**Mid South West Growth Deal**

The Mid-South West Growth Deal is a collaboration between Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon; Fermanagh and Omagh and Mid Ulster which seeks to supercharge economic growth within the area.

The geographical position of the region plays a significant part in its success, stretching along the border corridor where it enjoys a unique natural co-dependency with the Republic of Ireland in trade and investment, tourism and labour. The region itself makes up half of Northern Ireland’s landmass and is home to a quarter of the province’s population and a quarter of it’s business. Mid-South West provides 214,000 workplace jobs. 90% of which are taken up by local people and generates one fifth of Northern Ireland’s entire GVA.

Manufacturing is the top employment sector within the Mid-South West and a study by Ulster University Economic Policy Centre (UUEPC) highlighted that our region accounts for two fifths (39%) of NI’s manufacturing employment and a quarter (23%) of it’s manufacturing GVA.

The Growth Deal will provide opportunities across the three Council areas which will seek to promote innovation, infrastructure and tourism.

**Carn, Seagoe and Charlestown Green Innovation District**

As part of the Mid-South West Growth Deal Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council (ACBCBC) are leading on the development of a Green Innovation project within the Carn, Seagoe and Charlestown Industrial areas. These areas are the top 3 key employment zones in the Borough and home to many of Northern Ireland’s key employers such as Moy Park, Almac and Hyster-Yale.

While ACBCBC plays a crucial role in the Northern Ireland economy we are also responsible for a significant amount of pollution and are the local authority with the highest emissions of greenhouse gases in NI. Within the UK we are the local authority who has had the greatest increase in greenhouse gas emissions which can be attributed to industry.

Industry is being pushed towards net-zero through legislation such as the Climate Change Act NI(2022) which sets out a target for NI to be net zero by 2050 compared to baseline figures. The Path to Net Zero Energy strategy also sets out targets for energy efficiency, renewables and the green economy.

In order to help industry address these challenges ACBCBC are investigating the opportunities to establish a Green Energy District within its key industrial areas to support in the decarbonisation of industries while also helping alleviate pressures such as accessing dependable clean energy sources.

ACBCBC are currently working with stakeholders in the area to understand the energy demands within the area and establish the most appropriate type of technology. If you have not yet been contacted and wish to be involved in the project please contact: greeninnovation@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk

**Net Zero Transformation Programme**

Climate Change Act (NI) 2022 has a target of an at least 100% reduction in net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050 (i.e., net zero emissions by 2050) for Northern Ireland compared to the baseline, along with interim targets including an at least 48% reduction in net emissions by 2030.

The ‘Driving the Net Zero Transformation of the Mid-South West Region’ Programme seeks to support micro, small and medium enterprises operating in key sectors in the MSW Region with their Net Zero ambitions. Funded by Innovate UK’s Fast Followers, the programme will support businesses from these key sectors through engagement, awareness raising and the provision of access to external expertise to develop knowledge, skills and capacity in relation to net zero. Support will be delivered throughout 2024 and early 2025 via a series of webinars, breakfast seminars and a regional conference.

For businesses that operate within the following sectors, bespoke support will be provided to establish Net Zero baselines and develop action plans:

1. Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering
2. Agri-Food
3. Construction

If you are interested in what support your business can receive, please register your interest on the Mid South West Region website - <https://midsouthwestregion.org/net-zero-transformation/>