

Briefing Note

Launch of Cluster Development Growth Programme

Wednesday, 25 October 2023

The Cluster Development and Growth Programme (the 'Programme') aims to unleash Cardiff Capital Region's potential in skills, knowledge and growth.



Prifddinas
Ranbarth
Caerdydd

Cardiff
Capital
Region

£6.6m programme is launched to improve skills & growth across CCR

The new and ambitious Programme is a £6.6 million commitment to drive innovation and economic growth across Cardiff Capital Region (CCR). Jointly funded by CCR's City Deal and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, the Programme is aligned with the City Deal's newly published Regional Economic and Industrial Plan to implement our strategy and vision across the Region's priority sectors: Fintech, MedTech, Cybersecurity, Compound Semiconductors, and Creative Industries – alongside our ambitions to accelerate the journey to Net Zero.

The Programme aims to build a robust skill, knowledge transfer, and enterprise growth infrastructure that sets the Region apart as a hotbed of talent, supporting economic growth and encouraging new inward investment.

Following a competitive tender process, contracts have now been awarded to three managing agents that will deliver a series of targeted interventions across the Region.

The three projects are:

1. Digital, Net Zero, and Advanced Manufacturing Skills Programme

Cardiff and Vale College will lead a network including PWC, HE, FE, and specialist skills partners to deliver the Skills Programme. PWC will engage with key industry stakeholders to identify skills gaps across digital, Net Zero and Advanced Manufacturing and build high quality, targeted interventions. Tackling skills shortages in these key areas will create meaningful impact across our priority clusters and wider investment programmes, alongside driving inward investment to our Region. These employer-led initiatives will address key skills shortages and focus upon creating new talent pools for in-demand jobs to support enterprise growth.

2. Academic-Industry Partnerships

To deliver the Academic-Industry Partnership Programme, the University of South Wales will lead a consortium of HE and FE partners to support the creation of a strong network of academic expertise – providing a regional multi-disciplinary

approach to industry collaboration. These short and sharp interventions will drive innovation and stimulate demand within the Region's business community, along with increasing the number of knowledge-based enterprises.

3. Business Growth Programme

Grant Thornton LLP, along with delivery partners Business in Focus and Cardiff Metropolitan University School of Business, will address scale-up support for enterprises in the Business Growth Programme. Our ambition is to enhance our Region's reputation as the place to grow enterprises – providing essential support to scale-ups to reduce barriers to growth and strengthening our Region's innovation-led business ecosystem across CCR's priority sectors.

Discovery Phase

Each of the three projects within the programme will initially conduct a research-intensive Discovery Phase. This will involve a wide consultation to create a significant evidence base, ensuring each Programme will deliver projects supported by industry insight. To achieve this, our managing agents may be in touch to learn of your insights.

The City Deal team at CCR is looking forward to seeing the Programme unlock our Region's potential – accelerating business growth, boosting societal well-being, and enabling greater economic prosperity.

For further enquiries, please get in touch with ccrcomms@cardiff.gov.uk