



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

EASY READ

Wales Innovates: Creating a Stronger, Fairer, Greener Wales



This document was written by the **Welsh Government**. It is an easy read version of '**Wales Innovates: Creating a Stronger, Fairer, Greener Wales**'.

February 2023

How to use this document



This is an easy read document. But you may still need support to read it. Ask someone you know to help you.

Words in **bold blue writing** may be hard to understand. You can check what all the words in blue mean on **page 50**.

Where the document says **we**, this means **Welsh Government**. For more information contact:



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Introduction

This is the new **Innovation Plan for Wales**.



Innovation is about developing new ideas into products and services. It can mean inventing new things. Or making older things work better.

This plan looks at:

- the products and services Wales is good at making;
- and what needs more **research**.

Research means looking into something, or testing something to understand it more.



Most of the money Wales had for **innovation** has gone since **Brexit**. Brexit is when the UK left the European Union.

We want to think about **innovation** differently. **Innovation** should:

- make things better for people;
- include everyone;
- be flexible;
- have people working together.



What we want for Wales



We want Wales to become stronger, fairer and greener. Greener means better for our environment.

This will help improve the well-being of the people of Wales.

We have split our plan into 4 areas:

- Better education;
- A stronger **Economy**.



Economy means how much money a country has. It is about how people spend money on things and services, and how people make money. If a country has more money, it is good for the people of that country.



- Good healthcare that we can afford for a long time.



- Thinking about our planet and looking after it.



We are going to write an action plan. It will set out the actions that we need to do to help us achieve our goals in this plan.

We know **innovation** takes time. We will keep checking and measuring how well we are doing with the actions.

We will check how things are after year 1 of this plan.

We will then do full evaluations in year 3 and 5 of this plan. We will check what goals we have achieved. And look at what needs to be done next.

This work will be overseen by the **Innovation Advisory Council for Wales**. This is a group of independent professionals. This means they do not work for Welsh Government and are not controlled by us. They will check our work and make sure we are achieving our goals.



Better education

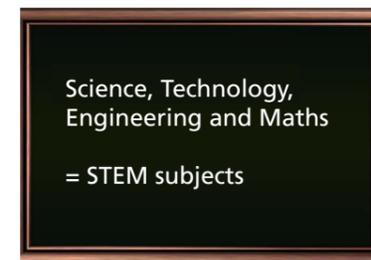
We want an education system that supports and builds innovation skills and knowledge.

Schools will support learners to be strong and creative.

They will learn to solve problems and work with different information.

Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths are important subjects that schools teach. These subjects are called **STEM** subjects.

These will be important skills for children in the future.



Our new **Curriculum for Wales** will make sure our children learn these important subjects and skills. The **curriculum** is a plan for what schools teach in Wales.

Working together through computers and technology

We want to make sure young children learn how to use computers and technology.

We have spent money on making sure schools have good internet and computer equipment.

Wales is going to have a new education organisation called the **Commission for Tertiary Education and Research**.

This is for the education of people over the age of 16 years old.



This will help make sure education and training keeps up with the skills employers are looking for.

Research

The **Higher Education Funding Council for Wales** is providing 15 million pounds for the **Research Wales Innovation Fund**.

We will work with them, and with other organisations to find more money.

We have already given money to different **research** projects. We want to carry on funding more.

We will work with businesses and universities on **innovation** and **research** projects.



Innovation and jobs

Innovation can bring more jobs and more work.

We should help people who work in jobs now that will not be needed in the future to learn new skills.



We wrote a plan about employment called **Stronger, Fairer, Greener Wales: a plan for employability and skills.**

This plan aims to:

- Give people under 25 years old support to work, learn, train or run their own business.



- Make things fairer for people who have not had a fair chance. For example, disabled people, women, and black people, and people from Asian and **minority ethnic** communities.

- Ask employers to make work fairer, better, and more secure.

- Make people more skilled and qualified – this means they have formal training to do a certain job.



A stronger economy

We want an **economy** that:

- **Grows** – this means people earn more money, and the things people need are more affordable.
- **Works together to solve problems.**
- **Uses new technology.**
- **Uses only what it needs.**
- **Is fair.**

Our plan works alongside the UK plan for **innovation**.

We want Wales to be more successful in getting funding for **innovation**.

We need to work together with businesses, universities, and organisations to do this.



We will support and fund Welsh businesses to be **innovative**.

We will make sure applying for funding is easier and fairer.

Procurement

Procurement means the products and services that public services like the NHS **buy** from other organisations.

We need to think carefully about how we spend our money.

