

# UKRI Local Innovation Partnerships Fund Projects Expression of Interest Explainer

Welcome!

# Agenda

- **Introductions**
- Introduce the **Local Innovation Partnership Fund (LIPF)**
- SWW Regional Economic Delivery Plan and the rationale for **Neath Port Talbot** to be the Lead Bidder
- Why **Industrial Resilience** as a theme for South West Wales?
- Run through the **Projects Expression of Interest**
- Questions and Next Steps

# Objectives



1. BUILD UNDERSTANDING OF LIPF OPPORTUNITY

2. SET OUT THE RATIONALE FOR THE SOUTH WEST WALES BID

3. INTRODUCE THE PROJECTS EOI

4. TIME FOR Q&A

# LOCAL INNOVATION PARTNERSHIPS FUND:

## COMPETED STRAND



Walk Through

# Local Innovation Partnerships Fund: Earmarked & Competed strands

Opportunity status:	Open
Funders:	UK Research and Innovation
Funding type:	Grant
Total fund:	£500,000,000 - £300,000,000 for Earmarked Strands
Maximum award:	£20,000,000
Publication date:	6 October 2025
Opening date:	6 October 2025 9:00am UK time
Closing date:	12 February 2026 4:00pm UK time



**Focus:** Near-to-market R&D, cluster development, and innovation ecosystems

**Objective:** Strengthen innovation capacity, attract private investment, create high-value jobs

# Ear Marked Strand

The Local Innovation Partnerships Fund (LIPF) aims to unlock regional economic growth.

At least £30 million of funding is earmarked for the following UK regions:

- Greater Manchester
- West Midlands
- South Yorkshire
- West Yorkshire
- Liverpool City Region
- North East
- Greater London
- Glasgow City region
- Cardiff City region
- a corridor covering Belfast and Derry-Londonderry

A competitive funding opportunity opportunity of up to £20 million per place will be available for high-potential innovation clusters not covered by an earmarked award.

