

# Growing Mid Wales

## December 2025 Newsletter

Season's Greetings.

Thank you for your ongoing support. We look forward to continuing to work with you in 2026 and Growing Mid Wales together.



**Welcome to this special end-of-year edition of the Growing Mid Wales newsletter.**

As we reach the end of 2025, we look back on a year of real progress for our region.

From major steps forward on the Mid Wales Growth Deal, to new skills initiatives, energy innovation, agri-tech and food-tech breakthroughs, and the legacy of the Shared Prosperity Fund — this has been a year shaped by partnership.

This edition looks back at key milestones from across the year and offers a glimpse of what's in store for 2026, as we continue to build a fairer, greener and more prosperous Mid Wales

Before we dive into our year-in-review, we're also pleased to share some fresh updates: our new Open Call inviting expressions of interest for future capital investment; a recent visit from the Future Generations Commissioner to key innovation sites in Mid Wales; and our latest podcast episode focusing on the new [Careers in 360 portal](#) — make sure you give it a listen.

We want to extend our sincere thanks to all our partners across Ceredigion, Powys, business and industry, education and training providers, funders, community organisations and wider stakeholders who have worked with us throughout 2025. Your collaboration, insight and commitment are what drive progress in Mid Wales.

As we look ahead to the opportunities 2026 will bring, we hope you enjoy this year-in-review edition.

Wishing you all a restful break and a season filled with festive cheer.

[.The Growing Mid Wales Team](#)

## 2025: Year in review

Click through the images to explore key developments across the work of Growing Mid Wales. Once you open an image, you'll find links to full articles and relevant webpages.



1 - <https://www.growingmidwales.co.uk/NewsandEvents>



2 - <https://www.growingmidwales.co.uk/article/18914/Phase-1-investment-unlocked-for-transformational-project-at-CAT>

<https://www.growingmidwales.co.uk/article/18674/Mid-Wales-commercial-property-fund-launches-to-boost-business-growth>

<https://www.growingmidwales.co.uk/article/18383/Extra-11.8m-unlocked-for-Mid-Wales-Growth-Deal-as-first-project-takes-shape>



3 - <https://www.growingmidwales.co.uk/article/20081/Mid-Wales-projects-move-into-prototype-stage-to-deliver-real-world-clean-energy-solutions>

<https://www.growingmidwales.co.uk/article/19474/Smart-solutions-for-sustainable-energy-in-agriculture-shared-at-Royal-Welsh-Show>

<https://www.growingmidwales.co.uk/article/18945/Smart-Solutions-for-Sustainable-Farming-Decarbonising-Agriculture-in-Mid-Wales>



4 - <https://www.growingmidwales.co.uk/MidWalesUKSPF>

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLebbFOMA3ZSpOnNcAsf2U3jiS0s9jickU4&si=1t5OjF14cromlIY9>



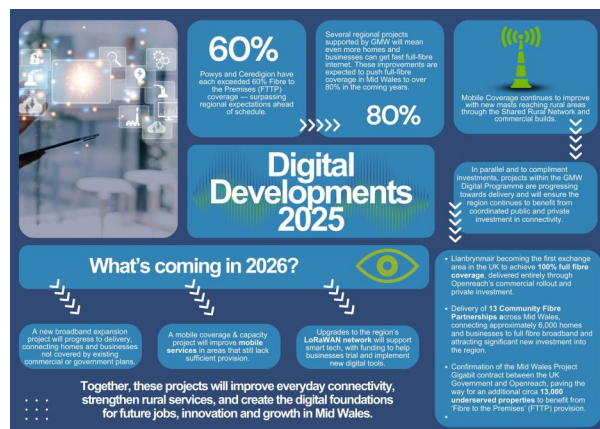
5 - <https://www.growingmidwales.co.uk/AgriTechFoodTech>

<https://www.growingmidwales.co.uk/article/19707/Innovative-dairy-farm-leads-the-way-in-ethical-farming-and-skills-sharing-across-Mid-Wales>

