



European Union European Regional Development Fund

Tech Valleys

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

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Learning Journey - Wales





The risk of an innovative approach

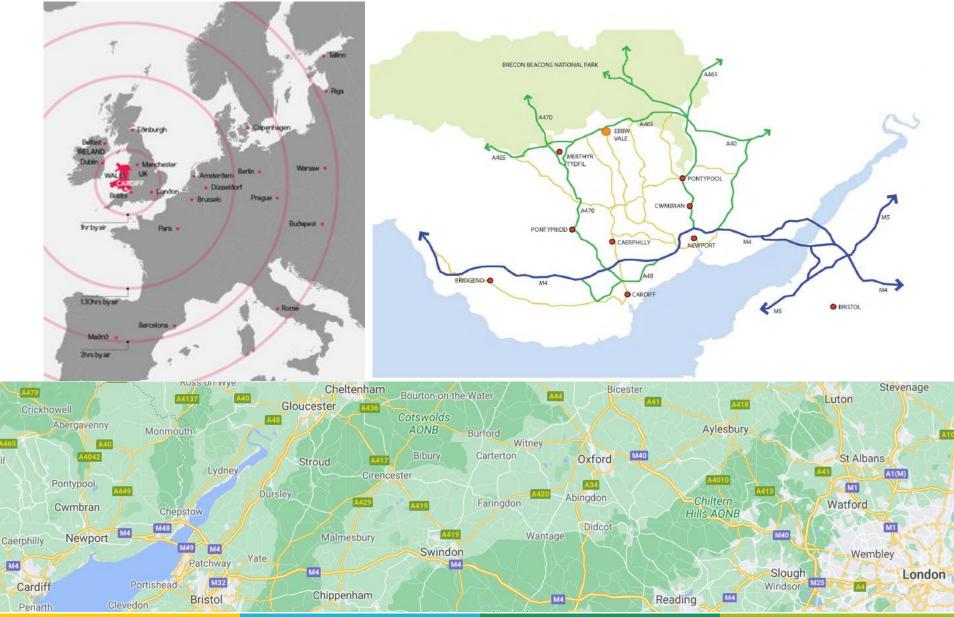
The value of an Advisory Group

Thales and partnership working

COVID-19 and the future

Where?









High on the Index of Multiple Deprivation

Significant European Funding

Still engrained challenges



In 2017



<u>Wales</u>

average salary £509 per week

Blaenau Gwent

average salary 8% lower at £479 per week

average GVA 72.9% of UK value

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





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











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



I gael rhagor o wybodaeth am y Cymoedd Technoleg, e-bostiwch: <u>CymoeddTechnoleg@llyw.cy</u> <u>mru</u>

For further information about Tech Valleys, email: TechValleys@gov.wales https://gov.wales/techvalleys-vision

https://gov.wales/techvalleys-strategicadvisory-group



Tech Valleys Strategic Plan April 2018







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Thank you!

Questions welcome



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