

**Department for Economy,
Science & Transport**

Wales Enterprise Zones: 2nd Progress Update



**Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government**

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Background

In 2012, the Welsh Government launched seven **Enterprise Zones** across Wales. The Enterprise Zones are designated geographical areas that support new and expanding businesses by providing a first class business infrastructure and support.

Each of the Enterprise Zones has a focus on one or more key business sectors. They are:

- **Anglesey Enterprise Zone** – focusing on the energy and environment sector;
- **Central Cardiff Enterprise Zone** – focusing on the financial & professional services sector;
- **Deeside Enterprise Zone** – focusing on the advanced manufacturing and materials sector;
- **Ebbw Vale Enterprise Zone** – focusing on the advanced manufacturing and materials sector;
- **Haven Waterway Enterprise Zone** – focusing on the energy & environment sector;
- **Snowdonia Enterprise Zone** – focusing on the energy & environment, aerospace, and ICT sectors.
- **St Athan – Cardiff Airport Enterprise Zone** – focusing on the advanced manufacturing and materials sector and in particular its aerospace sub-sector.

Each Enterprise Zone has an independent, private-sector led advisory Board. The role of the Enterprise Zone Boards is to advise the Welsh Government on the implementation and delivery of action plans and priorities for the Zones, including:

- Strategic advice towards investment opportunities
- Encouraging supply chain development
- Identifying property and infrastructure needs
- Marketing and promotion of Enterprise Boards.

Purpose of this Document

In October 2013, the Welsh Government published a first Enterprise Zones Progress Update Report (available at <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/businessandconomy/business-wales/enterprisezones/?lang=en>). That document outlined the strategy, projects and key developments identified by Enterprise Zone Boards and summarised the progress against these activities in each Zone. It also summarised progress on the cross cutting activities being taken forward by the Welsh Government, its partners and key stakeholders to support the development of the Zones and to measure their progress and delivery.

This second report sets out the most recent achievements and key progress in each Zone since then, whilst outlining the key upcoming projects being taken forward in each Zone.

Further Information

For further information on the Wales Enterprise Zones, please visit www.business.wales.gov.uk/enterprisezones or contact the Welsh Government's Business Information Helpline on 03000 6 03000.

Anglesey Enterprise Zone



The vision for the Anglesey Enterprise Zone is to create a world-renowned centre of excellence for the production, demonstration and servicing of low carbon energy. The Zone is focussed upon eight strategic sites which fully compliment the Energy Island Programme:

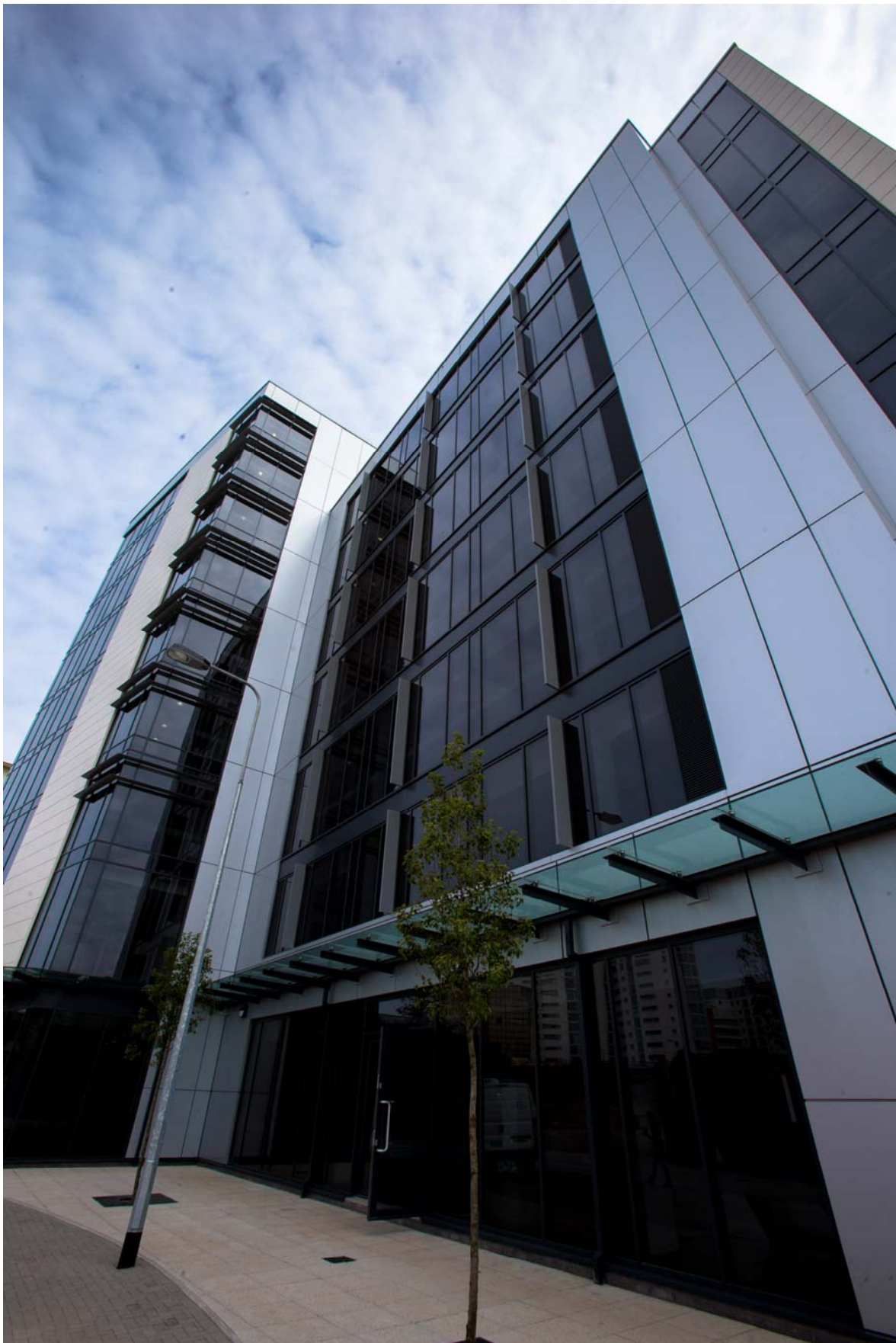
- Production – investing in new low carbon energy production to help secure a stable energy future for Wales.
- Demonstration – establishing world-class facilities to place Anglesey as a leading location for low carbon energy innovation and demonstration.
- Servicing – ensuring that supply chain opportunities are captured and maximised.