We need to make sure that the products and services we buy support our well-being aims.





We need to make sure we deal with problems in a way that will last for a long time. And will be better for the planet.

We will keep looking into how we organise and buy services and to make **procurement** systems better.

Helping Businesses

Business Wales and similar services will help to make sure people can get the right information to help them be more **innovative**.



The **Development Bank of Wales** will also lend money to businesses to help them **innovate**.



We will make sure everyone has the chance to take part in **innovation**:

- By being **innovative** themselves.
- Or helping other people to be **innovative**.
- Or by enjoying the results of **innovation**.

We will make sure people in Wales know what **innovation** is. And how it can benefit them.

We will support organisations who are new to **innovation**.

We will help them to develop new products and services. Or use new **innovation** in their work.

We will help organisations to protect their ideas. And we will try to be fairer when funding **innovation**.



We will give money to organisations, universities and places that work well with our aims.

Opportunities to grow

We need to look at what is happening in other countries and see how they are being **innovative**.



We need to find the best opportunities for Wales to develop and grow.

There are opportunities to grow **innovation** in Wales. For example, we can be more **innovative** in:



- Using technology to make things and provide services in better ways.
- Lowering the amount of carbon dioxide we let off when making and doing things. Carbon dioxide is a gas that is harmful to the environment.
- Farming and food.
- Jobs in areas like the arts, crafts, fashion, design, film, computer games and writing.
- Using technology with biology to improve things like health, farming oceans and making things to sell. This is called **biotech**.



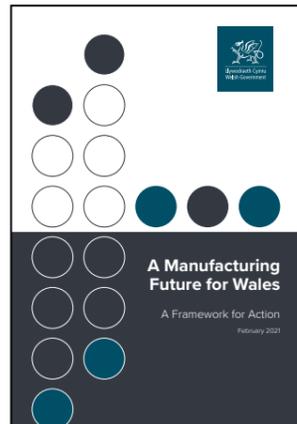
- Materials and **manufacturing**.

Manufacturing means to make things on a large scale (usually with machines).

We wrote a plan about **manufacturing** called **A Manufacturing Future for Wales** in 2021.

This plan tells us:

- how Wales can make more products;
- how to make staff more skilled;
- and how we can also look after the environment.



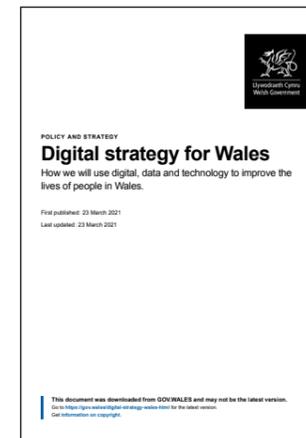
Digital Innovation

We also wrote a plan called **Digital Strategy for Wales**. This plan explains how digital technology – like computers and machines, can make life better in Wales.

We want to make sure people feel confident to use technology.

And that they can use technology and **innovation** together.

We are providing support to the **Wales Data Nation Accelerator** project.



This project is working with universities to look at ways of using technology in public services. It will also look at:



- Health and wellbeing.
- Caring for the environment.
- **Manufacturing** and systems.
- Creative and professional services.



We also know that there are some people in Wales who do not use the internet.



Confident



We need to help people to become confident to use the internet. This will help:

- Save time and money.
- Improve health and wellbeing.
- Give more opportunities to find work.

Thinking about our planet and looking after it

The environment is important to us.

We need to think about the environment when we think about **innovation**.

A better environment gives people healthier lives and a healthier **economy**.

Innovation can help the environment by:

- Reducing waste.
- Longer lasting products.
- Recycling – making waste into useful things.
- Reusing.
- Repairing.



We will support businesses to avoid waste, recycle more and to look after things.

Businesses can get advice on improving what they do.

Wales has a plan to lower how much carbon it makes. Carbon is a chemical that harms the environment. The plan is called **Net Zero Wales**.

Thinking about what materials we use, and where they come from will help to lower carbon.

Transporting products shorter distances can help lower carbon too.



Working with other countries

Working together with other countries can help our **economy**.

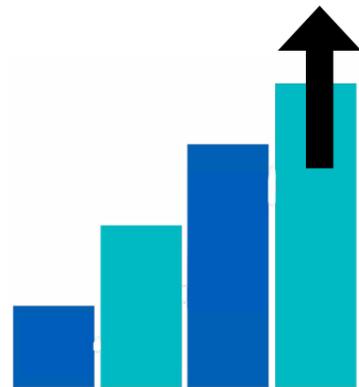
We wrote a plan for this in 2020 called the **International Strategy for Wales**.

