



# Growing Mid Wales June 2025

## **Welcome to the June edition of the Growing Mid Wales Newsletter!**

This month's update highlights exciting progress across the region — from the first phase of the Cynefin project at CAT receiving Growth Deal support, to new UK Shared Prosperity Fund-backed initiatives helping businesses and communities thrive. We also spotlight the latest Agri-tech and Food-tech funding successes, with a new competition now open to support even more innovation.

Looking ahead, we're gearing up for a busy Royal Welsh Show, where Growing Mid Wales and partners will be showcasing regional projects and opportunities throughout the week. We hope to see many of you there as we continue to champion growth and collaboration across Mid Wales.

Thanks for reading — and for being part of the journey to grow opportunity in Mid Wales.

## **The Growing Mid Wales Team**

**Cover:** CAT Drone Image  
An autumnal view over the Centre for Alternative Technology in Machynlleth, Powys.  
**CREDIT:** © Hawlfraint y Goron / © Crown copyright (2019) Cymru Wales

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## Mid Wales Growth Deal News

### Phase 1 investment unlocked for transformational project at CAT

The Mid Wales Growth Deal has taken another major step forward with the approval of funding for the first phase of the Cynefin project, led by the Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT) near Machynlleth.

On 25 June, the Growing Mid Wales (GMW) Board has approved support for detailed design and specification work to bring key elements of this transformational project to the point of delivery.

This includes:

1. Significant remodelling and future-proofing of the WISE (Wales Institute for Sustainable Education) building
2. Renovating the Quarry Cottages
3. Significant upgrades to the Straw Bale Theatre

Read the full story on our [website](#).



*1 - CATWISE Building: The Wales Institute of Sustainable Education (WISE) was built in 2010 as a home to CAT's postgraduate courses and training. It was designed to have a very low environmental impact in construction and in use and serves as an effective example and demonstration of sustainable building techniques.*

*Credit: Tim Soar*

## UK Shared Prosperity Fund News

Here's a round up of some key developments in the region highlighting opportunities and successes made possible through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund

### **Ceredigion County Council launches Graduate Scheme**

A brand new Graduate Scheme has been launched, offering recent graduates the opportunity to progress their careers in a variety of key areas.

The scheme is open to graduates with relevant degrees, with six opportunities available in the following fields:

- Planning, Building Control & Development Management
- Carbon Reduction, Energy & Asset Management
- Engineering
- Legal
- Public Protection (Environmental Health or Trading Standards)
- Youth Work
- More information can be found on Ceredigion County Council's [website](#).

### **Support for communities and businesses in Ceredigion**

Ceredigion County Council is delivering the Cynnal y Cardi Grant which is funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

Two grants offering funding opportunities opened on Wednesday, 18 June:

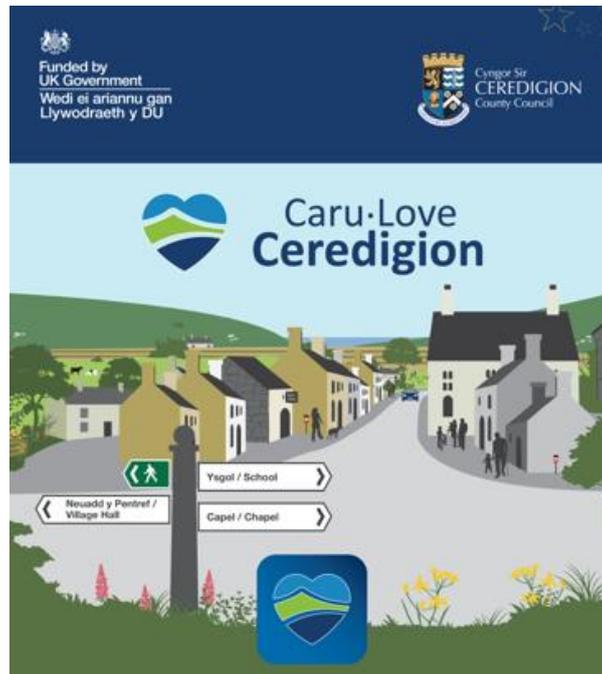
- Cynnal y Cardi Community Development and Support Fund (1,000 and up to £50,000.): Providing support to communities which includes revenue expenditure and small capital improvements.
- Cynnal y Cardi Capital Business Fund (£5,000 and up to £50,000.): Providing support for capital expenditure projects and specialist revenue expenditure to assist businesses to develop economically.

