



Growing Mid Wales May 2024

Welcome to our May newsletter!

In this issue, we focus on key planning that will help steer the future of transport in the region.

Our Mid Wales Growth Deal Sites and Premises programme *Supporting Enterprise* survey is now live. Share it on with businesses you know as our aim is to better understand the future growth plans of businesses across the region and their need for commercial premises.

We also look at how our team member of the month, Teresa Peel-Jones is fostering the Regional Skills Partnership business cluster groups which are instrumental in providing local sector knowledge of skills gaps and requirements as well as recruitment challenges.

Helping to grow opportunity in Mid Wales,

The Growing Mid Wales team

[Cover: Coastal drive, Ceredigion ©Visit Wales]

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Mid Wales Transportation

The Mid Wales Transportation area, previously known as TraCC, comprises the central area of Wales from the English border in the east to the Welsh coast in the west and encompasses the local authorities of Powys and Ceredigion. The area also includes part of the Bannau Brycheiniog National Park.

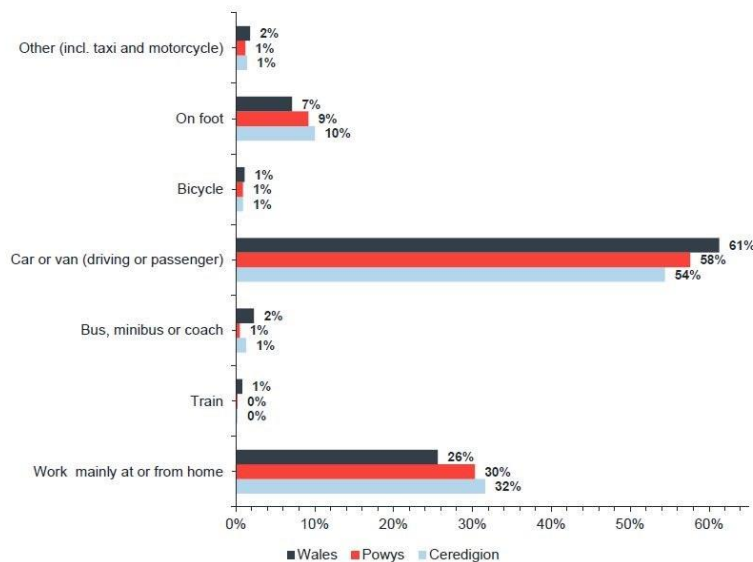
From 1st April 2024, Mid Wales Transportation planning is the responsibility of the Mid Wales Corporate Joint Committee (CJC).

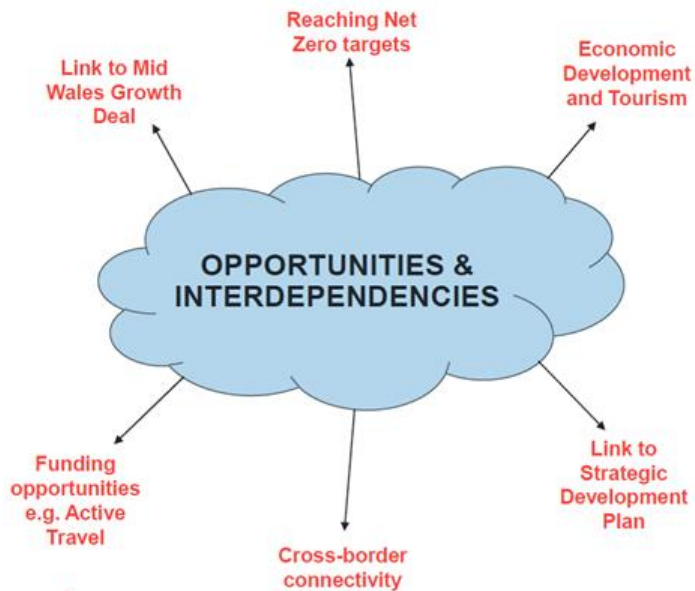
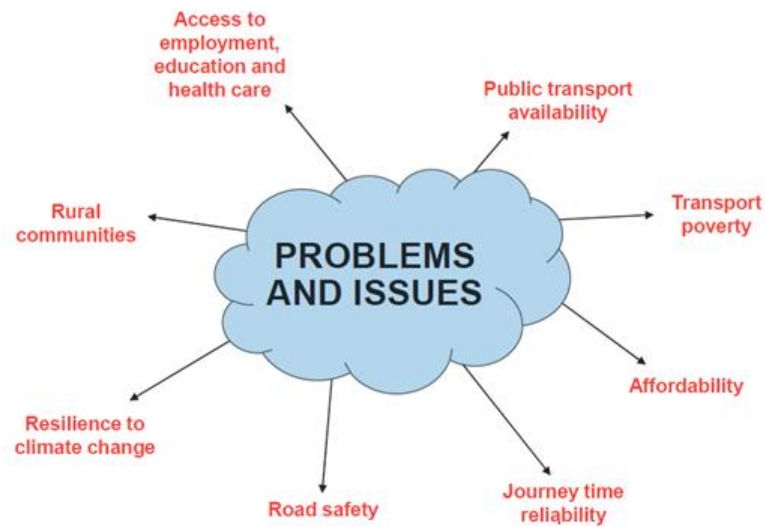
In 2022, Welsh Government (WG) published their [new Welsh Transport Strategy](#). Since January 2023, a new Mid Wales Regional Transport Plan has begun its work to help and guide the new Mid Wales Corporate Joint Committee. This high-level plan will set out the policies that will enable the CJC to work with its local authorities on a programme of delivery that will contribute to the implementation of the WG strategy at a regional level.

