



# Growing Mid Wales August 2025

**Welcome to the August edition of the Growing Mid Wales Newsletter!**

It's been an inspiring summer across our region, with activity spanning skills, innovation, energy, and investment. From skills clusters coming together to tackle future challenges, to new funding opportunities driving agri-tech and food technology, Mid Wales continues to demonstrate its strength as a region of ideas, collaboration, and growth.

In this edition, we share highlights from the Mid Wales Regional Skills Partnership, updates on funding opportunities, and a look ahead to the next steps for our Commercial Property Investment Fund. We also explore wider policy conversations shaping the future of rural Wales.

As always, thank you for being part of the Growing Mid Wales journey. Together, we are building a connected, innovative, and prosperous region.

[The Growing Mid Wales Team](#)

[**Cover:** Lampeter Food Festival 26.07.25. The event was supported by the Cynnal y Cardi Grant which is funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, along with 13 local business sponsors. With the UK importing more and more of its food, it's important to promote and support the quality and variety of produce we have right here.]

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## Mid Wales Regional Skills Partnership – Summer Highlights

It's been a busy few months for the Mid Wales Regional Skills Partnership, with activity across all sectors.

- Construction and Manufacturing/Engineering clusters met in Llandrindod Wells, with thanks to Kiernan Steel for hosting and providing an insightful tour.
- Green skills were a focus as NPTC Group of Colleges and Coleg Sir Gâr | Coleg Ceredigion presented their Green Skills Academy to the Construction cluster.
- We joined Robert Price Builders' Merchants in Brecon for a retrofit event, and attended the Business Wales Procurement Roadshow in Aberystwyth to hear about new initiatives for local SMEs.
- The Food and Drink Business Leader Network met at Rhosygilwen Mansion, with Antur Cymru Enterprise highlighting financial support available for workforce development.
- The Agriculture, Forestry & Horticulture cluster, hosted by Mentera, welcomed Woodknowledge Wales to explore skills and CPD opportunities in forestry.
- Across all cluster groups, interactive skills challenges helped identify what sectors really need.

We also helped launch this year's Powys Business Awards — sponsoring the new Business-Education Partnership Award — and took part in the Growing Mid Wales Energy Stakeholder event at the Royal Welsh Show, alongside Farming Connect's launch of their new CPD record platform, *Storfa Sgiliau*.

The clear message: collaboration between education, industry, and policy is key to a thriving skills landscape in Mid Wales.



1 - [Photo caption clockwise: Robert Price retrofit event, Tour of Kiernan steel, Business Wales procurement roadshow, Growing Mid Wales Energy Stakeholder event, and Powys Business Awards launch event]

## Last few days to apply for funding for innovation activities in the agri-tech and food technology!

Agri-tech and food technology, Mid and North Wales - CRDUK registered businesses can apply for a share of up to £2.7 million for business led projects that grow their innovation activities in the agri-tech and food technology cluster in Mid and North Wales. This funding is from Innovate UK.

More details about the competition 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>

Competition closes: Wednesday **20 August 2025 11:00am**

In the video link below, Aberinnovation CEO Rhian shares the inside scoop on the new Innovate UK Launchpad – who's behind it, what support is available, and how it could be a game-changer for your agritech or foodtech business. She also shares her top tips to help your application stand out when applying for Innovate UK funding.

Check it out: <https://youtube.com/shorts/Am79AgB9kb8?feature=shared>



## Spotlight on: Diagnostig



**Diagnostig**, a Bangor University spin-out who have a lab at [M-SPARC](#) for Research of Animal TB testing is one of the companies that has already benefitted from Innovation UK's agritech fund! You can learn more about Diagnostig here:

[Diagnostig Ltd - Diagnostics and Chemical Synthesis](#)

## Shared Prosperity Fund in action

The Cynnal y Cardi Grant which is funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund is still open:

### Support for communities and businesses in Ceredigion

Two grants offering funding opportunities are available:



- 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.

Both funds will welcome applications under a first come, first serve basis between 18 June 2025 and 30 September 2025, or until the fund is fully allocated.

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



Meanwhile, in Powys, SPF funding continues to make a tangible impact—supporting 71 local businesses through Powys County Council’s Business Growth Grant scheme. Notably, CastAlum, an aluminium parts manufacturer in Welshpool, received [£25,000](#) to update two of its die-cast machines as part of its refurbishment programme.

## Mid Wales Commercial Property Investment Fund – Update



### Mid Wales Commercial Property Investment Fund



We're now wrapping up the Viability Stage of the process, with final evaluations of proposals nearing completion. An Evaluation Panel will meet shortly after to agree on outcomes, which will inform the next steps. Decisions on which projects will move forward will be made by the Portfolio Delivery Board, with feedback shared with all applicants soon after. This will lead into a short pause to allow for any follow-up questions or clarifications, ahead of a wider update being shared later.

## Other news

### WLGA Rural Wales Manifesto



The Welsh Local Government Association has published a new *Rural Wales Manifesto*, calling for stronger recognition of the unique opportunities and challenges facing rural communities. It sets out key priorities for future policy and investment, highlighting the need for tailored approaches to economic development, transport, housing, and digital connectivity across rural areas like Mid Wales.

You can read the full manifesto on the [WLGA website](https://www.wlga.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 X, LinkedIn pages, and YouTube channel:

<https://twitter.com/growingmidwales>

[www.linkedin.com/company/growing-mid-wales](https://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.

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