

Snowdonia Enterprise Zone

Strategic Plan 2018 – 2021



September 2018

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1. BACKGROUND

Wales Enterprise Zones

There are eight **Enterprise Zones** across Wales. Enterprise Zones are designated geographical areas that support new and expanding businesses by providing a first class business infrastructure and support and each has a focus on one or more key business sectors.

The Snowdonia Enterprise Zone focuses on the energy & environment, aerospace, and ICT sectors.



For more details of the Zones please visit:

<https://businesswales.gov.wales/enterprisezones/>

2. VISION AND KEY PRIORITIES FOR DELIVERY

The Snowdonia Enterprise Zone consists of two sites; the Trawsfynydd decommissioning site with its exceptional energy infrastructure and Snowdonia Aerospace Centre, Llanbedr, which has the capacity to accommodate a range of both airside and non airside uses and the potential to increase Wales' Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) capability, become a centre of excellence for emerging technologies and potential UK Spaceport site.

The overall vision for the Zone is that Snowdonia Enterprise Zone will be:

'the preferred location for high quality aerospace and low carbon technology enterprises, maximising the unique characteristics and strategic assets of both sites; building upon its location at the heart of the National Park to help transform the area's economic prospects'.

The Snowdonia Enterprise Zone presents specific challenges with no quick fixes. Concerted effort is required to create the conditions conducive to private sector investment and to develop propositions for the medium-long term which offer sustained employment opportunities, particularly in the context of Trawsfynydd. More immediate, short-medium term opportunities can be achieved at Llanbedr by working alongside the site owners and wider partners, supporting both inward investing and indigenous businesses.

Priorities for delivery are predicated on the sustainable exploitation of the Zone's unique characteristics and location within the wider North Wales region.

Snowdonia EZ - Strategic Aims

- To provide the foundations for sustainable, added value job creation in Meirionnydd and create the conditions which are conducive to support private sector investment;
- To work in partnership with local, regional and national public sector partners, the private sector and key stakeholders to ensure alignment of activity which supports the Zone's vision.

Strategic Objectives

Trawsfynydd Site

- To promote the site both in the UK and internationally as the location of choice for the first Small Modular Reactor (SMR) and advanced nuclear development in the UK, emphasising the comparative advantages of the site and the wider region;

- To work alongside the UK Government in developing a bespoke policy approach for SMR development in Wales and a future UK wide siting process;
- To ensure that the Trawsfynydd site/SEZ is captured as a strategic opportunity of national significance as part of Wales' emerging National Development Framework and in the context of new devolved consenting powers for energy developments;
- To maximise wider opportunities associated with the nuclear licensed site, including R&D, supply chain and other employment opportunities as part of the UK's Industrial Strategy Nuclear Sector Deal;
- To support prospective investors and developers to de-risk proposals and instil confidence in the site and Wales as an investment location – developing a compelling Trawsfynydd 'offer' to incentivise development;
- To explore opportunities to utilise the highly skilled workforce and to collaborate with the Anglesey and Deeside EZs for the benefit of both Trawsfynydd and Wylfa nuclear sites, as part of a wider regional nuclear arc and links to the Northern Powerhouse;
- To continue to engage with the Parent Body Organisation, Magnox and the NDA to inform site decommissioning plans and maximise socio-economic benefits associated with the current optimised site plan and new future uses;
- To consider the site's potential for wider uses including digital/data technologies and energy storage, maximising the site's grid infrastructure.

Snowdonia Aerospace Centre, Llanbedr

- To continue working with the site owners and other strategic partners to develop the site as a highly competitive centre of excellence for Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), emerging technologies and aerospace and space sectors;
- Within this context to promote the site as an extension of the unique Wales UAS environment and a prime location for test, evaluation and demonstration;

- To continue to engage with the UK Space Agency and wider stakeholders to better understand how the site can support UK aspirations for a low cost launch facility which can also provide a strategic test and evaluation location to support the UK space sector;
- To firmly position Snowdonia Aerospace Centre as part of the wider Wales aerospace sector offer;
- To support and de-risk commercially led investment and development at the site for the benefit of all users, including small locally based enterprises;
- To ensure that the Snowdonia Aerospace Centre site/SEZ is captured as a strategic opportunity of national significance as part of Wales' emerging National Development Framework.

A Plan led approach to development at Snowdonia Enterprise Zone

The Zone lies at the heart of the National Park which is a major strength – the area's environmental assets can be harnessed as economic drivers and future development at both sites must be in line with the principles of sustainable development and the SNPA's policies.

The Board will continue to work closely with SNPA as part of the review of the Local Development Plan in the pursuit of a supportive planning policy context which can instil greater confidence with investors and developers.

3. PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE INCEPTION

Progress in the Zone in support of the Board's objectives includes:

Trawsfynydd Site

- The Trawsfynydd site now recognised by International nuclear sector stakeholders as the location of choice for the UK's first small modular reactor (SMR) and advanced nuclear developments;
- Key supporting studies completed to instil greater investor and stakeholder confidence in the site by de-risking;
- The retention of significant job numbers associated with ongoing decommissioning through continued partnership working with Magnox and the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) to inform the site's optimised plan and future end state;
- A number of international delegations hosted on site with continued private sector interest;
- Positive working relations with local, regional and national stakeholders;
- Key partners aligned and committed to an agreed vision and associated priorities;
- A number of UK wide consultation responses to inform key decision making and policy development.

