



Growing Mid Wales

June 2024

Welcome to the June edition of the Growing Mid Wales newsletter!

This month, we bring you the latest updates and initiatives from our dedicated team. Our Supporting Enterprise [survey](#) runs until **21 July**, have you shared it on with businesses in the region yet? It's aimed to identify the need for funding intervention in the local commercial sites and property market. Additionally, we have just unveiled an innovative and cost-effective mobile mapping project aimed at enhancing digital infrastructure in Mid Wales.

Our Meet the Team member this month is Arinola Ogundeji, who provides us with an insight into her role in ensuring the successful coordination and implementation of various skills development initiatives across the region.

This newsletter also highlights our drop-in session at this year's Royal Welsh Show, providing opportunities to learn more about the Local Area Energy Plans.

Stay informed and involved with the progress and projects shaping the future of Mid Wales. Happy reading!

Helping to grow opportunity in Mid Wales,

The Growing Mid Wales team

[Cover: Knucklas Viaduct, Powys ©Visit Wales]

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The Current Connectivity Situation in Mid Wales

There has been significant strides in digital infrastructure made across Mid Wales, though significant rural challenges persist.

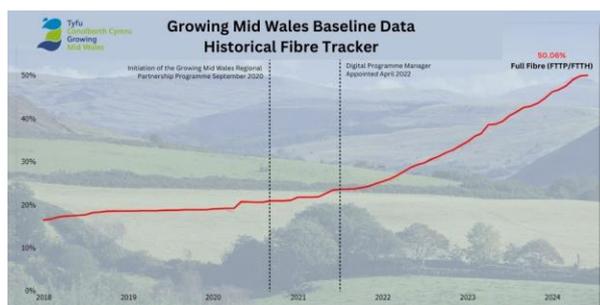
For example, over 50% of Mid Wales can now access full-fibre broadband – that's 1 in every 2 residential or business properties. This is an increase of over 26% since 2022.

The Growing Mid Wales Digital Programme is working with a range of stakeholders to help improve the region's digital infrastructure and improve digital connectivity for all.

Check whether your property has access to full fibre now: [Fibre Checker \(openreach.com\)](https://openreach.com)

View our new [webpage](#) that highlights the progress in broadband, 4G mobile coverage, advancing new technologies, key challenges, opportunities, including the GMW Digital Programme and Ceredigion County Council and Powys County Council initiatives.

Read on for our recent innovative mobile mapping project that is gathering data in a trailblazing new way.



Ground-breaking Mobile Mapping Project Launched to Identify 'Mobile Not-Spots' in Mid Wales

This project, one of the first of its kind in Wales, aims to identify areas with poor mobile coverage and network capacity, known as 'mobile not-spots.' By employing advanced mobile data-capturing devices installed in waste collection vehicles across Powys and Ceredigion, the project will gather crucial data for improving mobile and 4G internet connectivity.

The primary goal of the mobile mapping project is to create an accurate and detailed map of mobile coverage in Mid Wales, identifying areas with inadequate mobile coverage and network capacity issues that affect usability for residents and businesses. Data from the four main Mobile Network Operators - EE, O2, Three, and Vodafone - will be collected.

We will use this data to develop targeted projects and interventions to address connectivity challenges in key areas.

Read the full article [here](#).



Supporting Enterprise survey

!Deadline 21 July!

Do you need support to expand commercial premises? We want to better understand the future growth plans of businesses across the region and their need for commercial premises. Responses to the survey will enable us to consider a variety of options for support, which could help businesses achieve their development goals. 🖱️ <https://bit.ly/SupportingEnterpriseSurvey>



Supporting Enterprise Survey

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NEW DEADLINE Survey runs until 21 July 2024

Energy drop-in at the Royal Welsh Show

The Royal Welsh Show is fast approaching. Our Regional Energy Lead, Dr Gemma Delafield, will be on hand at a drop-in session on Local Area Energy Plans on Wednesday morning, 24 July. The session will be an opportunity to find out more about the plans, the current picture on energy and transport across the region, and how we can decarbonise both homes and businesses across Mid Wales. In addition, virtual reality headsets will be available so you can try and build a sustainable house from scratch!

