

regional REVIEW

December 2021



Wales Regional Growth and City Deals 2021 Highlights



Prifddinas
Ranbarth
Caerdydd

Cardiff
Capital
Region



Uchelgais
Gogledd Cymru
Ambition
North Wales



Bargen Ddinesig
BAE ABERTAWE
SWANSEA BAY
City Deal



Tyfu
Canolbarth Cymru
Growing
Mid Wales

A Business News Wales Publication

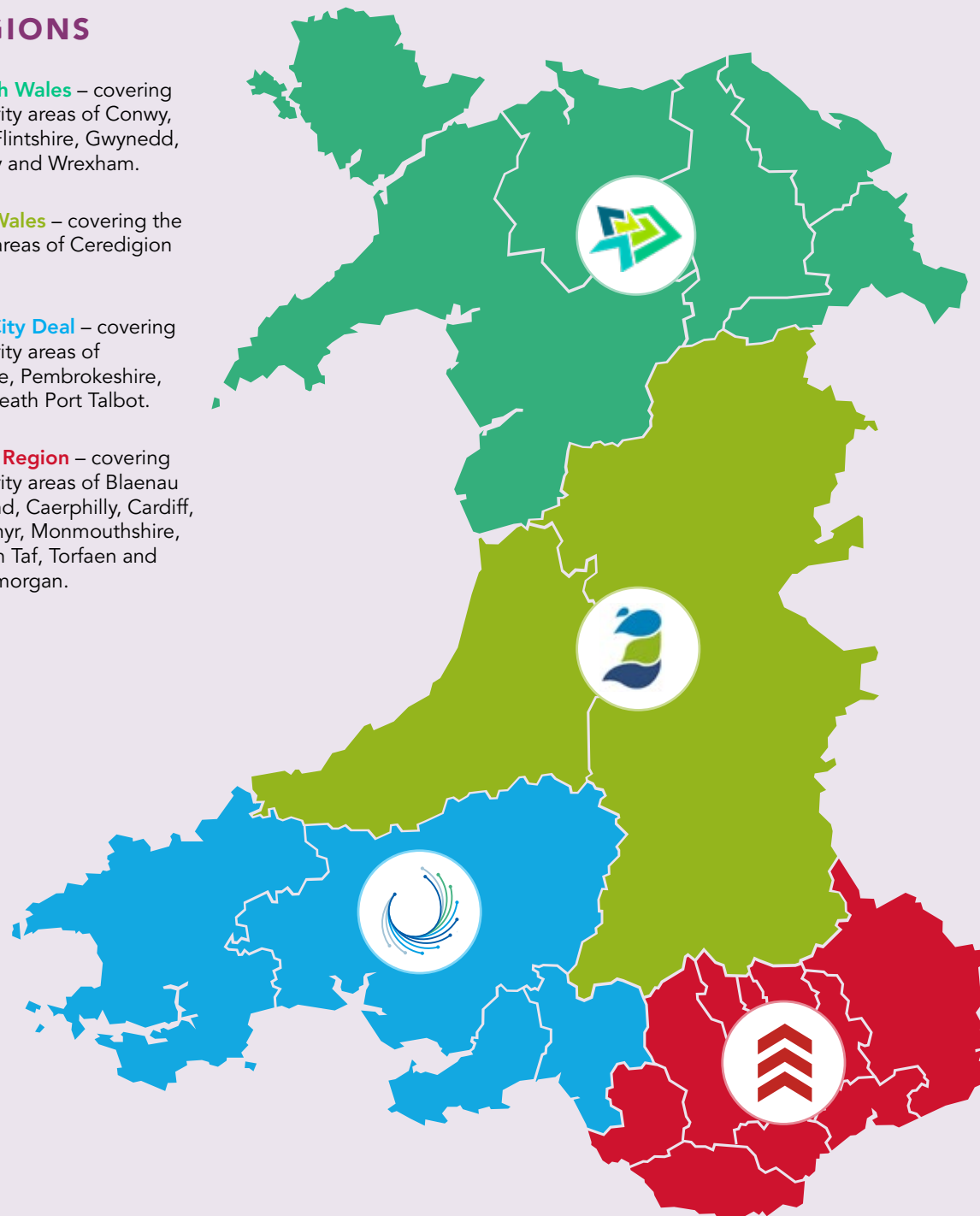
THE REGIONS

Ambition North Wales – covering the local authority areas of Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire, Gwynedd, Isle of Anglesey and Wrexham.

Growing Mid Wales – covering the local authority areas of Ceredigion and Powys.

Swansea Bay City Deal – covering the local authority areas of Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire, Swansea and Neath Port Talbot.

