



How can the Regional Engagement Team help you?

The Swansea Bay Regional Engagement Team (SBRET) is one of four teams set up in Wales to help ensure EU funding proposals meet existing and future opportunities and investments at regional levels.

The SBRET work across the counties of Carmarthenshire, Neath Port Talbot, Pembrokeshire and Swansea, and across all sectors in the region to ensure the effective participation and success of EU funded investments. SBRET supports the region in the delivery of its [economic regeneration strategy](#) to improve the prospects of our communities, businesses and economy.

If you are considering applying for EU funding, contact us for guidance on how your project can support regional priorities, to make links to other projects and benefit from case studies and examples of best practice.

If you are already delivering an EU funded project, we would be keen to hear about how your projects is progressing. We could also look to feature some of your good news stories in the next newsletter.

Regional Investment in Wales after Brexit



The Welsh Government is working with partners in Wales to produce new regional investment approaches to replace the EU Structural and Investment Funds after Brexit. The process of co-production involves a variety of engagement approaches, including the establishment of a Regional Investment for Wales Steering Group, chaired by Huw Irranca-Davies AM, to discuss strategic issues and new ideas about policy direction and implementation approaches, and provide advice to Welsh Ministers. Membership is from a wide range of stakeholders including business, local government, academic institutions, the third sector, and a variety of public bodies. The Steering Group has met twice (18 Feb and 2 May) since its establishment earlier this year. The membership, final papers and minutes are published [here](#).

The Steering Group has also agreed to the establishment of four specialist sub groups (National Framework; Research, Monitoring and Evaluation; Implementation; and International / Cross-Border Working) to inform thinking and generate ideas around specific issues. These groups will be populated with relevant internal and external experts from different sectors, and will be established initially for 18 months as we seek to put in place a new regional investment framework from early 2021. Details on these sub groups, including how to apply to be a member are published [here](#).

The National Assembly for Wales debated in Plenary on 11 June the UK's Shared Prosperity Fund. There was clear support for the Welsh Government's positions that Wales should not be a penny worse off as a result of Brexit – as promised during the 2016 referendum campaign – and that the Welsh Government must retain autonomy in the development and delivery of successor arrangements. Read the Finance Minister's (Rebecca Evans AM) opening and closing statement along with the full record of proceedings [here](#).

Have your say...

WEFO has appointed OB3 Research to undertake an evaluation of the Regional Engagement Teams (RETs).

As part of this evaluation they wish to capture feedback from stakeholders who have worked with RETs. OB3 Research kindly ask that you please complete this short, confidential web [survey](#).

Thank you in advance for your assistance with this important review.

Regional Performance Data

The table below gives headline figures of the performance of ESI funded operations across the Swansea Bay Region.

You can find out more information on how Wales is benefiting from EU funds [here](#).

Performance Indicator	Figures for the South West Region
Enterprises Assisted ¹	1,843
Enterprises Created ²	414
Jobs Created ³	3,529
Participants Assisted	47,028
Participants Supported into Employment	3,605
Participants Gaining Qualifications	17,582
Participants in education / training	2,005

Source: WEFO, 31/03/2019

¹ Aggregate of the Enterprises receiving non-financial support indicators under the ERDF Operational Programmes

² Aggregate of the New enterprises supported indicators under the ERDF Operational Programmes

³ Aggregate of the Employment increase in supported enterprises indicators under the ERDF Operational Programmes

Swansea Bay City Deal



Two major Swansea Bay City Deal projects are expected to be imminently approved.

It's anticipated Yr Egin in Carmarthen and the Swansea City and Waterfront Digital District will be the first projects approved by the UK Government and Welsh Government.

Once approved, City Deal funding worth millions will help part-fund these projects. They're among several in South West Wales due to be part-funded by the £1.3 billion Swansea Bay

City Deal, which also include a regional skills and talent initiative being led by Carmarthenshire Council to help people throughout the City Region access the thousands of new jobs the City Deal will create.

A first phase of the Yr Egin creative industry and digital hub at the University of Wales of Trinity Saint David campus in Carmarthen is already up and running.

In addition to S4C as anchor tenant, the 3,700 square metre first phase is now home to a range of companies working in creative industries including multi-media publishing, digital technology, digital education, video production, photography, post production, graphic design, translation, sub-titling, and financial management for the creative sector.

