More Than a Club and PA3 Celtic Routes.

42. LW referenced paras 17 and 18 which provided members with clarification regarding Programme Expenditure Targets (N+3). Further to a recent financial declaration to the EC of €820,000 and with what is in the system we have a sufficient amount to reach our N+3 target for 2018.
43. LW confirmed that the first European Fund Audit had taken place covering Key Requirements 1 and 2, LW referenced the conclusions of the audit as detailed at para 19. The MA and JS have set out an action plan LW confirmed, which will address the issues raised in the audit.
44. LW confirmed following the approval Annual Implementation Report (AIR) by the PMC the 2016 report is available on the Ireland/Wales website.
45. LW drew the members' attention to Annex A and the Indicator tables broken down per priority. LW explained that these figures are representative of those approved projects only, therefore as and when more projects progress from business planning to approved, these figures will look much improved. The JS is currently working on refining indicator definitions.
46. LW mentioned that Annex B was the Technical Group Meeting 7 minutes, which includes a summary of each proposals and the TG decisions.
47. LW circulated at the PMC Annex C for members to view and explained that it was a number of spreadsheets that provided a sectorial and geographical breakdown and an analysis of the organisations engaging with the programme. LW confirmed that for future meetings she will aim to produce colour pie charts to display this information.
48. A member noted that as most of the organisations engaged with this programme are public sector bodies the issues discussed earlier regarding cash flows should not be as great as originally thought.
49. Further to the JS Update a number of members declared a possible conflict of interest in some of the proposals and approved projects:-
- i. Jason Thomas (WG Visit Wales e.g. CADW)
  - ii. Gwyn Evans (Pembrokeshire County Council)
  - iii. Deirdre Finlay (The WHEEL)
  - iv. Jessica Williams (WCVA)

**Action Point: 23.12.2017/1 Those members listed above are to provide further details regarding their conflict of interest relating to Ireland Wales Programme's projects that they are linked to.**

50. A member noted that the minutes stated that the More Than a Club project was under PA3 when in fact it should be PA1. LW confirmed that the minutes will be amended to reflect the correct categorisation.

51. With reference to page 4 of the JS update Gwyn Evans from Pembrokeshire County Council reference the narrative that clarified why the Exportable project had been withdrawn. GE confirmed that he had received an email from Swansea Council which provides a different account, in that they spent a good deal of time initially working on the proposal and as time went on it became difficult to see what the Lead Beneficiary wanted from the project. This opinion GE said was also that of Swansea University. GE said that both Pembrokeshire County Council and Swansea University communicated to John that neither organisation could commit the resource required as there was a massive amount of work involved based on the queries involved. GE requested that the minutes reflect the position from all partners involved and not just the lead.

52. In response to GW, LW clarified that the narrative had been taken from a communication with the lead beneficiary and not something that the JS had devised.

**Action Point: 23.11.2017/2 LW confirmed that this would be reflected in the minutes.**

53. A member asked LW how the figure of €22.1m referenced on page 5 under Call Summary had been calculated. LW confirmed that this figure includes those projects in business planning.

54. A member asked if there was another project with the name of Celtic Routes in this or another programme, as Ceredigion County Council believes that there is a project with this name currently running. A member confirmed that Visit Wales had just had a major launch of three iconic routes in Wales, one is called The Cambrian Way but it has sometimes been referred to as Celtic Routes hence the possible confusion.

**Action Point 23.11.2017/3 JS to discuss any potential cross over /**

## **confusion between Celtic Routes and Legendary Celtic Coasts**

55. It was queried that regarding the figures shown on the indicator table on page 9; with a programme approval rate of 54% the indicator 'number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products target', its current project forecast are quite some distance apart. Both JM and LW confirmed that this indicator has caused some confusion for organisations when determining if they are able to meet the audit requirements in order to claim against it and once clarification has been provided it is anticipated that the indicator forecast figures will increase. JM predicted that many organisations are already undertaking activities that will enable them to record achievements once the definition of this indicator is provided.

56. A member urged the JS to consider the long term sustainability of the projects that are coming through.

57. JM thanked LW for a positive update from the JS noting the progress that has been made in PA3. DK re-iterated JM's thoughts regarding the success of the PA3 call given the concerns that had been noted on the Irish side in terms of a drop off of interest in the programme, along with the impetus of having the targeted call it was felt addressed these concerns.

## **Agenda Item 7 – Project Presentation – CALIN**

58. The Chair welcomed Gareth Healey and Steve Conlan from Swansea University and the CALIN project to the PMC. Both CALIN representatives provided the PMC with an informative presentation describing the approved project's aims and objectives.

59. The Chair thanked both project representatives for his presentation and offered the members the opportunity to ask any questions. A useful Q&A session was held, and many probing questions were posed by the members.

## **Agenda Item 6 – Communications Update**

60. MP took the members through the Communication's Update that had previously been circulated to members. MP confirmed that this update aligns itself with the programmes Communication Strategy, approved by the PMC.

61. MP referenced Annex 1 which provided the PMC with both a visual update of the programme's media coverage and a breakdown of the media platforms statistics.