Cardiff Capital Region – covering the local authority areas of Blaenau Gwent, Bridgend, Caerphilly, Cardiff, Newport, Merthyr, Monmouthshire, Rhondda Cynon Taf, Torfaen and the Vale of Glamorgan.



2021: A remarkable year of regional milestones and pan-Wales achievements

2021 will be remembered as a year of social reset and economic recovery across the UK - and here in Wales, we have special reason to look back on the last 12 months as an extraordinary time for the communities, businesses, and governance of our country.

Increasingly, our City and Growth Deals are presenting Wales with opportunities to draw investment into its regions and drive economic growth across the country:

Cardiff Capital Region received an overwhelmingly positive first UK Government 'gateway review' - and further good news in November that the UK government will bring forward its funding of the deal from 20 to 15 years thus enabling CCR to accelerate its investment spend in the further development of the region.

Ambition North Wales saw the start of delivering its transformational projects, driving major change across the region in sectors such as renewable energy, agri-food and digital connectivity.

The Swansea Bay City Deal continued to move forward, to galvanise the entrepreneurial spirit of South West Wales – from Port Talbot, through to Pembrokeshire. With many projects achieving key milestones in 2021, the impact on the region will drive economic acceleration, improve well-being and reduce carbon through smart manufacturing.

And the Mid Wales Growth Deal is nearing a major milestone with signing of the Deal agreement imminent, making 2022 an exciting year for the heartland of Wales - bringing focus to a region that is already noted as a leader in rural enterprise, agritech and the green revolution. As the delivery gets under way and the programmes and projects evolve they will feature alongside the other 3 regions delivering real change for the whole of Wales.

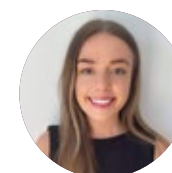
Across each region, we have witnessed inspirational investments and inspired interventions in pioneering programmes and game-changing projects, giving us a glimpse into the new Wales being built.

So, as the year draws to a close, and in recognition of the huge amount of work that has been undertaken in each of our respective regions we have put our heads together to bring you a selection of 2021 key highlights from each of our portfolios.

Enjoy this snapshot of the many and varied milestones achieved in 2021 – and join us in looking forward to optimising every hard-earned opportunity that is coming our way as regions and as a country in 2022.



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Head of Governance,
Policy & Communications,
Cardiff Capital Region



Erin Gwenlli Thomas
Communications and
Engagement Officer,
Ambition North Wales



Heidi Harries
Communications and
Marketing Officer,
Swansea Bay City Deal



Cathy Martin
Operations Manager,
Growing Mid Wales

January



Cardiff Capital Region



CCR Invests in Pharmatelligence, a Cardiff-based Healthcare Data Specialist

In January we made a £2m investment in Pharmatelligence, a local company with a world-leading reputation in the analysis of real-world data for healthcare organisations and major pharmaceutical companies. The investment will assist the commercialisation of its pioneering healthcare analytics software which is intended to be the first of its kind worldwide, automating the analysis of large volumes of data to generate scientific-quality reports in real time for NHS and pharmaceutical industry users. This is of particular significance in the context of COVID-19 and future global health issues.



Ambition North Wales

New Collaborative Virtual Careers Fair

We launched into 2021 by partnering with Working Wales and the Department of Work and Pensions to hold our first collaborative virtual careers fair - 'Opportunity North Wales'. Over 40 employers and 6,000 future employees and entrepreneurs attended the event to learn more about opportunities within the region.

Swansea Bay City Deal

Major New Year Funding Boost for the City Deal

With already three out of the nine Swansea Bay City Deal projects and programmes approved, the UK Government and Welsh Government released funding of £18m to support the delivery and help bring thousands of well-paid jobs to the South West Wales region.



February



Cardiff Capital Region



CCR Ultra Low Emission Vehicle Strategy takes a significant step forward

SWARCO was awarded a contract to deliver 34 chargers at 31 sites throughout the Region and a concession agreement was reached to manage and maintain the infrastructure, with the Region benefitting from a growing shared return on investment over the lifetime of the contract. Funding was also awarded to deliver a 'Try before you buy' scheme for taxi drivers to encourage them to transition to 100%, London compliant, wheelchair accessible vehicles.



Ambition North Wales

North Wales Digital Skills Employer Cluster

We established a Digital Skills Employer Cluster group with the vision of developing a collaborative and targeted approach to addressing the challenge of developing digital skills across North Wales.

Swansea Bay City Deal



More Progress in Pembroke Dock Marine

Significant private sector investment has resulted in developments taking place in the Pembroke Dock Marine project. The Port of Milford Haven submits its planning application to prepare the Pembroke Port site for a major £60m world class marine renewable energy development. The Marine Energy Test Area also secures a Marine Licence from Natural Resources Wales which will see the creation of a series of pre-consented, non-grid connected sites suitable for a range of component, sub assembly and marine energy device tests.