Snowdonia Aerospace Centre, Llanbedr

- The establishment of an Initial Operating Capability (IOC) at the site through 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' unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) capability;
- The site successfully hosting RAF Valley operations during August 2017 demonstrating the airfield's strengths as a supporting asset for aerospace related activity;
- A number of successful UAS Campaigns supported on site since Project Meredith in 2015, highlighting the growing number of civil applications for UAS and the site as a prime UK training and education and demonstration site;
- The site recognised as a potential UK Spaceport location to support low cost launch and emerging technologies;

- Llanbedr hosting the international ImechE UAS Challenge in 2017 and 2018;
- Enhanced site access scheme receiving planning consent by the Snowdonia National Park Planning Authority;
- Supporting planning policy in development through the Eryri Local Development Plan review process and in partnership with Snowdonia National Park Authority and key stakeholders.

Enterprise Zone Performance

Update of progress against key projects across the Enterprise Zones is published annually (please see Section 6 – Previous Enterprise Zone Publications for links to the relevant documents).

- From inception to March 2018, 6 jobs have been created either through direct financial support or through wider assistance from the Welsh Government, with a further 2 safeguarded and 12 assisted.
- From inception of the zone to March 2018, over £3m was invested by Welsh Government with £490K invested by the Private Sector during this period.
- From inception to March 2018, 7 businesses within the Zone have been financially supported and financially assisted through Welsh Government business support programmes or direct interventions.

Enterprise Zone Business Rates Scheme

The Enterprise Zones Business Rates Scheme was launched in October 2012 as a means of providing financial assistance for business rates liabilities incurred by small and medium-sized businesses located in Enterprise Zones in Wales. Since its inception the Wales Enterprise Zone Business Rates Scheme has benefitted 3 businesses within the Snowdonia Enterprise Zone with over £101K offered towards the cost of their business rates.

4. FUTURE PRIORITIES AND DIRECTION FOR THE ZONE

The Board has identified the following key priorities and objectives for the further development of the Zone moving forward:

Trawsfynydd Site

- Continued focus on establishing Trawsfynydd as First of a Kind development site for SMR, low carbon technology and R&D;
- Continued industry and stakeholder engagement with further 'de-risking' activity where appropriate;
- Pursuing a supporting policy development process (Wales & UK) which enables and facilitates developments at Trawsfynydd;
- The development of an integrated and compelling SMR Trawsfynydd Proposition;
- Further engagement with the NDA and Magnox for continued and extended decommissioning with a clear end state strategy which supports new developments in line with SEZ aspirations;
- To identification of synergistic/spin-off development opportunities from other low carbon related developments in Wales which could be located at Trawsfynydd.

Snowdonia Aerospace Centre

- To continue to develop a working partnership with the site owners and key stakeholders to facilitate long term growth where the site is maximising its potential, working towards a shared vision;
- To establish Snowdonia Aerospace Centre as a leading UK/International T&E/R&D centre for aerospace, space systems and emerging technologies;
- To develop a compelling SAC proposition which attracts a range of complementary users across, aerospace, space and emerging technologies;
- To consider the next stage of site and airspace related infrastructure investment to enhance the site's attractiveness;
- To further develop working relationships with Academia and the Wales Academic Space Partnership (WASP);
- To proactively raise the site's profile at targeted UK and International events and conferences.

5. GOVERNANCE

Enterprise Zone Boards

Each Enterprise Zone has been led since inception by an independent; private-sector Advisory Board which advises the Welsh Government on the implementation and delivery of action plans and priorities for the Zones.

Though governance arrangements for some Zones have been streamlined with effect from 31 July 2018, the Cabinet Secretary for Economy & Transport has asked for a Board to be appointed to oversee developments at the Snowdonia Enterprise Zone for a further three year term until 31 July 2021.

Details of current membership of the Snowdonia Enterprise Zone Advisory Board is published at:

<https://gov.wales/snowdonia-enterprise-zone-advisory-board/members>

6. PREVIOUS ENTERPRISE ZONE PUBLICATIONS

Strategic Plans

Snowdonia Enterprise Zone – Strategic Plan 2015 (includes updates made in 2016 and 2017)

<http://gov.wales/docs/det/publications/170719-strategic-plan-snowdonia-en.pdf>

Enterprise Zones – Progress Update November 2014

<http://gov.wales/docs/det/publications/141203-ezw-progress-update-en.pdf>

Enterprise Zones – Progress Update October 2013

<http://gov.wales/docs/det/publications/141001-enterprizezone-summary-en.pdf>

Enterprise Zone Performance

Key Performance Indicators 2017/18

<https://gov.wales/docs/det/publications/enterprise-zone-key-performance-indicators-annual-report-april-2017-to-march-2018.pdf>

Key Performance Indicators 2016/17

<http://gov.wales/docs/det/publications/170719-kpi-16-17-en.pdf>

Key Performance Indicators 2015/16

<http://gov.wales/docs/det/publications/160802-kpi-15-16-en.pdf>

Key Performance Indicators 2014/15

<http://gov.wales/docs/det/publications/150615-ezw-kpi-14-15-en.pdf>

Key Performance Indicators 2012/13 and 2013/14

<http://gov.wales/docs/det/publications/140522ezwkpi1213-1314en.pdf>