The Swansea City and Waterfront Digital District project is made up of a digital indoor arena at a site adjacent to the LC, a digital village for tech businesses at the former Oceana site on Kingsway, and a box village and innovation precinct development for start-up businesses at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David SA1 Waterfront.

Benefitting from world class digital connectivity, the 3,500-capacity arena will open in early 2021. A digital plaza will also be constructed outside the arena.

Carmarthenshire Council is continuing to work on a revised final business case for the £200 million Wellness Village at Delta Lakes in Llanelli. Combining medical, research, business, leisure and well-being facilities, the project is also due to be part-funded by the City Deal.

Other progress includes a plan to recruit an independent City Deal programme director, with a job advert soon expected to be published. The successful candidate will establish and run a new City Deal programme management office based in Llanelli, while also co-ordinating a portfolio of major projects across the Swansea Bay City Region, which is made up of Carmarthenshire, Neath Port Talbot, Pembrokeshire and Swansea.

Other job functions include raising the profile of the City Region as a place to live, work and invest, as well as seeking further opportunities for private sector investment in the City Deal.

The creation of the new position is among the recommendations of recent reviews into the City Deal, which were aimed at speeding up its delivery.

£35 million engineering research institute completed

The Institute for Innovative Materials, Processing and Numerical Technologies (IMPACT) has reached completion. The research facility, specialising in advanced engineering, is based at Swansea University Bay Campus and forms part of the College of Engineering, providing it with space for strategic expansion.

The completion of the building marks a major milestone in the successful delivery of the £35 million state-of-the-art engineering research operation. Construction commenced in December 2017 with a design created to further support the global engineering industry with collaborative, fundamental research. The transformative design combines laboratory and office space to provide a unique colocation environment for academia-industry partnerships.

Find out more about [IMPACT](#)



Picture: the outside of the IMPACT building, which features a giant living wall with over 5,000 plants (Image courtesy of AHR)

The operation has been part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund through the Welsh Government and Swansea University. The building will officially launch in the winter months.

Work begins on major Pendine transformation scheme



Work has started on a major £7million scheme to transform Pendine into a ‘must-see’ visitor destination in Wales.

The Pendine Tourism Attractor Project, led by Carmarthenshire County Council, will feature a new state-of-the-art Sands of Speed museum dedicated to Pendine’s historic association with land speed, with interactive zones and exhibition space to house racing cars and land speed memorabilia; an eco-activity holiday resort featuring a 42-bed hostel and dune gardens; plus facilities to host major events and sand sports.

The developments at Pendine are part of the Welsh Government’s wider EU funded Tourism Attractor Destination programme, led by Visit Wales, which aims to create 11 must see destinations across Wales.

Carmarthenshire County Council successfully secured £3million from the European Regional Development Fund, and £1.5million Targeted Match Funding from Welsh Government towards the scheme, with the remaining £2.5million committed from the council’s capital programme. On completion, in summer 2020, it is hoped it will deliver an additional economic boost to the regional economy of £3.3million a year.

The project builds on the council’s efforts over the last nine years to improve the Pendine area, including enhanced gateways, a new £800k promenade, and investment in commercial property, including the £1million Parry Thomas Centre.

Cllr Emlyn Dole, Leader of the council and Executive Board Member for Regeneration, said: “This is an exciting scheme which will put Pendine front and centre as a major holiday destination, further strengthening the economy of the area and providing much-needed jobs.

“The Sands of Speed museum in itself will be a major attraction and we’re delighted to be developing the activity hostel which help establish Pendine as a “day and stay” destination.”

Welsh Government Tourism Minister, Lord Elis Thomas, added: “Our aim through the Tourism Attractor Destination programme is to focus efforts and investment on key projects in each region so we have a real impact on Wales’ profile in this globally competitive market.

“Projects such as this in Pendine will give people compelling reasons to visit Wales and I’m delighted that work has now started on the development – this will be a major boost for Carmarthenshire and south west Wales.”



Disabled Website Developer Sian Andrews ready to launch.

Website page developer and part-time administration officer Siân Andrews aged 27, will always cherish the 22nd March 2019 because that was the day the new website that she has played a crucial role in developing, www.AccessPembrokeshire.co.uk, was launched.