March



Swansea Bay City Deal

Event to Demonstrate the Procurement Pipeline

Projects part-funded by the City Deal will be issuing around £250m worth on contracts over 2021 providing opportunities for all tiers in the construction sector. An online procurement awareness session, introduced by Cllr Rob Stewart, the Chair of the City Deal Joint Committee, outlined the key opportunities for the year.

Pentre Awel Project given the go ahead from UK Government and Welsh Government

The multi-million-pound project lead by Carmarthenshire County Council and with a £40m City Deal contribution has been approved by both the UK Government and Welsh Government. Featuring world class business, research, education, health and leisure facilities on the 83 acre site in Llanelli, Pentre Awel will focus on the health and well-being sector and projected to create approximately 1,800 jobs in total. It is estimated to be worth £467 million to the local economy.

Cardiff Capital Region



New Cardiff Capital Region Website Launched

In March we launched our new – and much improved – Cardiff Capital Region website. This new information hub features at-a-glance City Deal investment updates by sector and by county and an investments section that details the funds that are available for new projects with step by step information on how to access them. Other features include latest news and events, an easy-to-access archive of all CCR papers and publications together with information on each of the CCR priority sectors and key areas of focus.



Prosperity for our Place – CCR's first Investment Prospectus is published

Cardiff Capital Region's Investment Prospectus – 'Prosperity for our Place' was published in March outlining six core 'cluster-related' propositions and five key 'enabling' infrastructure propositions, together with a series of longer-term 'bigger bets' such as the creation of tidal energy and hydrogen hubs.

Cardiff Capital Region



A £50m Strategic Sites and Premises Fund is Approved by Regional Cabinet

This Fund will support the delivery of CCR's Industrial and Economic Plan through the provision of early-stage finance for the development of new sites and employment premises that allow new and existing businesses to scale up and invest for the good of the region. Projects that are key to delivery of the region's economic priorities in support of innovation, business growth and regeneration will be targeted. Specialist Independent Advisors CBRE were appointed as Fund Advisors.



Ambition North Wales



New Climate and Ecological Change Statement

To ensure that we create the best deal for North Wales, in March we pledged that all of our projects must produce little to no carbon emissions, have a positive effect on biodiversity and secure additional social value for the region.



Cardiff Capital Region

CCR Challenge Fund launches its first £400k Innovation Challenge for Simulation Healthcare Training

CCR announced its first Innovation Challenge Fund, open to any business able to demonstrate rapid simulation technology solutions for healthcare training. The £400k contract funding was available to competitive bids from any enterprise capable of delivering innovative, impactful tracheostomy training for Cardiff and Vale University Health Board.

New Business Council Board

In early April we saw the formation of the newly appointed CCR Business Council Board.



Ambition North Wales



WBRID Funding Secured

We secured funding of £500,000 from Welsh Government's Whole System Business Research Innovation for Decarbonisation (WBRID) scheme to fund low carbon and agricultural projects. The funding is essential in developing projects as we aim towards the net-zero target.

Swansea Bay City Deal



£55m Digital Infrastructure Programme approved by UK Government and Welsh Government

This programme which is set to provide world class digital infrastructure across the region has been approved. With a City Deal contribution of £25m, the programme is estimated to be worth £318m to the region in the coming years. Led by Carmarthenshire County Council, it is made up of three elements; Ensuring the cities, towns and business parks have competitive access to full-fibre connectivity; Improving access to broadband in rural communities and paving the way for the region to benefit from 5G and 'internet of things' innovation.

May



Cardiff Capital Region



UK Government Approves Evolution of Cardiff Capital Region Following a Successful Gateway Review

In May we received formal notification from the UK Government that following a successful Gateway review, approval had been given for the next five years of funding for the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal. The Gateway Review commended “the region’s focus on delivering economic growth across the Cardiff Capital Region” with particular praise for “the positive progress made in delivering the CSC Foundry project”, “the strong partnership working that is evident between the ten local authorities and a range of external partners” and “a strong pipeline of projects”.