Recent progress in the Zone in support of these objectives includes:

- Funding approved to support preliminary design and costing works of the Llangefni Link Road, in the context of the aspiration to extend the Bryn Cefni Business Park.
- A promotion to persuade businesses and developers to consider building industrial properties on Anglesey. To date this has resulted in three initial enquiries and one firm proposal which has been approved and will support the building of units totalling 18,000 sq.ft.

- Work has begun on Conygar's Truck Stop/Logistics Hub Development, Parc Cybi, Holyhead. Local contractors include Jones Brothers (Ruthin) and Watkin Jones, with completion scheduled for December 2014.
- Finance Wales Investments has approved a loan for Anglesey Sea Salt that will be used to support a £1m plus development of a new factory and visitor centre.
- A multi million pound programme has been awarded to Structural Soils Ltd by Horizon Nuclear Power to carry out a specialist ground investigations contract. The work will continue until December 2014 with 100 people working on site; over 25 local contractors are benefitting from this programme.
- Horizon Nuclear Power has expanded its staff numbers at Anglesey to include three experienced project engineers and a new G4S security team of twelve to the Wylfa Newydd site. The project engineers boost Horizon's core team and will help to supervise on-going preparatory works and investigative studies.
- Welsh Government in collaboration with Horizon Nuclear Power and the Energy Island Programme is offering free business readiness development taster sessions as part of an initial pilot. Complimenting existing supplier development programmes, this pilot is designed to assist local and regional businesses on the Isle of Anglesey and across north Wales within the construction and building services sector grow their awareness of the business skills needed to be ready to compete for future work associated with the Wylfa Newydd project. The pilot programme comprises five activities which will each run twice from October 2014 – March 2015 at venues across north Wales.
- The UK Government has approved changes to the large biomass plant and eco park (proposed by Lateral Power) on the former Anglesey Aluminium works near Holyhead. The development could create up to 400 new jobs with an extra 600 in the construction phase.
- Close working relationships have been maintained with key stakeholders and partners including Energy Island to promote and develop the Enterprise Zone.

Central Cardiff Enterprise Zone



The overall vision for the Central Cardiff Enterprise Zone is to help create one of the UK's premier locations for the financial and professional services sector, with the aim of attracting new investment, facilitating the development of new high quality offices, other supporting infrastructure and to create new high quality sustainable jobs. This includes:

- Capitalising on the city's existing attributes and competitive advantages.
- Helping to deliver new, high quality developments that meet the needs of modern business.
- Supporting business, particularly through new and enhanced training and education packages to businesses locating to the Enterprise Zone.
- Securing and building upon existing transportation links – locally, regionally and nationally.
- Building upon existing ICT and other supporting utility infrastructure, enabling Cardiff to become a super connected city.
- Tapping into the economic benefits and advantages offered by the wider Cardiff Capital Region and generating prosperity for the Region.

Recent progress in the Zone in support of these objectives includes:

- International business advisory firm Deloitte is set to create up to 700 jobs as it prepares to diversify and expand its business operations Centre of Excellence in the Zone.
- The acquisition in March 2014 of Building No.1 Capital Quarter. The building, which was opened by the Minister for Economy, Science & Transport in June 2014, delivers 80,000 sq.ft. of Grade A space to business, and most of the building has been already let.
- The completion of sale in April 2014 of the Welsh Government Herbert Street site to J R Smart Ltd for new development associated with the Capital Quarter.
- Welsh Government financial support for the completion and opening of a new a state of the art pedestrian bridge connecting Capital Quarter with the city centre via Pellet Street.
- In June 2014 and with financial support from Welsh Government, J R Smart Ltd started construction of its speculative 84,000 sq.ft. Grade A office, Building No.2 Capital Quarter.
- The appointment of a contractor to progress 90,000 sq. ft. of Grade A office scheme on part of the EO4, Callaghan Square site.
- Private developer Rightacres has commenced construction of its new 135,000 sq.ft. Grade A Offices at Central Square.
- Network Rail has issued its initial visioning proposals for the redevelopment of Cardiff Central Station. This could see substantial new station improvements and more than 340,000 sq. ft. of new office and retail floor space for business use. The business case is being developed to secure UK Government funding for the project.

Deeside Enterprise Zone



The Deeside Enterprise Zone covers one of the most important employment areas in north Wales, an area stretching from Flintshire Bridge in the north, along the river Dee to Broughton. Within the Zone the sites associated with several anchor companies, key employers and skills vital to the Welsh economy located, include:

- Deeside Industrial Park, which provides employment for over 9,000 jobs on site.
- Major employers including Airbus, Toyota, UPM and Tata Steel. Airbus employs in the region of 6,000 staff, with a further 2,000 sub-contractors and suppliers on and around the Deeside site.
- Northern Gateway, the largest mixed use development site in Wales.

The ambition of the Enterprise Zone is to secure and continue the process of transformation which is helping to make Deeside a first class environment for advanced manufacturing and technology; an area where recognised excellence is anchored in the fields of aerospace, automotive and process engineering, electronics, pharmaceuticals, construction, food, paper and packaging and sustainable energy.

