



## How can the Regional Engagement Team help you?

The Swansea Bay Regional Engagement Team (SBRET) is one of four teams set up in Wales to help ensure EU funding proposals meet existing and future opportunities and investments at regional levels.

The SBRET work across the counties of Carmarthenshire, Neath Port Talbot, Pembrokeshire and Swansea, and across all sectors in the region to ensure the effective participation and success of EU funded investments. SBRET supports the region in the delivery of its **economic regeneration strategy** to improve the prospects of our communities, businesses and economy.

If you are considering applying for EU funding, contact us for guidance on how your project can support regional priorities, to make links to other projects and benefit from case studies and examples of best practice.

If you are already delivering an EU funded project, we would be keen to hear about how your projects is progressing. We could also look to feature some of your good news stories in the next newsletter.

## ERDF Priority 1 & 3 Network Event

Following the successful ERDF Priority 1 network event held in June 2019 at Cardiff University, the South West and South East RET have organised a similar event in the South West region.

The event will be taking place on **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March at the Active Classroom, Swansea University Bay Campus.**

The morning will bring together project leads, partners and guest speakers to explore and discuss best practice and the research funds. Keynote speakers include Jon wood from Innovate UK presenting on Strengths in Places Fund and Emma Morris, HEFCW who will provide an outline on the Research Wales Innovation Fund.

This will be an unmissable networking opportunity for projects in ERDF Priority 1 and 3 who will be able to share and learn best practice during the group discussion which will be followed by a tour of the SPECIFIC Project by Technology Director Justin Searle.

SPECIFIC is an Innovation and Knowledge Centre led by Swansea University, developing a new concept for buildings of the future – 'Active Buildings', which use solar energy to generate both heat and electricity from the building envelope, and store this energy in batteries and thermal stores for use within the building.

**If you are interested in attending the event, please contact the team –**

[swanseabayret@carmarthenshire.gov.uk](mailto:swanseabayret@carmarthenshire.gov.uk)

# Morganstone hosts work placement from Cam Nesa Pembrokeshire Youth

Construction provider Morganstone has played host to trainee bricklayer Adam Paddick, who is currently working on site in Thornton Road, Milford Haven as part of his work placement with the Cam Nesa Pembrokeshire Youth.

The 59-unit housing development is being built by Morganstone for client ATEB Group (formally Pembrokeshire Housing Association). ATEB Group focuses on delivering high-quality affordable homes for rural and urban communities. One of ATEB's visions is to support communities with being self-sufficient. The placement of Adam at our Thornton Road development certainly supports this vision, as he is able to gain work experience locally.

Cam Nesa is a £5.7million project supported by the European Social Fund which works with 16 to 24 years old in West Wales by providing them with a range of workshops, employability opportunities and tailored personal support for youngsters aged 16 to 24 not currently in education, work or training.

The project also provides youngsters with the opportunity to undertake Sports Leadership courses and other accredited courses. The project is led by Pembrokeshire County Council and delivered in partnership with fellow local authorities.

Adam, from Monkton, Pembroke, was initially introduced to Morganstone by Paul Falzon, of Cyfle Building Skills who works in partnership with both Morganstone and Cam Nesa. Cyfle Building Skills is a Multi Award Winner Regional Shared Apprenticeship Scheme that currently employs over 140 apprentices and has employed 500+ shared apprentices to date.

Adam has been mentored on site since October by Steve Hazelby from SS Construction, who is very impressed with his progress to date. Alongside learning how to be a bricklayer, Adam has also gained experience as a labourer.

Project Coordinator Christopher Weaver added: "Adam has thrived during his placement and has a positive attitude towards his role and working life. By having hands on site experience in both brickwork and labouring, Adam is now better prepared to undertake his future college placement in brickwork."

The Federation of Master Builders reports that nearly two thirds of small to medium sized construction companies struggle to source and hire skilled bricklayers, which is one of the key trades within the industry. However, encouragingly the Federation also reports that experienced bricklayers can earn higher wages than its fellow counterpart trades.

Community Engagement Manager Nia Collard said: "It is important for Morganstone to support work placements and apprenticeships from the areas in which we work. It is encouraging to see Adam enjoying his placement and to receive such positive feedback from his mentors, which bodes well for his future employability."

Cam Nesa Employer Liaison Officer Fran Wisby stated: "Adam is gaining valuable experience and skills with a well-established firm. I am extremely proud of Adam, his commitment and hard work is clear to see. Adam has proven he has great working ethics, which can be transferable into his future career."