Ambition North Wales

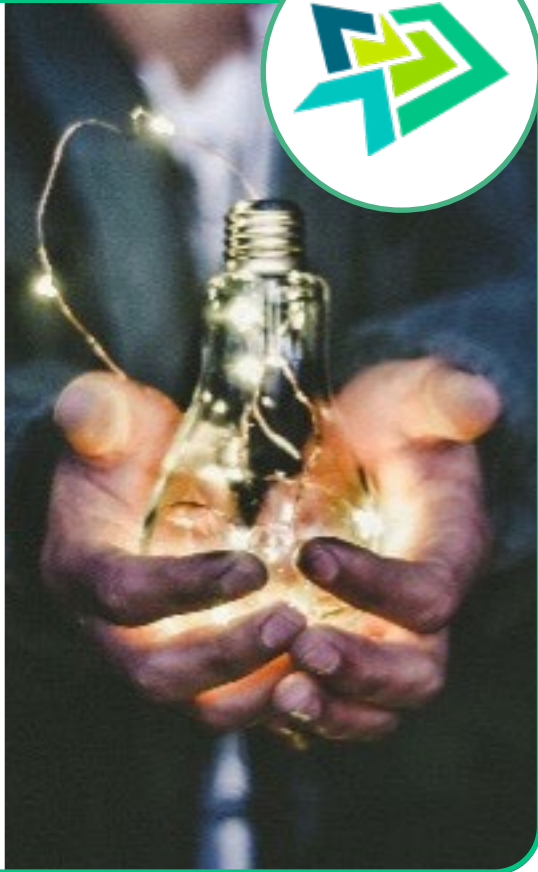


Morlais Outline Business Case Approval

May was a busy month - the Economic Ambition Board gave their approval to the outline business case for the Anglesey tidal energy project, which means the project is a step closer to connect Morlais to the electricity grid.

£200k OFGEM Green Recovery Funding Secured

We secured a grant of £200,000 of the OFGEM Green Recovery funding, bringing in 1MW of additional capacity at the Former North Wales Hospital, Denbighshire. This funding will provide the capacity to develop low carbon technologies and systems such as EV charging infrastructure and heating systems at the site, which are essential to reducing carbon emissions.



Swansea Bay City Deal




Air Quality Monitoring Sensors Installed

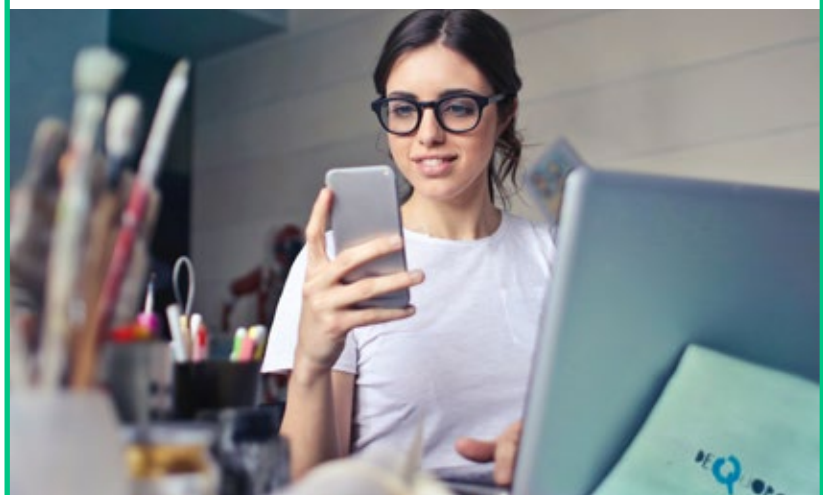

As part of our Supporting Innovation and Low Carbon Growth programme led by Neath Port Talbot Council, 70 air quality monitoring sensors were installed in the area. Part of a pilot study which is delivered under the councils Decarbonisation and Renewable Energy Strategy, the aim is to achieve a better understanding of air quality on a local level by using digital technology.








Ambition North Wales



Consultation on Mobile Connectivity Priorities


Sessions were held with the private and public sectors to identify priorities for mobile connectivity across the region's transport networks. Findings of the consultation sessions will influence the Growth Deal's Digital Connectivity projects.

Swansea Bay City Deal



Swansea Office Development Recognised for Environmental Excellence

The design of the high-tech office development planned for 71/72 The Kingsway providing space for 600 jobs has been recognised for environmental excellence in helping further cut the city's carbon footprint with a focus on a number of 'green features' including a green roof, solar panels, underfloor heating and heat recovery system. Bouygues UK has been appointed as the main contractor for this project, which is led by Swansea Council.



Minister David T C Davies Visit Swansea University

The Minister visited the Accelerate Healthcare Technology Centre at Swansea University's Medical School to see the exciting collaborative projects on life sciences between the university and the health boards in advance of the Campuses project Business Case being sent to the UK Government and Welsh Government for approval. This project has £15m City Deal funding out of the total 132m investment, projected to generated over 1,000 jobs and worth over £150 m to the economy. The Minister also visited Neath Port Talbot to learn more about the Supporting Innovation and Low Carbon Growth business case, at the Technology Centre Site and Harbourside.

