



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

CUTTING EDGE ENGINEERING BUILDING OFFICIALLY OPEN

CanfodAu the new Centre for Engineering and Innovation has officially opened at Wrexham University.

This is our first North Wales Growth Deal construction project into delivery. The pioneering build provides facilities for research, innovation and collaboration with students and businesses.



The ribbon on the building was cut by Jack Sargeant, Welsh Government Minister for Culture, Skills and Social Partnership, an alumnus of the University.

CanfodAu specifically focuses on advanced manufacturing, composite materials, integration with optics, and hydrogen technologies. This will enable the co-creation of new products and processes that accelerate decarbonisation and industrial transformation.

The aim is to bring commercial value from research and development by equipping local businesses and enterprises with the tools, expertise, and infrastructure needed to compete globally.



[Find out more](#)

ACADEMI CROESO LAUNCHES!

A new era for tourism and hospitality in North Wales has been marked with the launch of Academi Croeso.

Supported by our North Wales Growth Deal, the project is a transformational partnership led by Grŵp Llandrillo Menai. It is designed to tackle long-standing challenges in recruitment and skills within the tourism and hospitality sectors by establishing a unique 'Hub and Spoke' network.

This will link Grŵp Llandrillo Menai's Rhos-on-Sea campus with leading industry partners, including Zip World, Portmeirion, Theatr Clwyd, Snowdonia Hospitality & Leisure, and the National Trust.

Held at Theatr Clwyd, the launch event brought together leading employers, educators, Welsh and UK Government representatives – including Wales Office Minister Anna McMorrin, alongside community partners to celebrate the new identity and shared vision behind Academi Croeso.



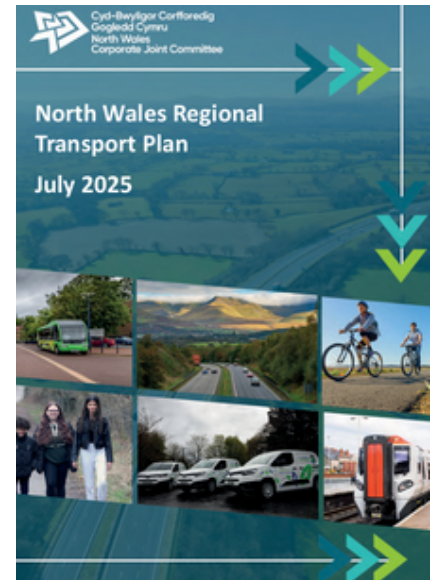
[Find out more](#)

A MILESTONE FOR SUSTAINABLE CONNECTIVITY

In October we were proud to announce that the North Wales Regional Transport Plan had been formally approved by Ken Skates MS, Cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales. This marks a significant step forward in delivering a safe, sustainable, affordable, and integrated transport network across the region.

We developed the Plan in partnership with local authorities, Transport for Wales and Welsh Government. It sets out a bold vision to improve connectivity, reduce reliance on private vehicles, and support inclusive economic growth.

[Find out more and view the plan.](#)



WYLFA AND AI GROWTH ZONE PLANS WELCOMED

As an organisation committed to developing sustainable economic growth in the region, we have strongly welcomed two recent UK Government announcements which will create high-skilled jobs and benefit communities.

Firstly, the plan to site the UK's first small modular reactor nuclear power station at [Wylfa on Ynys Môn](#) is extremely positive. The site is uniquely positioned to deliver clean, reliable energy while creating thousands of high-quality jobs - which are particularly crucial in Welsh-speaking communities in order to help preserve and strengthen cultural identity.

Secondly, there was news of an AI Growth Zone which will straddle the Menai Strait, with a base at Prosperity Parc on Anglesey and another at Trawsfynydd in Gwynedd. This means the region is set to benefit from the sector's revolution - leading to accelerated economic growth, a boost to local research and development efforts, and support for regional AI firms.

We will work with public and private sector partners to drive these projects forward for the benefit of the region.



DAIRY SHEEP WALES INVESTMENT

The region's rural economy is set to benefit from a £3.5 million North Wales Growth Deal investment towards the £4.7 million development of Dairy Sheep Wales. Led by Grŵp Llandrillo Menai, the project will establish a dedicated sheep milk innovation and processing centre as part of the wider Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub.

With backing from the Growth Deal, £200k from Grŵp Llandrillo Menai, and a further £1 million from Welsh Government, the development will deliver a state-of-the-art facility. It will provide sustainable sheep milking, product development, training, and enterprise support at the Glynllifon campus near Caernarfon.

Dairy Sheep Wales is one of four key elements of the Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub project, part of a broader £19.2 million investment supported by the Growth Deal.

[Read more](#)



Defaid Llaeth Cymru
Dairy Sheep Wales

CLEAN ENERGY FUND PODCAST

We recently recorded a podcast with Business News Wales which focused on our £24.6 million North Wales Clean Energy Fund. As part of the North Wales Growth Deal, the Fund will support private and voluntary sector organisations to deliver renewable energy, energy efficiency, storage, and decarbonisation projects.