Diagnosed with autism, Sian was determined to follow her passion for making people aware of the issues surrounding disabled access. In Workways+ Sian found the perfect support to enable her to do just that.

In 2016, Sian was referred by the Shaw Trust to the Pembrokeshire Workways+ team. Workways+ assigned Sian a dedicated mentor to work with her on a one to one basis. Sian's mentors Hannah and Nigel, recognised the great potential in Sian. After a period of working with Sian helping build her confidence and develop her work skills, it was arranged for Sian to join the Workways+ voluntary group charged with developing new websites to serve the needs of Pembrokeshire. With ongoing support from Hannah, Nigel and Workways+ administrator Daniel Martin, Sian thrived within the voluntary group developing her digital skills and taking part in the social interaction.

Sian's passion for highlighting disabled access information was channelled into the creation of the new website www.AccessPembrokeshire.co.uk. This website has been created to help make people aware of access and facilities for disabled people within public and private sector places within Pembrokeshire.

With support from Workways+, Sian's role in developing the website has grown to include sourcing and editing the News and Events sections and adding maps, buttons and hyperlinks. Sian's contribution has been so impressive she is now paid to work on the website 3 hours per week.

Nigel also secured a voluntary position within Pembrokeshire County Council for Sian to work as an administrator. Sian took up this opportunity with enthusiasm, further developing her skills set. After a few weeks volunteering, Pembrokeshire County Council offered Sian a permanent job working 16 hours per week. Sian now has a level of independence greater than she has ever known. Gaining employment has meant a lot to Sian.

Sian said, "I am doing something I really enjoy. I enjoy the work and I also enjoy socialising at work and meeting people. This gives me something to look forward to everyday I go to work. Workways+ are such nice people and they have been wonderful in helping me to do things I am passionate about. I am very proud of what I do and so is my family. I would recommend Workways+ to anyone wanting to make the most of their lives".

Karen Davies, Workways+ Pembrokeshire Project Manager, said "It's been a pleasure watching Sian grow and the difference between Sian today and the person that we first met is amazing. Our mission at Workways+ is to help economically inactive people improve their lives through volunteering, training, work experience and employment. Anyone, no matter what their barriers maybe, should speak to us. If we can't help then we will be able to direct them to other support services."

Workways+ helps people improve their lives through volunteering, work experience, training and employment. Workways+ is part funded by the European Social Fund through the Welsh Government.

To get support from Workways + please call 01432 776662 www.workways.wales

Horizon 2020

Horizon 2020 - Annual Event 2019



Register for this year's Horizon 2020 annual event at the Mercure Hotel, Cardiff, **4 July** to explore how research and innovation funds in Wales, the UK and the EU can work together to boost Wales' international competitiveness (click [here](#).)

Register your Horizon 2020 project

Horizon 2020 research funding awarded to Welsh organisations is protected by the UK government's lifetime expenditure guarantee. If you are a current recipient of Horizon 2020 funding, enter details of your project at the UK's Research and Innovation (UKRI) project portal so that UKRI has your information in the event that the UK exits the EU without a deal. Link [here](#).

Welsh Government Rural Communities – Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 (RDP)

This programme is funded by the European Union's European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and by the Welsh Government.

The following RDP scheme windows for funding are now open:

Sustainable Management Scheme

Expression of Interest window opened 21st May 2019

The SMS aims to support collaborative landscape-scale projects delivering action that improves our natural resources in a way that delivers benefits to farm and rural businesses and rural communities.

More information can be found [here](#)

Micro Small Business Fund (MSBF)

MSBF is an investment fund targeting eligible capital investment projects in the tourism sector in Wales. It can be used either to upgrade existing or create new high quality product.

Support of between £25,000 and £500,000 will be considered.

More information can be found [here](#)

Farm Business Grant

Expression of Interest Window opened 4 March 2019

The grant provides farmers with a financial contribution towards capital investments in equipment and machinery.

More information can be found [here](#)

Food Business Investment Scheme

The FBIS covers capital investments in processing equipment along with some associated costs and supports projects that offer clear and quantifiable benefits to primary producers, either directly or indirectly, in the agriculture sectors providing the raw materials. Micro, Small or Medium Enterprises (SME's) are a particular priority for support.

More information can be found [here](#)

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