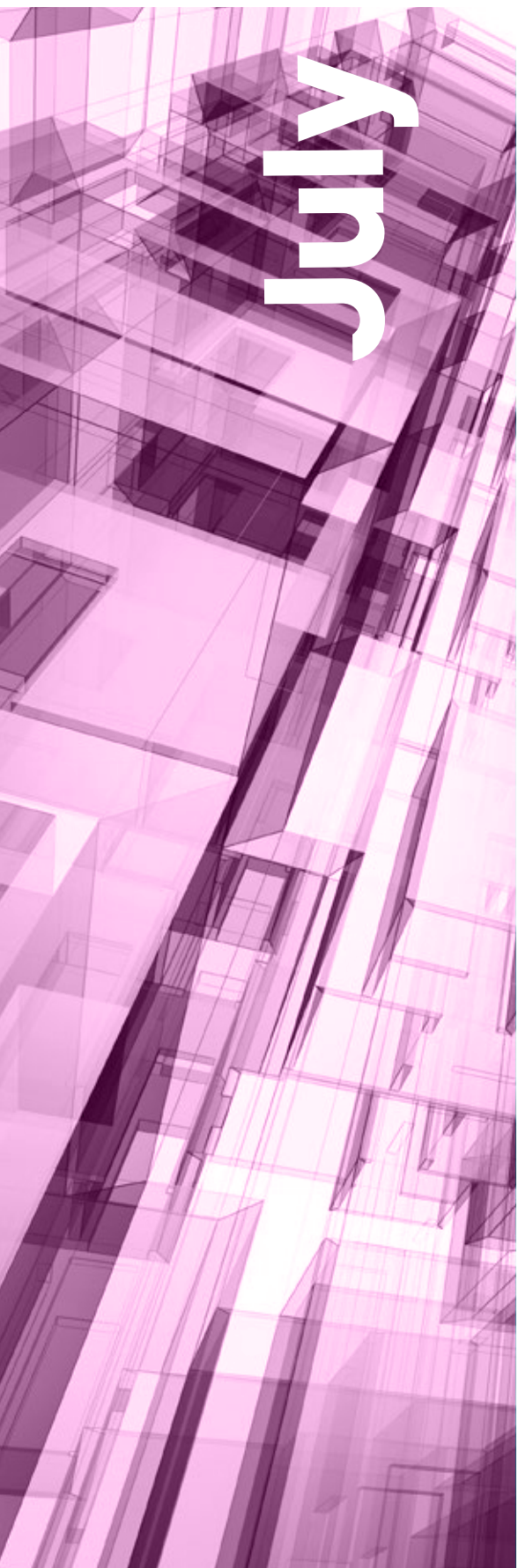
Cardiff Capital Region



Cardiff Capital Regional cabinet commits to Race 2 Zero and the Carbon Disclosure project

In June the CCR cabinet agreed to participate in the global Race to Zero campaign and Carbon Disclosure Project, supporting its commitment for a carbon neutral economy and society in South East Wales.





