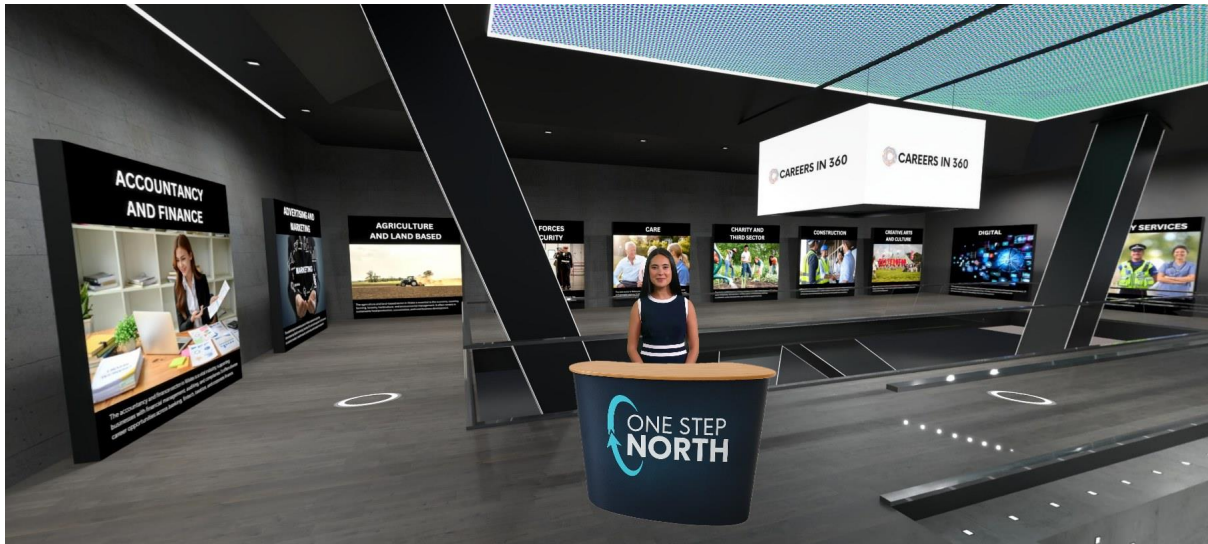




Growing Mid Wales November 2025

Welcome!

This month's update brings together progress across several key areas, including energy innovation moving into prototype testing, early engagement with the new Careers in 360 platform, developments on the 'World of Work 360' virtual careers fair, and the first episodes of our Digital Discussions podcast series. We also share updates from the Powys Business Awards, introduce new members of our team, and provide the latest on the Commercial Property Investment Fund as nine projects move into the Development Stage.

With activity continuing across energy, skills, business support and community-led initiatives, this edition offers an overview of work happening across the region as we approach the end of the year. Our December newsletter will include a full review of 2025 and an exciting announcement for Growth Deal funding.

[The Growing Mid Wales Team](#)

[Cover: [Careers in 360 portal](#)]

Content

- Energy: Mid Wales projects move into prototype stage to deliver real-world clean energy solutions
- Careers in 360: Bringing career pathways to life across Mid Wales
- Digital Discussions
- Powys Business Awards 2025
- GMW: New team members

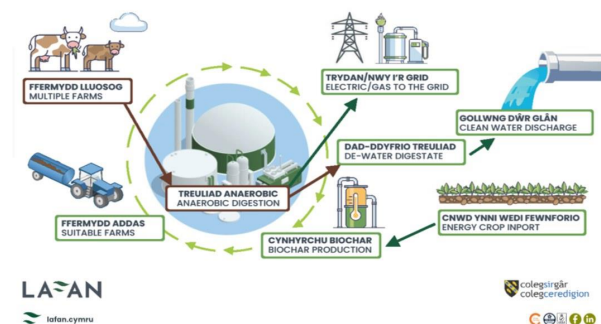
- Mid Wales Commercial Property Investment Fund – Update
- We're now on Instagram – follow us!
- Shared Prosperity Fund news from the region
- Who's on the shortlist for Caru Ceredigion Awards 2025?
- Other news - updates and opportunities shared from partner organisations

Energy: Mid Wales projects move into prototype stage to deliver real-world clean energy solutions

The Whole System Research for Innovation and Decarbonisation (WSRID) programme in Mid Wales has now entered its prototype phase, thanks to new funding from the Welsh Government. Building on feasibility work earlier this year, three projects – HARVEST, LAFAN and W2W – will move into real-world testing of clean energy systems designed for rural communities, agriculture and dairy farming. These initiatives will explore ideas such as community energy sharing, slurry-to-biogas and modular farm energy systems, all with the aim of designing scalable, low-emission solutions across Mid Wales.