£30Million x 10 = £300Million

Leaving £200Million

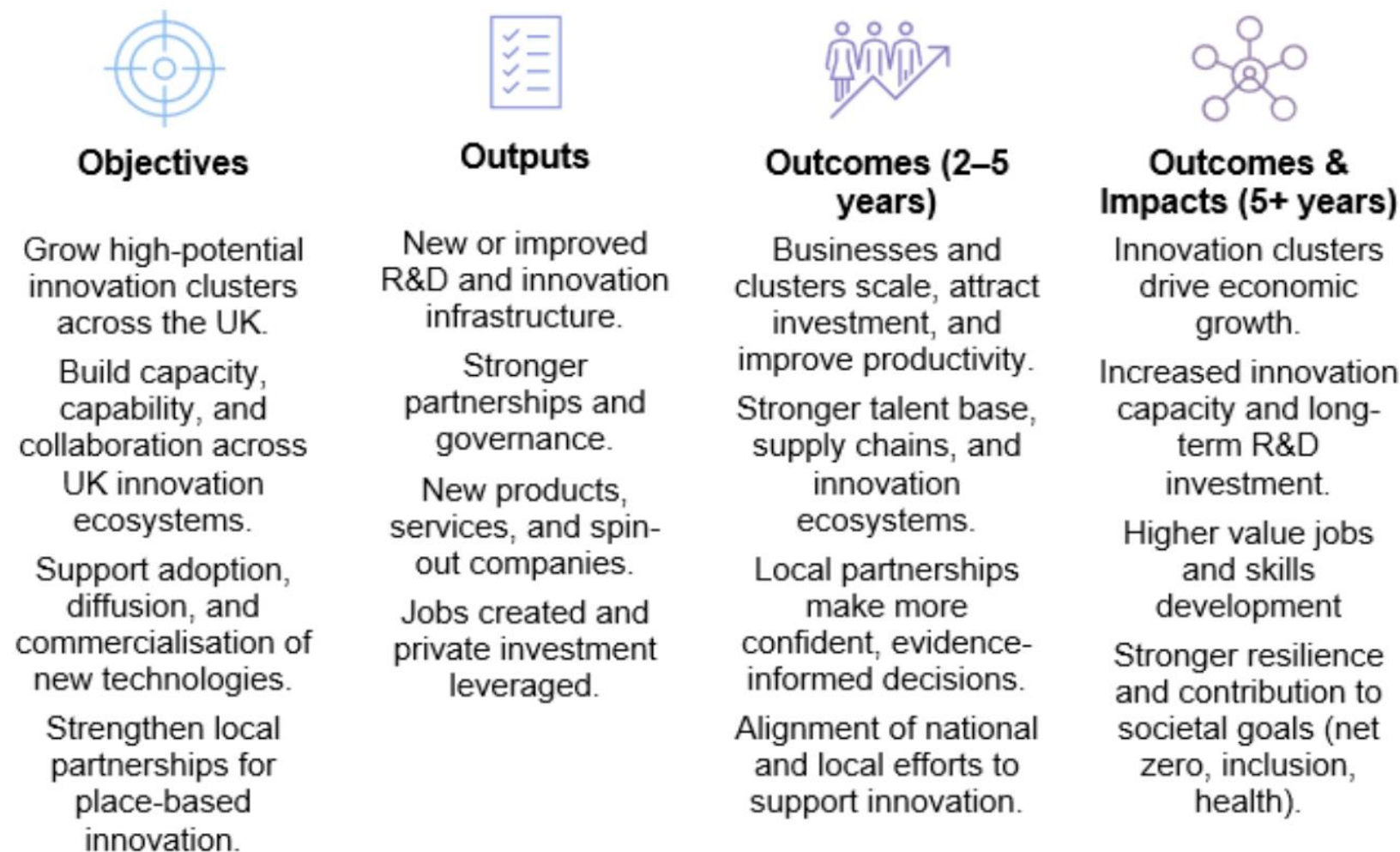
Equals **10 £20Million projects**

**1-2 LIPFs in Wales?**

**South West Wales**

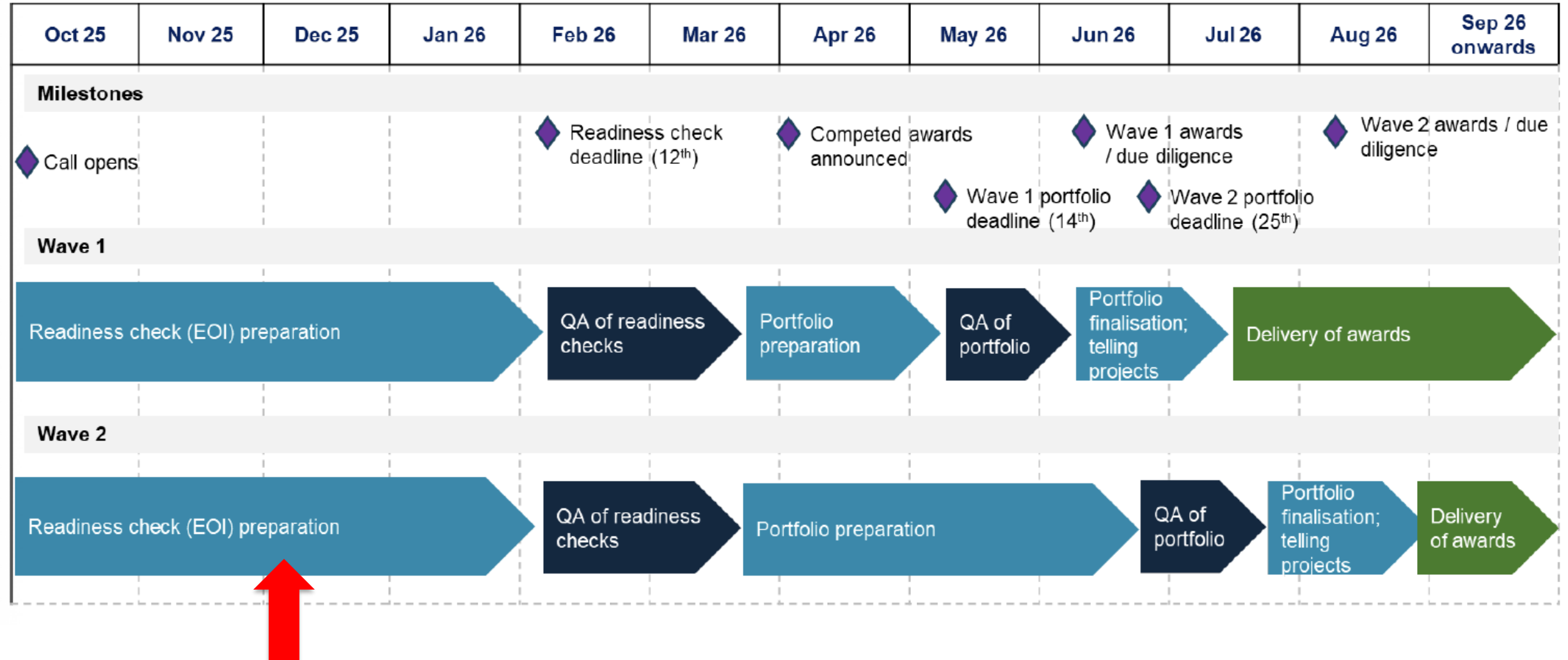
Neath Port Talbot, Swansea,  
Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire

