

Swansea Bay Regional Engagement Team

Issue 01

Newsletter - Autumn 2016



Welcome to the first edition of the Swansea Bay Regional Engagement Team Quarterly Newsletter. Working on behalf of the Swansea Bay City Region Board to maximise the impact of EU funding.

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How the Swansea Bay Regional Engagement Team can help:

- Information and guidance on how European Structural and Investment Fund (ESI) operations fit with the strategic priorities of the region
- Promote contacts between partners in proposed operations to develop effective genuine cooperation
- Ensure regional benefit and input from national strategic operations
- Identify opportunities for co-operation or added value and risk of duplication by promoting integration across European funds
- Support the monitoring and evaluation of the programmes regionally, as well as lessons learnt/good practice
- Keep you up to date with regional developments and priorities

Swansea Bay iMap



The Swansea Bay City Region has recently launched its [iMap](#), an interactive tool that provides a comprehensive overview of strategic business locations, development land and investment opportunities across the region and acts as the main visual tool for promoting the region's inward investment offer.

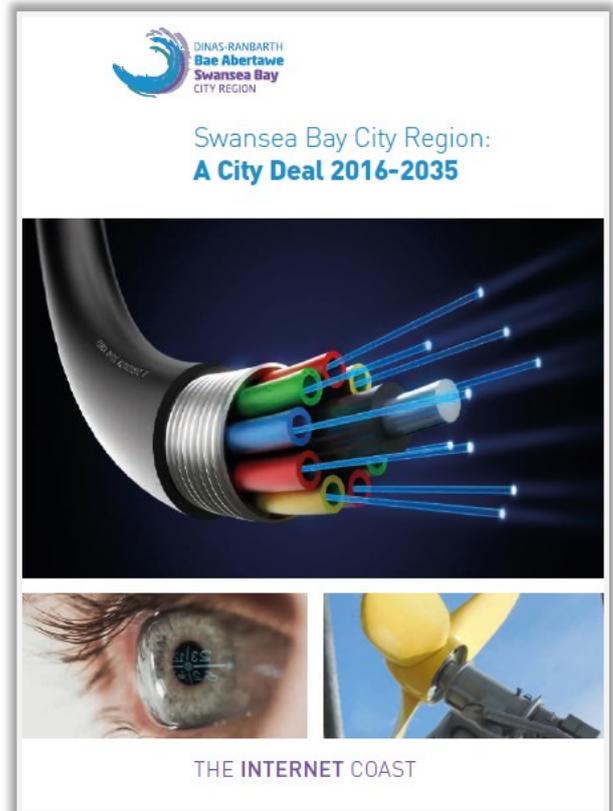
'Internet Coast' City Deal

Swansea Bay City Region submits 'Internet Coast' City Deal bid in excess of £500m to UK and Welsh Governments .

The Swansea Bay City Region bid aims to harness the digital revolution to accelerate sustainable long term growth, for the Swansea Bay City Region, as well as for the benefit of the rest of Wales and the UK, with a focus on three key areas: energy, health and economic prosperity.

In essence, the City Deal will see the SBCR become a giant test bed that innovates, trials and globally commercialises smart internet based solutions that will transform the local, Wales and UK economy, energy and health sectors in much the same way as the internet has already transformed the telecommunications industry.

The city deal will assemble a funding package in excess of £500m over the next 20 years from private and public sources to deliver a vision that supports the objectives of the UK and Welsh Governments on economic growth, social inclusion and sustainability while re-balancing the prosperity gap between Swansea Bay and the rest of Wales and the UK .



Innovation in Energy

Do you work in the Energy and Environment Sector? Are you aware of the EU funding that is available?

The Energy and Environment sector is fast becoming one of prominence and unrivalled importance in Wales, as a result The Swansea Bay Regional Engagement Team will be hosting a Sustainable Energy & Energy Efficiency workshop. The workshop is set to take place at The Pavilion, Haverfordwest Showground on the 8th December 2016.