More information can be found on Ceredigion County Council's [website](#).

### **Caru'ch Cymuned new category for Caru Ceredigion Awards 2025**

Applications are now open in a new category in the 2025 Caru Ceredigion Awards. The Caru'ch Cymuned award will recognise and celebrate the work of town and village communities across Ceredigion in keeping their community tidy, arranging events and providing services to the people of the area. The closing date for submitting the Expression of Interest form is midnight Monday July 7, 2025.

More information can be found on Ceredigion County Council's [website](#).



### **Business is heating up for sauna company**

A sauna manufacturer is planning to ramp up production after moving to a new site in Powys that is three times as big as its previous premises.

Heartwood Saunas was helped to move from Pantperthog on the Powys/Gwynedd border to the village of Glantwymyn, on the other side of Machynlleth, by a £25,000 Powys County Council Business Growth Grant.

It was one of 71 companies supported last year, through the UK Government's Shared Prosperity Fund-backed scheme.

More information can be found on Powys County Council's [website](#).

### **Innovation boost for Agri-tech & Food-tech in Mid and North Wales - and details on a new competition!**

A fresh wave of innovation is underway across Mid and North Wales, as pioneering businesses have received support as part of Innovate UK's Nurturing Innovation in the Agri-tech and Food Technology Cluster for Mid and North Wales.

A new competition has also opened, offering more businesses the chance to apply for funding — see below for details.

The latest recipients are driving solutions to some of the sector's biggest challenges — from sustainable production and food safety to smart processing and robotics. Thirteen companies have received backing to explore ideas with the potential to transform the food and farming industry.

Each project has been awarded funding under the Minimal Financial Assistance (MFA) route of the Innovate UK-funded programme, designed to enable small-scale Research and Development and feasibility projects. This support allows businesses to test, trial, and develop ideas that can later be scaled through further innovation funding.

Find out a bit more about the 13 projects that received funding on our [website](#).

A new funding competition by Innovate UK will open on 30 June 2025, offering further opportunities for Agri-tech and Food-tech businesses in Mid and North Wales to access innovation support. Businesses are encouraged to register for the applicant briefing webinar on 3 July 2025, which will provide detailed guidance on how to apply and what makes a strong submission. More details about the competition and webinar (in the Dates tab) can be found on the Innovate UK competition page: <https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/2212/overview/4411087f-2a92-4aed-b735-d1a813376bec#summary>

**Mid & North Wales Launchpad Agri-Tech & Food Technology**  
MFA-funded projects

**Agri-tech & Food-tech Innovators**

Innovate UK  
UK Government Llywodraeth y DU  
Tyfu Cwmwlwrth Cymru Growing Mid Wales  
Uchelwraig Gogledd Cymru Ambition North Wales  
ArloesiAber Aberinnovation  
Caeffon Bwyd Cymru Food Centre Wales  
University of Sheffield  
AMRC Cymru

**Calling all Agri-tech & food-tech innovators!**

**Calling all agri-tech & food-tech innovators!**

Join us and the rest of the Nurturing Innovation in the Agri-tech and Food Technology Cluster for Mid and North Wales team at the Royal Welsh Show on 21 July (14:30–16:30, Tŵr Brycheiniog, Building 516) for an afternoon of insight, funding know-how and networking.

