

Swansea City and Waterfront Digital District

The Swansea City and Waterfront Digital District being led by Swansea Council is made up of three elements:

1. A 3,500-capacity indoor arena at a site adjacent to the LC in Swansea city centre that will accommodate music concerts, touring shows, exhibitions, conferences, gaming tournaments and other events. Ambassador Theatre Group (ATG) have been appointed to run the indoor arena, once it's operational. Led by Buckingham Group Contracting Ltd, considerable progress is being made on site as the arena heads towards opening in the autumn of 2021. A digital square featuring digital artworks and ultrafast internet connection speeds will also be developed outside the arena.
2. A state-of-the-art office development at the former Oceana nightclub site on The Kingsway in Swansea city centre. Around 100,000 square feet of flexible office space and amenities will be developed for tech and digital businesses, with conference and meeting facilities as well as potential links to the indoor arena. Acting as a catalyst for further development on The Kingsway, the development will benefit from world class digital connectivity and integration with smart city technology. Construction tendering is underway.
3. An Innovation Matrix development at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David SA1 for start-up businesses, which will foster entrepreneurship through close links with academia.

Status: Work ongoing on the Arena with planned completion for Q4 2021, 71/72 the Kingsway in the final stages of procurement, Innovation matrix in the initial stages of a change control request to ensure benefits are realised and maximised.

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Homes as Power Stations

State-of-the-art design and energy efficiency technologies will be introduced to thousands of properties as part of the Homes as Power Stations project throughout the Swansea Bay City Region.

The pioneering project is aiming to facilitate the adoption of the Homes as Power Stations approach to integrate energy efficiency design and renewable technologies into the development of new build homes and retrofit programmes carried out by the public, private and third sectors. This will tackle fuel poverty while helping residents save money on their energy bills.

The Homes as Power Stations project aims to prove the concept in the public sector at a relatively small scale with the intention of then scaling up activity in other sectors across the Swansea Bay City Region. These will include private sector developers.

Homes as Power Stations aims to:

1. Facilitate the take up of renewable technologies in at least 10,300 properties (7,000 retrofit, 3,300 new build) within five years to increase affordable warmth and reduce fuel poverty
2. Improve residents' health and well-being
3. Reduce burden on health and social services

The project will be linked to other housing improvement programmes to optimise efficiency of delivery. These include the Welsh Government's Optimised Retrofit Programme (ORP) forming part of the Innovative Housing Programme, which will reduce the carbon footprint of existing social housing in Wales.

There will be a focus on developing a sustainable, regional supply chain, monitoring and evaluation, skills development, an education and dissemination programme, and a financial incentive scheme. The project will share its findings via a knowledge sharing hub.

Homes as Power Stations will leave a legacy of skilled jobs in the Swansea Bay City Region, while mainstreaming the concept for roll-out elsewhere in Wales and the UK.

Status: Business case approved by the Swansea Bay City Deal's Joint Committee. Business case submitted to the UK Government and Welsh Government for final approval.

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Supporting Innovation and Low Carbon Growth

This £58.7 million programme will deliver sustainable jobs and growth in the Swansea Bay City Region to support the creation of a decarbonised and innovative economy, thanks to a partnership between government, academia and industry.

Seven linked projects will help:

- Decarbonise the steel and metals industry
- Provide high-quality office space for businesses
- Provide a route map for the commercialisation of hydrogen
- Support the advanced manufacturing sector
- Establish a regional approach to decarbonise journeys in the region.

With a targeted focus on the Port Talbot Waterfront Harbourside area, this programme, led by Neath Port Talbot Council, is projected to be worth £6.2 million a year to the local economy.