This phase marks a key step in turning innovation into action; over the next year the prototypes will be refined and results prepared for rollout in 2026. The work highlights how collaboration between local farms, communities, researchers and government can deliver practical pathways to a greener, fairer energy future for Mid Wales.

Read the [full update](#) for more on how the projects are progressing and what to expect next.



Careers in 360: Bringing career pathways to life across Mid Wales

Growing Mid Wales and the Mid Wales Regional Skills Partnership is excited to present the [Careers in 360](#) portal — an innovative digital careers platform developed in collaboration with One Step North and key public sector organisations, including universities, colleges, and schools across Wales — has been live since 1 November and has already attracted over 2,000 visitors. Rollout to schools across Ceredigion and Powys is now underway, offering learners an immersive and interactive look at the world of work.

Students can explore over 250 career roles across 23 industry sectors, from digital and engineering to creative industries, healthcare, construction and more — all through engaging 360° video content, virtual workplace tours and “day in the life” experiences

What makes Careers in 360 different:

Personalised pathways: A ‘Right For Me’ quiz helps learners match their strengths and interests to potential careers.

Real-world insights: 360° workplace tours, short video stories, and interactive virtual booths bring jobs to life.

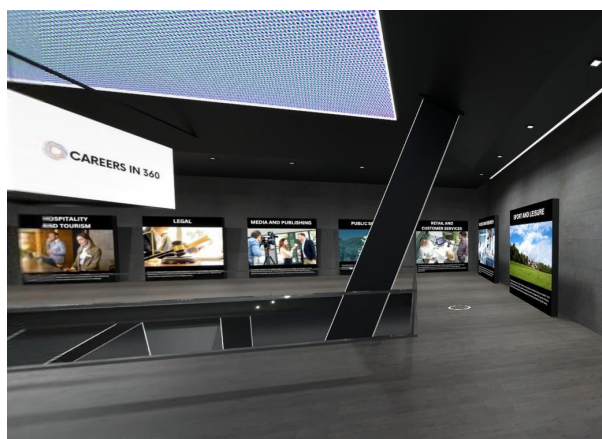
Comprehensive resources: Detailed job profiles outline responsibilities, required skills, typical wages and qualification routes.

Fully accessible: Available on desktop, tablet, mobile and VR — and bilingual in Welsh and English.

While the portal has been designed for young people, it's also a powerful tool for teachers, parents, career advisers and also adults considering a career change — helping users explore opportunities and understand the skills employers are looking for.

Early use in schools is already showing how the platform can spark curiosity, build confidence and help young people understand the opportunities waiting for them in Mid Wales.

👉 Explore the portal here: www.careersin360.com



1 - www.careersin360.com

Next steps: World of Work 360 – Bridging Education and Industry in a bold new way

A major new development on the portal is already underway. A dedicated '*World of Work 360*' section — an immersive virtual careers fair connected to [Careers in 360](http://www.careersin360.com) — is being built to strengthen the visibility of SMEs across Mid Wales on the platform. As part of this, plans are progressing for a Mid Wales directory, which will showcase businesses from across the region.

The Mid Wales business directory, where companies can provide information about their business free of charge for a 12-month trial period, gives them a new way to reach learners, jobseekers and the wider community.

This next phase represents a bold step in bridging education and industry, making it easier than ever for young people to explore real opportunities and for local employers to highlight the careers they offer.

Businesses wishing to be included within the Mid Wales directory are invited to [contact the RSP team](#) for further information.

Digital Discussions

We're excited to launch a new series of podcasts through [Business News Wales](#) spotlighting people, projects and ideas driving Ceredigion & Powys, and beyond.