The workshop will provide an insight of what EU funding opportunities are available, what project ideas are being developed in the sector and a chance to meet with other likeminded people.

To book your place today, click [here](#).



Frequently Asked Questions post-Referendum

The Welsh Government has published a page for commonly raised topics since the EU Referendum. You can access it here:

<https://businesswales.gov.wales/brexit/brexit-faq>

Are you thinking of applying for ESF funding? Do you need key information in relation to employment and skills in South West and Mid Wales?



Regional Learning and Skills Partnership
Partneriaeth Dysgu a Sgiliau Rhanbarthol

South West & Mid Wales
De-Orllewin a Canolbarth Cymru

The Regional Learning and Skills Partnership has recently published the latest version of the Employment and Skills Plan, South West & Mid Wales to inform and support the Welsh Government's strategic approach to the delivery of employment and skills, in conjunction with the other two Regional Skills Partnerships (RSPs).

To download the Employment and Skills Plan, South West and Mid Wales click [here](#). To find out more information on the work the Regional Learning and Skills Partnership undertakes click [here](#).

Review of the Economic Prioritisation Framework

Over the coming months, the Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO) will be reviewing the Economic Prioritisation Framework (EPF) and will be seeking regional feedback through us as part of this process.

Further information click [here](#)

Workways

Led by Neath Port Talbot Council, Workways offers training and paid work experience opportunities to 4,000 long-term unemployed people to help get their lives back on track.

Support targets disadvantaged people, helping them to take their first steps to re-engage or enter into the labour market.

Regional contact: Oonagh Gavigon, Tel: 01639 684250 / Email: workways@npt.gov.uk

EU Funds Available for Research and Innovation Proposals

Around £40m of EU funds are available in a call for innovative proposals that can successfully translate research and innovation into new and improved commercial products, processes and services.

There is no restriction on the type of organisation (private, public or third sector) that can apply for this funding and organisations new to EU Structural Funds are welcomed.

For full details please click [here](#)

Measuring Soft Outcomes

The Wales Council for Voluntary Action has arranged a series of courses to provide learners with the knowledge and understanding to plan and implement a system for recording soft outcomes within the context of EU funding.

The course will be taking place on the 8th December 2016 in Carmarthen.

Further information click [here](#)

Appointment of Chair

New Chair appointed to oversee monitoring of EU funds in Wales

Julie Morgan AM has been appointed as the new Chair of a committee which helps ensure Wales maximises the impact of the EU Funds.

The Wales Programme Monitoring Committee (PMC) is responsible for monitoring the effective delivery of the European Structural and Investment funds in Wales, which provide support to help people into work, drive business growth and innovation as well as assistance for rural communities.

[Read More.](#)

New Port Talbot Transport Hub gets green light

The Hub, which will be located adjacent to the recently rebuilt Parkway station, will act as a focal point for transport in the area. It is jointly funded by the Welsh Government (£2.7m) and the European Regional Development Fund (£2.5m).

Councillor Ali Thomas OBE, Leader of Neath Port Talbot Council said:

"The new Integrated Transport Hub will be a key development for Neath Port Talbot as we work to improve connectivity and boost economic growth for our local communities."

New Wave Energy Device to be developed in Pembrokeshire

Cornwall-based Wave-tricity has secured £4m in EU funds through the Welsh Government to develop and test a new device called the Ocean Wave Rower.

The project is the latest investment to help create a world-leading marine energy sector in Wales.

[Read more](#)

Cynnydd

The £19m Cynnydd scheme targets young people most at risk of disengaging from education and by association, at highest risk of becoming NEET. Cynnydd provides a range of interventions which will help young people progress further in education and improve their future job and career prospects. The project covers the counties of Carmarthenshire, Ceredigion, Pembrokeshire, Neath Port Talbot and Swansea

Support will include individual mentoring, coaching and counselling, courses to improve basic skills, self-esteem and life skills and work experience and volunteering opportunities.

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