



Growing Mid Wales Newsletter

August Update 2022

A month has gone by since our first newsletter and what a month it has been! Two major Welsh events brought hundreds of thousands of visitors to Powys and Ceredigion, the Royal Welsh Show and the Eisteddfod Genedlaethol.

For the first time since the Covid-19 pandemic, these events provided an opportunity for businesses and organisations to network.

For some, it was the first opportunity to meet, including joint chairs of the Growing Mid Wales Board, Councillor James Gibson-Watt, Leader of Powys County Council and Councillor Bryan Davies, Leader of Ceredigion County Council who had their first in-person meeting at the Royal Welsh Show¹. This was an opportunity to confirm their commitment to work together to deliver the Mid Wales Growth Deal.

¹<http://www.growingmid.wales/article/13084/Joint-working-reaffirmed>



1 - Councillor James Gibson-Watt and Councillor Bryan Davies

At both the Royal Welsh and the Eisteddfod, local businesses could showcase their products and services, and the large number of skills and employment opportunities that are within Mid Wales.

So, in this edition we are focusing on Skills, in particular the Mid Wales Regional Skills Partnership – what it is, the progress so far, its future plans, and also the current Mid Wales Employment and Skills Survey which closes on midday Friday **09 September** so make sure you take part!



2 - Coleg Ceredigion Cookery Demonstration at Pentre Ceredigion

Eisteddfod Genedlaethol 2022

This newsletter is now our regular way to communicate with our stakeholders/members and we will always be looking at ways to improve the way we deliver our news. So, if you have any feedback, comments or relevant content to feature here, we'd love to hear from you.

Helping to grow opportunity in Mid Wales,

The Growing Mid Wales Team

Read on for:

- What is the Mid Wales Regional Skills Partnership?
- The Mid Wales Employment and Skills Survey
- The Mid Wales Regional Skills Partnership forward work plan

The RSP supports the Welsh Government's key strategies and policy areas by providing a regional perspective. This includes baseline data for further education planning using employer-led intelligence and labour market information (LMI) data.



The Mid Wales Employment and Skills Survey



Businesses and organisations across Mid Wales are encouraged to complete a survey on employment and skills.

The survey results will help the Mid Wales Regional Skills Partnership inform Welsh Government on the skills landscape across the region and connect skills funding with employer demand. Launched Monday 25 July, the survey runs until midday **Friday 09 September**.

In 2019, the Welsh Regional Skills Partnerships (RSPs) launched their 3-year Employment and Skills Plans which have been used to understand and shape the skills priorities for employers across respective regions and influence the provision offered through further education and work-based learning sectors.

Councillor Wyn Thomas, Cabinet Member for Schools, Lifelong Learning and Skills at Ceredigion County Council and Councillor David Selby, Cabinet Member for a More Prosperous Powys at Powys County Council, who represent the Mid Wales RSP, said: "Over the last three years there has been a significant change in the skills required by employers to drive forward their businesses in a post-pandemic world. It is more important than ever that we ensure people can gain the skills employers are looking for through our colleges, universities, and apprenticeships. We encourage all businesses

and organisations across the region to complete the employment and skills survey to help inform our new Employment and Skills Plan for 2022-2025.”

To take part in the survey, visit <https://www.haveyoursaypowys.wales/employment-and-skills>. Or, if you would like to understand the work of the RSP further, please contact Aggie Caesar-Homden, Mid Wales RSP Partnership Manager: aggie.caesar-homden@powys.gov.uk / 01597 826713

Employment and Skills Surveys in other regions across Wales

To strengthen the intelligence gathered across Wales, other businesses/organisations based in other regions are invited to complete their local RSP skills survey:

- South East Wales (Cardiff Capital):

https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/ArolwgSgiliauCyflogwyr_EmployersSkillsSurvey_2022/

- South West Wales: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/7LMCTBR>

- North Wales: Survey recently closed with a positive response rate secured. If you did not get a chance to respond to the survey and would like to input, please contact sianlloydroberts@uchelgaisgogledd.cymru

Looking ahead to the future



The RSP bridges the gap between education and regeneration in the hope of creating a strong and vibrant economy underpinned by innovation, growth and a capable workforce.

Read on to find out more of the forward work programme for the RSP and ways you can help with future plans:

A New Three Year Employment and Skills Plan 2022-2025:

The Plan will identify key sectors, skills and employment priorities for the region, aligned to regional economic plans, including the Growth Deal.

Skills and employment priorities relate to Net Zero, Digital, Welsh Language, National Occupational Standards, Further Education and Apprenticeships.