The discussion featured our Energy and Net Zero Programme Manager, Meghan Davies; Matt Popple from UMi – the business delivering the private sector fund; and Alun Jones of the WCVA – the organisation delivering the voluntary sector fund



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North Wales Clean Energy Fund

[Listen to find out more](#) and read articles from the podcast guests – links are available on our [project page](#).

WORK WITH US

We publish all our recruitment and procurement opportunities on our website, so be sure to keep us in mind.

[Find out more.](#)



Uchelgais
Gogledd Cymru
Ambition
North Wales

NEW VICE-CHAIR APPOINTED

At meetings of the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee and its Economic Well-being Sub-Committee in November, Councillor Jason McLellan, Leader of Denbighshire County Council was elected as Vice-Chair for 2025/26.

Full details of our committees and meetings can be found on our [website](#).



[Find out more](#)

RENEWABLES ROUNDTABLE

The North Wales Regional Skills Partnership, in collaboration with Grŵp Llandrillo Menai, hosted a Renewables Skills Roundtable at Coleg Llandrillo's Engineering Centre, Rhyl. The event brought together employers, industry specialists, education providers, Medr, and Welsh Government representatives to examine the skills required to drive Wales' transition to Net Zero. The focus was the importance of collaboration in building a workforce capable of meeting the demands of the renewable sector. Apprentices and training providers reinforced the opportunities available through skills development and apprenticeships.

Clear messages from the discussion include skills gaps in systems thinking, communication and Industry 4.0 capabilities; recruitment challenges construction and engineering roles such as welders, electricians, scaffolders, and technicians; future technological growth in AI, automation and digitalisation. The Renewables Roundtable has established a strong foundation for continued collaboration, ensuring that skills, training, and apprenticeships are aligned to support a sustainable, Net Zero-ready Wales. We hope to bring this group back together in the future to continue these conversations.

GREEN HORIZONS: EMPOWERING FUTURE SKILLS



Our Regional Skills Partnership was recently a key partner at the first ever Green Horizons: Future Skills event run by Menter Môn Morlais at its substation near Holyhead. Attended by over 150 Year 11 students from Ynys Môn secondary schools, the event aimed to inspire them to explore career opportunities in renewable energy, low-carbon industries, and the wider green economy. The session provided hands-on experiences, interactive displays, and the chance to speak with local employers.

Green Horizons partners and sponsors also included Careers Wales, Crown Estate, and Jones Bros Civil Engineering UK. This event was part funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and supported by the Isle of Anglesey County Council.

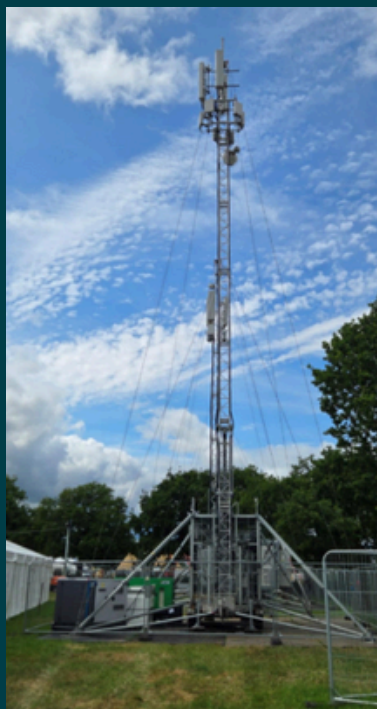


COLLABORATING ON DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY

It may seem some time ago, however data recently in about digital coverage at this year's National Eisteddfod in Wrexham makes for positive reading.

Information shows that visitors enjoyed enhanced mobile connectivity thanks to joint efforts between Ambition North Wales, Wrexham County Borough Council, and Mobile Network Operators.

Together, we boosted coverage and capacity across the site – helping thousands stay connected, share memories, and make the most of the festival experience.



[Find out more](#)

SPINFEST SUCCESS

As 2025 comes to a close, the team are still busy fundraising for our charity of the year – the Rape & Sexual Abuse Support Centre ([RASASC](#)) North Wales.

Recently we organised a Spinfest which raised over £1,500, bringing our total so far for the year to more than £2,300! The event brought together participants for an evening of fitness and community spirit. The unforgettable experience, for such a vital cause, would not have been possible without a host of generous donations from local businesses:

- [Oxygen Gym](#) – providing expert instructors to keep the energy high
- [Ffit Conwy Leisure Centres](#) – donating additional spin bikes
- [Whites Removals of Abergele](#) – transporting equipment
- [MAD Sound and Lighting Ltd](#) – creating an incredible atmosphere
- [House of Whey](#) – supplying nutritious protein snacks
- [Dan Evans Photography](#) – capturing memorable moments
- Sara Jones Facepainting – adding colour and sparkle



[Find out more](#)

Donations can still be made via [JustGiving](#).

If you would like further information about our work, please contact us on info@ambitionnorth.wales or visit ambitionnorth.wales.