



Growing Mid Wales Newsletter

October

October Update 2022

Autumn is well underway, and we have the latest on the Mid Wales Growth Deal we want to share with you. We're going to take a closer look at the project proposals that are being developed as part of the Mid Wales Growth Deal Portfolio.

Also, recently the joint chairs of Growing Mid Wales and Leaders of Powys and Ceredigion County Councils, Councillor James Gibson-Watt and Councillor Bryan Davies, spoke with Business News Wales' editor Mark Powney about the importance of the partnership between both regions and the need work together in nurturing the economy in Mid Wales.

Listen to the audio feature [here](#).

This newsletter is now our regular way to communicate with our stakeholders/members, and we will always be looking at ways to improve the way we deliver our news. So, if you have any feedback, comments, or relevant content to feature here, we'd love to hear from you.

Helping to grow opportunity in Mid Wales,

The Growing Mid Wales Team



Fact of the month



In the 18th and early 19th centuries, Cardiganshire (now Ceredigion) had many different prosperous industries; Cardigan was the commercial centre of the county; lead, silver and zinc were mined and it was the principal port of South Wales prior to the silting of its harbour.

Source: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ceredigion>

Read on for more information on the following:

- [The Mid Wales Growth Deal Portfolio](#)
- [Mid Wales Growth Deal Project Proposals](#)
- [Other GMW News](#)

The Mid Wales Growth Deal Portfolio



In our July issue we explained the process for developing and submitting Business Cases for the Growth Deal Portfolio, in line with Government requirements. The project sponsors responsible for the development of those projects on the shortlist have been busy moving through the first stage of the process: the submission of the Strategic Outline Case.

As a reminder, the Business Case for significant spending proposals is developed in three key stages:

Stage 1: Scoping the scheme and preparing the Strategic Outline Case (SOC)

Stage 2: Planning the scheme & preparing the Outline Business Case (OBC)

Stage 3: Procuring the solution and preparing the Full Business Case (FBC)

This 3-stage process is to ensure review points are built in as a project is developed, enabling detail to be expanded over time with assurance that key criteria have been met.

At the Growing Mid Wales Board meeting on 26 September, members discussed the initial set of Strategic Outline Case submissions and assessments and approved the recommendations put forward. As a result, a number of projects have now been given approval to proceed to the next stage of their business case development, Outline Business Case.

Please note that any decision to proceed at this stage does not guarantee that Growth Deal funding will be awarded.

It is anticipated that the Outline Business Cases will be submitted in the new year. In the meantime, we are also expecting a couple more Strategic Outline Cases which were not previously ready for submission.

In addition to the SOCs, project sponsors also provided a carbon assessment form which provided initial thoughts on how to incorporate carbon reduction measures into project development. This is something that will be an important consideration for all proposals within the Growth Deal Portfolio to ensure that we contribute to Net Zero Wales aspirations.

As proposals are in the early stages of development, a breakdown of each project will be shared when the time is right for the individual sponsors. Watch this space!

Mid Wales Growth Deal Project Proposals



Here we take a brief look at the project proposals that are being developed for consideration for Growth Deal funding.



1 - Strategic Growth Priorities

The proposals cover a number of themes that have been identified under the strategic growth priority areas that were outlined in the [Vision](#) for Growing Mid Wales.

Aberaeron Harbour

Project Sponsor: Ceredigion County Council



Summary:

The town of Aberaeron is a well-known tourism destination, with its picturesque harbour and surrounding architecture.

This project aims to build on planned flood defence work to realise the economic potential of the harbour area and attract private sector investment. This includes assessing options on how

upgrading harbour infrastructure (potential impounding, development of harbour assets and town connectivity) can meet the needs of a modern tourism and visitor economy.

Elan Valley

Project Sponsor: Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water



Summary:

To improve the quality of the visitor experience at Elan Valley through investment in the visitor centre, amenities and infrastructure; limiting the impact on the environment through low carbon developments and using renewable energy sources.

This will include stabilisation works to Devil's Gulch, non-powered water sports, improved visitor accommodation, EV charging points, and connections for hydro power supply.

Food Manufacturing Innovation Centre

Project Sponsor: Ceredigion County Council

Summary:

To build a new centre providing facilities for the manufacture and development of innovative products through a state-of-the-art industrial pilot plant for food and drink products.

These innovative approaches to food and drink manufacture will enable the sector to build on the strengths of the already well-established agricultural and food sectors in the mid-Wales region.

The new facility will address the need for access to scalable specialist equipment to enable commercially applicable testing of new processes and products, providing commercial-scale data and analytics and to provide safe, quality products for market testing.

