



OPPORTUNITY



Ieuan Wyn Jones

Opportunity

Ieuan Wyn Jones, Deputy First Minister and Minister for the Economy and Transport, Welsh Assembly Government

The Welsh Assembly Government helps to ensure the infrastructure and electronic communications are in place and, above all encourages the knowledge and skills that are vital for success in the 21st century. Our goal is to drive up the value added by people at work and encourage faster progress towards a knowledge-driven economy, with a strong emphasis on commercialisation of research and development.

Wales is combining its fight against recession with new moves to surmount the threat of global warming. Now is the time to develop activities such as environmental management and the fast-growing market offered by recycling, creating new jobs as well as advancing sustainable development.

So, we are pushing forward with a new Green Jobs Strategy which aims to help reduce carbon output, provide new business opportunities and encourage the growth of green technologies.

Wales' universities and colleges are fully committed to working with companies, transforming new ideas into sustainable products and processes that can be brought to market.

One example is Europe's first carbon-free minibus, powered by three green technologies – hydrogen fuel cells, batteries and ultra-capacitors.

And we are also emerging as a leading centre for development of solar photovoltaic energy and renewable hydrogen production.

Success in growing our knowledge-based economy requires close links between innovative companies and the tremendous powerhouse of expertise available in our world-class universities and colleges.

The Welsh Technium network enhances the capacity of higher education to generate new spin-out businesses. The Techniums – all of them linked to academic centres – provide incubation and in-house technological and business support services.

Technium acts as a fast track link between business and the academic world, helping technology-led businesses to drive forward economic prosperity and sustainable development.

The Welsh Assembly Government has its eyes firmly set on the opportunities that will arise once the world begins its emergence from recession.

Businesses investing in Wales can draw on an unparalleled package of support accessed through the 'one-stop' shop of International Business Wales, our overseas arm. IBW alerts corporations world-wide to the benefits of locating in Wales, and also helps Welsh companies tackle new markets.

Within Wales, the Flexible Support for Business service helps people who wish to start, maintain or grow a business in Wales – with straightforward access and a team of proactive relationship managers who keep in close touch with companies.

Our Single Investment Fund brings together all business grants under one roof and provides a unified package of financial and specialist support – cutting red tape and making it easier for businesses to access the finance they need.

And we are making the best possible use of our access to European Structural Funds – rolling out a range of programmes to boost the launch and growth of enterprises, with special emphasis on innovation and exports.