Recent progress in the Zone in support of these objectives includes:

- A study into the Advanced Manufacturing Skills & Technology Centre concept has been completed. A sub group was established to take forward the concept, which has led to the commissioning of an in-depth study to look at a series of options.
- Progress made on Northern Gateway infrastructure issues. A contract has been awarded to undertake essential flood defence works that will allow development of the site and protect existing infrastructure. This is due to be completed by spring 2015.
- A Speculative Property Scheme is being actively promoted. Early discussions are underway with a number of developers.
- The Deeside Enterprise Zone Shared apprenticeship Scheme was announced by the Deputy Minister for Skills in June and is being promoted for September 2015 recruitment.
- Marketing campaigns have been undertaken at prime locations in Liverpool and Manchester, and the Enterprise Zone has been central to our promotions at Advanced Materials and Manufacturing related exhibitions and events.
- Cytori Therapeutics is relocating from Switzerland to the Deeside enterprise Zone to set up its European headquarters, creating 30 jobs.
- Carey Glass, Europe's largest independent glass processor, announced earlier this year plans to establish a major new production facility on Hawarden Business Park in Deeside Enterprise Zone which will create 80 new jobs.
- KK Fine Foods is creating 90 jobs in the Zone with support from the Welsh Government and Finance Wales.
- Calbee Inc., Japan's largest manufacturer of savoury snacks, is making its first investment in Europe by opening a new facility in the Zone, with Welsh Government support, creating more than 100 jobs.
- An £8.1m package for training has been awarded to Airbus at Broughton within the Zone. The funding will run for five years and will support the training of the workforce to exploit Airbus' investment in new technology at the site.
- Raytheon is re-investing and expanding its Special Mission Aircraft facility at Broughton to become the HQ for the Airborne Solutions business. The c.£1m investment, backed by Welsh Government business finance, will create a Centre of Excellence for design and programme management for UK and international customers, as well as R&D activities that will create 50 highly skilled jobs.
- The Deeside Enterprise Zone participated in the Liverpool Festival of Business in July 2014.

Ebbw Vale Enterprise Zone



Ebbw Vale and its surrounding area have a strong industrial heritage and long history of manufacturing. The area is already the base for international leaders such as Tenneco, Yuasa Battery, Continental Teves, Northern Automotive Systems, G-TEM, Penn Pharma and Monier Redland.

The Ebbw Vale Enterprise Zone comprises five areas totalling approximately 40 hectares of developable land: -

- Rhyd-y-Blew
- The Works Site
- Tredegar Business Park
- Rassau Industrial Estate
- Bryn Serth

There is also the potential of another development site within the Zone in future, should the Circuit of Wales project succeed through its development stage.

Rhyd Y Blew is one of the largest development sites of its type in the Valleys with good access and potential for excellent infrastructure. It is the primary development site within the Zone, and could be used for large scale investment projects. The other four key sites will be suitable for attracting a variety of investments both large and small.

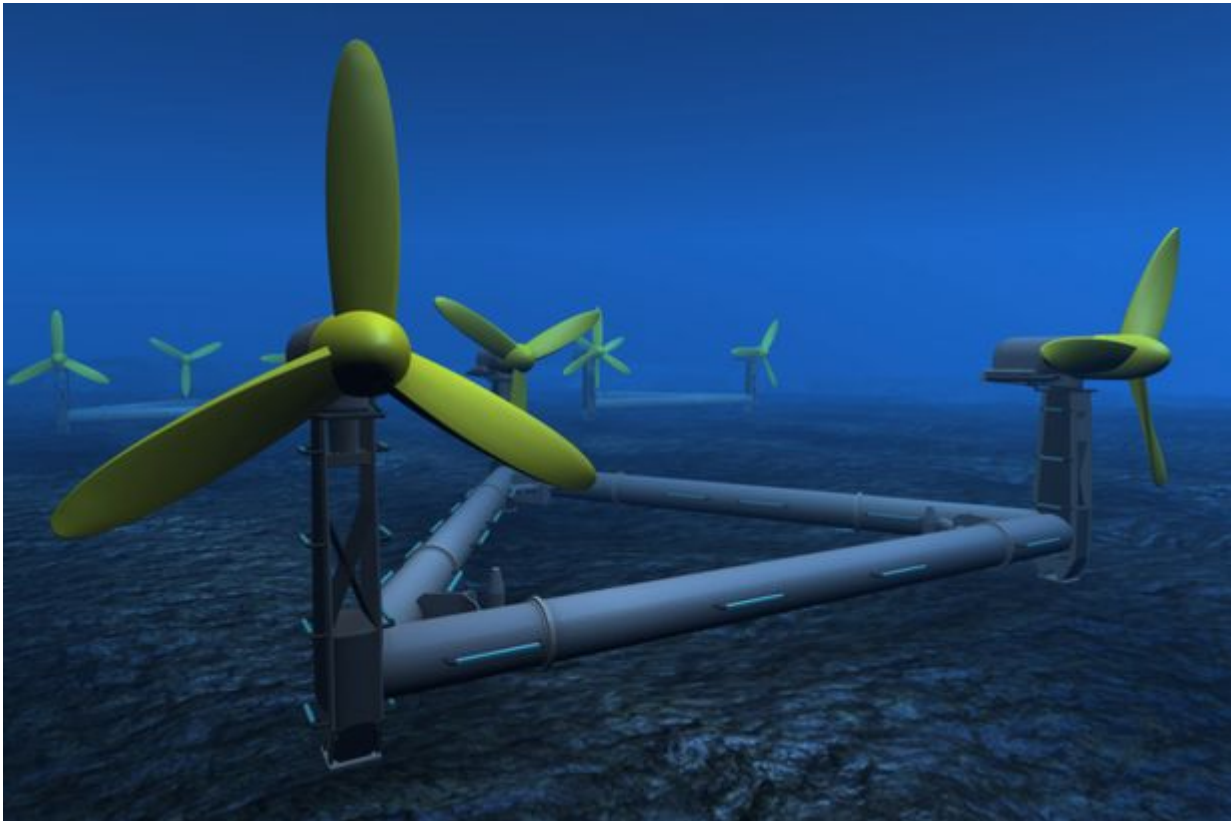
The development of the Ebbw Vale Enterprise Zone will build on its successful track-record for delivering manufacturing projects to create a vibrant; world class high technology hotspot for

manufacturing companies in Wales. The Zone will attract businesses of all sizes spanning many key sub sectors, providing employment that is challenging, rewarding and valued.