Episode 1 – Royal Welsh Show Round-Up

In this inaugural episode we reflect on the Royal Welsh Show 2025. We hear from regional leaders, Councillor Bryan Davies, Leader of Ceredigion County Council and Councillor Jake Berriman, Leader of Powys County Council, joint Growing Mid Wales Board Chairs discuss businesses, and skills experts who were present on the ground, unpacking the key conversations, identifying areas of urgency, and spotlighting opportunities that surfaced across the agricultural, tourism, energy and agri-tech sectors.

Listen here: [Growing Mid Wales: Digital Discussions - Business News Wales](#)



Episode 2: Nurturing Innovation in Agri-Tech and Food Technology

From tech-driven traceability to net-zero supply chains, a coalition of research institutions, innovation hubs and regional partners are supporting small businesses, researchers and entrepreneurs across Mid and North Wales in agri-tech and food tech. Host Gemma Casey is joined by Aron E. Owen of M-Sparc, Dr Rhian Hayward of AberInnovation, Louise Jones of Innovate UK UKRI and Marcus Burnham of Neurabotics Ltd to discuss the Agri-Tech and Food Technology Cluster.

Listen now: [Nurturing Innovation in Agri-Tech and Food Technology](#)

Powys Business Awards 2025



2 - Councillor Jake Berriman, Leader of Powys County Council and Co-Chair of the Growing Mid Wales Board.

Powys businesses were recently celebrated at the 2025 [Powys Business Awards](#) organised by [Mid Wales Manufacturing Group](#) — an event which highlighted the innovation, resilience and ambition driving growth across the county. Councillor Jake Berriman, Leader of Powys County Council and Co-Chair of the Growing Mid Wales Board, praised the strength and diversity of the local business community, recognising their role in creating high-quality jobs, supporting supply chains, and contributing to a vibrant regional economy. He also encouraged more businesses to make use of the support available to help them grow, upskill their workforce and invest for the future. [Read more on the Powys County Council website.](#)

As part of the awards, the [Mid Wales Regional Skills Partnership](#) (RSP) was proud to sponsor the Business–Education Partnership Award, celebrating employers who work closely with schools, colleges and young people to inspire future talent. This year’s award went to Morland for their sustained commitment to offering hands-on learning experiences in manufacturing and engineering — with recognition also given to finalists EOM Electrical Contractors Ltd and Classic Car Specialist Wales. The RSP continues to work closely with employers across Powys and Ceredigion to drive collaborative skills planning, support industry-led cluster groups, and strengthen pathways into high-quality careers in Mid Wales. [Read more on the RSP website.](#)



3 - (L-R) Emma Thomas, RSP Chair; Rachel Jones, Morland; Morland team member.



4 - (L-R) Louise Grove-White (RSP team); Emma Thomas, RSP Chair; Teresa Peel-Jones (RSP team); Dai Price, RSP Manager; Doug Hughes, MD of Hughes Architects & Chair of the RSP Construction Cluster Group

GMW: Welcoming new team members and fond farewells



We're pleased to welcome new colleagues to the Growing Mid Wales team this month, strengthening our capacity as we move into the next phase of programme delivery.

- Natalie Chambers has moved into the role of Senior Portfolio Manager, leading on portfolio operational management for the Mid Wales Growth Deal, having already been part of the wider team.
- Adam Davies has joined as Portfolio Planner, supporting the coordination of the Mid Wales Growth Deal delivery timelines, reporting cycles and forward programme planning.
- Marie Evans has been appointed Mid Wales Growth Deal Project Lead and will take forward responsibilities currently held by Peter Jones who will be retiring at the end of this month. We wish Peter every happiness in his retirement and thank him sincerely for his significant contribution to the Growth Deal.
- Catrin Sneade has been appointed Regional Energy Lead, supporting activity across the region on the delivery and coordination of local energy plans.

We look forward to working closely with all four as they take up their new roles.



Mid Wales Commercial Property Investment Fund – Update



Mid Wales Commercial Property Investment Fund



The Mid Wales Commercial Property Investment Fund, which launched on 1 May 2025, is designed to be simple and accessible — supporting established (mainly local) businesses to develop, extend or repurpose commercial premises to unlock growth across the region.

The Fund is designed to back projects that will help grow Mid Wales’ commercial property offer — from developing new premises (including infrastructure and utilities) to extending, refurbishing, retrofitting, or converting existing buildings for business use.

