

Investment package launched to attract business growth in Neath Port Talbot

A business support package has been launched by Neath Port Talbot Council to encourage companies from across Wales, the UK and internationally to establish operations in the region.

The council has unveiled its 'Front and Centre for Business' package, a free and confidential support system which will help businesses access potential funding streams, locate potential property and apply for planning permissions.

Run by the council's economic development team, firms will also be connected to local business networks, centres of excellence and partner organisations to help with their ongoing business growth.

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Council leader Steve Hunt said: "The Council recognises the unparalleled potential for business growth in this area, thanks to the numerous industry-leading companies we are home to, how well connected we are, and how innovative our businesses are. As such we have launched a support package which we believe is definitely unrivalled in Wales, if not the whole of the UK.

"It offers everything a business could need when setting up or relocating to a new area, and ensures they are fully supported to hit the ground running. On our new website we've created a database of all properties and sites that are available for immediate lease or purchase, and we're offering one-to-one support to assess each business' property needs so it couldn't be easier for companies to find out more about how best to

establish a business in this thriving region.”

Companies and entrepreneurs relocating to Neath Port Talbot will also benefit from a share of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund which will become available from April, said Mr Hunt.

“This significant funding, which is part of a larger regional investment plan for the south west Wales region, will enable us to attract and invest in UK-leading business talents right here in Neath Port Talbot. Our specialist advisors will be able to help them explore the financial help and support on offer.

“We believe that Neath Port Talbot is an innovative and progressive business hub and this vital funding will ensure that businesses moving here are fully supported to grow and thrive.”

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Though known for its heavy industry heritage, the Neath Port Talbot region is looking at decarbonising its existing manufacturing industries and generating new economies through renewable energy.

The council is leading a £58.7m programme, as part of the Swansea Bay City Deal, to deliver a number of projects including decarbonising the steel and metals industry. It is

also part of the Celtic consortium [competing for freeport status](#) covering the ports of Milford Haven and Port Talbot based on green energy.

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