

NORTH WALES & EUROPE

INVESTING IN A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR NORTH WALES

ISSUE 3: SPRING 2015

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

ECONOMY OF STRENGTH

Building North
Wales' regional
economy



Providing a platform
Building the foundations for business
and enterprises to invest and grow

Preparing to Succeed
Supporting the people of North Wales to take a
full and active role in tomorrow's economy



THE **NORTH WALES ECONOMIC
AMBITION BOARD** BRINGS TOGETHER
THE REGION'S KEY STAKEHOLDERS IN THE
PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTORS TO DRIVE
ECONOMIC GROWTH ACROSS THE REGION.

Exploiting North Wales' strengths to boost economic development



Investment from the European Structural Funds during the last 6 years (over £279m, including £154m Convergence and Competitiveness funds) has helped to strengthen the North Wales economy. Over £61m, which includes over £45 million of European Structural Funds, has been invested directly into business and in providing people with the skills to succeed.

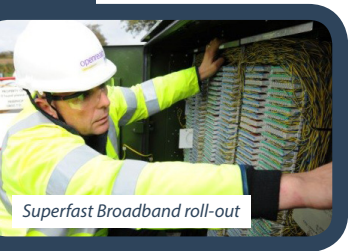
Councillor Dilwyn Roberts, Chairman of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board tells us about some of the developments that are happening in the region and how investment from EU Funds is contributing to the Board's ambitions for building the region's economy.

We have every reason to look forward with real optimism to the prospects for the economy of North Wales over the next few years. With more investment and jobs coming, we can look forward to greater prosperity which will, in turn, create more business opportunities and jobs in the region.

With major investments such as Wylfa Newydd, the £250 million prison in Wrexham and ongoing development at Deeside Enterprise Zone, there will be range of opportunities for businesses and the people of North Wales to take advantage of.

To invest and grow

Investment and jobs have already begun to be generated at North Wales' three Enterprise Zones at Anglesey, Deeside and Snowdonia; providing a catalyst to development more broadly across North Wales.



Superfast Broadband roll-out

Investment by the Welsh Government, with EU and private sector money, in providing superfast broadband throughout North Wales is already providing local businesses with the opportunity to compete on the global stage.

By the end of 2016 the region will be among the most digitally connected in the world, which will support our efforts to attract new investment and to growing our local enterprises.

We have talented young people who are showing real creative flair and vision – desirable traits that will help them to seek out the entrepreneurial opportunities the region has to offer.

Preparing to succeed

Over 40,000 new jobs will be created in North Wales during the next decade. Equipping the region's young people with the appropriate skills to take a full advantage of the opportunities which will be generated in a diverse range of sectors from energy and advanced manufacturing to the creative industries, digital technology and heritage and outdoor tourism, is central to the Ambition Board's vision.

A new £10 million training centre for engineering is to be built on Anglesey that will ensure that people have the skills needed to take on high-skilled jobs at Wylfa Newydd and other engineering related job opportunities in the region.

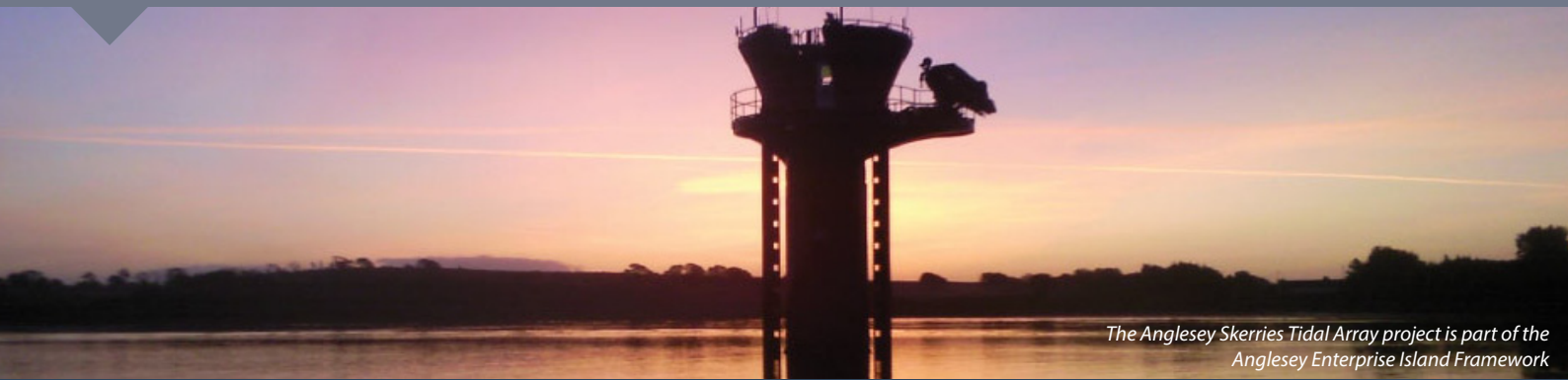


Wylfa newydd

Improving skills and aspirations for individuals within the North Wales labour force is core to the Ambition Board's vision of increasing the value of the labour market to drive productivity, increase earnings, jobs and create a more innovative and entrepreneurial economy.