Figure 2. LIPF logic model



[Link](#)

Figure 4. Competed strand timescales



# Timeline & Key Dates



[Link](#)

## Timeline

- 6 October 2025 9:00am**  
Opening date
- 29 October 2025 1:00pm**  
Webinar
- 12 February 2026 4:00pm**  
Readiness check (expression of interest) deadline
- 14 May 2026 4:00pm**  
Portfolio deadlines for partnerships successful through the expression of interest stage, Wave 1
- 25 June 2026 4:00pm**  
Portfolio deadlines for partnerships successful through the expression of interest stage, Wave 2

We are here!

Need a Portfolio of projects ready to be included mid Jan.

Submission for Projects to be included 9<sup>th</sup> Jan

# Eligible Activities for Funding



[Link](#)

**Table 1. Non-exhaustive list of eligible activities the LIPF can fund**

ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION
<b>Research commercialisation</b>	Technology transfer to industry; new product development; industry collaboration; securing patents, copyrights, or trademarks for research.
<b>Adoption and diffusion of new technologies</b>	Support for approaches that enable the adoption and diffusion of cutting-edge / cross-cutting technologies by businesses including enabling access to innovation assets and collaborative R&D with industry.
<b>Business growth / development initiatives</b>	Support for high growth SMEs and spinouts to boost company growth, including access to private finance to support local scaling.
<b>Translational R&amp;D</b>	Collaborative R&D with strong industrial outcomes, including partnerships between businesses and the research base.
<b>Cluster development, networking and leadership</b>	Sharing and embedding best practice, including collaboration agreements which enable subject matter experts to share knowledge, develop skills and solutions, and attract investment.
<b>Talent and skills development</b>	Support for research fellowships and knowledge transfer partnerships which are strongly focused on building collaborative relationships between research organisations and businesses.
<b>R&amp;D infrastructure</b>	Including investment into scale-up infrastructure and equipment critical for building capabilities of the innovation ecosystem. Proposals for new 'centres' will be evaluated on the basis of future sustainability
<b>Knowledge exchange and R&amp;I networking</b>	Activities that strengthen and build relationships between stakeholders across research and innovation.
<b>Seed corn funding</b>	Operational or early-stage funding that build on existing cluster strengths, building resilience of the business base by supporting technology adoption and support growth of the cluster.
<b>Access to / attracting overseas business and investment</b>	Activities including collaborative research, business relocation, and growing local supply chains. Programme funding for non-UK businesses will only be eligible if a clear case is made for how it will anchor business activity in the UK with demonstrable local benefits.