<https://www.growingmid.wales/article/19482/Powering-progress-at-the-Royal-Welsh-Innovation-and-collaboration-drive-Agri-Tech-and-Food-Tech-success>

<https://www.growingmid.wales/article/18931/Innovation-boost-for-Agri-tech--Food-tech-in-Mid-and-North-Wales-as-local-businesses-receive-support>

<https://www.growingmid.wales/article/18735/CASE-STUDY-Tirlun.ai---Helping-Farmers-Work-Smarter-Every-Day>



6 - <https://www.growingmid.wales/article/18501/New-broadband-plans-for-Mid-Wales---check-if-you-can-get-support>



7 - <https://careersin360.com/>

<https://midwalesrsp.wales/>

<https://midwalesrsp.wales/article/20025/Morland-Wins-Business-Education-Partnership-Award-at-Powys-Business-Awards-2025>

<https://midwalesrsp.wales/article/18849/Unlocking-Potential-Businesses-Across-Mid-and-North-Wales-Explore-Employing-Prison-Leavers>

## Call for new Mid Wales capital projects now open

Organisations across Mid Wales are now invited to submit proposals for new capital projects to help shape a strengthened regional investment pipeline. The open call is now live.

The purpose of the pipeline is to identify, support and prepare a range of high-impact, investment-ready projects that can help drive long-term economic growth across the region. It will provide possible options for investment through the Mid Wales Growth Deal, but also position Mid Wales strongly for future funding opportunities and wider private sector investment.



This pipeline-led approach will support the region in bringing forward proposals that are ambitious, deliverable and capable of generating lasting economic benefits for Mid Wales — including job creation, productivity improvements, supply chain strengthening and sector growth.

Guidance and supporting information are available

at: <https://www.growingmid.wales/GMWPipelineRefresh>

Before submitting a proposal, organisations are strongly encouraged to contact the Growing Mid Wales Portfolio Management Office for an informal discussion to understand funding parameters, requirements and timescales. Email: [growingmidwales@ceredigion.gov.uk](mailto:growingmidwales@ceredigion.gov.uk)

Read the full article [here](#).

Embed://<iframe width="100%" height="166" scrolling="no" frameborder="no" allow="autoplay" src="https://w.soundcloud.com/player/?url=https%3A//api.soundcloud.com/tracks/soundcloud%253Atracks%253A2223477332&color=ff5500"></iframe><div style="font-size: 10px; color: #cccccc;line-break: anywhere;word-break: normal;overflow: hidden;white-space: nowrap;text-overflow: ellipsis; font-family: Interstate,Lucida Grande,Lucida Sans Unicode,Lucida Sans,Garuda,Verdana,Tahoma,sans-serif;font-weight: 100;"><a href="https://soundcloud.com/user-473506905" title="Business News Wales" target="\_blank" style="color: #cccccc; text-decoration: none;">Business News Wales</a> · <a href="https://soundcloud.com/user-473506905/jake\_mixdown-2" title="Councillor Jake Berriman, Leader of Powys County Council" target="\_blank" style="color: #cccccc; text-decoration: none;">Councillor Jake Berriman, Leader of Powys County Council</a></div>

Listen to Councillor Jake Berriman, Leader of Powys County Council, Co-Chairs of the Growing Mid Wales Board, telling [Business News Wales](#) more about the open call (Listen to Councillor Bryan Davies, Leader of Ceredigion County Council from our Welsh newsletter)

## Mid Wales leading the Pan-Wales Agri-Food & Agri-Tech Local Innovation Partnership Fund Proposal

Plans are progressing for a proposed £20 million Local Innovation Partnership Fund (LIPF), focused on accelerating innovation-led growth across Wales' agri-food and agri-tech sectors. The programme aims to enable places to build internationally competitive clusters that attract inward investment and increase the rate of commercialisation.

The Agri-Food & Agri-Tech Innovation Partnership recently brought together senior stakeholders from across government, academia and industry, working through a triple helix partnership. Stakeholders included Welsh Government, Growing Mid Wales, Ambition North Wales, Innovate UK, Aberystwyth University, AberInnovation, M-SParc, Food Centre Wales, Innovation Strategy and BIC Innovation.