After a successful Open Call and Viability Stage, which saw 54 enquiries and 22 formal submissions, we’re delighted to share that nine companies have now been invited to submit full ‘Developed Bids’. Their high-quality proposals demonstrated strong strategic fit, deliverability, financial viability, and potential impact.

The nine projects cover a cross-section of Mid Wales’ business base:

 Manufacturing – 5 projects

 Construction – 2 projects

 Motor trade – 2 projects

This mix reflects the Fund’s focus to support growth across key sectors that underpin the region’s economy — from advanced manufacturing and construction to essential services and supply chains.

Here’s a snapshot of the Fund’s progress so far:

 22 Viability Proposals submitted (100% return rate)

 9 projects now advancing to the Development Stage

📋 7 projects placed on a reserve list due to budget constraints

📍 7 projects in Powys, 2 in Ceredigion

💼 Combined project value: ~£11.12 million

💰 Estimated Fund contribution: ~£3.96 million

👤 112 new jobs proposed and 235 existing jobs to be safeguarded

🏠 10,394 sqm of new commercial floorspace to be created

The Development Stage will run over the coming months, with final assessments expected to conclude early in 2026. We extend our congratulations to the successful applicants and look forward to supporting them as they develop and refine the detail of their proposals. If successful, these projects will move into delivery soon after, helping to boost employment, unlock new workspace, and strengthen Mid Wales' commercial infrastructure.

👉 Find out more about the Fund: [Mid Wales Commercial Property Investment Fund](#)

We would also like to acknowledge the valuable support provided to businesses throughout the application process — particularly from our regional partners at Business Wales and Antur Cymru. Their guidance has helped companies shape strong proposals, strengthen business cases and move forward with confidence.

If your business is exploring development plans, expansion or investment opportunities, these organisations offer free, impartial support and advice across a range of areas — from planning and finance to innovation and exporting.

👉 Get support: <https://www.growingmid.wales/article/18127/6.-Contact>



6 - Mid Wales Commercial Property Investment Fund Launch event

We're now on Instagram – follow us!

We're excited to share that Growing Mid Wales is now on Instagram! 🎉

Our new page will give you a behind-the-scenes look at the projects, people and partnerships driving growth across the region — from investment updates and business support opportunities to skills initiatives, events, and stories from Mid Wales' thriving sectors.

We'll also be sharing snapshots from key milestones, highlighting local success stories, and showcasing how we're working with partners to build a stronger, more sustainable regional economy.

👉 Follow us today: [@growingmidwales](https://www.instagram.com/growingmidwales)

Be part of the conversation and help us celebrate all that's happening across Mid Wales. We'll continue to share regular updates on LinkedIn, but we'll no longer be active on X (formerly Twitter) — so make sure you're following us on Instagram to stay connected and up to date.



Shared Prosperity Fund news from the region

Across Ceredigion, Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) activity continues to support local enterprise and community engagement. [SBARC Ceredigion](#) has welcomed 20 new entrepreneurs onto its programme, helping to nurture early-stage business ideas and build local capacity for innovation. SPF funding has also supported a range of community events, including this year's [lantern parade](#) and [lantern-making workshops](#) delivered by Small World Theatre, bringing residents together and adding to the county's cultural offer. Work is also

underway to prepare for the transition year of the UK Shared Prosperity Strategic Fund, which will guide delivery arrangements from 2026.

In Powys, SPF-funded programmes continue to make strong progress. The Powys Business Capital Grants — which offer up to £25,000 to help local businesses invest, modernise and grow — have now moved through the assessment stage. Further updates on the outcome of applications will be shared soon.

This ongoing support is helping businesses build resilience, boost productivity and create new opportunities across the county, contributing to wider economic growth across Mid Wales.

Who's on the shortlist for Caru Ceredigion Awards 2025?

Following the success of the first Caru Ceredigion Awards held last year, the competition is back for 2025 with brand new categories.

The Caru Ceredigion Awards celebrates the outstanding contributions and achievements of businesses and community projects and individuals across the county.

The shortlist for this year's awards has now been published, featuring a diverse range of nominees from across the county.