- ✓ Discover Innovate UK-funded success stories
- ✓ Hear what makes a winning application
- ✓ Meet businesses, funders & research partners driving the sector forward
- ✓ Information on how to join the clusters

Places are limited – register on Eventbrite before 17 July but remember to secure your Show ticket beforehand.

📅 Book your Eventbrite place now: <https://bit.ly/AgriTechFoodTechEvent>

Know a business that should be there? Share this post and help us grow the Cluster community!



### Calling all agri-tech & food-tech innovators!

Royal Welsh Show • 21 July 2025 • 14:30–16:30

Join us at our event, where you can:

- 💡 Hear about funding success stories
- 🔍 Find out more on what makes a good funding application
- 👥 Meet Innovators & Funders



## Mid Wales Commercial Property Investment Fund – Open Call Update

Following the successful launch of the Mid Wales Commercial Property Investment Fund in May, we've received strong interest from businesses across the region.

The open call for initial enquiries closed on 12 June 2025. We have now invited eligible businesses to submit a Viability Proposal for their projects within two months, the next step in the application process. Those successful at that stage will then be invited to develop a full Developed Proposal.

This staged process ensures a thorough assessment and supports businesses in developing high-quality proposals that align with the fund's aims.

👉 [Find out more about the fund](#)

**Any new updates on the fund will be featured in future newsletters – watch this space.**



## **Unlocking Potential: Businesses Across Mid and North Wales Explore Employing Prison Leavers**



Two regional events held earlier this year brought together employers, support organisations, and justice sector representatives to explore the opportunities and benefits of employing prison leavers in Mid and North Wales.

Hosted by the Mid Wales and North Wales Regional Skills Partnerships (RSP) in collaboration with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), the events aimed to challenge perceptions and highlight the potential of this underutilised workforce.

The events also marked the launch of the Welsh Government's new Employer Toolkit, designed to provide guidance and resources for businesses interested in recruiting prison leavers: [Offender Employability | Business Wales](#)

More information can be found on the RSP's [website](#).

## Thanks and warm welcomes



*2 - Councillor Jake Berriman, Leader of Powys County Council*

### **Welcome to Councillor Jake Berriman**

We're pleased to welcome Councillor Jake Berriman, Leader of Powys County Council, as the new Joint Chair of the Growing Mid Wales Board. Cllr Berriman brings a strong track record in strategic leadership and a passion for supporting regional growth. We look forward to working with him to drive forward our shared ambitions for Mid Wales.

We'd like to extend our sincere thanks to Councillor James Gibson-Watt for his time as Chair of the Growing Mid Wales Board. His leadership and commitment have been instrumental in progressing the region's growth ambitions and strengthening our partnerships. We are grateful for his contribution and continued support.

### **Thank You to Nicola Williams**

As Nicola Williams retires, we'd like to thank her sincerely for the dedication, energy and expertise she brought to Growing Mid Wales as Joint Strategic Lead over the years. Her contributions have played a vital role in shaping our work, and we wish her a happy and fulfilling retirement.

## Discover what's happening across Mid Wales at the Royal Welsh Show!

Ceredigion and Powys County Councils are inviting visitors to the Royal Welsh Show to drop by throughout show week (21-24 July) to explore an exciting range of exhibitions and activities that are interactive and informative for the public.

Located just off the main avenue, near the Main Ring, the Tŵr Brycheiniog building will be home to a packed programme of stands highlighting local innovation, support services, and exciting future developments happening across Mid Wales.

For more information, visit our [website](#).