# Defining the Regional Focus



IDENTIFY REGIONAL STRENGTHS AND  
UKRI ALIGNMENT



KEY REGIONAL INNOVATION THEMES  
(CIRCULAR ECONOMY, NET ZERO,  
DECARBONISATION, MANUFACTURING,)



IDENTIFY PIPELINE OF PROJECTS



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot  
Neath Port Talbot Council

# Lisa Willis

Strategic Funding Programmes Manager  
Neath Port Talbot Council/ Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot



# SWW REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEV PLAN

## *Ambitions:*

- Resilient & sustainable

# SWW REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEV PLAN

## *Missions:*

- Establishing SWW as a UK leader in renewable energy and the development of a net zero economy
- Building a strong, resilient & embedded business base
- Industrial decarbonisation
- Celtic Freeport



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot  
Neath Port Talbot Council



# Neath Port Talbot Council – Lead Bidder



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot  
Neath Port Talbot Council

- Lead bidder for IUK SWW Launchpad
- Civic Partner EPSRC PBIAA SWITCH to Net Zero Buildings
- Regional collaborative working in SWW with government, industry and academia
- Innovation ecosystem / cluster / district

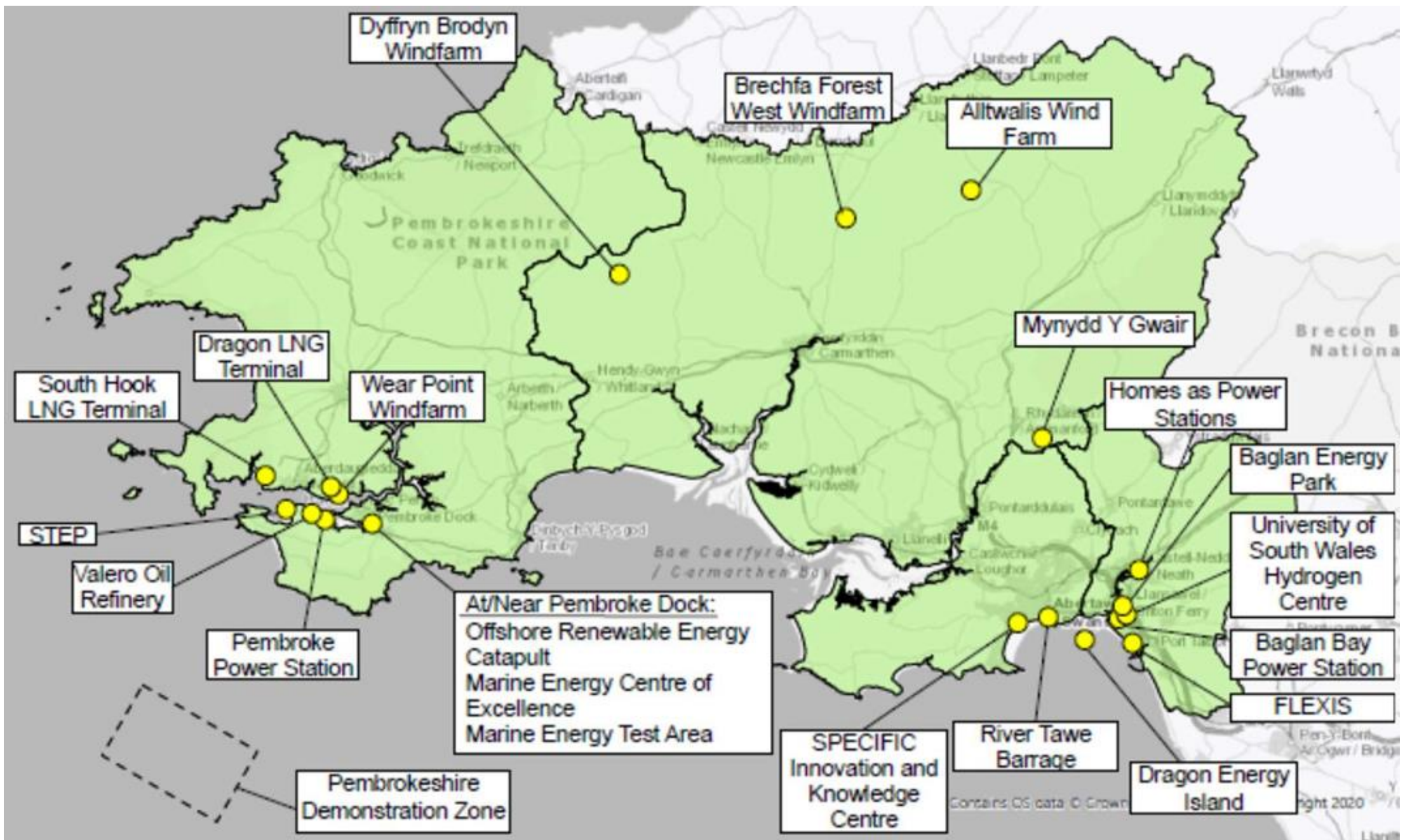


# Local Innovation Partnership Fund Theme: **Industrial Resilience**

**Ben Burggraaf**

Net Zero Industry Wales  
Chief Executive Officer





Source: SQW (2021)

# LIPF – Theme: Industrial Resilience

## Energy security:

- Need for abundant supply, of globally competitively priced, low carbon energy
- Exploit abundance of natural resources to generate low carbon energy
- Low carbon energy production, distribution, storage (hydrogen, wind, solar, ccs, ccu, etc.)

## Material Security:

- Building on Wales's world leading position on recycling
- Opportunity to valorise Wales's legacy stockpiles (ashes, slag, sludges, slurries, etc.)
- Reducing Welsh industry's reliance on imported virgin raw

## Cross cutting themes:

- Skills
- Digitalisation, including Artificial Intelligence
- Productivity
- Supply chains, etc.
- Certification





Projects Expression of Interest

# WHAT DOES A STRONG LIPF PROJECT LOOKS LIKE?

## **Near-to-Market Innovation:**

- Projects must be close to deployment or commercial use, not early-stage research.
- Includes new technology, product or process development, pilots, demonstrators and scale-up activity.