Providing intensive support to improve people's chances of finding employment and improving their skills through education and training is also key to raising labour market mobility in the region.

It's clear that European investment has helped North Wales prepare and build for a prosperous future, and, with new jobs and opportunities on the horizon, we can look ahead with optimism.



The Anglesey Skerries Tidal Array project is part of the Anglesey Enterprise Island Framework

PROVIDING A PLATFORM TO INVEST AND GROW

EU Structural Funds have been invested to provide North Wales' businesses and enterprises with the foundations to invest and grow.

Support from the Local Investment Fund (LIF) business support scheme has assisted growth in local businesses across North West Wales, assisting 396 enterprises and helped create 596 jobs. The £4 million Cyfenter fund has provided financial investment for new and developing Social Enterprises to help them fulfil their potential as sustainable and viable businesses in the North Wales' economy.

Digital projects such as Communities 2.0 and the Digital Tourism Business Framework Programme are breaking down the barriers to using technology and helping to raise the digital bar across North Wales to maximise business opportunities and increase competitiveness. The North East Wales Strategic Business Parks project is another example of the work going on to strengthen the region's economy - to date the project has created 283 jobs and attracted £7.7 million private sector investment.



Rhyl's TASTE Academy, funded through the ILM programme

PREPARING TO SUCCEED

Investment from the European Social Fund has helped increase the skills levels of over 100,000 people in the region's workforce – a key driver of productivity and growth. ESF support has helped almost 6,000 people who found it difficult to find a job to access sustainable employment, and the regions' young people have received the right skills and opportunities to create a vibrant and responsive future workforce.

With the closure of the Wylfa and first phase of decommissioning ending in Trawsfynydd, the Shaping the Future project helped the 1400 employees affected to improve their skills and support their career transition into non-nuclear sectors.

Projects such as the Intermediate Labour Market programme and New Work Connections have provided people with intensive support to increase their skills levels and thus improve their chances of finding employment. Technocamps has inspired young people to take an interest in technology and help meet demands in the region's rapidly growing digital economy, and Llwyddo'n Lleol has helped create a culture of enterprise amongst young people and supported them to take a full and active role in tomorrow's economy.



Tywyn Bakery received LIF support, helping to create 6 jobs

LIF ASSISTANCE BEARS FRUIT

From baking to biotech, the Local Investment Fund's support led to a boost in job creation across the whole of North Wales.

For husband and wife team, Ian and Joanna Oliver, the fund allowed the purchase of essential equipment and to meet electricity connection costs to establish Tywyn Bakery, creating 2 full time and 4 part time jobs.

In Denbighshire grant assistance was provided to ADC Biotechnology to convert an empty business unit into a working laboratory with

amenities and appropriate air handling systems. The business has created 6 full time jobs.

Other businesses supported include G a EW Davies from Trofarth. The fund allowed the purchase of new tele-handler equipment - enabling them to compete for larger contracts.

Support to purchase new tools and equipment and has helped boost business for DP Welding in Amlwch - the Anglesey company now employs 5 employees and an apprentice.



ADC Biotechnology is developing new methods to speed-up and significantly lower costs of cancer drugs





FIT FOR THE COMMUNITY

Canolfan Hamdden Beaumaris was set up as a Social Enterprise in 2012, with the aim of supporting the transfer of a leisure centre run by the Isle of Anglesey County Council to a new community enterprise.

Thanks to support from the Cyfenter Fund, the project safeguarded the future of the leisure centre's 2 full time and 1 part time post and created an additional post.

The Cyfenter Fund provided financial investment of up to £75,000 to new and developing Social Enterprises to deliver new products or services. It assisted more than 50 Social Enterprises across North West Wales

www.canolfanbeaumaris.org.uk



A MODEL OF BEST PRACTICE

The North East Wales Strategic Business Parks project covers both the Wrexham Industrial Estate and the Deeside Industrial Park. These Welsh economic powerhouses provide a home to over 500 businesses, employing 19,000 people. This unique ERDF funded project was different in that it was identified and driven by the businesses within these locations.

The project introduced Business Park co-ordinators, to plan activities and events that enhance, develop and support the economic, financial and environmental prosperity of the parks. The project encouraged small and large businesses to interact, creating an environment where best practice within business can be shared.

Outcomes of the project included 283 jobs created and £7.7 million private sector investment.





Cynthia's front of house welcome

TAKING CONFIDENT STEPS TO SUSTAINED EMPLOYMENT

Cynthia Hughes had been out of work for a few months and was struggling to get back into work. Thanks to the Intermediate Labour Market (ILM) programme, funded by the Welsh Government and European Structural Funds (European Social Fund), Cynthia is now back in employment.

