

# NORTH WALES & EUROPE

INVESTING IN A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR NORTH WALES

ISSUE 1: MARCH 2014

Produced by the North Wales Specialist European Team on behalf of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board.

## LAYING THE FOUNDATIONS

Building the right environment for growth in North Wales



**Ewrop & Chymru: Buddsoddi yn eich dyfodol**  
Cronfa Datblygu Rhanbarthol Ewrop  
**Europe & Wales: Investing in your future**  
European Regional Development Fund



**Ewrop & Chymru: Buddsoddi yn eich dyfodol**  
Cronfa Gymdeithasol Ewrop  
**Europe & Wales: Investing in your future**  
European Social Fund

### FIRST CLASS CONNECTIVITY

How North Wales is leading the way in digital and transport infrastructure.

### JOBS BOOST FROM HUBS

The region's enterprise hubs have created 1,000+ jobs with promise of more on the way.

### REGENERATING A REGION

Capitalising on European funding to enable us to build a better place to live, work and visit.

EUROPEAN STRUCTURAL FUNDING  
IS HELPING **NORTH WALES** BUILD  
A BRIGHTER FUTURE.

THE **NORTH WALES ECONOMIC  
AMBITION BOARD**'S AIM IS TO  
CREATE A CONFIDENT REGION  
WITH A DIVERSE AND HIGH VALUE  
ECONOMY, PROVIDING QUALITY,  
SUSTAINABLE EMPLOYMENT  
OPPORTUNITIES FOR ITS PEOPLE.





# Creating the **right environment** for economic growth in North Wales.

During the last six years, the investment from European Structural Funds has laid the foundations for the people, businesses and communities of North Wales to achieve their full economic potential. The

**With the foundations in place, now is the time to build the right business environment - the first step to a better North Wales.**

"We want to make North Wales the natural choice for business - but to create this environment we have to build a better place where businesses want to start-up and have the ability to thrive and grow," said Councillor Hugh Evans, Chair of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board.

The North Wales Economic Ambition Board brings the region's six local councils together to drive economic growth across the region.

## CONNECTING

In North Wales, work is underway to improve the region's infrastructure which will ensure enterprises can reach customers, suppliers and exchange knowledge and information. "We are determined not to be hampered by an inferior infrastructure network so we have focused on our transport, energy and digital connectivity links," said Councillor Evans.

"One example is how we are one of first regions in the UK to welcome the superfast broadband roll-out. We are building a digital network that can compete with anywhere in the world. By 2016, 96% of the area will be fibre enabled so North Wales will have one of the most advanced digital networks in the world."

## CREATING

Another key development has been the creation of three enterprise zones in Anglesey, Snowdonia

and Deeside which will create space for investment, for local businesses to start-up and expand. These zones have already created over 1,000 jobs with many more expected.

## BUILDING

Town centres and cities across North Wales are also being regenerated in a bid to attract private investment and create new job opportunities to support future generations.

## FUNDING FACT

Since 2007, EU projects in North Wales alone have helped over **6,400\*** people into work and created **1,800\*** enterprises.

\*WEFO January 2014

*Deeside Enterprise Zone alone has created 1,000+ jobs.*



## CONNECTING...



With the future growth of North Wales' business relying on a high level of efficient business connectivity, EU funds are helping them connect with the rest of the world.

The Superfast Cymru project will be a real game changer for North Wales businesses. The fast fibre broadband scheme, which is set to connect 96% of properties in North Wales by 2016, is helping them to access new markets, carry out transactions more quickly and boost their profits.

The transport network has also benefitted from significant investment - particularly the A470 and A55 - and the £20 million Pont Briwet scheme in Gwynedd will improve links between Meirionydd and Ardudwy.

## CREATING...

Investments has been made into creating the space for North Wales businesses to start-up, expand and to boost new business opportunities.

The Enterprise Zones, set up on Anglesey, Snowdonia and Deeside to boost the economy of North Wales, has already helped create jobs – with thousands of more roles tipped to come to the region. Figures have shown that the Deeside Enterprise Zone has created 1,000 jobs with many more enquiries for companies wanting to relocate to the region into the area.

Detailed plans have been submitted for a £5m truck stop which will create 80 jobs at the European funded Parc Cybi in Holyhead. Rhyl has welcomed a £1.2m business accommodation investment and a £1.5m project in Botwnnog on the Llyn Peninsula has created a business hub for business units, offices, conference facilities, an IT suite and workshops.



## & BUILDING



Millions of pounds has been invested in a variety of regeneration schemes across North Wales to attract private investment, jobs and visitors into the region.

Schemes include the North East Wales Town Centre Regeneration project in Flintshire and Wrexham, Anglesey's £8.7 million Three Towns Regeneration Schemes at Llangefni, Amlwch and Holyhead, Colwyn Bay's Parc and Porth Eirias projects and Bangor's £44m Pontio arts centre which is set to create or safeguard 450 jobs.