## Oral Statement: Update on Regional Investment in Wales

Work on the successor arrangements for replacement of EU funds following Brexit continues and on 14 January 2020, the Counsel General and Brexit Minister made an [oral statement: Update on Regional Investment in Wales](#) delivered during the main plenary session at the National Assembly for Wales.

## Regional Performance Data

The table below gives headline figures of the performance of ESI funded operations across the Swansea Bay Region. You can find out more information on how Wales is benefiting from EU funds [here](#).

Performance Indicator	Figures for the South West Region
Enterprises Assisted <sup>1</sup>	2106
Enterprises Created <sup>2</sup>	416
Jobs Created <sup>3</sup>	3682
Participants Assisted	52,285
Participants Supported into Employment	4546
Participants Gaining Qualifications	20,148
Participants in education / training	606

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Source: WEFO, 31/08/2019

<sup>1</sup> Aggregate of the Enterprises receiving non-financial support indicators under the ERDF Operational Programmes

<sup>2</sup> Aggregate of the New enterprises supported indicators under the ERDF Operational Programmes

<sup>3</sup> Aggregate of the Employment increase in supported enterprises indicators under the ERDF Operational Programmes

# Multi-million-pound funding secured for City Deal

## **A MULTI-MILLION pound early New Year present has arrived to turbo-charge the Swansea Bay City Deal.**

The first phase of City Deal funding – worth £18 million – has been released by the UK Government and Welsh Government for the investment programme, which covers Carmarthenshire, Neath Port Talbot, Pembrokeshire and Swansea.

The funding is based on the approval of two City Deal projects – the Swansea City and Waterfront Digital District, and Canolfan S4C Yr Egin.

Construction work has now started on a 3,500-capacity digital indoor arena on a site adjacent to the LC in Swansea. Also forming part of the City Deal project in Swansea is a digital village on Kingsway for tech and digitally focussed businesses, as well as a box village and innovation precinct development for start-up businesses at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David SA1.

Phase one of the Canolfan S4C Yr Egin digital and creative cluster is already up and running at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David's Carmarthen campus, with the funding now unlocking a second phase of the development.

Cllr Rob Stewart, Chairman of the Swansea Bay City Deal's Joint Committee, said: "This is the first City Deal funding to have been secured, so it's a major milestone for an investment programme that will make a difference to residents and businesses across South West Wales by generating thousands of high-quality jobs through a number of exciting projects.

"It shows the huge progress that's being continually made by all City Deal partners as we remain focussed on delivery as soon as possible to help transform the City Region's economy. Main construction work on Swansea's digital indoor arena has now started, Yr Egin phase one in Carmarthen has been a major success story, and the Pembroke Dock Marine project that will place South West Wales at the heart of global marine energy innovation has been submitted to both governments for final approval. A further £18 million of City Deal funding will also be secured by the end of March 2020, subject to additional project approvals by that time. Further funding releases are also scheduled for the next financial year, subject to progress on delivery."

Ken Skates, the Welsh Government's Economy and Transport Minister, said: "This announcement signals a move into the delivery phase and is a clear demonstration of the Welsh Government's confidence and commitment to the Swansea Bay City Deal. There is great potential for genuine economic growth in the region through the ambitious deal which can benefit businesses and local communities in South West Wales. I am delighted the Welsh Government has now released this funding and I look forward to seeing further progress on proposals which can deliver exciting opportunities and transformational change for the area."

Simon Hart MP, the UK Government's Secretary of State for Wales, said: "The release of this funding demonstrates the strength of the creative and digital industries across this region, and is a sign of the positive opportunities which lie ahead. Both governments continue to work together to empower the Swansea Bay City Region to create quality employment, attract further investment and generate economic growth, which will have a transformative long-term impact on the area."

Jake Berry MP, the UK Government's Minister of State for the Northern Powerhouse and Local Growth, said: "The Swansea Bay City Deal is testament to Government's commitment to unite and level up the whole UK. This multi-million-pound investment will supercharge growth, create over 9,000 high-quality jobs and give people the skills they need to secure them. Working hand-in-hand with local government and business, we will create new and exciting economic opportunities to unleash the potential of South West Wales and the whole of the UK."

Other projects soon being considered by Joint Committee for submission to both governments for approval include a remodelled life science and well-being development earmarked for Llanelli, as well as a revised Neath Port Talbot programme of projects that focus on innovation, zero carbon fuel and the future of steel.

Detailed work on a regional Homes as Power Stations project that will help tackle fuel poverty is also making considerable progress.