Cynthia completed the ILM and has secured a full time front of house position at Rhyl's TASTE Academy.

The ILM Programme has supported out-of-work people back into jobs, particularly people facing barriers to employment and offered paid work opportunities to help people build their confidence and work related skills in order to achieve sustainable employment.

www.rcs-wales.co.uk



A PERSONAL PATHWAY TO WORK

The New Work Connections Project supported 4,768 people in North Wales who, through a range of disadvantages were economically inactive or unemployed.

Through the project people received intensive support to improve their chances of finding employment and to increase their skills.

One of these is Chris from Conwy, who was introduced to the programme after he suffered a brain injury due to an illness. He gained a Personal Development qualification and now works part-time at a local guesthouse.



TECHNOCAMPS BOOTCAMP INSPIRES YOUNG AND OLD

Lucy Joyce took part in the 'Build your own Internet' bootcamp, delivered by the Bangor University Technocamps hub in North Wales. Lucy, a year 9 pupil at Ysgol Friars in Bangor, has many interests but had never worked on web design before the bootcamp.

Immediately after the bootcamps Lucy's parents noticed that she took an interest in web design and HTML coding. This keen interest also interested her



father and they now spend many hours together exploring the possibilities of HTML and other web technologies.

Technocamps provided hands-on practical workshops to inspire, motivate and engage people with computational thinking.

www.technocamps.com



LLWYDDO'N LLEOL TAKES TO THE AIR

Farmer Jim Ellis from Llwyndyrys near Pwllheli has taken his passion for photography to new heights following the award of £1000 from Llwyddo yn Lleol. The funds were used to purchase a mini helicopter to film events and buildings from above at a fraction of the cost of hiring a real size helicopter to do the same job.

Corey Chivers from Cemaes has established a business providing electrical test certificates online. A bursary of £1000 enabled him to buy computer hardware and a year's web hosting for his website www.testcertonline.co.uk.

Solving a grizzly murder through forensic science, building a robot, creating a wind turbine and developing a 60 foot suspension bridge were some of the numerous challenges on offer for students in Conwy and Denbighshire secondary schools.

These challenging days through Llwyddo'n Lleol highlighted the importance of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) subjects, and practical sessions gave students an insight into the world of work and the diversity of careers available locally.



Pupils enjoying the STEM practical sessions

SHAPING THE FUTURE'S LASTING LEGACY



The Shaping the Future project has helped employees at Wylfa and Trawfynydd nuclear power stations prepare for the impact of closure, or the end of decommissioning phase at the sites.

Through the project the workforce has had the opportunity to develop the skills they will need in the future to create sustainable, skill diverse careers in North West Wales

www.mentermon.com



HOW SHAPING THE FUTURE HELPED ADRIAN
Adrian Williams is a Mechanical 2D Designer contractor at Trawsfynydd.

When Adrian heard about Shaping the Future, he assumed it would only be available to Magnox employees and not contractors. "I was extremely surprised that it was open to non-Magnox staff. It was, so I grasped the opportunity with both hands," Adrian says.

Adrian's goal is to set up a Mechanical Design Service Consultancy. To do that he first needs to improve his current skills base - and that is where Shaping the Future stepped in.

"The funding available to me, even as a contractor meant I could attend specialist courses that I would not be able to fund otherwise. My aspiration and current training program is to achieve the SolidWorks software Expert status. There are 70 in the UK - and just 8 in Wales. I hope to be the ninth!"

IMPACT OF INVESTMENT CAUGHT ON CAMERA

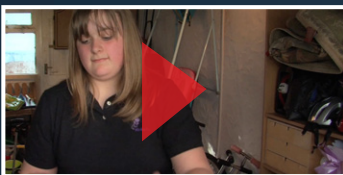
The North Wales Specialist European Team has also published a series of Europe and North Wales videos which looks at the effects of 2007-13 European Structural Funding on the businesses, communities and people of North Wales.



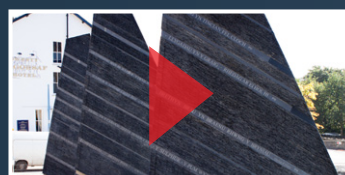
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LLWYDDO'N LLEOL
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OF EXCELLENCE**
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This booklet was prepared on behalf of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board by the North Wales Specialist European Team which is based in the 6 North Wales Local Authorities. The Specialist European Team works toward ensuring that the region gets the maximum benefit from European funding by providing a range of support to raise awareness of opportunities and ensure its effective delivery. Specialist European Teams exist across Wales and in different sectors, from Local Authorities, Welsh Government and the Welsh Council for Voluntary Action.

www.tinyurl.com/EuropeNorthWales