The seaside town of Rhyl is also benefiting from a £9m regeneration project to reassert its status as a family holiday destination and popular shopping location.

## JOBS BOOST FOR DEESIDE



A medical products firm has announced a £3.7m investment at its Deeside Industrial Estate factory creating 67 jobs.

ConvaTec, which employs 600 people, makes wound dressings at its manufacturing centre on Deeside Industrial Estate.

The investment will create 67 jobs and safeguard 16, by bringing a new line to its Aquacel Foam dressings. A centre to provide accounting and finance support will also be created on Deeside.

Deeside Industrial Estate is part of the EU funded North East Wales Strategic Business Parks project which help firms on Wrexham and Deeside Industrial Estates develop their services and win more trade.

[www.deesideindustrialparkeast.co.uk](http://www.deesideindustrialparkeast.co.uk)



# ConvaTec

**Realize the possibilities™**





## STATION PREPARES WARM WELCOME

Improvement works on Llandudno train station are set to finish by May 2014.

The £5.1m European funded project will improve passenger facilities and make rail travel a more attractive option for local people.

Conwy County Borough Council cabinet member, Councillor Philip Evans, said: "The railway station will be a great asset to Llandudno - creating an excellent first impression of the town for visitors."



## FIT FOR A KING

Wrexham's King Street has undergone works to revitalise the area and create a more attractive environment for local people, visitors and businesses.

As part of the North East Wales Town Centre Regeneration project, the £1.5m investment has helped transform one of the town's main streets.

The project's aim is to encourage the 4 million people who use the bus services on King St every year to spend more time and money in the town centre.



## THE TRUCK STOPS HERE

Holyhead's Parc Cybi looks set to welcome a £5m truck stop that will create 80 jobs.

Developers Conygar have submitted detailed plans for a 200 space lorry stop which will cater for lorries using the town's ferry port.

Robert Ware, chief executive of Conygar said: "Our commitment in making this investment underlines our confidence in Parc Cybi being an integral part of the infrastructure which is needed both to support the port of Holyhead."

In 2012 Parc Cybi industrial park received European funding to drive forward a £7m improvement project to enhance the Port of Holyhead and create employment opportunities.

[www.parccybi-holyhead.com](http://www.parccybi-holyhead.com)





## ART CENTRE BOOST FOR CITY'S ECONOMY

Bangor's £44 million Pontio Arts and Innovation Centre, which is due to open in Autumn 2014, is set to provide a significant boost to the local economy.

The centre can "transform Bangor and become a hub for local business and economic regeneration" according to Bangor University Vice-Chancellor Professor John Hughes.

"It will be a unique place with the potential to transform Bangor," he added.

[www.pontio.co.uk](http://www.pontio.co.uk)



## EIRIAS OF IMPROVEMENT

Colwyn Bay is showing encouraging signs of re-emerging as a visitor destination and retail and commercial centre.

Thanks to a £52m investment – backed with EU Funds - the ongoing transformation has brought an increase in business to Colwyn Bay with footfall in the town rising by 5% in 2013.

The regeneration plans, which includes the £6.5m development of Parc Eirias and the £3.7m Porth Eirias, were also recognised at this year's national Placemaking awards for its innovative and engaging approach to the regeneration and economic development of a place.

[www.colwynbaywatersports.co.uk](http://www.colwynbaywatersports.co.uk)





## SUPER-SPEED IRONMONGERS



Traditional ironmongers R  
Gwynedd Evans & Sons has been a  
fixture on Pwllheli High Street since 1856.

In 2006 they opened an internet shop  
**[www.ukironmonger.com](http://www.ukironmonger.com)** - one of only a handful of  
UK ironmongers trading online.

"With the shift in shopping trends, having the online  
shop has helped us maintain our high street presence  
in Pwllheli," said owner Glenys Owen.

With Pwllheli amongst the first in the UK to receive  
the fibre superfast broadband, R Gwynedd Evans are  
set to take full advantage: "The high speed broadband  
means we can work quicker and smarter - and we can  
compete with anyone in the world!" added Glenys.

**[www.superfast-cymru.com](http://www.superfast-cymru.com)**



# IMPACT OF INVESTMENT CAUGHT ON CAMERA

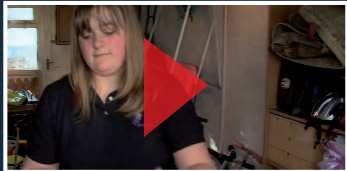
The North Wales Specialist European Team has published a series of Europe and North Wales videos which looks at the effects of 2007-13 European Structural Funding on the businesses, communities and people of North Wales.



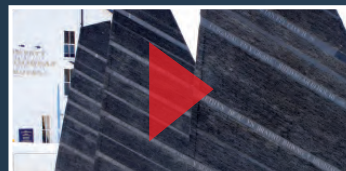
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