



Growing Mid Wales

May newsletter 2026

This month, we're pleased to share a range of updates that highlight the continued pace of delivery and opportunity across Growing Mid Wales. From the further Growth Deal funding to the Elan Valley Lakes project, to the launch of new LoRaWAN grant funding—helping businesses access up to £4,999 alongside expert support to adopt smart technologies—to inspiring stories like Leah's apprenticeship journey in building control, this edition reflects both the practical support available and the people driving change across the region.

We're also inviting businesses to play a direct role in shaping the future workforce through the Regional Skills Partnership survey—your input is vital in helping us understand skills needs across Mid Wales. Alongside this, excitement is building as preparations ramp up for the Royal Welsh Show, where we'll be showcasing the breadth of activity and impact being delivered across our programmes.

Looking ahead to June, we'll be sharing further updates from the Digital Programme - bringing gigabit-capable broadband to business parks across Ceredigion and Powys. Alongside this will be new *Unlocking Mid Wales* podcast episodes on the Regional Transport Plan and and we will hear from businesses that have recently benefitted from the Mid Wales Commercial Property Investment Fund.

[The Growing Mid Wales Team](#)

Cover: Elan Valley Visitor Centre

Further funding approved to deliver Elan Valley Lakes Project

Further funding has been approved by the Growing Mid Wales Board (19 May). The decision marks an important step forward, enabling the next stage of the project to begin.

In March 2025, the project received £565,500 of Growth Deal funding to support early delivery activity. This has enabled initial work to begin on key elements, including plans for the expansion of the Celtic rainforest and the design of a new visitor centre, marking the transition from planning into implementation.

Following the Board's approval, Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water will receive a further £3.81 million to progress delivery of the full project, bringing total Growth Deal support for this element to £4.37 million. This investment forms part of a wider package, and is matched with a 50% investment by Dŵr Cymru, reflecting a shared commitment to delivering the project.

Read the full story on [our website](#).



1 - Penbont Woods, Elan Valley

Funding and support available for smart technology adoption in Mid Wales

Businesses across Ceredigion and Powys are being invited to access new funding and expert support to adopt LoRaWAN (Long Range Wide Area Network) technology through the Growing Mid Wales Digital Programme.

- Grants of up to £4,999 are available to help businesses invest in smart devices, sensors and gateways to improve efficiency, reduce costs and support better decision-making.
- No technical expertise is required—Antur Cymru will provide hands-on support, from application through to identifying practical use cases and deployment.

- The technology has wide applications across sectors, including agriculture, tourism, manufacturing and retail, as well as environmental monitoring in rural areas.
- The initiative aims to remove barriers to digital adoption, strengthen long-term business capability, and support regional economic growth as part of the wider Mid Wales Growth Deal.

Businesses will be supported throughout by Antur Cymru, who are delivering the project on behalf of Growing Mid Wales, providing hands-on guidance from the outset.

Businesses are encouraged to submit an Expression of Interest via our website:

www.growingmid.wales/LoRaWAN

Read the full story on [our website](#).

!Look out for our next *Unlocking Mid Wales* podcast with Business News Wales, featuring Jan from The Snail of Happiness sharing how her business has benefited from using LoRaWAN technology to make smarter, data-driven decisions!



2 - Members of Antur Cymru that will delivering the project on behalf of Growing Mid Wales (L-R) Lynne Rees, Alex Matthews, Emma Jehu

Spotlight on women in construction: an apprenticeship journey in building control

As part of ongoing efforts to highlight skills pathways and career opportunities across Mid Wales, we're sharing this insight from Leah Bell, a Trainee Building Control Officer with Ceredigion County Council.

Supporting women across all sectors and promoting apprenticeships as valuable career routes remain central to building a strong and inclusive workforce for the future.

Leah's story reflects both of these priorities. As she progresses through her apprenticeship and works towards becoming the first female Registered Building Inspector (RBI) in Ceredigion, her experience demonstrates how apprenticeships can open doors into highly

technical and rewarding careers — including in sectors traditionally underrepresented by women.

"As a trainee, no two days are the same. I might be reviewing architectural plans one moment and out on-site with experienced Registered Building Inspectors the next, carrying out inspections, attending multidisciplinary meetings, completing technical paperwork, or tackling the weekly challenge of memorising yet another regulation or approved document. By the end of my traineeship, I'll have completed four professional exams, qualified as a Building Control professional, and registered with the Building Safety Regulator as a Registered Building Inspector — becoming the first female RBI in Ceredigion. A small personal milestone, but one I hope becomes a stepping stone for women entering our local construction sector."

Read Leah's story on our [website](#).



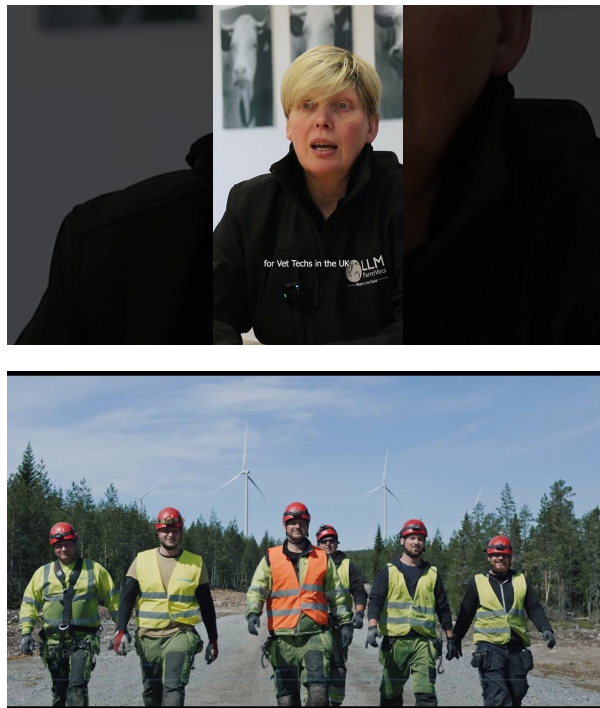
3 - LeahBell

Mid Wales Regional Skills Partnership Update

The Mid Wales Regional Skills Partnership (RSP) has been working closely with One Step North to support the development of the *Careers in 360* platform. A growing library of immersive films showcasing a range of careers is now available, including insights into roles such as a farm vet and a wind turbine technician. Work is also underway with the platform developers to make these films available separately for use by educators.

