



Welcome to our newsletter which brings you the latest news from Ambition North Wales and the North Wales Growth Deal. If you would like further information about our work, please contact us on info@ambitionnorth.wales.

HAVE YOUR SAY ON THE FUTURE OF TRANSPORT IN NORTH WALES

We have launched a 12-week public consultation giving residents, businesses and visitors the opportunity to shape the future of travel in our region.

We are inviting your feedback on our draft Regional Transport Plan for North Wales. The document sets out plans for the next five years, covering all modes of transport, including rail, road, bus, walking, and cycling. It aims to provide better travel options, improve digital connectivity and reduce environmental impacts.

Ambition North Wales and the six North Wales Councils, along with Transport for Wales and partners from Arup have developed the draft plan which is a statutory duty for the region's Corporate Joint Committee.



Please have your say by 23:59 on 14th April 2025, by visiting our Virtual Engagement Room:

[Engagement Room](#)

What are Corporate Joint Committees?

Corporate Joint Committees (CJCs) are being implemented to provide a framework for greater collaboration between councils. As well as in North Wales, there are CJCs for Mid Wales, South East Wales and South West Wales.

Welsh Government regulations established CJCs and assigned their statutory duties – which are to prepare a Regional Transport Plan and a Strategic Development Plan. In addition, CJCs have a responsibility to enhance and promote the economic well-being of their region.

The North Wales CJC comprises the region's six local authorities – Anglesey, Conwy, Denbighshire, Flintshire, Gwynedd and Wrexham, and the Eryri National Park Authority which is only involved in regional planning matters.

In North Wales the Corporate Joint Committee has adopted the brand of **Ambition North Wales**. This means, that alongside delivering the region's Growth Deal, Ambition North Wales has become a CJC and is accountable for its responsibilities.

THE NORTH WALES SKILLS PORTAL HAS OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED

Designed to bring together job vacancies, training, information on career pathways and business growth opportunities for people and employers in the region, the Portal is there to support you.

The Portal, funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, is free-to-use and is a platform to help you explore a wide range of opportunities in one place. You can find local events, resources, and access to training and support providers to help you find a job and progress your career, develop your staff or grow your business.



[Explore](#)

CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL BIOTECHNOLOGY+ FUNDING DEAL SIGNED

We are delighted to have signed the £2.96m Growth Deal investment agreement for the Centre for Environmental Biotechnology+ project at Bangor University. The investment will be spent on equipment and laboratory space, exploring over 1,000 enzymes to create low-carbon alternatives to manufacturing processes. It will also provide supply chain and employment opportunities for businesses and residents across the region – making it a truly transformative development for North Wales.



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NEW CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

At a meeting of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board in December, Cllr Mark Pritchard, Leader of Wrexham County Borough Council was elected as Chair and Cllr Charlie McCoubrey, Leader of Conwy County Borough Council, as Vice-Chair.

Subsequently, in January, both were also elected as Chair and Vice-chair of the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee.

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NEW AGRI-FOOD PARTNERSHIP

Alongside Growing Mid Wales, M-SParc and AberInnovation we were recently pleased to announce the official launch of a Cluster Management Organisation (CMO) to drive agri-tech and food technology innovation across Mid and North Wales.

The CMO will coordinate activities and promote funding opportunities available in the local cluster through a project that will run initially for two years using funding from Innovate UK. The aims is to strengthen collaboration between businesses, research institutions, and regional partners to boost innovation and competitiveness in the agri-food and agri-tech sectors.

[Read More](#)

CLEAN ENERGY FUND PROGRESSES

Later this year we will launch our Clean Energy Fund to support green energy projects!

We were therefore delighted to have appointed two experienced Fund Advisors who will develop two sub-funds for the scheme. UMi will lead a private sector sub-fund, with the Wales Council for Voluntary Action and Community Energy Wales collaborating on a voluntary sector sub-fund.

When in delivery, the project will achieve renewable energy and decarbonisation targets and have an element of local ownership – meaning that local businesses, communities or voluntary organisations will own or have a stake in them. In doing so, this allows us to ensure that the scheme's benefits, such as jobs, energy and income, will remain local.

[Read More](#)

GUIDANCE ON BIDS AND FUNDING APPLICATIONS

To support initiatives applying to the Clean Energy Fund when it launches, as well as bids to other sources, we have developed guidance on our website. Helpful practicalities are explained and documents are available focusing on the feasibility of projects, developing an application for funding, frequently asked questions, and the further support available.

[Read More](#)

DEESIDE SITE ATTRACTS PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT

Effective collaboration between Ambition North Wales and The Circular Economy – the organisation delivering the Deeside Anaerobic Digestion Plant – has led to the Growth Deal project securing full private sector funding. This releases £6.4m of funding which can now be directed elsewhere in the region to support economic development and growth. When operational the plant will use local food waste to generate green electricity for commercial use, create employment opportunities, reduce CO2 emissions, and help local manufacturing sites like Toyota Manufacturing to meet their decarbonisation targets.

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NEW PIONEERING DEVELOPMENT NEAR COMPLETION

Our Growth Deal's first construction project into delivery is fast becoming a reality as the new Enterprise Engineering and Optics Centre (EEOC) emerges at Wrexham University. Set for completion in May, this revolutionary centre will deliver a specialist centre offering regional manufacturing businesses access to support in reducing the environmental impact of their products and processes.

NEW CHARITY OF 2025

We are proud to announce our support for the North Wales Rape & Sexual Abuse Support Centre as our 2025 charity of the year. In fact, we began with our first fundraiser as 2024 came to close by collecting donations from staff to fill well-being bags for the charity. Our team donated 45 bags, which included toiletries, books and self-care items which will be passed on to women, men and children who use the centre.