Recent progress in the Zone in support of these objectives includes:

- Progress has been made with site preparation works across the Zone to bring each of the five key sites to an investment ready stage.
- Full planning permission for Rhyd-y-Blew infrastructure works was granted in Spring 2014 to facilitate the delivery of this strategic site.
- The installation of highways and site specific information signage to assist with marketing the Zone.
- The development of the new A465 dual carriageway providing direct access to the Zone is already underway, investing £40m.
- The development of an £11m extension of the railway line from Parkway to The Works site Ebbw Vale, providing direct rail access to the Zone.
- A number of companies within the Zone have received Welsh Government support including Express Contract Drying, Tilon Composites and DT Civils who are all expanding their operations.
- In early 2014, the University Heads of the Valleys Institute (UHOVI) was commissioned by the Ebbw Vale Enterprise Zone Board to conduct a training and skills survey of the needs of private manufacturing companies based in the Enterprise Zone and the surrounding Heads of the Valleys area. The findings of the report are currently being considered by the Board.

Haven Waterway Enterprise Zone



DeltaStream Tidal Stream Turbine - the first full-scale tidal energy generator in Wales, unveiled in August 2014

The Haven Waterway Enterprise Zone includes a number of key sites extending from the immediate Haven area to the surrounding areas of Honeyborough, Thornton and Haverfordwest Airport. The Zone offers both renewable and traditional energy companies an established industry base and supply chain together with a skilled workforce, an established distribution infrastructure, a variety of sites to suit a range of needs, and a network of universities with expertise in a range of energy-related fields. The creation of the Haven Waterway Enterprise Zone is based on the vision of further investment in energy projects, the creation of green jobs, together with the development and enhancement of existing jobs in the energy sector.

The vision for the Haven Waterway Enterprise Zone is to:

- Bring the Waterston site to market following a programme of preparatory works.
- Develop tailored specialist Energy related training packages within the Zone working with partners and stakeholders.
- Develop a Maritime and Energy Centre of Excellence working with partners and stakeholders.
- Improved road links - in particular, further improvements to the A40.

Recent progress in the Zone in support of these objectives includes:

- The Waterston site was marketed with 5 bids received. A preferred bidder has been identified and due diligence is now underway.
- The Zone boundaries have been extended to allow more local business to benefit from Enterprise Zone status and increase the potential to attract more investment. The revised Zone boundary can be viewed at www.business.wales.gov.uk/enterprisezones. Following the Murco announcement, the Board is undertaking a further review of the boundary which will be forwarded to the Minister for consideration.
- Improvements to the A477, part of the Trans European Road Network, were completed in April, significantly improving road access to and from the Zone, with positive benefits for the local population and business. The Minister has asked officials to undertake further, urgent work, to explore additional ways to improve the A40, including the potential for dualling. The exploratory work is scheduled to be completed within 6 months.
- Unveiling in August 2014 of the DeltaStream Tidal Stream Turbine, the first full-scale tidal energy generator in Wales; a deal has been signed to sell the electricity generated to EDF for a twelve month period. The wave demonstration zone off South Pembrokeshire will for the first time enable locally-based organisations to manage and sub-let parts of the seabed to a range of wave and tidal stream developers.
- Milford Haven welcomed some 5,000 cruise passengers this summer for the 2014 cruise season. The Welsh Government, Cruise Wales, Pembrokeshire County Council and Pembrokeshire Coast National Park have been working closely with the Port of Milford Haven to improve the visitor experience and attract even more ships and passengers.
- Genpower has secured a £1.5m finance package to create 35 jobs and support the acquisition of its 110,000 sq ft headquarters in the Haven Waterway Enterprise Zone.
- Consort Equipment Products is investing £1m at its headquarters in Milford Haven.
- Seven companies located within the Haven Waterway Enterprise Zone attended the Renewable UK Annual Conference and Exhibition, 11-13 November in Manchester with support from the Welsh Government.
- The Haven Waterway Enterprise Zone Board has facilitated regular meetings to provide a platform for indigenous SMEs in the energy supply chain to network, share best practice and identify synergy in collaborative working. A CE Marking seminar supported by Welsh Government was held in the Zone and attended by local businesses.
- Following support and encouragement from the Enterprise Zone Board, Careers Wales held an event on the opportunities to work in the energy, maritime and engineering sectors. Over 200 school children/ college students attended.

Following the Murco announcement, the Minister for Economy, Science and Transport has set up a Task Force to maximise the support that the Welsh Government can give to those directly affected and to the wider area.

Snowdonia Enterprise Zone



The Snowdonia Enterprise Zone consists of two sites; the Trawsfynydd decommissioning site with its exceptional energy infrastructure and Llanbedr Aviation Centre & Enterprise Park, which has the capacity to accommodate a range of both airside and non airside uses and the potential to increase Wales' Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) capability.

The aim is to ensure that the foundations are laid and conditions established at both sites to foster sustainable economic growth and private sector investment. The unique assets of both sites are reflected by a focus across key sectors including Energy & Environment, ICT and Aerospace. Their status as key strategic sites makes them important future economic drivers for the wider area.

In addition, the Enterprise Zone Board, including key partners, engaged with the competition process led by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) and is now engaging with the newly appointed Parent Body Organisation (PBO) who oversee decommissioning activity across its estate. The aim is to ensure that the new PBO can maximise the socio-economic benefits for the area through, for example, release of land and supply chain opportunities.

The overall vision for the Snowdonia Enterprise Zone is that:

- Snowdonia will be a preferred location for high quality digital, low carbon and aerospace related enterprises.
- The Zone will make the most of its unique characteristics; including its nationally important energy infrastructure and location at the heart of the National Park.
- The Zone will build upon the strengths of its knowledge and skills base to contribute positively to the area's economic prospects.

