



Growing Mid Wales April newsletter
2026

As we move further into 2026, there is continued momentum across Mid Wales, with activity progressing from planning into delivery. From the approval of the Regional Transport Plan to further investment through the Mid Wales Growth Deal, we're seeing tangible steps being taken to strengthen connectivity, support businesses and create the conditions for long-term, sustainable growth across the region.

This edition highlights some of that progress, alongside a number of opportunities to have your say. Whether it's helping shape the future of Agri-tech and Food-tech innovation or informing Skills development across the region, your views are vital (check out the two surveys that are currently running). The insight we receive from businesses, stakeholders and communities directly informs our approach—ensuring that activity reflects real needs on the ground. Without your input, we can't effectively target support or continue to move priorities forward in a way that delivers meaningful impact for Mid Wales.

[The Growing Mid Wales Team](#)

Cover: Real-time bus information displayed at Aberaeron bus stop, Ceredigion

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Mid Wales moves forward on transport as Regional Transport Plan approved

Developed by Growing Mid Wales, as the region's Corporate Joint Committee (CJC), in partnership with Ceredigion and Powys County Councils, the Mid Wales Regional Transport Plan has now been approved by the Welsh Government. As a result, just over £13 million of funding has been allocated to improve transport across Mid Wales, as the region moves from strategic planning towards practical, on-the-ground improvements.

The Regional Transport Plan has been shaped by engagement with communities, businesses and stakeholders across Mid Wales. A public consultation on the draft plan took place in early 2025, inviting people to share their experiences of travelling in the region and highlight priorities for improvement. Feedback highlighted the importance of safer walking and cycling routes, better public transport, improved rural connectivity and transport solutions that reflect the geography and character of Mid Wales, and this has directly informed the final plan and the schemes now being progressed

Schemes being progressed include:

- Phase 1 of Newtown Riverside active travel works
- Phase 1 of Brecon to Groesffordd active travel improvements
- Phase 1 of Brecon High Street transformation
- Improvements to bus infrastructure across both local authorities
- Expansion of electric vehicle charging infrastructure across both local authorities
- Completion of Waunfawr to IBERS footway improvements
- Phase 1 of Ridgeway Roundabout improvements

Read the full story [here](#).

The full Regional Transport Plan is now available on our [website](#).



Shining a light on real-time bus information across Mid Wales

Passengers across Powys and Ceredigion are continuing to benefit from real-time bus information displayed at key bus stops — helping make public transport more convenient, reliable and user-friendly.

Electronic display screens, installed at a number of locations throughout the region over recent years, provide live updates on bus arrivals and departures. While many passengers

will already be familiar with the screens, they remain an important part of improving the day-to-day travel experience across Mid Wales.

The system gives passengers accurate, up-to-the-minute information, helping them plan journeys with greater confidence and reduce waiting times.

Real-time information is powered by tracking technology from Journeo, which monitors buses along their routes and updates displays instantly to reflect any changes, delays or disruptions.

Delivered through a Growing Mid Wales initiative, the installation of these screens — originally supported by the Tourism Amenity Investment Support Scheme (TAIS) under the Welsh Government Rural Development Programme 2014–2020, funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and the Welsh Government — forms part of wider efforts to modernise public transport infrastructure and support more sustainable travel choices across the region.

In addition to live travel updates, the screens are also being used to share important public information from both Ceredigion County Council and Powys County Council — including recent ‘Register to Vote’ messaging — helping keep communities informed while on the move.

The screens are situated on the following transport corridors:

- Powys: X76, X77, X85, T4, T6, X44 and X43
- Ceredigion: T5, 460, 430, T1 and T2

You may already start to see new campaign content appearing on the screens — including the Mid Wales Regional Skills Partnership’s Careers in 360 platform — highlighting local career opportunities and routes into employment, keep an eye out for careersin360.com.

Passengers can also access real-time information via mobile apps and online journey planners, ensuring they can stay informed wherever they are.

