

Marches Forward Partnership Memorandum of Understanding

Meeting: Cabinet

Meeting date: Thursday 28 September 2023

Cabinet member: Jonathan Lester, Corporate Strategy and Budget

Report by: Corporate Director, Economy and Environment

**Report author: Roger Allonby, Service Director Economy and Growth,
Economy and Environment**

Supplementary information

Please note that a Political Group Consultation took place on 21 September 2023 and summary is:

- A range of comments were received both via the Group Leaders meeting on the 20th September and the Political Group Consultation on the 21st September. It was commented that the core of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) focusses on shared skills, learning and collaboration, yet most of the media coverage has been on securing funding.
- The focus should be on collaboration with our neighbours. The MOU only mentions working together on climate adaptation, and should be much stronger on our shared cross council and national commitment to zero carbon across all of the identified themes.
- There is an opportunity for shared learning on 20mph traffic zones which Wales who are now implementing. The MoU is very focussed on the councils and we need to ensure businesses are engaged across the identified geography.
- We need to ensure the Parish Councils, particularly across the border areas, are fully engaged. Tourism and the development of Local Visitor Economy Partnerships is a joint opportunity and we should be working together.
- The MoU could be more ambitious in considering the sharing of cross council resources with each Local Authority encountering financial challenges. This is an opportunity to better co-ordinate cross border road works/ road improvements to achieve economies of scale and minimise disruption. We need to ensure that this structure doesn't just create a 'talking shop' but it adds value resulting in improved delivery for local residents.

The recommendations in the report are unchanged.