## **Clear Industry Involvement:**

- Projects must include strong business engagement, co-investment or co-development.

## **Commercial Potential:**

- Clear route to market, adoption pathway and evidence of demand.

## **Strengthening the Innovation Ecosystem:**

- Supports supply chain resilience, SME growth, infrastructure, and cluster development.

## **Regional Economic Impact:**

- Job creation, productivity gains, emissions reductions, supply chain strengthening.

# Project Types

Category	Description	Examples
Research & Technology Commercialisation	Near-to-market research that drives industry uptake and commercial use.	Technology transfer; product/process development; securing IP (patents, trademarks); industry-led commercialisation.
Adoption & Diffusion of New Technologies	Helping businesses adopt cutting-edge or cross-cutting technologies.	Access to testbeds; digitalisation; automation; collaborative R&D for industrial challenges.
Business Growth & Development	Supporting high-growth firms or spinouts to scale commercially.	Investment readiness; private finance support; growth programmes linked to innovation.
Translational R&D	Collaborative R&D with strong industrial outcomes.	Partnerships between industry and research organisations; industry-led pilots; demonstrators.
Cluster Development, Networking & Leadership	Activity that strengthens local innovation ecosystems and builds shared capability.	Collaboration agreements; leadership development; best-practice sharing; investor engagement.
Talent & Skills Development	Skills linked directly to innovation and industry engagement.	Fellowships; Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTPs); industry-facing skills programmes.
R&D Infrastructure & Equipment	Facilities and equipment needed for innovation and scale-up.	Lab upgrades; pilot-scale equipment; test facilities. New centres must show long-term sustainability.
Knowledge Exchange & Networking	Activities that strengthen relationships and collaboration across R&I.	Networking events; thematic working groups; cross-sector innovation forums.
Seed Corn Funding	Early-stage support to test ideas, build pipelines and reduce risk.	Feasibility studies; short pilots; early cluster development.
Accessing / Attracting Overseas Business & Investment	Projects that bring international investment into the region and anchor activity in the UK.	Business relocation incentives; overseas R&D collaborations; supply chain partnerships (with clear UK benefits).