Swansea Bay City Deal

Green Light for Homes as Power Stations Project

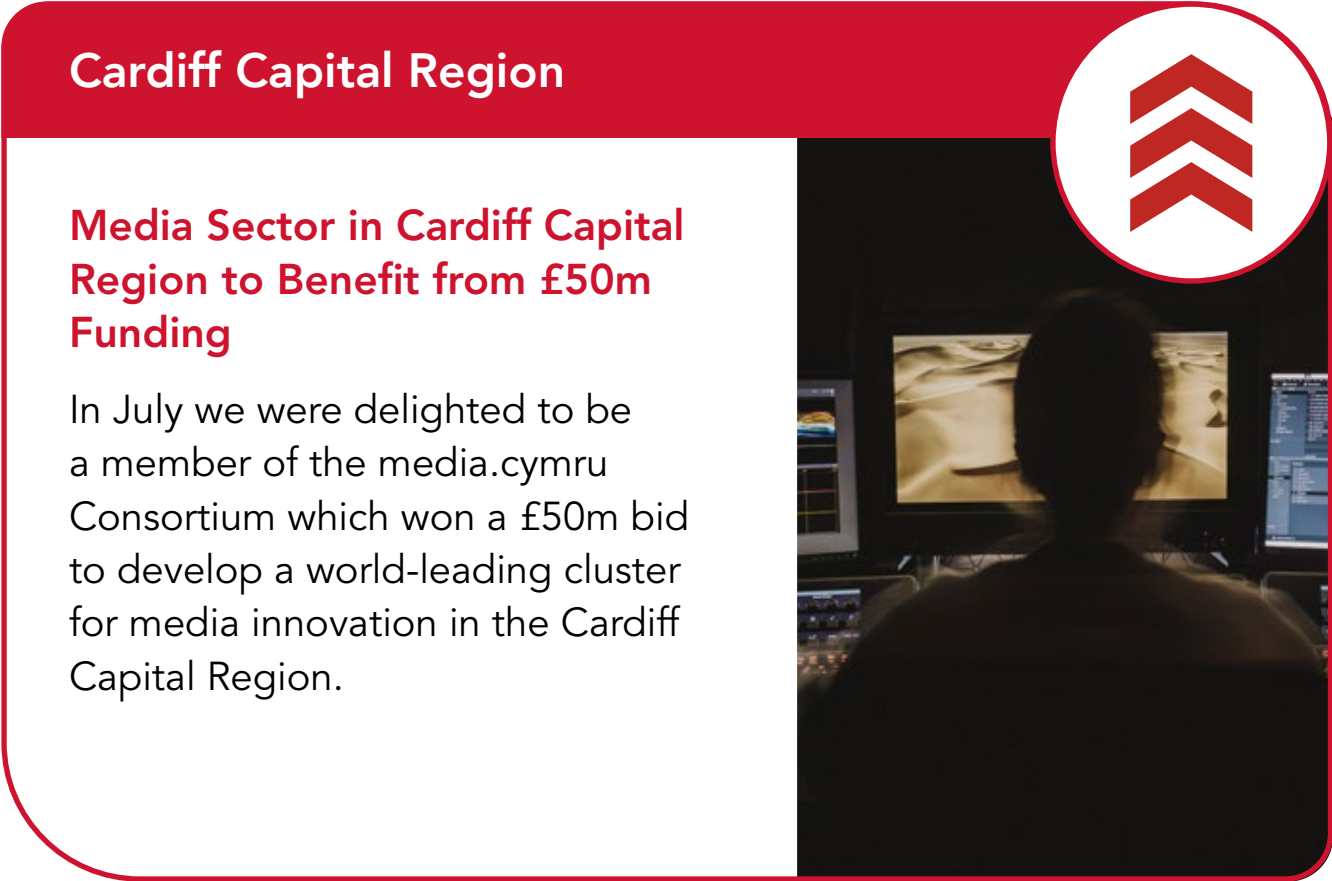
The UK Government and Welsh Government have approved this project which will facilitate the take up of energy efficient design and technologies in thousands of homes in South West Wales as part of a pioneering multi-million pound project. Led by Neath Port Talbot Council this £505m project with a £15m City Deal investment will allow people to save money on their energy bills, cut carbon emissions and improve health and well-being.



Ambition North Wales

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State Visits Growth Deal Projects

David TC Davies, MP and Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Wales visits three Growth Deal projects - The Digital Signal Processing Centre, the Enterprise Engineering and Optics Centre and former North Wales Hospital, Denbighshire.



Cardiff Capital Region

Media Sector in Cardiff Capital Region to Benefit from £50m Funding

In July we were delighted to be a member of the media.cymru Consortium which won a £50m bid to develop a world-leading cluster for media innovation in the Cardiff Capital Region.

August



Ambition North Wales



Welsh Government's Minister Visits Growth Deal Project

The Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, Lesley Griffiths (MS), visits the Morlais project as well as other low carbon schemes in the region. She saw how integral the low carbon sector is to the North Wales economy.

Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub Outline Business Case Approval

August also saw the approval of the outline business case for the Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub. The approval was a major milestone in bringing the project a step closer to creating a world-class hub that will enhance the food and drink sector.



Swansea Bay City Deal



Low Carbon Project Given the Go Ahead

The £58.7 million Supporting Innovation and Low Carbon Growth programme has been approved by the UK Government and the Welsh Government. Led by Neath Port Talbot, with £47.7m City Deal funding this will work in close collaboration with industry, the government and academia to deliver low carbon growth and a greener economy, creating and safeguarding around 1,320 jobs via seven interlinked projects.


Cardiff Capital Region



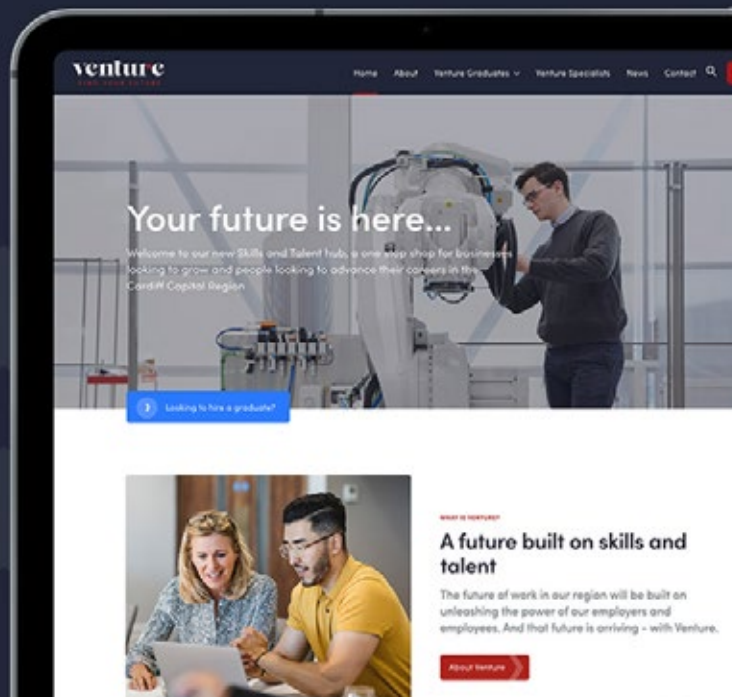
CCR Partners with Innovate UK to Support Women in Innovation and the Young Innovators Programme