The plan wants to:

- Make Wales known across the world.
- Grow our **economy** through working across the world.
- Attract funding and money.

We have built relationships with other countries.

And we will help Welsh businesses to build relationships with them too.



Good healthcare

We want new, better health and social care services.

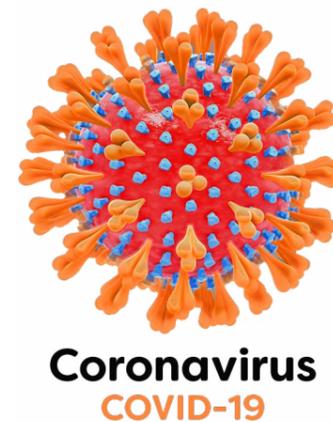
Recovering from COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic changed health and social services.

It made health and social services think differently about how they do things.

We think it is important to provide money for **innovation** in health and social services so that:

- People can stay in their own homes.
- People can get treatment.





- We lower the time people spend on waiting lists.
- We have services that we can run for a long time.

Health and Social Care and Innovation

We need more leaders of **innovation** in health and social care.

We will support **innovation** across the health and social care. And share what is working well with other health and social care services.

We will support leaders in health and social care to find new ways to do things.



The Welsh Government, NHS and Social Care services will work together.

Leaders and managers should support their staff to work together to be more **innovative**.

We will support health and social care leaders to think about the risks involved with trying new things.

Funding

We will try to get funding that can pay for **innovation** projects for longer.

We will work with the UK Government to look at ways we can make **innovation** centres.



These centres will help build relationships between health care, universities, and businesses.

We will create 1 funding portal for applying for money for **innovation** projects in health and social care. A funding portal is a website. People will be able to use it to look at all funding in 1 place. And apply for it in 1 place, in the same way.

Building space and skills

We must build more space and skills in **innovation** across the health and social care services.

This will help to support new ways of working and thinking.



We will create a training programme for **innovation**.

We will also create guidance with useful tools and resources.

Innovation in Social Care

Social Care Wales researched how they can support **innovation** better in social care.

Social care providers need to work together better on new ideas and ways of working.

The **research** showed that **Social Care Wales** should:

- Help social care providers share learning.
- Develop ways to share ideas and resources.
- Include **innovation** in social care contracts.



Social Care Wales is making an **innovation** plan. This will include:

- Building relationships to support **innovation**.
- Support innovation by employing a team of experts to help build skills.
- Advice on how to build skills.
- A new website to show learning and new ideas.
- Support for social care services to think about what worked well and what didn't work well.



Digital Innovation in Health and Social Care

Digital technology is important for Health and Social Care for:

- Looking after data and information.
- Helping people online.
- For knowledge and information.

We have given funding for the NHS to be better with digital technology.



But we know we can do more. We are writing a plan for digital health.

Health and Social Care Research



The government gives a lot of money for Health and Social Care **research**.

The **research** makes a big difference to people's lives and healthcare.

The **research** also brings new jobs, products and services. And this brings more money into our **economy**.

We need more **research** and **innovation** in Wales to make our health and social care work better.



Innovation and procurement in Health and Social Care

The UK Government is changing the way we will use **procurement**.

These changes will make a difference to health and social care in Wales.

And we need to make sure NHS Wales keeps up to date.

We want the NHS and service providers to work together to develop services.

The Environment and Health and Social Care

Health and Social Care Services also need to think about our plan **Net Zero Wales**.



The Health and Social Care Climate Emergency National Programme was set up to think about the environment.

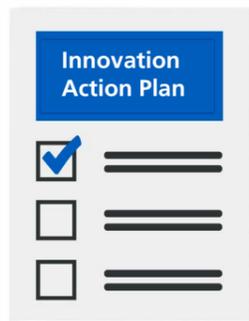
The NHS and Social Services made plans about lowering carbon.

Supporting Innovation Action Plan

We will make an action plan to help health and social care services be more **innovative**.

The plan will:

- Make it clear who does what in **innovation**.
- Look at what is important and what needs to change.
- Make it easier to make **innovation** happen in more places quickly.



We will look at:

- How the changes have made a difference to patients.
- How patients feel about the changes.
- How resources have been used well.

We think health and social care **innovation** can be better for our **economy**.





Thinking about our planet and looking after it

We want to make the most of what Wales' nature has to offer.

And we want to make it last a long time.

Nature, land, and air are very important resources for us.