Funded by the UK Government, the Welsh Government, the public sector and the private sector, the Swansea Bay City Deal is being led by Carmarthenshire Council, Neath Port Talbot Council, Pembrokeshire Council and Swansea Council, in partnership with the University of Wales Trinity Saint David, Swansea University, Hywel Dda University Health Board and Swansea Bay University Health Board.

# Events



## Gwahoddiad I Ddigiwyddiad masnach 'Cyflenwr i Prynwr'

Sir Gâr

Cae Rasio Ffos Las, Trimsaran, Sir Gâr SA17 4DE.  
Dydd Iau, 6 Chwefror 2020, 10:00- 17:00

Am fwy o wybodaeth, cysylltwch a Elliott Boyd ar  
Ejboyd@strgar.gov.uk | 01554 742535

## An Invitation to Carmarthenshire 'Supplier to Buyer' trade event

Ffos Las Racecourse, Trimsaran,  
Carmarthenshire SA17 4DE.  
Thursday, 6 February 2020, 10:00 - 17:00

For further information please contact Elliott Boyd on  
Ejboyd@carmarthenshire.gov.uk | 01554 742535

### Yr Amserlen:

#### Ystafell Blinkers, Y Llawr Gwaelod

10:00-17:00pm Ddigiwyddiad masnach 'Cyflenwr i  
Prynwr' yn agored i'r cyhoedd.

#### Ystafell Bridles, Y Llawr Cyntaf

11:00 Siaradwr: 'Bwyd a Diod yng  
Nghaerfyrddin 2020'.  
12:00 'Cynhyrchwyr a Chadwyni Cyflenwi'  
- Busnes yn y Dyfodol: Trafodaeth  
Banel/ Holi ac Ateb  
14:00-16:30 Gweithdy Arloesi.

#### Bocsys Lletygarwch

11:00-14:00 MOT Busnes: Archebwch eich  
apwyntiad un i un.  
15:00-17:00 Sesiynau galw haibio i gael Cyngor  
Busnes.

### Schedule:

#### Blinkers Suite Ground Floor

10:00-17:00pm 'Supplier to Buyer' trade event  
open to the public.

#### Bridles Suite First Floor

11:00 Speaker 'Food and Drink in  
Carmarthenshire 2020'.  
12:00 'Producers & Supply Chains'- Future  
Business: Discussion Panel/ Q&A.  
14:00-16:30 Innovation Workshop.

#### Hospitality boxes

11:00-14:00 Business MOT: Book your  
one-to-one appointment.  
15:00-17:00 Business Advice drop in sessions.

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Book your place [here](#)

## Funded leadership programme coming to Pembrokeshire

ION Leadership, Swansea University's flagship business development intervention, are delighted to have partnered with Welsh Government and the Haven Waterway Enterprise Zone to deliver a fully-funded leadership and business growth programme starting in February 2020. Over 10 years, ION Leadership have supported over 1400 leaders, managers and decision-makers in over 1000 businesses to develop and enhance their leadership skills, aiming to raise productivity in the workplace whilst developing sustainable, profitable enterprises. You can find out more about ION Leadership on their website - <https://ionleadership.co.uk/courses/leading-growth-programme-9-pembrokeshire> or call the ION team on 01792 606738.

## Micro Small Business Fund (MSBF)

This fund is supported through the Welsh Government Rural Communities Rural Development Programme 2014-2020, funded by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), and Welsh Government.

The Micro Small Business Fund (MSBF) is available for micro to small size businesses with fewer than 50 FTE employees.

MSBF is an investment fund targeting eligible capital investment projects in the tourism sector in Wales. It can be used either to upgrade existing or create new high quality product.

Support of between £25,000 and £500,000 will be considered, in order to:

- create and safeguard jobs
- realise economic benefit and growth
- deliver quality, innovation and a sense of place.

More information available [here](#)



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## Farming Connect skills and training application window open



If you want your farm business to perform at its best as the industry heads towards the uncertainties of Brexit, could this be a good time to invest in training and personal development skills?

More information available [here](#)

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## Farm Business Grant

The seventh expression of interest window for the Farm Business Grant (FBG) will open on the 2 March 2020.

Eligibility for the Welsh Government's FBG requires a partner in the business to attend a Farming for the Future event organised by Farming Connect (FC).

More information available [here](#)

## Erasmus+ Brexit Update

The terms of the withdrawal agreement on 31 January 2020, outline that the UK will continue to participate in the current Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps (ESC) programmes.

As such all existing Erasmus+ and ESC projects that have a contract to deliver funded activities are advised to continue to do so. Organisations intending to submit applications for funding should also continue to apply as planned.

For more information click [here](#)

### Contact Us

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