In August we committed to providing additional funding to two incredibly important Innovate UK funding programmes – Women in Innovation and Young Innovators. These programmes shine a light on under represented innovators, providing funding, mentoring and networking support for those innovators to move their businesses forward.






Cardiff Capital Region

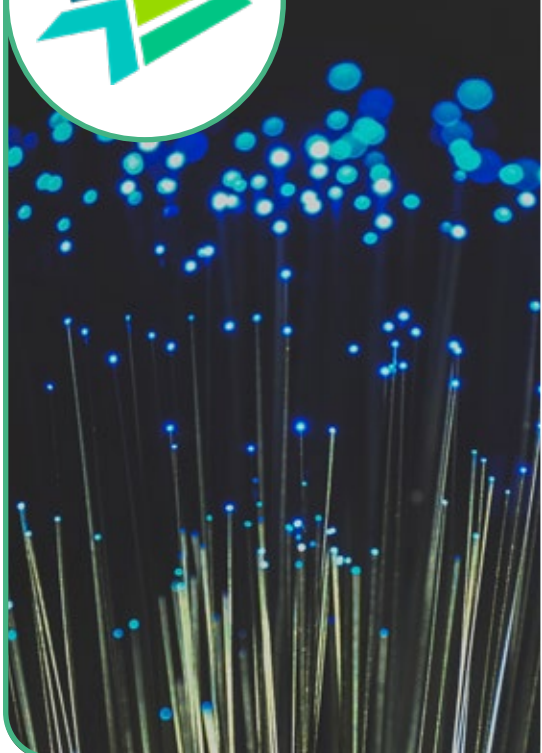


Venture Launch

On September 13th we launched our new skills and talent hub under the brand name Venture which is designed to meet the future skilling needs of employers and employees across South East Wales.




Ambition North Wales



Over 180 Public Sector Sites Upgraded to Full-fibre Broadband

We delivered full-fibre broadband to over 180 public sector sites across the region, including GP surgeries and libraries as a part of the UK Government's LFFN (Local Full Fibre Network) scheme. This scheme means that sites can improve their service through better broadband connectivity.



New Energy Strategy Launched

The new strategy was launched with a vision to transform the way energy is used across the region. Working with the Energy Service at Welsh Government, the strategy will bring us a step closer to the net-zero carbon target for 2050.

Swansea Bay City Deal



City Deal Sponsor Swansea Bay Start-up Business Award

The contribution of small businesses to the success of the City Deal will be very significant and to recognise the role of small businesses the City Deal sponsored the Swansea Bay Region start-up of the year as part of the Wales start-up of the year awards. DCW Insights were awarded as the overall winner as they had the biggest opportunity to grow with their tool designed to speed up the process of buying land and property. Dean Ward, CEO of DCW Group was thrilled to collect the award.



Swansea Arena lighting tests start along with announcement of a host of acts

Construction of the venue, which will be operated by Ambassador Theatre Group, gathers pace with a partial light test following on from the installation of some gold-coloured LED lighting panels fitted around the outside of the development. Once complete, the arena will feature over 1600 panels complete with 95,000 LED lights. The tests will help determine what works best on the arena's façade to better understand how it can be used in future. Alice Cooper, Rob Brydon, Diversity, Royal Blood and Katherine Ryan are also announced as some of the acts forming part of the arena's programme for 2022.



October



Ambition North Wales



Over £2,300 Fundraised for Mental Health Charity – Mind

Throughout October, the team walked 383-miles along the North Wales coastal path, from Machynlleth to Chester, to raise money for the three North Wales Local Mind groups.

Pob Cam Campaign to Promote Career Pathways

We ran a social media campaign, Pob Cam (Every Step), to show that there is no such thing as a wrong career move. The campaign even saw Welsh pop star Elin Fflur and 'Heno' presenter and former Wales international footballer Owain Tudur Jones join in with their experiences.



Swansea Bay City Deal



Bouygues UK Appointed to Start Delivering Pentre Awel Scheme in Llanelli

Carmarthenshire County Council has appointed Bouygues UK to design and build zone one of the prestigious Pentre Awel development in Llanelli. The contract, which is one of the highest tenders the council has ever undertaken puts a key focus on social value to ensure local people and businesses will benefit.