So, if you are attending this year, make sure to pop over and say hi!

Time: 9.30am-12pm

Date: Wednesday 24 July

Location: Ceredigion County Council stand, Grid ref: [F4](#), situated behind the main ring.

RSVP: Drop-in session, no booking needed



Meet the Team

Arinola Ogundeji, Project Support Officer, Mid Wales Regional Skills Partnership



When did you start with the team? *I joined the team in July 2022. It feels like just yesterday, yet so much has happened since then.*

Can you tell us more about your role? *I am a Project Support Officer for the Mid Wales Regional Skills Partnership (RSP). In this role, I support the RSP team by ensuring all objectives are delivered. This involves a lot of coordination, planning, and communication to keep our projects on track and meet our goals.*

What are your current priorities? *My current priorities are focused on continuing to support the team in delivering successful projects. This means staying organised, managing timelines, and ensuring we have the resources we need to succeed. We've been working on creating the new RSP website and updating the Employment and Skills Plan, so it will be great to see these available to the public soon.*

What developments have you seen over the years? *Since joining the team, I've witnessed significant growth and evolution. One of the most notable developments has been the establishment of Cluster Groups that focus on our priority sectors. This has allowed us to hone in on specific areas, drive targeted improvements, and build stronger connections within our community.*

What's been your biggest achievement?

Throughout my career, I've had the chance to work on many impactful projects and achieve significant milestones. One achievement that stands out is my success in customer service, where I received two customer service awards from my previous employer. These awards were a testament to my commitment and my ability to make a positive impact.

One word that sums up the Growing Mid Wales Team:

Solid Team. This phrase encapsulates the strength, unity, and resilience of our team. We support each other, work hard, and are always striving to grow and improve together.

Other news

Mid Wales Challenge Led Launchpad Round 3 - AgriFood Challenge now open

The Mid Wales Challenge Led Launchpad is a programme run by [AberInnovation](#), funded by the UK Government, driven by Levelling Up, aimed at developing novel solutions to public sector and societal issues through research and innovation whilst offering new market opportunities for businesses and people in Mid Wales.

This challenge is a single-phase challenge intended to show the feasibility of the proposed concept. The challenge provides a package of support valued at £5,000 which includes £3,200 R&D funding for proof-of-concept work, 6 months free virtual membership at AberInnovation and Innovation Strategy's Toolkit and mentorship.

A briefing event for organisations interested in finding out more about the challenge will be held virtually on 3rd July at 2pm. [Register here.](#)

The deadline for applications is 5pm on the 31 July 2024.

For more information visit the [AberInnovation](#) website.



UK Government Shared Prosperity Fund

Growing Mid Wales works closely with the Shared Prosperity Fund local delivery teams in Ceredigion and Powys County Councils in ensuring we have a broad mix of projects that will help us to achieve the opportunities and address the challenges in the region. Here's a round up of some of the latest

news of how the fund is contributing to community, business and culture opportunities across the region:

- [The 13 Powys companies helped by Growth Grants totalling £143,000 - Powys County Council](#)
- [Arts organisations to share £675,000 Shared Prosperity Fund grant - Powys County Council](#)
- [Ceredigion communities encouraged to “adopt” their local rivers](#)
- [SBARC Ceredigion boosts entrepreneurship and confidence in Ceredigion](#)



1 -

- [The 13 Powys companies helped by Growth Grants totalling £143,000 - Powys County Council](#)



2 -

- [Arts organisations to share £675,000 Shared Prosperity Fund grant - Powys County Council](#)



3 -

- [SBARC Ceredigion boosts entrepreneurship and confidence in Ceredigion](#)



4 - [*Ceredigion communities encouraged to “adopt” their local rivers*](#)

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.