Recent progress in the Zone in support of these objectives includes:

- Strategic Options Assessment for Trawsfynydd site and Llanbedr site Masterplan completed. Both are critical in informing the Enterprise Zone Board and the Welsh Government in terms of the future development of the Zone.
- Work is underway to further develop detailed propositions for preferred options at the Trawsfynydd site, aligned to the ICT and Energy & Environment sectors.
- The reopening of facilities at Llyn Trawsfynydd as part of the £4m investment 'One Big Adventure' programme to establish the area as a world class outdoor adventure destination.
- The Welsh Government is supporting the establishment of an Initial Operating Capability (IOC) at the Llanbedr site by investing in key site infrastructure. The refurbishment of the control tower for example is central to the successful development and integration of processes and procedures for test flight operations, signalling the reopening of Llanbedr Airfield as a centre of excellence for autonomous systems and expanding Wales' RPAS environment capability.
- The hosting of a successful Youth Engagement Day at the Llanbedr site to showcase the Snowdonia Enterprise Zone, outlining the potential career opportunities in science and engineering available to students in Meirionnydd.
- The Welsh Government, alongside its partners Llanbedr Airfield Estates and QinetiQ is fully committed to helping the UK realise its vision to host Europe's first Spaceport. Partners are collaborating to explore this unique opportunity which could transform the region's economic prospects and position Wales at the forefront of the rapidly growing UK and global space sector.
- Focussing on better transport connectivity by initiating preparatory work for road improvements on the A496 Maentwrog junction to Blaenau Ffestiniog and enhanced site access to the Llanbedr site.
- The successful promotion of the Zone at key trade events such as Farnborough Airshow, bringing Snowdonia to the attention of a global audience.

St Athan - Cardiff Airport Enterprise Zone



The St Athan - Cardiff Airport Enterprise Zone is a unique environment for Aerospace businesses within Wales and is made up of the three distinct areas.

- Cardiff Airport offers opportunities for business and tourism in Wales. The site is capable of developing cargo and freight initiatives to support the local supply chain.
- The Gateway Commercial programme with the potential to create a quality office environment, cargo, leisure facilities and links with academia.
- St Athan Aerospace Business Park is a secure facility offering a long term well connected base for aerospace industry and other companies requiring airside and non airside access.

The overall vision for the Enterprise Zone is to strengthen the foundations already in place to maximise the opportunities for St Athan-Cardiff Airport to become an internationally recognised centre of excellence for the aerospace industry and Maintenance, Repair and Operations (MRO) activities.

Recent progress in the Zone in support of these objectives includes:

- Works to the Gileston Bends continues and is expected to be completed by the end of 2014.
- Close cooperation between the Welsh Government, its new airfield management contractor Serco Ltd and the Ministry of Defence has enabled the St Athan airfield to open seven days a week. This is a major improvement to the marketability of the Aerospace Business Park.
- The works to the taxiway at St Athan Aerospace Business Park were completed in spring 2014, providing a major improvement to the airfield infrastructure.
- Bristow Helicopters contractors Balfour Beatty have commenced construction of the £5m facility for Search & Rescue covering south Wales and the south west of England. The facility is due for completion in Spring 2015.
- Dragon Engineering Ltd has taken occupation of one of the large hangers on the south side of the airfield and is in the process of recruiting its core team to commence operations in the General Aviation MRO market.
- In addition to its MRO facility already operated at St Athan, Cardiff Aviation Ltd has set up a training facility in the Norman Hangar at Cardiff Airport.

Cross cutting delivery into the Wales Enterprise Zones

In addition to identifying priority areas for delivery across the Enterprise Zones, the Enterprise Zone Boards have also considered and made recommendations on a series of key cross cutting delivery areas which are key to the future success of the Enterprise Zones. These include transport, ICT and skills. Work being undertaken across these areas includes:

Transport



Planned transport investment into the Enterprise Zones is being reviewed to ensure that it is directed to enhance transport connectivity to each of the Enterprise Zones, align with the Enterprise Zone Boards' transport priorities and maximise economic impact.

Central Cardiff Enterprise Zone Board is a key stakeholder in the South East Wales Integrated Transport Task Force Report. The Enterprise Zones were also a consideration in the

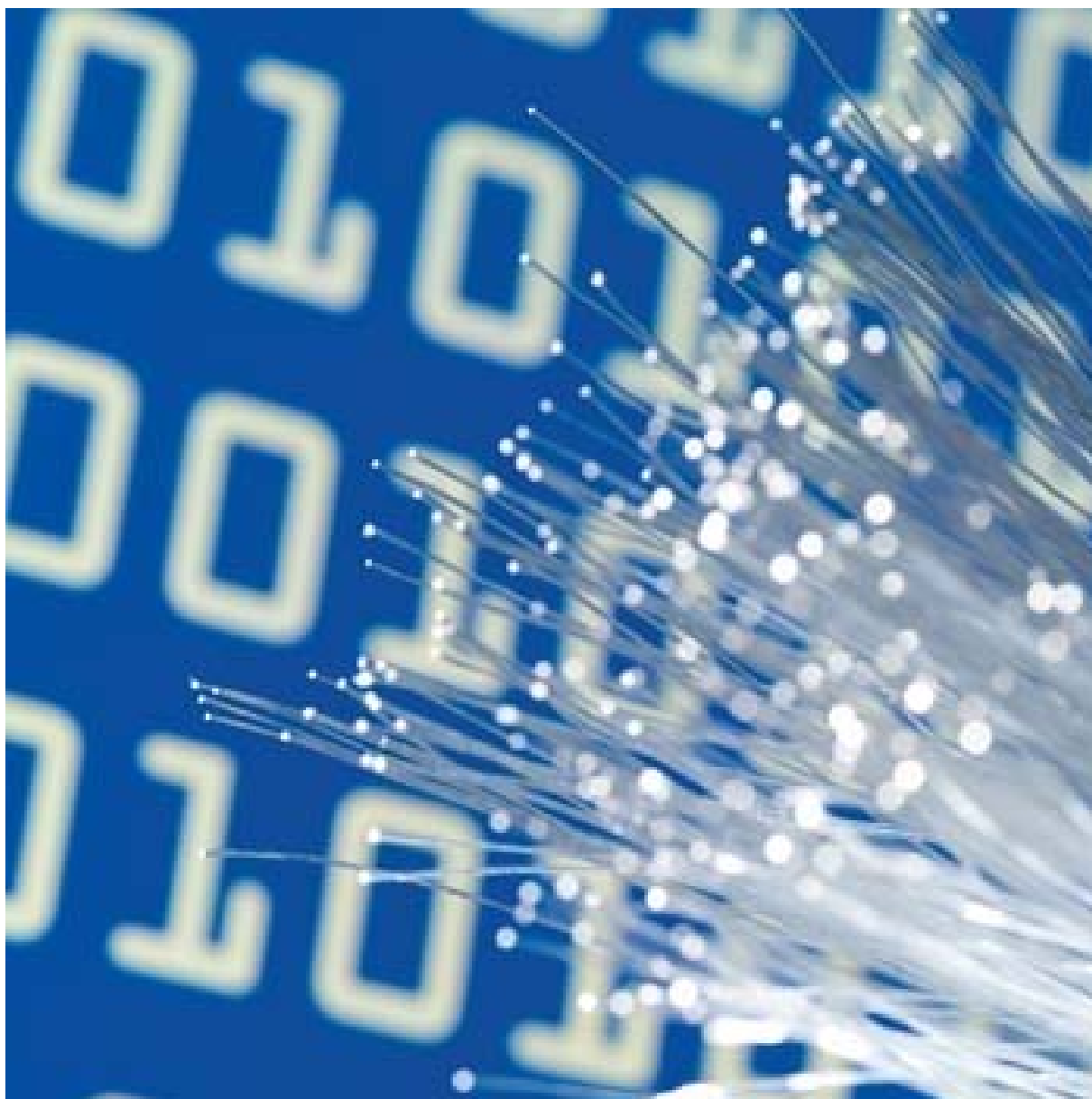
proposals for a metro system to support economic growth and regeneration at key locations in Cardiff, including Cardiff Airport, and across South East Wales.