Cardiff Capital Region



CCR Challenge Fund Partners with KTN to Explore Technology Solutions for Enabling Zero-emission Local Authority Fleets

3 new challenges were launched in partnership with KTN including;

- A digital twin for management of large-scale renewable energy next to depots
- Zero emission auxiliary energy supplies for utility and community vehicles.

- Optimisation of on-site renewable energy for EV fleet charging at council depots

The aim of these challenges is to help make local authority fleet journeys smarter, greener and cleaner, delivering workable, affordable solutions capable of adoption on a region-wide basis.

November



Cardiff Capital Region



Cardiff Capital Region and Welsh Government 'try-before-you-buy' green taxi launched

In November, in conjunction with Welsh Government, the CCR launched a Green Taxi 'Try before you buy' pilot. The scheme was launched by Cllr Huw David at the South East Wales Clean Transport event scheduled as part of the Cop Cymru programme running in parallel with Cop26 in a series of roadshows across Wales with the CCR concentrating on the theme of clean transport.



Ambition North Wales

Launch of Ambition North Wales Branding and Website

This month saw the launch of our new brand and website, Ambition North Wales. Our new name represents our vision for a prosperous North Wales and the partnership that lies behind that vision.



Community Renewal Funding Secured

We secured £387,600 from the UK Government's Community Renewal Fund (CRF) to conduct Smart Local Energy System feasibility studies in four of the region's counties. These Systems could unlock many community benefits such as more affordable energy, opportunities to generate and sell energy locally, potential jobs and contribute towards decarbonisation of the local energy system.



Swansea Bay City Deal



Minister David T C Davies visits region to celebrate the Skills & Talent Business Case Approval

The Minister visited the region to celebrate this key milestone. Approved by the UK Government and Welsh Government, the Skills & Talent programme is a this £30m investment that will provide opportunities for thousands of people to access skills and training that will support business to grow, with a focus on industries with high demand for workers. It aims help around 14,000 people by upskilling and 2,200 additional opportunities.



Yr Egin receives a successful Gateway 5 review as the creative sector in South West Wales' is thriving

Following a successful Gateway 5 review with a Green Delivery Confidence Assessment Rating, City Deal caught up with some of the companies working from Yr Egin – the first project to be approved and with phase 1 in operation. The creative sector is thriving thanks to a combination of world class facilities, talent and training from a range of 12 small companies who reside at the Canolfan S4C Yr Egin based on the University of Wales Trinity Saint David campus.



December



Ambition North Wales



The Digital Signal Processing (DSP) Centre Full Business Case Approval

The DSP Centre is the first Growth Deal project to have reached this milestone and to secure the funding. The £3 million funding will be invested in cutting-edge equipment to develop the facility, which will manage how digital information is processed efficiently and reliably. In addition to creating up to 40 new jobs for the region, it will be integral to respond to the increase in digital needs.

Our first Early Market Engagement Event

Our first ever 'Early Market Engagement' event was held for regional businesses this month. The aim was to help them understand more about the procurement process behind the Growth Deal. The event focussed on our priorities and how businesses can get involved.

Cardiff Capital Region



CCR takes further steps forward towards acquiring and remediating the Aberthaw power station site

In December the Regional Cabinet approved a Strategic Outline Business Case for progressing the site purchase with the Full Business Case to follow for final consideration on January 31st. This presents a fabulous opportunity for CCR to respond to the climate emergency and deliver a sustainable future for our industries in line with UK and Welsh Government net zero targets. It will enable CCR to demonstrate strong net zero credentials and drive a key economic cluster of the future, with potential to create c.5,000+ jobs, contribute positively to the delivery of the CCR Energy Strategy and potentially leverage significant private sector investment to the region. The site's location represents an opportunity to enhance and anchor the economic growth planned for the wider region and embed renewable energy credentials at its heart.



Swansea Bay City Deal

Work began on the redevelopment of Pembroke Port to harness opportunities from renewables as part of Pembroke Dock Marine

Contractor R&M Williams is now on site beginning the first phase of work to renovate the four Grade II listed Hangar Annexes to create modern workspaces and a workshop. The redevelopment project will create a world-class energy and engineering centre of excellence and act as a focal point for capturing the economic value from wind, wave and tidal renewable energy.



Construction of Copr Bay development including the Swansea Arena is nearing completion

Further progress has been made to Swansea Arena, with the site due for completion very soon. The 1,600 gold-coloured panels around the outside of the arena featuring 95,000 LED lights have been sparkling in the run-up to Christmas as light testing continues at the venue. The first act to perform at the arena will be on March 8th 2022, as part of the venue's launch programme.