There are many key tasks that will be undertaken from now until June 2025 before the Regional Transport Plan will be endorsed by the Welsh Government. These include reviews by both the CJC and WG and a public consultation. But for now, here's a snapshot of some of the background work for the Regional Transport Plan includes:

EXISTING TRANSPORT SITUATION

Method of travel to work (Census 2021)





Next steps

Objectives to overcome some of the problems and issues whilst optimising opportunities have been put together and will now be reviewed by the Mid Wales Corporate Joint Committee and Welsh Government.

Once the objectives are finalised, a draft of the Regional Transport Plan will be publicly available and kick start engagement opportunities for stakeholders to consider and share opinions and feedback on.

Do you need support to expand commercial premises?

Our Mid Wales Growth Deal Sites and Premises programme Supporting Enterprise survey is now live. Our aim is to better understand the future growth plans of businesses across the region and their need for commercial premises.

Through the survey, we also aim to identify the need for funding intervention in the local commercial sites and property market. Responses to the survey will enable us to consider a variety of options of support, which could help businesses achieve their development goals.

Data received can be analysed to understand the demand for support. We will then work with Welsh and UK Governments to review and scope options.

The survey will remain open until 05 July 2024 and all businesses are encouraged to participate. To participate please visit: <https://bit.ly/SupportingEnterpriseSurvey>



Supporting Enterprise Survey

Do you need support to expand commercial premises?

We want to better understand the future growth plans of local businesses and your need for commercial premises.



Survey runs until 05 July 2024

Meet the Team

Teresa Peel-Jones, Employer Engagement Officer, Mid Wales Regional Skills Partnership Team



When did you start with the team?

I joined the Mid Wales Regional Skills Partnership Team (RSP) in January 2023.

Prior to joining the GMW Team, I was working as a Business Adviser for Business in Focus on a Community Renewal Fund project covering the region. I've also worked in the public, private and third sector in Mid Wales with a cross-sector of micro and SMEs on Welsh Government project initiatives. I'm a fluent Welsh speaker which is hugely beneficial in this role.

I'm very fortunate to have been raised in Ceredigion where I received my education and apart from my college years, it appears that I've spent the last 21 years living across the border in Powys near Machynlleth with my husband and family. I can't imagine living or working anywhere else as I love the landscape and count myself privileged to live so near the coast and country.

Can you tell us more about your role?

My role as Employer Engagement Officer is to lead on the Employer and Stakeholder engagement work in the region and manage the business cluster groups.

The role of the cluster group is instrumental in providing local sector knowledge of skills gaps and requirements as well as recruitment challenges. Through working closely with regional businesses, the groups help gather Labour Market Intelligence (evidence) so the RSP can strategically report to Welsh Government on behalf of these industry sectors and influence future priorities for skills investment ensuring the money comes into Mid Wales.

I ensure there is reportable data to support the delivery of the Mid Wales RSP Action plan and support the RSP Manager in promoting the impact of the work to relevant external stakeholders, networks, and agencies.

Our first business cluster group meeting was held in Aberystwyth in May 2023 and we've since created 11 priority sector cluster groups in alignment with the GMW priorities which include the Public, Provider and Young Persons Guarantee group.

I manage eight of the business cluster groups which are:

- **Agriculture**
- **Construction & Energy**
- **Digital**
- **Food & Drink**
- **Health & Social Care**
- **Manufacturing & Engineering**
- **Tourism**
- **Transport***

Each cluster group meets in person, four times a year and has a Chair who represents their sector at the quarterly RSP board meeting which consists of key training and education providers in the region as well as WG.

To date, the businesses have been helping review data for their sector which will be included as part of the refreshed 3-year Skills & Employment Plan 2022 - 2025.

We now have over 130 members in our clusters which shows how far we've come in the last 12 months.

**We are currently developing the membership for the Transport & Logistics cluster group and are appealing to any regional business, haulage, transport, coach and travel to get in touch so that we can progress the group. You can email me at midwalesrsp@powys.gov.uk for further information.*



1 - Digital skills & barriers being discussed at our Digital Business Cluster Group.

What are your current priorities?

I continue to reach out to the industry and meet the businesses to enhance membership of the cluster groups. This approach has been successful and provided me with a valuable insight on how each sector works and the many opportunities the region has to offer. I also attend regional events on behalf of the RSP to raise our profile.