The Ministerial Task Force on North Wales Transport, which includes membership from the Anglesey, Deeside and Snowdonia Enterprise Zone Boards, is developing advice on the transport connectivity needs in North Wales required to support economic and social development. It is due to submit its report to the Minister by the end of 2014.

Zone specific transport interventions include:

- Work is progressing on a new £11.5 million railway and station at Ebbw Vale. This will extend links from Ebbw Vale Parkway to the Enterprise Zone's 'The Works' site, as an initial element of a wider programme to create a more integrated transport network in Cardiff Capital Region. This investment will be a further boost to the regeneration of the local area, aligned with the Board's ambition.
- A key priority for the Haven Waterway Enterprise Zone and the Murco Task Force is the continuing improvements to the A40. The next phase of works is the A40 Llanddewi Velfrey to Penblewin. When completed the scheme will improve journey times and reliability for the movement of people, goods and services along the route and will improve accessibility to and from the Haven Enterprise Zone, as well as improving road safety and air quality whilst reducing severance, traffic noise. The works are scheduled to commence in 2017 and open to traffic in 2019 at a total cost of approx. £55m.
- Approval has been given for the funding of design, accommodation works and construction of public transport interchange improvements adjacent to Pembroke Dock rail station.
- The development of the business case for North Wales rail modernisation and progressing improvements to the A55, including the Conwy Tunnels, will support the ambitions of the Deeside, Snowdonia and Anglesey Enterprise Zone Boards.
- At Snowdonia, approval for funding for surveys and design for A496 road scheme for improved access into Llanbedr airfield has been provided. This work is being undertaken by Gwynedd Council.
- At Deeside, work to improve traffic flow on the B5129 through Shotton and Queensferry has been completed.
- An AMEC transport study has been undertaken on the Island of Anglesey, with its recommendations currently under consideration by the Welsh Government as part of the wider review of transport priorities.
- Approval has been given for funding for Anglesey County Council to undertake work on surveys, design and land purchase for key sections of the Llangefni Link Road.

ICT



Ultrafast Connectivity Voucher Scheme

In late November the Welsh Government launched the Ultrafast Connectivity Voucher scheme. This will assist businesses with funding of up to £10,000 to cover the capital costs associated with providing an ultrafast data connection. Enterprise Zones have been prioritised for inclusion in the scheme.

More information about the scheme including details of how to apply and the eligibility criteria are available at www.wales.gov.uk/broadband.

Superfast Cymru

Enterprise Zones are a priority under the Superfast Cymru programme. The Superfast Cymru roll-out plan takes into account the demographics and topography of Wales, together with our economic priorities, including Enterprise Zones. Our investment with BT will provide equal wholesale access for communications providers, encouraging a choice of internet service providers within each Zone.

- In Anglesey Enterprise Zone, work on all telephone exchanges areas covering the eight strategic sites is complete and work is on-going to enable the remaining cabinets, in areas such as Gaerwen, to order Superfast Cymru.
- In Central Cardiff Enterprise Zone, we are exploring a range of options, including the super-connected cities initiative, to support businesses through providing ICT infrastructure. This includes the launch of the Cardiff Internet Exchange – a first for Wales.
- In Deeside Enterprise Zone, Superfast Cymru rollout continues with Connah's Quay, Hawarden Industrial Estate and Sealand exchanges enabled and work to enable the cabinets within these areas is continuing.
- In Ebbw Vale Enterprise Zone, parts of Brynmawr, Tredegar and Ebbw Vale exchange areas are now live and work is on-going to enable the remaining cabinets.
- In Haven Waterway Enterprise Zone, roll-out to Haverfordwest has progressed well, with Withybush Industrial Estate becoming one of the first areas to be able to order Superfast Broadband.
- In Snowdonia Enterprise Zone, there have been significant engineering challenges in these very rural locations; however engineering work is well underway within Trawsfynydd and Llanbedr.
- In St Athan & Cardiff Airport Enterprise Zone, the Llantwit Major and Rhoose exchanges are now live, with further work needed to enable the St Athan exchange.

A number of additional ICT Infrastructure interventions are also being explored which are intended to benefit the Enterprise Zones. These include looking at how very high bandwidth communications facilities can be made more widely available to improve Mobile and WiFi communication services. Investigation works and a series of studies are underway with Enterprise Zone delivery prioritised for support within all of these areas.

Skills Development



Welsh Government Skills Strategy

The Welsh Government's Policy Statement on Skills, launched in January 2014, sets out the long-term vision for employment and Skills in Wales over the next 10 years. A fundamental commitment within the policy statement was the publication of a Skills Implementation Plan, which sets out how Welsh Government will strengthen the approach to regional skills delivery, building on the regional skills structures already in place across Wales.

