



# COHESION

Interreg Europe



European Union  
European Regional  
Development Fund

## Tech Valleys

**A ten-year, £100 million commitment to creating the future**

Dr. Gillian Otlet | Welsh Government

# Four thoughts

**The risk of an innovative approach**

**The value of an Advisory Group**

**Thales and partnership working**

**COVID-19 and the future**

# Where?



# Why?

**High on the Index of Multiple Deprivation**

**Significant European Funding**

**Still engrained challenges**





# In 2017

## Wales

average salary £509 per week

average GVA 72.9% of UK value

## Blaenau Gwent

average salary 8% lower at £479 per week

GVA 46.2%

Blaenau Gwent has also been bottom of the UK Competitiveness Index for the last three years – although it has improved it's overall score.





## Vision

**“In 2027 the South Wales Valleys, and Blaenau Gwent in particular, will be a globally recognised centre for the development of new technologies, to support cutting-edge industry.”**

## Targets

- **1,500 new jobs**
- **Better average salaries**
- **Larger GVA**
- **Enhanced economic activity**
- **Greater equality**



# How?

**Capitalise on the opportunities arising from the fourth industrial revolution.**

**Support high value, sustainable jobs, attracting investment and creating opportunities for the whole South Wales Valleys region.**

**Create a learning and skills development environment tailored to what businesses need.**

# Risk and Value

## A difficult political sell

- **investment may not be successful**
- **few jobs may be created**
- **economic growth takes time**
- **new skills need to be learned**
- **be prepared to turn businesses away**

## Commitment and confidence

# The Tech Valleys Strategic Advisory Group

**10 people** - partners from industry, public sector and academia

**Volunteers** – no statutory responsibility or budget

**Highly experienced and senior** – very happy to challenge

<https://gov.wales/tech-valleys-strategic-advisory-group>



# Decision Making

## **Five Gateways:**

- **Specialist peer reviews**
- **Strategic Advisory Group**
- **Formal Challenge**
- **Programme Board**
- **Ministerial consideration**

# Successes so far

**£22 million committed**

**Facilitated 600 new jobs**

**Dennison Advanced Materials Centre**

**National Digital Exploitation Centre – a partnership  
with Thales and the University of South Wales**

**Over 100,000 sq.ft. of new and refurbished  
commercial and industrial floor-space**

**Tech Valleys 5G demonstrator project**

# Thales NDEC

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bEV\\_FDcSMY&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bEV_FDcSMY&feature=youtu.be)





# Opportunities

**200,000 sq.ft. new and refurbished floor space**

**Food**

**Pharmaceutical**

**Off-grid power generation and storage**

# COVID-19 and the future

## Challenges

- **Should all jobs and growth be supported?**
- **Does 5G cause coronavirus?**

## Positives

- **More people looking to move out of dense urban areas**
- **Proof that working from home is both possible and effective.**



# Further information

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## Thank you!

Questions welcome



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