A full list of the shortlisted companies can be found at: [Caru Ceredigion Awards 2025 - Ceredigion County Council](#)



Other news - updates and opportunities shared from partner organisations

Flexible Skills Programme Funding

Welsh Government's Flexible Skills Programme can fund up to 50% of accredited training costs (up to £50,000 per application). Open to employers across Wales, the programme helps businesses address skills gaps, retain talent, and grow capacity. 🖱️ Find out more: <https://businesswales.gov.wales/skillsgateway/flexible-skills-programme>

Funding for Tourism businesses

There are several options available for tourism businesses wanting to apply for funding. Here you can find out what options are available and where to find more information and advice.

[Funding](#) | [Supporting you](#) | [Industry Visit Wales](#)

Rural Wales business survey launched

A team of researchers led by Aberystwyth University is undertaking new research into the state of rural enterprise in Wales, funded by the UK Government through the *Cymru Wledig Local Policy and Innovation Partnership (LPIP) Rural Wales* initiative.

The study aims to build a clearer picture of the unique pressures facing rural businesses — from post-pandemic recovery to changing markets, consumer behaviour, and the journey to net zero — and how these compare to their urban counterparts.

Businesses in Mid and West Wales are encouraged to share their views by completing the online survey before 21 December 2025.

👉 [Take part in the survey](#)

Congratulations to LanoTech – Best Rural StartUp 2025

A huge congratulations to [LanoTech Ltd](#) on being named [Best Rural StartUp at the 2025 UK National StartUp Awards](#).

LanoTech was one of the successful recipients of the Innovate UK Wales [New Innovators Fund](#) — a programme we've helped to deliver as part of the [Agri-tech and Food Technology Cluster for Mid and North Wales](#), in collaboration with partners including AberInnovation, M-SParc, Food Centre Wales, Ambition North Wales, and AMRC Cymru.

Their pioneering work — transforming lanolin from British sheep wool into a sustainable alternative in animal feed — is a powerful example of how innovation can drive real-world impact.

We wish Clodagh and the team continued success as they grow, scale, and bring this ambitious vision to life.



Local Growth Fund for Wales Consultation

The UK and Welsh Governments have launched a consultation on the future Local Growth Fund for Wales — the programme intended to follow UK Shared Prosperity Fund from April 2026.

This is an opportunity to shape how future economic development and regeneration funding is designed and delivered in Wales — including how it can support our communities, businesses and places here in Mid Wales.

As highlighted in the Welsh Government's Written Statement, the intention is to ensure a smooth transition from UKSPF to a new long-term funding approach that supports regional priorities and local delivery.

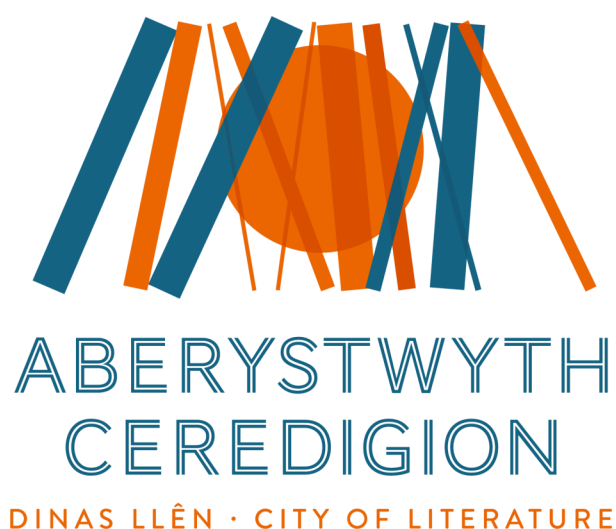
We encourage partners across the region — local authorities, businesses, skills and training providers, community groups and regional organisations — to attend and contribute. ➡

<https://www.gov.wales/proposals-approach-uk-local-growth-fund-wales>

Together, we can help shape a funding model that reflects the needs, strengths and ambitions of our region.

Wales' first UNESCO City of Literature

Aberystwyth has been named Wales' [first UNESCO City of Literature](#) — a significant milestone for our region. It strengthens Mid Wales' creative economy, cultural identity, and international profile — supporting talent attraction, business growth and place-making.



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 Instagram and LinkedIn pages, and YouTube channel:

www.instagram.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.