The Plan has established three Regional Skills Partnerships across Wales to drive investment in skills and maximise opportunities for their local economies. Each partnership will develop and publish an Annual Regional Employment and Skills Plan which identifies investment priorities as well as local demands and opportunities; these will include priorities identified by the Enterprise Zone Boards. The first Plans will be produced by March 2015.

Enterprise Zone Specific Actions

Across Enterprise Zones, we are taking forward the development and delivery of skills support to support the employment and skills needs identified in each Zone. These include:

Anglesey Enterprise Zone

Welsh Government's Workforce Development and Skills Growth Wales Programmes have assisted businesses within the Enterprise Zone to invest in developing the skills of their workforce.

- **Welsh Government Commitment to Wylfa**

Welsh Government has awarded additional funding to Grŵp Llandrillo Menai (2014-2017) to forward plan and design the capability to meet the skills agenda associated with the Energy Island challenge. The planned delivery includes:

- Energy related apprentices
- Adult upskilling
- Curriculum Development via an industry secondee
- Staff development
- Supply chain link officer
- Further develop schools collaboration on STEM across four North Wales counties

This funding has the opportunity to deliver a nuclear skills programme, whilst gearing up the college to maximise opportunities to expand into a National Nuclear college.

Grŵp Llandrillo Menai, with support from Welsh Government, Horizon Nuclear Power and the Isle of Anglesey, Conwy and Gwynedd Councils is delivering the 'Cwmni Prentis Menai' scheme to train nuclear-skilled apprentices for the future, with 59 young people already participating.

The Welsh Government is part-funding a post within the National Skills Academy Nuclear (NSAN) to work with Energy Island partners to develop sub sections of their skills plan called "INSPIRE", which is focusing on the skills requirements of Wylfa Newydd. Officials are working with the key stakeholders and national skills working groups to understand skills needs and develop and support skills interventions.

Central Cardiff Enterprise Zone

The Workforce Development and Skills Growth Wales Programmes have provided direct financial support to businesses in the Central Cardiff Enterprise Zone, helping businesses grow and supporting employees and new recruits access training and skills.

A key development within the Enterprise Zone is the creation of a new Cardiff and Vale College campus. This new £45m state-of-the-art campus will serve individuals and employers across the region and will be a valuable and exciting new space for the local community and employers to utilise in the area. Completion of the project is set for summer 2015, with the first cohort of students starting courses at the new campus in autumn 2015.

Deeside Enterprise Zone

The Workforce Development and Skills Growth Wales Programmes have provided direct financial assistance to businesses within the Deeside Enterprise Zone of over £300,000 to support their workforce development needs.

The core focus within Deeside Enterprise Zone for skills support and development is apprenticeships. Its Enterprise Zone Board has commissioned a study to explore the development of an Advanced Manufacturing Centre of Excellence, with a large focus on skills delivery and supply of skilled labour. This work is exploring how best existing skills and delivery within the Enterprise Zone can be maximised to support the Enterprise Zone and industry.

A Shared Apprenticeship Scheme is being delivered by Coleg Cambria in conjunction with the Deeside Enterprise Zone.

Ebbw Vale Enterprise Zone

Skills remain at the forefront of discussions at Ebbw Vale. A sub-group focussing on skills and training, including representation from the Enterprise Zone Board and Welsh Government officials commissioned the University of the Heads of the Valleys (UHOVI) to undertake a report which seeks to identify current and projected skills needs. The Board is currently considering a series of options linked to the report findings, which include the development of a shared apprenticeship model, re-skilling of unemployed graduates and the development of a specialist training centre within the Enterprise Zone. The Board has also continued its dialogue with the developers linked to the proposed Circuit of Wales, with their skills needs being incorporated into the finding produced by the report.

Haven Waterway Enterprise Zone

The core focus within Haven Waterway Enterprise Zone for skills support and development is apprenticeships. We are working closely with Pembrokeshire College and key employers to deliver a Shared Apprenticeship Scheme which will provide employment support for the Energy Sector in the Zone. The scheme aims to support the training of up to 12 apprentices, and develop the engineering skills required for future growth in the region. Large energy sector sponsoring employers are providing significant financial assistance for the scheme, and therefore supporting supply chain investment.

The Enterprise Zone Board is exploring the potential to develop a skills academy for energy, engineering and maritime operations for Pembrokeshire. The Board is focused on ensuring skills to support the wide range of suppliers to the Zone.

Engagement with the Regional Learning Partnership (RLP) for South West and Central Wales is underway to influence the delivery of skills provision that meets regional employer need.

Snowdonia Enterprise Zone

We recognise the very different challenge at Snowdonia Enterprise Zone and the current phase of work being undertaken to define clear propositions which can maximise the economic and job creating potential of both sites.

The Shaping the Future project, designed to give employees time to think, research and plan to skill-up for the future is open to all staff, agency supplied workers and contractors at Wylfa and Trawsfynydd nuclear power stations, to give people the maximum skills and flexibility to meet the challenge of an uncertain employment future after decommissioning. The Enterprise Zone Board is working closely with Magnox to identify wider employment opportunities across North and Mid Wales to ensure skills are retained and that those at Trawsfynydd are well placed to seek future employment.

With the Llanbedr site's aspirations to become a centre of excellence for Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems, there is scope to define more immediate skills development requirements and stimulate further interest in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects locally amongst schools. The Youth Engagement event held at the site in July 2014 reinforced the Welsh Government's commitment to encouraging more young people, particularly girls, into careers in science and engineering and also played an important role in demonstrating future career and employment opportunities available locally for young people. STEM subjects are critical in ensuring that Wales has a workforce which is globally competitive and at the forefront

of growth and innovation – added to this are the considerable future opportunities for skills development.

St Athan - Cardiff Airport Enterprise Zone

The Enterprise Zone Board is working closely with key partners to encourage inward investors to locate in the Enterprise Zone, with work progressing on a number of projects.

We are exploring with Cardiff and the Vale College the potential of providing specialist provision for both Inward Investors and Enterprise Zone employers from the International Centre for Aerospace Training located at Cardiff Airport.

We have continued to support British Airways Maintenance Cardiff through the Skills Growth Wales Programme and via a specialist internal upskilling programme.