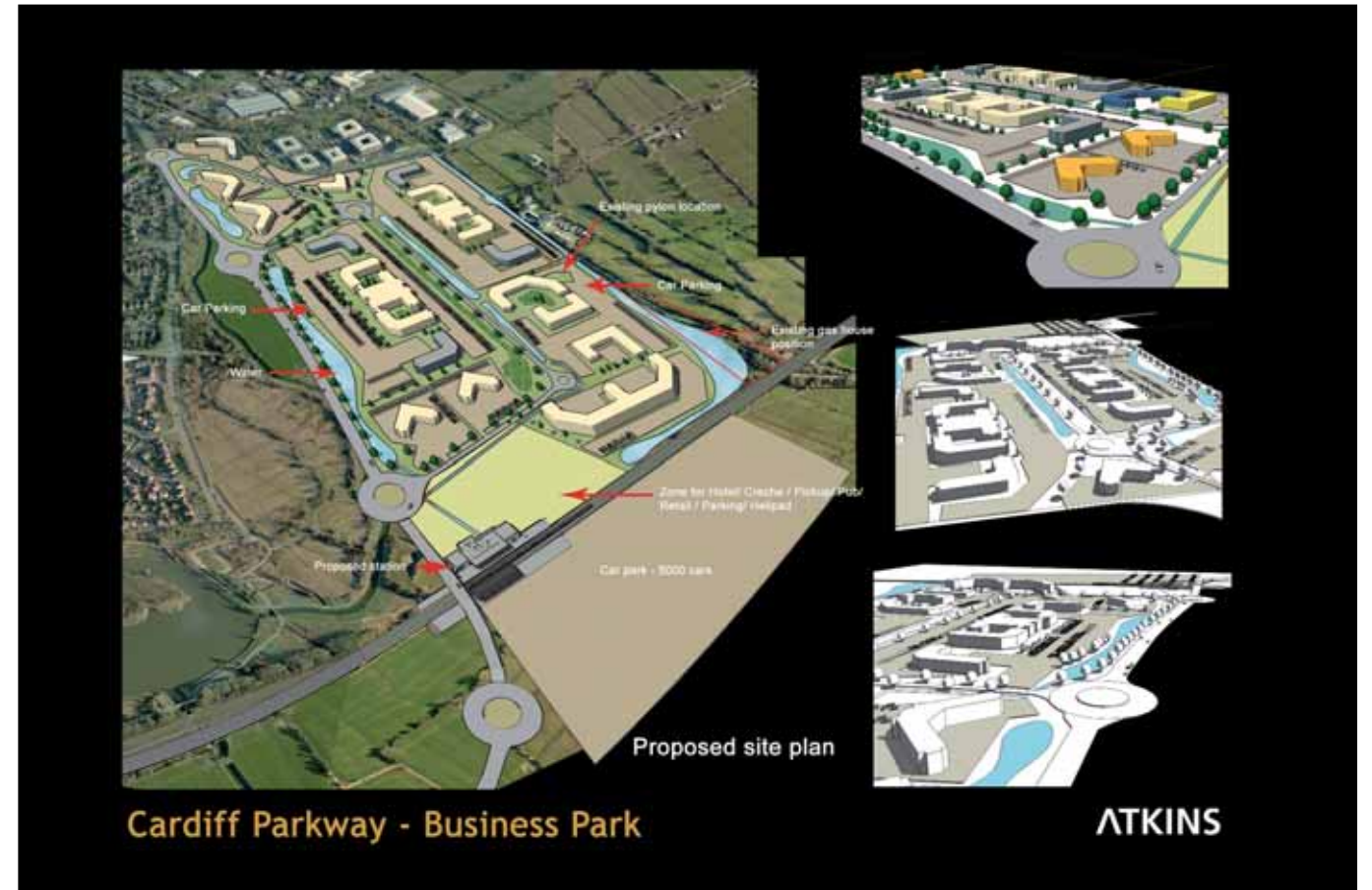
With major world corporations alongside a growing number of local businesses, Wales is proving well equipped to face the challenges of the 21st century.

[The Welsh Assembly Government has its eyes firmly set on the opportunities that will arise once the world begins its emergence from recession.]

Cardiff Hub

Nigel Roberts, Chairman Cardiff Hub Consortium

An exciting new proposal has been unveiled to create a major transport hub and business park in the east of the capital city, Cardiff, which could create over 15,000 jobs and be the envy of other UK cities. The proposal is aptly called the Cardiff Hub and has been put forward as a candidate site in the new Council Local Development Plan.



Cardiff Parkway - Business Park

ATKINS

The 132 acre site in St Mellons is south of the existing St Mellons Business Park and the London to Swansea main line train service runs right through it. This site is also served by an existing dual carriageway to the north. Four local well known businessmen, myself Nigel Roberts, Langley Davies, Jonathan Hodge and Ken Haines have formed a consortium to drive this project forward with the willing land owners.

Central to the proposal is the creation of a new railway station, bus station, cycle station, park and ride for over 3000 cars, access for the city centres of both Cardiff and Newport, and also a long stay secure car park for both Cardiff and Heathrow Airports.

The vision of the business park is to combine stunning architecture and landscaping with the ability to create its own energy and deal with its own waste.