Crucially, the facility will support the growth of mid-sized food businesses in the region that will lead to increased productivity through the application of innovative processes at a larger scale.



Green Futures Innovation Park

Project Sponsor: Aberystwyth University



Summary:

The proposed Innovation Park will function as a catalyst for collaborative research and research commercialisation by providing support, facilities and offering opportunities for academic collaborations to promote green business growth and economic development focused on sustainability.

It will be the next step in establishing a fully developed innovation ecosystem, enabling high-technology low-carbon business to grow and attracting new business into the region.

Cynefin: The Green Heart of Wales

Project Sponsor: Centre for Alternative Technology



Summary:

A transformational redevelopment to create a powerful and immersive new learning experience and flagship sustainable visitor destination at the Centre for Alternative Technology, in the heart of Mid Wales.

The project will see the creation of world-class facilities to support the delivery of innovation, knowledge and skills for the future, with key areas including renewable energy, sustainable construction and retrofit, natural resource management, and food and land use.

Investment in teaching, conference and events spaces, accommodation, and an inspirational new visitor experience will expand capacity, grow audiences, create new jobs, and transform the learning experience.

This presents an opportunity to provide training and skills for the future whilst inspiring visitors of all ages to learn more about the part they can play in creating a healthier, safer future for our planet.

National Spectrum Centre

Project Sponsor: Aberystwyth University



Summary:

To establish a Radio Spectrum Centre with a hub and spoke model that will benefit from the region's varied environments (coastal, uplands, rural etc.) and provide a unique opportunity to address the issues around radio spectrum provision at a time when there is a rapidly growing demand for new applications such as intelligent farming; the Internet of Things; autonomous land, sea and air vehicles; beyond 5G; remote health monitoring etc.

Aberystwyth University and Welsh Government have already invested in Phase 1 of the project. This proposal is for investment in Phase 2 of the National Spectrum Centre development, which will provide a range of infrastructure identified by industry stakeholders, and the construction and purchase of the necessary infrastructure to enable the Centre to attract users and develop new, applied, scientific products and services.

Montgomery Canal Wales restoration to navigation

Project Sponsor: Canal & River Trust



Summary:

The proposal is focused on the restoration of the Montgomery Canal to facilitate linkage to the wider 2,000-mile Canal network in England and Wales, and particularly boater access through Powys to beyond Welshpool. It aims to enable enhanced opportunities for a wider range of visitor activities including overnight stays, with associated spend and presenting opportunities for leisure businesses including boat hire and adventurous activities.

The project involves clearance works and provision of infrastructure including dredging, repairing collapsed bank sections, repairing the Listed Grade II* Vyrnwy aqueduct, rebuilding two road bridges and building new nature reserve.

Canolfan Tir Glas

Project Sponsor: University of Wales Trinity Saint David



Summary:

Canolfan Tir Glas will deliver a unique and impactful opportunity in Mid Wales to secure the future of rural enterprise in the region by focusing and dramatically improving the existing business activities of rural companies, as well as creating an ideal environment for the support and growth of new enterprises in rural sectors.

Key to this will be the development of the Canolfan Tir Glas centre, a c1,530m² net zero carbon facility on the existing Lampeter campus that will provide a destination where the rural business community can work together to maximise innovation and development in the region.

What's next?

There are still a couple of project Strategic Outline Cases due to come forward. Once received, they will be assessed. In the meantime, we will be working with project sponsors to provide further information on the processes and requirements, and also to provide guidance on considerations for procurement, skills and carbon reduction as they develop their Business Cases further.

The next key milestone for the Growth Deal is the unlocking of the capital funding to begin delivering the project proposals within the portfolio. While there is a commitment from UK and Welsh Governments to invest Growth Deal funding into the region, we need to provide assurance that we have all our ducks in a row and will be ready to deliver within the next financial year.

As part of this process, we are refreshing the Portfolio Business Case, updating with the latest information from the project proposals and identifying any potential gaps.



Keep up to date

Keep up to date with Growing Mid Wales news, developments on activity and organisations we support by following our Twitter and Linked In pages:

<https://twitter.com/growingmidwales>

www.linkedin.com/company/growing-mid-wales

We're eager to reach out to as many organisations and businesses across Mid Wales as possible. You can make this possible by following, liking and sharing our pages.

Disclaimer: As a Growing Mid Wales Stakeholder you receive these emails so that we can share news and information with you on a regular basis. You can inform us if you no longer wish to receive these emails by emailing growingmidwales@ceredigion.gov.uk.