Mid Wales Working Together: Innovation, Opportunity, Progress

The Royal Welsh Show 2025  
Information stands at Tŵr Brycheiniog  
(Building no.516, located near the Main Ring )

- Tourism & Cycling
- Recruitment
- Rali Ceredigion
- Centre for Alternative Technology
- Local Food Partnerships
- Building Control & Planning
- West Wales Nutrient Management Board
- Clusters Agri-tech and Food Technology
- Severn Valley Water Management Scheme

Visit our stands for hands-on activities, expert advice and local insight

Cynghor Sir CEREDIGION County Council

Tyfu Canolbarth Cymru Growing Mid Wales

Powys

**Mid Wales Working Together: Innovation, Opportunity, Progress**

**Timetable at Tŵr Brycheiniog (Building no.516)**  
**The Royal Welsh Show 2025**

Monday, 21 July	Tuesday, 22 July
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT)</li> <li>• Agri-tech and Food Technology Clusters</li> <li>• Tourism &amp; Cycling</li> <li>• West Wales Nutrient Management Board</li> <li>• Rali Ceredigion</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Armed Forces Community Covenant</li> <li>• Rali Ceredigion</li> <li>• Tourism &amp; Cycling</li> <li>• Recruitment</li> <li>• Building Control &amp; Planning</li> </ul>
Wednesday, 23 July	Thursday, 24 July
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Severn Valley Water Management Scheme</li> <li>• Rali Ceredigion</li> <li>• Tourism &amp; Cycling</li> <li>• Recruitment</li> <li>• Building Control &amp; Planning</li> <li>• Local Food Partnerships</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Food Partnerships</li> <li>• Tourism &amp; Cycling</li> <li>• Recruitment</li> <li>• Rali Ceredigion</li> <li>• Armed Forces Community Covenant</li> </ul>





## Other news

### Recommended listen..

Insightful conversation on the future of food and farming in Wales! This episode of the M-Sparc podcast explores how collaboration and innovation within the agri-food sector is supporting rural communities, boosting local economies, and driving sustainable growth across Wales. A must-listen for anyone with an interest in the agri-food industry, regional development, or the power of clusters to deliver real impact. 📍 Find out more about the Agri-tech and Food Technology Clusters for Mid and North Wales here:

<https://www.growingmid.wales/AgriTechFoodTech>

Listen here: <https://bit.ly/43PgwIY>



## Is Powys matching your business' ambitions?

Businesses that want to expand or relocate to Powys but can't find a suitable site or building, are being asked to let the council know.

They can use this online form to give details of their ambitions and what they need to realise them:

<https://powysapi.evolutive.co.uk/form/anonymousform/6728eed7783ab7106537eb74>

The council also wants to hear from businesses that will need new sites or buildings in the future.

"We want to help Powys businesses reach their full potential, so please let us know if we can do anything to help you find the new site or premises that you need now or in a few years," said Councillor James Gibson-Watt, Powys County Councils Cabinet Member for a More Prosperous Powys. "Our ambition is to create a stronger, fairer and greener Powys and we can only do that with a thriving economy that offers plenty of opportunities for well-paid employment.

"If you are considering relocating to, or starting a business in Powys, then we are here to help. Contact us to discuss the possibilities."

Anyone with questions about economic development in Powys should email: [economicdevelopment@powys.gov.uk](mailto:economicdevelopment@powys.gov.uk)



3 - Business units on the Buttington Cross Enterprise Park just outside Welshpool.

## Powys Business Awards - enter by 27 July!



✨ The Mid Wales Regional Skills Partnership is proud to be sponsoring the new **Business-Education Partnership Award** as part of the 2025 Powys Business Awards!

This award celebrates outstanding collaboration between employers and educational institutions. It recognises partnerships that are actively shaping the region's skills landscape and inspiring future talent through shared ambition and innovation.

📣 Are you part of a successful partnership between business and education in Mid Wales? Make sure you nominate! Details here <https://mailchi.mp/1627a86fb726/mwmg-ebulletin-7-9-5857840?e=a2ac09fd0d>

## 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 X, LinkedIn pages, and YouTube channel:

<https://twitter.com/growingmidwales>

[www.linkedin.com/company/growing-mid-wales](http://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](mailto:growingmidwales@ceredigion.gov.uk).