We have identified some major anchor tenants, and it is interesting to hear from them what they think is the most important criteria when choosing a new location, and the consortium are looking to encapsulate this criteria in the design of the Cardiff Hub to include the following:

- Skilled motivated workforce from a wide catchment area
- Good infrastructure, rail and road and direct link to airports
- Good access to London
- Excellent primary, secondary and higher education
- International school and R&D University campus on site
- Good shopping, leisure and entertainment
- Close to city centre
- Quality housing
- Sensible rents, rates and service charges
- Quality buildings and working environment

Working in partnership with the Welsh Assembly, Cardiff Council and partners in education the consortium should be able to offer potential inward investors a tick in every box of the aforementioned list. We must remember that public transport will only really work when it becomes the transport of choice.

In summary, to move Cardiff Hub from a proposal to a reality will take champions in both the private and public sector with ambition and enthusiasm to not allow another great idea to be intellectualised out of existence.



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New Cardiff School of Management to open for business in 2010

Work is underway on a new £20m Cardiff School of Management at the University of Wales Institute, Cardiff's (UWIC) campus in Llandaff.

The state-of-the-art building, which is set to enable the institution to become a leading centre in the UK for teaching and research in subjects including Business, Hospitality, and Tourism, will provide new facilities for more than 100 staff and 2,000 students over four floors and 7,800 square metres.

Leading South Wales construction firm Willmott Dixon is leading the project, which will include a 200 seat lecture theatre with audio visual systems, breakout spaces, a range of formal and informal learning and teaching areas, a café with garden terrace, a training kitchen, restaurant and bar and cutting-edge research and enterprise facilities.

A striking glass atrium will run through the entire length of the building as a feature point of the new school with a reception area, staircase and exhibition space for artwork from UWIC's renowned Cardiff School of Art and Design. Copper cladding will also be a design feature on one of the outside walls of the building.

As well as teaching the managers of the future, it is planned that the building will be a resource for the present business community. Its conference and meeting rooms can be hired for conference use and courses on leadership and management will be offered to businesses and organisations.

The new Cardiff School of Management is part of a multimillion pound framework agreement between Willmott Dixon and UWIC. The framework includes several

high-profile projects as part of a 10 year plan to modernise UWIC.

Ceri Preece, Vice-Chair, UWIC Board of Governors, said: "This great new building will give us the opportunity to innovate and develop an exemplar of what a modern management school is all about—strong in learning and teaching, research and enterprise and accessible to the local community.

"Part of our master plan for the institution, which will see more than £50m invested in improving our estates, the new Cardiff School of Management will allow us to continue to attract students and staff of the highest calibre."

UWIC and Willmott Dixon are aiming to achieve a BREEAM rating of excellent for the centre's range of sustainable and energy saving features. These include natural ventilation, rainwater harvesting and lighting controls with remote sensors to automatically dim lighting depending on daylight levels.

Brian Drysdale, Managing Director of Willmott Dixon, said: "The new centre will attract students from many parts of the world and will enhance the student experience in this area of study as well as the research facilities in a modern and top quality environment.

"It is an exciting project to be working on and one that will receive a lot of attention within the campus and from the business community," he added.

South Wales architects Austin-Smith:Lord have designed the iconic building. Tim

KEY FACTS:

- 1 The Cardiff School of Management is the largest of the five schools in UWIC with in excess of 2000 students. Of these, around 500 are post-graduate students, including over 50 research students (studying for a PhD).
- 2 More than 400 students are on the school's MBA programme, making it the largest on campus programme of its kind in the UK.
- 3 The school has more than 100 academic staff. Its enterprise activities include knowledge transfer assignments for companies as varied as Brace's Bakery and Cardiff International Airport.

Young of Austin-Smith: Lord said: "This building has been designed to make a statement about Cardiff as a modern capital of business. It seeks to convey a strong sense of confidence and progress, and has been designed to create a stimulating and flexible environment for learning and teaching."

Replacing the present Cardiff School of Management building at UWIC's Colchester Avenue campus, the new building is set to open for business in Autumn 2010.

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