Business Rates Scheme

The Enterprise Zone Business Rates Scheme, launched in 2012/13, offers financial support for business rates liabilities incurred by small and medium-sized businesses located in the seven Enterprise Zones in Wales.

In 2012/13, 61 applications for business rates support were received. Of these, 39 applications were approved, offering support of more than £750,000 to businesses currently employing over 1,200 people and committing nearly £2,500,000 during 2012/13, 2013/14 and 2014/15 financial years.

2012/13	No. of applications Received	No. of applications Approved
Anglesey	7	5
Central Cardiff	0	0
Deeside	14	9
Ebbw Vale	6	6
Haven Waterway	24	17
Snowdonia	0	0
St Athan – Cardiff Airport	2	2
Not in an EZ	8	0
TOTAL	61	39

In 2013/14, 55 applications for business rates support were received. Of these, 33 applications were approved (27 have been successfully completed, with 6 continuing to be worked through). The successful delivery of these will provide over £900,000 to businesses employing a further 900 people, committing £2,012,963 during 2013/14, 2014/15 and 2015/16 financial years.

2013/14	No. of applications Received	No. of applications Approved
Anglesey	1	0
Central Cardiff	4	2
Deeside	26	22
Ebbw Vale	3	2
Haven Waterway	11	7
Snowdonia	1	0
St Athan – Cardiff Airport	0	0
Not in an EZ	9	0
TOTAL	55	33

In the current financial year, 87 applications for business rates support were received following an extended application period from April to early June. Of these, 62 applications have been approved providing over £3 million to businesses during 2014/15 and 2015/16 financial years.

2013/14	No. of applications Received	No. of applications Approved
Anglesey	5	5
Central Cardiff	8	5
Deeside	38	30
Ebbw Vale	4	3
Haven Waterway	21	16
Snowdonia	2	2
St Athan – Cardiff Airport	3	1
Not in an EZ	6	0
TOTAL	87	62

The support provided through the Scheme helps lift the business rate burden on eligible SMEs in the Enterprise Zones, helping them to focus resource on jobs and growth.

Enhanced Capital Allowances

HM Treasury offers Enhanced Capital Allowances (ECAs) at certain sites within a number of designated Enterprise Zones across the UK where there is a strong focus on manufacturing. ECAs enable businesses to claim 100% first year allowance for the capital cost of investment in eligible plant and machinery made after April 2012 and before 31 March 2020 (the scheme deadline has recently been extended by HM Treasury from 2017 to 2020). In Wales, ECAs are available at four specific sites within the Deeside, Haven Waterway and Ebbw Vale Enterprise Zones.

Detailed maps of where the ECAs apply have been published on the Wales Enterprise Zones website (www.enterprisezones-wales.gov.uk).

Local Development Orders

The Welsh Government has undertaken research into Local Development Orders (LDOs). A Research Report on Local Development Orders was issued to Local Authorities in Wales in late 2013.

One focus of the Research Report is the way in which LDOs can be of benefit in Enterprise Zones and in early 2014 the Welsh Government published a paper which summarises the findings of the report and outlines the potential benefits of LDOs for the Wales Enterprise Zones. Both papers can be viewed at www.wales.gov.uk.

The Welsh Government hosted four roadshows across Wales during March and April 2014 – in Conwy, Merthyr, Swansea and Rhondda Cynon Taff – to raise awareness of the benefits of LDOs amongst Welsh Local Authorities. Representatives from six of the Authorities in which Enterprise Zones are located participated in the events.

While the Welsh Government and Enterprise Zone Boards can support and encourage the take-up of LDOs, ultimately their take-up is a matter for local planning authorities.

Business Development & Marketing

Driving existing and new business growth is key to success of the Enterprise Zones. In this context communicating the benefits of the Zones, their relevant specialisms and bespoke support is critical.

The marketing of the Enterprise Zones has been a clear priority focus since their inception, with a dedicated website ([www:business.wales.gov.uk/enterprisezones](http://www.business.wales.gov.uk/enterprisezones)), currently being refreshed, and the ongoing provision of new signage to mark the boundaries and key sites within the Zones.

A package of marketing materials has been developed which includes literature, exhibition display stands, promotional videos and 3D 'fly through' animations for each Zone. A comprehensive programme of marketing activity, which includes both generic and Zone specific work to continue to promote the Zones, will take place across 2014/15. This will include the development of marketing suites at identified sites, promotional material and Enterprise Zone specific events at a local and international audience, such as the Farnborough air show and Renewable UK Conference and Exhibition.

We are working to ensure that each Zone is promoted extensively as part of the broader Sector offering. To this end, Enterprise Zones are embedded in sector marketing and events, and in all Wales marketing through the Welsh Government's trade and inward investment function.

Measuring progress across Enterprise Zones - Key Performance Indicators

The Enterprise Zone Boards have approved a set of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that will enable the Welsh Government to measure the performance of Enterprise Zones. These were published in late 2013, alongside targets against the KPIs for the financial year 2014/15.

The KPIs have been developed to measure progress in key areas, including business support, land development, the level of investment and enquiries as well as jobs across the Enterprise Zones. Outturn KPIs for the financial years 2012/13 and 2013/14 were published in May 2014 at www.wales.gov.uk.

The Minister for Economy, Science and Transport has committed to publishing progress against the KPIs on a six monthly basis and the next publication will be before the end of 2014.

Longitudinal Survey

A survey of companies within Welsh Enterprise Zones commenced in late 2013 to help improve understanding of how Enterprise Zones are supporting business. The survey will provide a base line of information against which progress can be measured over time. .

The first wave of the survey reported in March 2013 and the summary of its findings, (published at www.wales.gov.uk), The second wave of the survey is currently underway and its findings will be published in early 2015.

Next steps

The success of the Enterprise Zones ultimately depends on the jobs and growth generated by the private sector. The Welsh Government is committed to supporting such private sector activity through focussing upon delivering successful projects and outputs against Board priorities.

The private sector led Enterprise Zone Boards will continue to provide regular advice on priorities as well as regular reports on progress and implementation. The continuing advice from the Enterprise Zone Boards will shape the delivery of each Zone and assist the prioritisation of additional projects that will further support the Enterprise Zones to deliver jobs, growth and wealth to Wales.