The Supporting Innovation and Low Carbon Growth programme is made up of seven inter-linked projects under four themes:

- An energy positive Technology Centre building on Baglan Energy Park, providing flexible office space for start-up companies and indigenous businesses, with a focus on the innovation, ICT and R&D sectors. The excess energy from solar and other renewable technologies will be converted into hydrogen at the nearby Hydrogen Centre to be used to fuel hydrogen vehicles
- A specialist facility which will support the steel and metals industry in Port Talbot, Wales and the UK, while reducing its carbon footprint.
- Decarbonisation projects including a low emission vehicle charging network, as well as air quality monitoring and a hydrogen stimulus project
- An Industrial Futures project to address the gap between demand and supply for businesses and available land in the Port Talbot Waterfront Enterprise Zone, with a hybrid building providing production units as well as office space to support start-ups and indigenous businesses in the innovation and manufacturing sectors

Status: Business case approved by the Swansea Bay City Deal's Joint Committee. Final business case amendments being made in order to meet the requirements of Welsh and UK Governments.

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Pembroke Dock Marine

The £60 million Pembroke Dock Marine programme will place Pembrokeshire at the heart of global zero carbon marine energy innovation while also helping tackle climate change.

Pembroke Dock Marine will deliver the facilities, services and spaces needed to establish a world-class centre for marine engineering. Led by the private sector and supported by Pembrokeshire County Council, Pembroke Dock Marine is made up of four elements:

- Marine Energy Engineering Centre of Excellence (MEECE)
Delivered by: Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult
Purpose: Research, development and demonstration support, driving innovation in the supply chain and reducing cost of energy.
- Pembroke Port developments
Delivered by: Port of Milford Haven
Purpose: Creating spaces that help industry fabricate, launch and maintain devices.
- Marine Energy Test Area (META)
Delivered by: Marine Energy Wales
Purpose: Facilitates component, sub-assembly and device testing through pre-consented test areas in order to reduce the time, cost and risks faced and accelerate growth in the sector.
- Pembrokeshire Demonstration Zone (PDZ)
Delivered by: Wave Hub Development Services Ltd
Purpose: Enabling offshore renewable infrastructure to catalyse the Celtic Sea floating offshore wind and marine energy opportunities.

The programme is expected to generate £73.5 million a year to the regional economy.

As well as having application across other blue economy industries, Pembroke Dock Marine will create the right conditions for the marine energy industry to flourish as the UK moves towards net zero decarbonisation targets.

Pembroke Dock Marine's drive to maximise innovation and operational efficiencies will seek to drive down the cost of marine energy, while acting as a foundation programme that will support the growth of new initiatives in the region.

As well as the Swansea Bay City Deal, Pembroke Dock Marine is also being part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund through the Welsh Government.

Status: Funding agreements in process, expected for signing and dated before end of May.

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Pentre Awel

The Pentre Awel project earmarked for Llanelli will feature new business, education and health facilities, along with a state-of-the-art new leisure centre and swimming pool.

Proposed for an 83-acre site in South Llanelli, Pentre Awel will be the first development of its scope and size in Wales.

Pentre Awel will provide public, academic, business and health facilities all on one site to boost employment, education, leisure provision, health research and delivery, and skills and training.

The project is planned to include integrated care and physical rehabilitation facilities to enable the testing and piloting of life science technologies aimed at enhancing independent and assisted living.

The council-run leisure centre element of the project will feature a cutting-edge gym, a 25-metre swimming pool, a learner pool and an indoor play area.

Worth millions of pounds to the local economy, Pentre Awel will also create a wide range of employment opportunities across the Swansea Bay City Region as whole.

Pentre Awel is being delivered by Carmarthenshire County Council in partnership with Hywel Dda University Health Board, Universities and Colleges.

The council is working with community partners to ensure the project accommodates the work, health and care needs identified and prioritised by local residents through extensive consultation.

The Pentre Awel project will also include a skills centre focusing on health and care training, along with a clinical delivery centre to deliver multi-disciplinary care closer to home.

Assisted living accommodation will also feature, along with a nursing home, a hotel, expansion space for businesses, and elements of both open market and social and affordable housing. Landscaped outdoor spaces for recreation on site will benefit from spectacular views across the Loughor Estuary and Carmarthen Bay.

Status: Business case approved final stages of procurement ongoing

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Life Sciences, Wellbeing & Sport Campuses

The vision for the Campuses project is to deliver two complementary initiatives across two sites in two phases (Singleton and Morriston in Swansea) that add value to the regional life science, health and sport sectors. This will support interventions and innovation in healthcare and medicine to help prevent ill-health, develop better treatments and improve patient care, while boosting sport through world class sport science and new facilities.