The Plan will focus on:

- Opportunities that may arise from existing or potential inward investments or regional projects.
- Delivering great education while improving connections to business.
- Perspectives on how to build workforce skills, promote apprenticeships, STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) and fresh approaches to attract talent into each region
- Helping to reduce skills shortages facing businesses in regional and sub-regional growth sectors.

The Plan will also focus on the Shared Prosperity Fund and the role of RSPs in working with stakeholders and local authorities.

National Occupational standards (NOS):

National Occupational Standards (NOS) set out the knowledge, skills and competencies that are required for an occupation and underpin a range of apprenticeship qualifications and adult vocational qualifications across the UK and overseas.

The RSPs have an important role to play in ensuring that NOS remain up-to-date and meet the needs of employers and sectors in the region.

The RSP will develop a NOS annex to the three-year employment and skills plan 2022-25.

The RSP will classify occupations at the level of Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) codes to allow funding/resources to be directed to specific gap areas.

You can help RSP gather intelligence for the NOS by sharing information on:

- Priority occupations in the region.
- Occupations which are emerging or seeing growth, which require particular skills and/or new qualifications.
- Occupations facing potential changes to working practices/work context, technological changes and/or new regulations or legislative requirements (e.g. health and safety).
- Occupations which are in decline.



Further Education (FE) and Apprenticeships:

It is vital that we have an apprenticeship system that is responsive and flexible to the needs of employers and individuals; to deliver a high-skilled, competitive economy that benefits people throughout the country.

To help the RSP identify regional and /or sub regional priorities for delivery of FE provision and provide supporting context and a clear rationale, we are inviting employers to provide both anecdotal and robust hard evidence to support this area of work. This could include for example, sectors impacted by Brexit or COVID-19 or the need to attract talent and specific skill sets into the region due to a planned or existing inward investment project.

Welsh Language:

The Welsh Government's strategy Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh speakers² aims to create more Welsh speakers and increase the use of the Welsh language on a day-to-day basis.

The Strategy also sets the key transformational aim of reforming the post-16 Welsh-medium and bilingual education and skills offer to ensure that young people have the opportunity to continue developing bilingual skills to support a prosperous economy.

The RSP will include a detailed section on Welsh Language skills within their three-year employment and skills plan 2022-25.

We will continue to work closely with Welsh Government to ensure the workforce and other key stakeholders can take full advantage of opportunities to identify future Welsh language skills needs.

For further information on any area of the RSP Forward Work Plan, please contact Aggie Caesar-Homden, Mid Wales RSP Partnership Manager: aggie.caesar-homden@powys.gov.uk³ /01597 826713.

²<https://gov.wales/cymraeg-2050-welsh-language-strategy>

³<https://aggie.caesar-homden@powys.gov.uk/>



RSP Annual Meeting



The RSP Annual Meeting is to be held on Monday 12 September where a new Chair will be announced.

Business leaders and economic experts are being sought to express an interest to become Chair of the RSP Board.

The Chair of the Mid Wales Regional Skills Partnership will play a key role in helping to drive the region's vision for learning and skills, representing the voice of the private sector in the region to influence and support regional decision-making and to champion the region at a national level.

This will require an individual that can demonstrate:

- They are an Industry Leader, particularly from the sectors identified in the Growing Mid Wales vision. The vision can be viewed on the Growing Mid Wales website, <http://growingmidwales.co.uk/strategicgrowthpriorities>

- Knowledge and experience of the different industry sectors in Mid Wales;
- Strong private sector experience;
- Strong leadership and partnership ethos;
- An understanding of the wider strategic environment and take account of this when making recommendations.

The post is a voluntary position with an approximate commitment of 12 days a year.

Candidates are asked to complete the details outlined in the form found under the RSP documents section of the Growing Mid Wales website, <http://growingmidwales.co.uk/documents> and return the form to aggie.caesar-homden@powys.gov.uk by midday on Thursday 25 August. Interviews will be held during the week commencing Monday 29 August.

For further information about the role or to discuss the opportunity further, please contact the RSP Partnership Manager:

Aggie Caesar-Homden, aggie.caesar-homden@powys.gov.uk / 01597 826713

Keep up to date

Keep up to date with Growing Mid Wales news, developments on activity and organisations we support by following our Twitter and Linked In pages:

<https://twitter.com/growingmidwales>

www.linkedin.com/company/growing-mid-wales⁴

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.



⁴<https://www.linkedin.com/company/growing-mid-wales>



UNDEB EWROPEAIDD
EUROPEAN UNION



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

**Cronfeydd Strwythurol a
Buddsoddi Ewropeaidd
European Structural
and Investment Funds**