The platform's *World of Work (ExpoVerse)* virtual careers fair complements a dedicated business directory, enabling Mid Wales employers to showcase career opportunities and pathways to learners. We will continue to expand the number of Mid Wales businesses featured on the platform.

Explore the platform at: www.careersin360.com



Help shape future skills development and post-16 vocational provision across Mid Wales

We're inviting Powys employers to complete the Regional Skills Business Survey to help shape future skills development and post-16 vocational provision across Mid Wales.

Your feedback will help us understand current workforce needs, recruitment challenges, and future skills demand.

The survey also includes a brief section on advanced manufacturing and future training provision in Powys. Your feedback will help shape the next steps.

Please complete the survey by **29th May 2026**: [Regional Skills Business Survey](#)

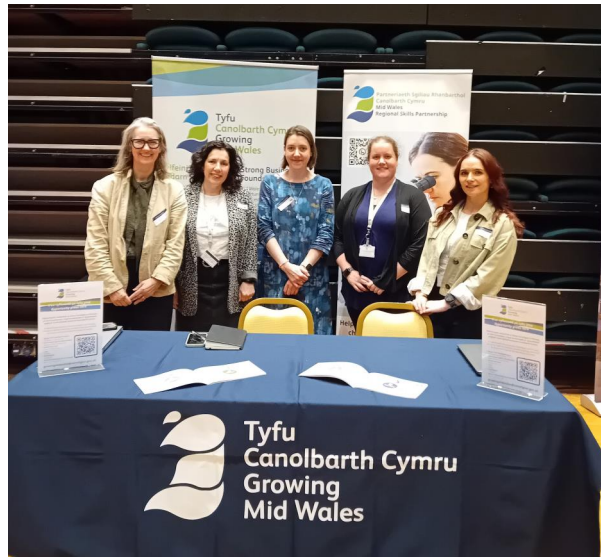


Connecting innovation and business in Mid Wales

It was great for members of our team to be part of the Mid Wales Business Innovation Exchange at Aberystwyth University event recently and connect with so many businesses from across the region.

Our teams from the Regional Skills Partnership, Mid Wales Growth Deal and Energy were on hand at the stand—sharing insights, building connections and highlighting the support available to help organisations innovate, grow and adapt in a changing business environment.

It was a valuable opportunity to have real conversations with businesses about their priorities, challenges and ambitions—and how we can continue to support them moving forward. Thank you to everyone who came to have a chat with Team Growing Mid Wales!



4 - (L-R) Louise Grove-White, Regional Skills Partnership, Teresa Peel-Jones, Regional Skills Partnership, Catrin Sneade, Regional Energy Lead Growing Mid Wales, Stacey-Jayne Oakham and Amy Waters, Growing Mid Wales team.

Putting Mid Wales on the map at the UKREIIF2026

We were pleased to be part of the discussion at #UKREIIF2026 on unlocking green growth at scale across Wales. Through the All Wales Pavilion, partners showcased how aligning energy, economic development and planning is helping to create a strong, investable offer for Wales.

As part of a coordinated “Team Wales” presence, partners worked together to engage investors, generate new opportunities and highlight Mid Wales as a key part of the national offer—supporting investment, jobs and decarbonisation across the region.

More information on the Cymru Wales Pavilion is available on the Trade and Investment Wales [website](#).



Watch this space - Growing Mid Wales at the Royal Welsh Show

Preparations are well underway for this year's Royal Welsh Show in July, where Growing Mid Wales will be hosting a series of sessions. Across the week, we'll be bringing together partners, businesses and stakeholders to focus on key areas including digital connectivity, renewable energy, skills and supporting local businesses to grow.

It's shaping up to be a strong programme that will showcase the wide range of work happening across the region, as well as the collaboration behind it. We'll be sharing more details in next month's edition as plans develop—alongside a look ahead to what to expect from the week.



News from partner organisations

Boost for public transport in Powys

Powys County Council has welcomed the first of 15 newly refurbished buses, marking an important step in improving public transport across the county.

Funded by Welsh Government in partnership with Transport for Wales through the *Bridge to Franchising* collaboration, the upgraded buses will offer more accessible, comfortable and lower-emission journeys, with features including improved seating, audio-visual announcements and USB charging.

The wider programme aims to deliver a more integrated and passenger-focused network across Mid Wales, with further vehicles due to roll out in phases over the coming months. Read more on the [Powys website](#)



Local Policy and Innovation Partnership (LPIP) Rural Business Survey

More businesses in rural Wales are needed to complete the LPIP Rural Business Survey. The survey has been designed by Welsh universities and business support organisations to understand the needs of businesses in rural Wales and we need your help

Cymru Wledig LPIP Rural Wales is a partnership of researchers, policymakers, communities and organisations that supports inclusive and sustainable development for rural Wales. It is funded by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI).

Take part in the [survey here](#).



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.