The proposal builds on established and emerging partnerships to deliver an environment that exploits life science and technology research to drive economic development, positioning the Swansea Bay City Region as an international centre of excellence for health, sport and wellbeing.

The project will deliver new research, innovation and sports facilities within a regional health campus that enables the co-location of life science research and industry alongside clinical infrastructure and investment opportunities. This will support existing partners and attract inward investment to accelerate innovation, while supporting the delivery of a second phase of the project and other longer-term developments.

Phase 1 of the Campuses project will include:

- Development at Sketty Lane in Swansea which will create an environment that fosters innovation at the intersection between life science, health, wellbeing and sport. This will help attract public and private investment from organisations across these sectors, while benefitting from expertise at the nearby Institute of Life Sciences initiative at Swansea University's Singleton campus
- Refurbishment at Morriston Hospital that will accommodate a further Institute of Life Sciences development. This feature of the project will also include planning for new road access to a 55-acre site to the north of the hospital, which will establish Morriston as a global example of best practice for healthcare by accommodating commercial and academic collaboration

with clinical research & development and facilitate access to modern technology and techniques.

Status: Business case under development – expected May 2021.

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Yr Egin

Yr Egin is a digital and creative hub at the University of Wales Trinity Saint David in Carmarthen.

Anchored by S4C's headquarters, the 3,700 square metre first phase of the development is also home to a range of other companies working within the creative sector, including multi-media publishing and digital technology; digital education; video production and photography; post production; graphic design; translation and sub-titling.

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Yr Egin's main objectives are to stimulate further investment and economic growth in Carmarthenshire and beyond, and to inspire and revitalise a variety of social and community groups across the Swansea Bay City Region.

Yr Egin will also create an exciting cultural hub for the digital and creative industries, while promoting the status of the Welsh language and Welsh culture.

A second phase of the development is being planned, which will deliver a state-of-the-art, hybrid digital co-working space allowing for cross-sector engagement between established businesses in West Wales and future SMEs in the creative industries. It will cater for a range of 'new' technological services that could be made available for the region.

It will also be a vibrant 'destination of choice' that inspires a digital community to connect, offering a range of services and a trusted technology ecosystem where clients can come to engage and co-curate new business solutions.

Status: Phase 1 complete Phase 2 demand study ongoing expected summer 2021 to confirm creative sector needs.

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Digital Infrastructure

The £55 million Digital Infrastructure programme will benefit residents and businesses in all parts of the Swansea Bay City Region, which includes Carmarthenshire, Neath Port Talbot, Pembrokeshire and Swansea. The programme is estimated to be worth £318 million to the regional economy in the next 15 years.

Led by Carmarthenshire County Council, the Digital Infrastructure programme will:

- Ensure the region's cities, towns and business parks have competitive access to full-fibre connectivity
- Pave the way for the region to benefit from 5G and internet of things innovation, which includes smart homes, smart manufacturing, smart agriculture and virtual reality, as well as wearable technology that will support healthcare, assisted living and other sectors
- Focus on improving access to broadband in the region's rural communities, while stimulating the market to create competition between digital providers for the benefit of consumers.

Inward investment of £30 million is estimated throughout the five-year delivery phase of the programme.

Status: Business case approved by Region and Welsh and UK Governments, initial stages of delivery and procurement ongoing.

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Skills and Talent

The regional Skills and Talent project being led by Carmarthenshire County Council aims to deliver a regional solution for the identification and delivery of the skills and training requirements for all City Deal projects.

Working alongside partners from the private sector, higher and further education, schools and the third sector, the project team will map out gaps in current provision and establish the skills and training needed for students, teachers and lecturers both now and in future.

Bespoke education and training solutions will then be introduced, which align to the needs of industry and key City Deal themes. Investment will include funding for equipment and the development of courses to support the projects.

Status: Business case complete and with regional stakeholders for consultation/updates prior to formal submission to Welsh and UK government.