We are currently mapping training provision for the Construction & Energy sector in the region and across the border. At the last Construction & Energy cluster meeting in April, we invited NPTC, Coleg Sir Gar and Coleg Sir Ceredigion in to present on their construction-related provision. This offered the opportunity for businesses to feedback to the colleges on their requirement



2 - Teresa and members of the RSP team supported and attended the NTFW Apprenticeship Awards Cymru 2024, engaging with a variety of speakers. Workshops covered SME growth, recruitment & AI challenges.

What developments have you seen over the years?

With advancing technology, you can be running a successful business from the heart of Mid Wales and be trading globally, as many of our regional businesses demonstrate. The barriers and doors are opening, and this brings so many opportunities for the local economy which is an exciting prospect.

There are many job roles and career opportunities here on our doorstep, you don't need to move out of the region to be successful and staying in the region shouldn't carry any stigma. We need to ensure

that this message is being heard in our schools early enough. I'd like to see more businesses invited into schools to showcase this and through our clusters we have the perfect opportunity.

I'm looking forward to the opportunities the Growth Deal projects can bring to Mid Wales. The RSP has a role to play by establishing what future work skills are required and to ensure the region can fulfil this requirement.

What's been your biggest achievement?

While studying fashion design at Art college, I was offered a work placement for a month with a clothing fashion company in London, some of my designs were selected for production and sold at the high street store, Miss Selfridge. I was only 19 at the time but this experience has always stayed with me.

Within this role, it's very rewarding getting the cluster groups up and running and seeing how they're evolving. Despite the challenges, I'm always encouraged by the enthusiasm and positivity of the businesses who are working out of the region and carving a platform for their services and products in a national and global market.

One word that sums up the Growing Mid Wales Team:

Talented!

Other news

New member welcomed to the team!

We are pleased to announce a new member of the GMW team. We would like to welcome Huw Williams who joins as the new Regional Energy Officer.


Huw will be providing much-needed support to Dr Gemma Delafield, Regional Energy Lead, on the work around providing technical and strategic advice to Ceredigion and Powys County Councils, and external stakeholders, on how Mid Wales could reduce the greenhouse gas emissions associated with its energy system. This covers everything from increasing renewable electricity generation in the region, to exploring ways to decarbonise heat, transport and industry. We wish Huw all the best in his new role.

You can see who's who in Growing Mid Wales with our [staff structure](#).



3 - Huw Williams, Regional Energy Officer

Wales Coast Path and National Trails Business Survey

 Calling all businesses and organisations! Are you on or near the Wales Coast Path? If so, this business survey is for you.

The survey will help Natural Resources Wales better understand what support businesses/organisations need to take full advantage of their location and the opportunities that the Wales Coast Path and/or National Trails provide.

 Register your interest today: <https://wcpandntbusinesssurvey.wales>

Is your business or organisation located near the Wales Coast Path or the National Trails in Wales? **Are you benefiting from the visitors or walkers using these routes?**

If yes, we'd love to **hear your thoughts** to help us shape future support for businesses and organisations like yours and make sure you take full advantage of your location and the opportunities the paths provide.

To take part in our survey, please click on the following link and register your interest: [WCPandNTBusinessSurvey.wales](https://wcpandntbusinesssurvey.djresearch.com)

If you have any questions or need help with our survey, please contact Clare Rapkins, by email: WCPandNTBusinessSurvey@djresearch.com or by calling 01663 767 857.

● Wales Coast Path
● Offa's Dyke Path
● Glyndŵr's Way
● Pembrokeshire Coast Path

GlobalWelsh partners with Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water to conduct research into 'brain drain' in Wales

The term 'brain drain' refers to 'the emigration of highly trained or qualified people from a particular country'. A growing economic issue for Wales which has been haemorrhaging talent for decades. The research will focus on two key areas, why professional people leave Wales and under what basis they would be encouraged to return to Wales in the future.

[GlobalWelsh](https://connect.globalwelsh.com) will be looking for assistance from international organisations that are connected to Welsh people around the world, to ensure we maximise participation and are planning an on-line event, on 5th June where professor Dr Sarah Birchley will outline the background and approach to this major research project. Attendees will gain insights into the questions we will be asking and how the research results could benefit you and your organisation, Register here:

<https://connect.globalwelsh.com/events/147229>



Keep up to Date

Need to catch up on what's been discussed in our meetings? Here's a reminder of where you can find the minutes for the following meetings:

- All minutes relating to the Growing Mid Wales Board are hosted on Powys County Council [website](#).
- Papers relating to the Growing Mid Wales Partnership can be found on our [website](#).

Keep up to date with Growing Mid Wales news, developments on activity and organisations we support by

following our Twitter, LinkedIn pages and YouTube channel:

<https://twitter.com/growingmidwales>

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

<https://www.youtube.com/@TCC-GMW>

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.