# Match Funding Requirements

## Minimum Private Match:

→ 1:1 private-to-public match at project outset, increasing towards 3:1.

## What Counts:

✓ Non-public cash contributions from industry, private investors and foundations.

## Not Eligible:

✗ In-kind contributions, public funding of any form, or internal university support.

Deadline: **09/01/2026**

# Projects Expression of Interest (EoI)

Section	Fields	Options / Notes
<b>1. Organisation Details</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organisation name</li> <li>• Contact name &amp; role</li> <li>• Email</li> <li>• Organisation type</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> Local Authority <input type="checkbox"/> Industry <input type="checkbox"/> Academic <input type="checkbox"/> Third Sector <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please state)
<b>2. Proposed Project Title</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project title</li> </ul>	Provide a short, descriptive title.
<b>3. Link to Regional Priorities</b>	Tick all that apply:	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Material Security</b> (e.g. critical minerals, recycling, waste valorisation, end of life) <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Energy Security</b> (e.g. hydrogen, wind, solar, grid innovation, storage, low-carbon solutions) <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Cross Cutting Themes</b> (e.g. skills, supply chains, digitalisation, productivity)
<b>4. Project Summary (max. 350 words)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summary of project aims</li> <li>• Business need / challenge / opportunity</li> <li>• Project maturity and previous activity</li> <li>• How challenge will be addressed</li> <li>• Project readiness stage</li> </ul>	Must focus on <b>near-to-market R&amp;I</b> with commercial potential and scalable impact. Projects must be deliverable within LIPF's <b>five-year window</b> and not solely reliant on UKRI funding.
<b>5. Triple/Quadruple Helix Connections</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partners, collaborators and stakeholders</li> <li>• Their roles and level of engagement</li> </ul>	May include local authorities, industry, academia, third sector/community partners.
<b>6. Expected Duration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Duration</li> <li>• Anticipated start and end dates</li> </ul>	E.g. number of months/years.
<b>7. Local or Regional Economic Impact (max. 150 words)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expected South West Wales economic benefits</li> </ul>	Include (as relevant): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Job creation/safeguarding</li> <li>• Productivity improvements</li> <li>• GVA impacts</li> </ul>
<b>8. Indicative Funding Requirement (Excluding Match Funding)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Funding range</li> <li>• Type of funding required</li> </ul>	Funding range: <input type="checkbox"/> < £250k <input type="checkbox"/> £250k–£1m <input type="checkbox"/> £1m–£5m <input type="checkbox"/> > £5m Examples: R&D staff, feasibility work, demonstrators, test-beds, cluster coordination.
<b>9. Private Sector Investment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anticipated private match funding and sources</li> <li>• Confidence level</li> <li>• Use of investment</li> </ul>	Match requirement: 1:1 at programme start, rising to 3:1 by end. Confidence levels: discussions underway / in-principle agreement / confirmed commitment. Note: in-kind contributions do <b>not</b> count. Letters of support not required at this stage.
<b>Submission</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submission email</li> <li>• Deadline</li> </ul>	

# ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENTS

- ✓ Deliverable within five years.
- ✓ Focused on near-to-market innovation.
- ✓ Includes industry partnership and private match funding.
- ✓ Aligns with regional strengths.
- ✓ Demonstrates strong economic, social or environmental impact.



The background of the slide is a vibrant blue, densely populated with a repeating pattern of speech bubbles. Each bubble is a different color—red, yellow, pink, and light grey—and contains a large, dark blue question mark. The bubbles are scattered across the entire frame, creating a sense of constant inquiry and discussion.

Questions & Next Steps