62. MP focused the member's attention towards the publicity around the PA3 Call and the re-invigoration of the programme. The need to generate interest to address the PA3's low level of proposals also enabled the programme itself to gain momentum and in turn raise its profile in both countries. A workshop was arranged in Ireland for those interested in the PA3 Call enabling the wider programme messages to be heard. MP felt that the activities undertaken by the JS to address the PMC's concerns regarding low level of interest in PA3 were positively received and have been successful given the 25 proposals that were submitted. An additional and very welcome benefit of this activity has been the addition of new partners to the table.

**Action Point 23.11.2017/4 – Jason Thomas to investigate further the possible links between Visit Wales' twitter account and the Ireland Wales' one.**

63. A member complimented the JS on their hard work to turnaround what was looking like a particularly difficult task (as outlined in the Kilkenny PMC) in generating a great deal of interest in the PA3.

**Agenda Item 8 – PMC Arrangements**

64. SE introduced this item, stating that the JS had undertaken a great deal of work in order to ensure that this meeting was quorate however given a last minute withdrawal this was not possible. The JS ensures that dates for the PMC meetings are sent out for acceptance in advance of the meeting. SE asked that what the JS could do in the future to facilitate these meetings to ensure greater attendance and consistency of members attending, location and timings of the meetings, the following were noted by members:-

- i. Is the need to be quorate 'written in stone';
- ii. It was welcomed having the dates in the diaries as soon as possible;
- iii. Well organised;
- iv. Welcomed the recognition that having Des Clifford in attendance demonstrates the central importance of the programme;
- v. Members Directors/Senior Management must understand the buy required and in turn engage;

- vi. A Member that is attending today as an alternate will take the message back regarding the importance of regular attendance;
- vii. Useful to have the flexibility to delegate attendees;
- viii. Possibility of holding meetings via a V/C;
- ix. If the need to have the meetings held within the programme area is becoming a stumbling block could this be reconsidered;
- x. MP felt that having Cardiff as an option would be sensible;
- xi. MP agreed we should look to use a V/C in exceptional circumstance however we must be mindful of losing the dynamic that a face to face meeting brings;
- xii. DK questioned the timing of the meetings i.e. bring the second PMC meeting more towards September/ October. LW confirmed that common practice was to hold the meetings in April and September however over time the ability to secure a convenient date has resulted in the second meeting slipping;

**Action Point 23.11.2017/5 David Kelly to chase the vacant positions on the PMC.**

**Action Point 23.11.2017/6 JS to consider the Committees' feedback regarding future PMC meetings in order to increase engagement of members and numbers attending.**

**Agenda Item 9 – Boosting growth and cohesion in EU border regions**

65. The Chair introduced Marianne Van De Vorle (MVDV) the EU's representative on the Committee to lead on this agenda item.

66. MVDV informed the Committee of the recent EC communication regarding measures to boost growth and jobs in border regions and circulated a leaflet for members to view. The leaflet was a culmination of two years research and has result in 10 measures that will address the identified challenges.

**Action Point 23.11.2017/7 JS to re-tweet regarding this.**

**Agenda Item 10 Any other business/Date of next meeting**

67. Further to the Chair's request for any other business, DK asked MVDV for an update on the closure of the 2007/2013 programme. MVDV confirmed that



regarding the final report, she was waiting for the Auditors to come back to her.

68. The anticipated location for the next PMC is Waterford however this and the date will be confirmed in due course.

69. The Chair thanked members of their time and participation in the meeting.

Annex 1 – List of Meeting Attendees

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organisation</u>
Gwyn Evans	WLGA
Professor Richard Davies	HEA Wales
Dr Alastair Davies	Welsh Government
Des Clifford	Welsh Government
Lucy Corfield	Welsh Government
Chriss O’Connell	Equal Opportunities
Jessica Williams	WCVA
Jason Thomas	Welsh Government
Cllr Brian McDonagh	E&MRA
Colm O’Connor	Irish Government
Stewart Roche	Higher Education Authority Ireland
Deirdre Finlay	WHEEL
Ciaran Kelly	The Marine Institute
Marianne Van de Vorle	EU Desk Officer
Sioned Evans	WEFO
Jane McMillan	WEFO
Mike Pollard	WEFO
Linda Weaver	WEFO
Phillipa Morgan	WEFO
Patrick Lilly	WEFO

David Kelly	SRA
Breda Curran	SRA
Marie Harnett	SRA

Annex 2 – List of Apologies

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organisation</u>
Barbara Burchell	WLGA – North Wales (Observer)
Andy Richards	Unite Union
Peter Quantick	Commerce
Siobhan O’Higgins	Department for Public Expenditure and Reform
Stephen Blair	Southern Regional Assembly
Tracy Murphy	Department for Jobs Enterprise and Innovation
Niall McDonough	The Marine Institute (alternate Ciaran Kelly)
Cllr Seamus Cosai Fitzgerald	Southern Regional Assembly Councillor
Cllr Brian McDonagh	E&MRA
Jonathan Earl	Chambers Ireland
Sarah Clarke	Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU)
Deirdre Garvey	WHEEL (alternate Deirdre Finlay)
Dave Corcoran	Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment
Labhaoise McKenna	EMRA (Observer)
Breda Curran	SRA
Bethan Thomas	WEFO