This continued investment highlights the ongoing commitment across Mid Wales to improve connectivity, enhance passenger experience and support a more integrated and accessible transport network.



1 - Real-time bus information displayed across Ceredigion and Powys.

Mid Wales Growth Deal secures further funding to support regional progress

Growing Mid Wales has welcomed the release of a further tranche of funding, £11.857. A number of projects across Mid Wales are progressing through business case development and approvals, moving the Growth Deal further towards delivery on the ground. As the programme continues to progress, further updates will be shared as projects move through approval and into delivery.

For the full article, visit our [website](#).

Have your say: shaping innovation in Agri-Tech and Food-Tech

Businesses and stakeholders across Mid Wales are invited to take part in a short survey to help shape the future of the Agri-Tech and Food-Tech Cluster for Mid and North Wales.

Open to both existing cluster members and non-members, the survey will help build a clearer picture of awareness, engagement and the impact of cluster activity delivered through the Innovate UK Launchpad programme.

We are particularly keen to hear from businesses that have received Innovate UK or other funding. Insights will help us understand how businesses are accessing opportunities, what support is most valuable, and where there may be barriers to engagement.

Feedback will directly inform future activity, support and investment—ensuring it reflects the needs of businesses across the region.

Take the survey: <https://bit.ly/AgriFoodTechSurvey> **Deadline: 20 June**

Interested in joining the cluster? Find out more: <https://www.growingmid.wales/AgriTechFoodTech>



Engagement Survey



Turning a farming challenge into a local energy asset

A great guest column on John Owen Ymgynghori Lafan Consulting in Business News Wales highlights how innovation across Mid Wales is rethinking the relationship between farming, energy and the environment. Through projects like this supported by us via the Welsh Government’s WSRID programme, new approaches are being explored to turn agricultural challenges — like surplus nutrients and slurry management — into local energy solutions that can reduce environmental pressures and create value for rural communities. This is exactly the kind of collaboration we want to see — bringing together farming, research and innovation to support a more sustainable, resilient rural economy.

Read the [full article](#) and learn more about the wider WSRID programme on our [website](#).



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

We're inviting local 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 results will support Coleg Ceredigion, Ceredigion County Council, and University of Wales Trinity Saint David in developing a collaborative post-16 delivery plan that meets regional skills needs and supports economic growth.

Please complete the survey by **30th April**:

<https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=4Z4dwLAOVeEzrgOuinMrUDgmf1MQ5xxGu4KhjTjZZYJUQjQ5VkrYSUISNkozNk5SSUNCTzZaSEVBSS4u&route=shorturl>



Connecting innovation and business in Mid Wales

22 April 10am-5pm

Growing Mid Wales will be attending the upcoming Mid Wales Business Innovation Exchange at Aberystwyth University's Arts Centre and AberInnovation, alongside partners and businesses from across the region.

Representatives from our Regional Skills Partnership, Growth Deal and Energy teams will be there to connect with businesses, share insights and highlight the support available to help organisations innovate, grow and adapt in a changing business environment.

The event will bring together businesses, support organisations and sector experts to explore key challenges and opportunities facing the region, including technology, finance, cyber security and the transition to net zero.

Find out more about the event:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/mid-wales-business-innovation-exchange-tickets-1983361728320?aff=oddtcreator>



Welcoming new members to the team

We're pleased to welcome several new colleagues who have recently joined the team.

Within the Mid Wales Growth Deal Portfolio Management Office, we're delighted to introduce Alex Morgan as Portfolio Analyst, supporting the delivery and coordination of the Growth Deal portfolio.

We also welcome Eleanor Haines, who joins the wider Growing Mid Wales team as a Project Manager bringing valuable experience to support regional investment and delivery.

Alongside this, we're pleased to welcome Tom Lewis as Regional Transport Manager. With the Regional Transport Plan now approved, Tom will play an important role in driving forward transport priorities across Mid Wales and supporting the transition from planning into delivery.

We're excited to have them on board and look forward to working together as we continue to drive forward priorities for Mid Wales.



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.