But we have not been very good at looking after them.

We need to make sure we look after nature in the future so that it can last a long time.

We made a law to look after the environment. It is called the **Environment (Wales) Act 2016**.



This law tells us how we should look after our **natural resources**. **Natural resources** are things from nature that we use to make energy, like oil, coal, gas, water and wind.

This law also tells us we need to recycle more, including businesses.

Meeting our Climate Change Plan

Electricity and Heat

Most of our energy comes from **fossil fuels**. **Fossil fuels** are things from nature that we can burn to make energy. But they are running out and using them is bad for the environment.

We must change how we use energy and where we get energy from.



Innovation will help us to do this by:

- Finding ways of storing power and being smarter.
- New designs for windfarms out at sea.
- Changing the way we do things.
- Making energy that lets off less carbon cheaper to use.



The UK Government needs to carry on funding **innovation** for the environment.

And businesses should put money into new technologies.



Innovation heating our buildings

Innovation can help make keeping buildings the right temperature cheaper.

We can do more to make technologies more affordable.

Such as offering grants or low-cost loans. This is when you borrow money and pay a little charge for that service.

We will support people to make their homes better for the environment.

Innovation in transport

We can do more to be **innovative** with transport.

Such as people sharing cars and bikes. And offering better transport services.



Zero-emission transport like electric cars and buses will also help. **Zero-emission** means these vehicles do not give off harmful gasses when they are used.

Our plan for Wales Transport called **Llwybr Newydd** plans to:

- Use technology in new ways to manage transport and roads.
- Be more **innovative** with journey planning, buying tickets and giving information.
- Look at using new fuels that are better for the environment.
- Try and get more businesses transporting goods by train rather than roads.



Food

We need to work together to find new and innovative ways to:

- farm and make food;
- to transport it and sell it;
- lower waste and reuse what we can.

We need to work with:

- businesses;
- the supply chain – how food is taken and packaged, transported and sold to people;
- universities and researchers;
- and the public.



We need to think about how to look after our environment and our land whilst making food that is good for people.



We are supporting farmers to do this through the Agriculture Bill (2022) and the Sustainable Farming Scheme.

We are working with partners across the UK and other Governments on a large research project called 'Building a Green Future – Transforming Agriculture for climate, nature and people'.

This is a good way of working now we have lost funding from the European Union since Brexit.



Managing our natural resources

Natural resources are important to our lives. They make the places we live, work, and visit better.

Innovation is important to help us be better at looking after nature and the environment.

We need to change the way we do things to make a difference.

We need people and businesses to work together to find the changes that will make a difference.

People also need to change how they live so they can live in a way that is better for the environment.



To help with this we need **innovation** in the way we:

- build;
- use wood in all industries;
- use all parts of a tree to make things.

We have started planning and researching how we can use trees to make money whilst looking after environment.

Our seas

Wales is surrounded by coastline – the land that is next to the sea. The sea is important. We can get lots of good things from the sea:



- Healthy food;
- Energy;
- Building materials;
- And jobs.

We have cables under the sea that link us to the rest of the world – by telephone and internet.

We also make a lot of money through tourism – people travelling to Wales for holidays and fun. The sea and our coastline are important to tourism. People like to go to the beach, see the views and do activities in the sea.





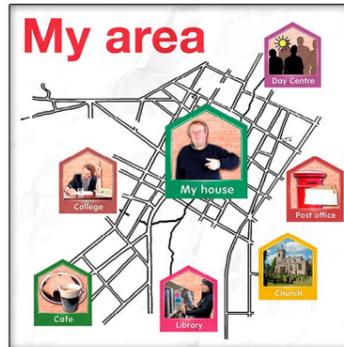
We must find new and **innovative** ways to fish and look after the plants and animals in the sea.

We need to use technology to learn more about sea life. And understand how we can make the most from the sea whilst looking after it.

Making sure people know more about what we are doing

We will help people to look after nature in their areas.

And make sure they know how best to do this.



We will make sure people have the skills to do this.

We will help get funding for nature to recover. This means bringing back things like plants and animals that used to live in places.

And we will make sure we keep an eye on the differences being made.

Hard words

Economy

Economy means how much money a country has. If a country has more money, it is good for the people of that country.

Innovation

Innovation is about developing new ideas into products and services. It can mean inventing new things. Or making older things work better.

Manufacturing

Manufacturing means to make products on a large scale (usually with machines).

Procurement

Procurement means the products and services that public services like the NHS buy from **other** organisations.

Research

Research means looking into something, or testing something to understand it more.