Discussions focused on how targeted, place-based investment can strengthen business productivity, encourage private sector investment, and support the commercialisation and adoption of near-to-market agri-food and agri-tech innovation, while ensuring alignment with national and regional food, innovation and economic policy.

The programme aims to build on the existing Pan-Wales agri-food and agri-tech clusters and will be led by Growing Mid Wales, bringing together shared assets and testbeds across Wales to improve routes to scale-up and accelerate commercialisation.

Industry stakeholder engagement is currently underway; two workshops will take place in January 2026 on the following dates:

- 15th January – AberInnovation, Aberystwyth
- 16th January – M-SParc, Anglesey

Businesses interested in engaging with the programme are encouraged to register by contacting [anja.evans@bic-innovation.com](mailto:anja.evans@bic-innovation.com)

## **Future Generations Commissioner visits key innovation sites in Mid Wales**

The Future Generations Commissioner for Wales, Derek Walker, visited Mid Wales on 25 November to explore long-term opportunities for a thriving, sustainable regional economy.

Derek met regional leaders, businesses and innovation partners to see first-hand how opportunities to build a fairer, greener and more prosperous future for communities are taking place across Ceredigion and Powys.

Hosted by Growing Mid Wales, the visit highlighted the region's leadership in food innovation, sustainability, skills development and clean growth, focusing on how collaboration is helping to target many of the goals set out in the Well-being of Future Generations Act.

Food Centre Wales, Horeb, was the first stop of the visit where the Commissioner heard how the Centre supports food and drink producers to innovate, scale sustainably, adopt new technologies and create high-quality jobs rooted in local supply chains. The group discussed plans for the Food Manufacturing Innovation Centre and toured facilities supporting skills, entrepreneurship and business growth.

Following on, the Commissioner visited AberInnovation, the only UK Research & Innovation Campus in Wales. The tour showcased the region's growing biotechnology, agri-tech and circular economy cluster, supported by world-leading research expertise and a growing ecosystem of start-ups and scale-ups working on practical solutions.

Full story on our [website](#).



8 - AberInnovation (L-R) Councillor Jake Berriman, Leader of Powys County Council; Derek Walker, Future Generations Commissioner for Wales; Rhian Hayward, CEO of AberInnovation; and Councillor Bryan Davies, Leader of Ceredigion County Council

## Growing Mid Wales: Digital Discussions

**Episode 3 – Skills:** A podcast focused on how the Mid Wales Regional Skills Partnership is strengthening the region's skills pipeline, with discussion on current priorities and the [Careers in 360 platform](#). Guests included Emma Thomas RSP Chair, Ceri Stephens MWMG, Doug Hughes of Hughes Architects (Chair of the RSP Construction Cluster Group) and Andries Pretorius ([Careers in 360](#) founder), who shared insights on connecting education, employers and future talent across Mid Wales.

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

Alongside the podcasts, each guest speaker who has contributed to our podcast series also contributes to the Business News Wales' guest column's section. Explore the [Mid Wales section](#) now.



9 - <https://careersin360.com/>



10 - <https://careersin360.com/>

## **Celebrating outstanding talent in Ceredigion - Gwobrau Caru Ceredigion Awards 2025 winners announced**

The event, held on 11 December, at the Lampeter Campus, University of Wales Trinity St David's celebrated the exceptional contributions and achievements of businesses, community projects, and individuals across the county.

Organised under the Caru Ceredigion banner, over 110 applications were received for the awards which included some new categories this year, with 40 finalists featuring across 12 categories.

One of the highlights of the ceremony was the presentation of the Caru Ceredigion Award, which went to Aber Cycle Fest, and was the overall winner across the various categories.

For the list of all the winners and runners up, visit [Ceredigion County Council's news page](#).





## 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/](https://www.instagram.com/growingmidwales/)

[www.linkedin.com/company/growing-mid-wales](https://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](mailto:growingmidwales@ceredigion.gov.uk).

