

# Key players gather to progress plans for £100m Automotive Technology Park

Economy Secretary, Ken Skates, chaired a meeting with industry figures from TVR, Ford, General Dynamics and IQE as well as representatives of Ebbw Vale Enterprise Zone, Blaenau Gwent Council and Cardiff University, in order to develop more detailed proposals for the Automotive Technology Park at Ebbw Vale.

Last month the Economy Secretary announced that the Welsh Government would invest £100m over ten years in an Automotive Technology Park in Blaenau Gwent with the potential to create up to 1500 new full time jobs in one of Wales' most deprived areas.

Today' meeting focussed on opportunities that could create the most new jobs and maximum economic investment in the area.

Speaking after the meeting, Economy Secretary Ken Skates said:

“Our plans to invest £100m in an Automotive Technology Park in Blaenau Gwent have the potential to transform the local economy and create up to 1500 jobs and I am keen to progress them as quickly as possible.

“Today's meeting provided an ideal opportunity to bring key players from industry, local government, academia and the local Enterprise Zone together to agree our direction of travel and set key targets and milestones that will help drive this pivotal project forward.

“It was a very productive meeting that confirmed our collective ambition to shape and deliver a project that can genuinely regenerate the local economy.

“Delivered well the project can not only create r the high quality jobs the area needs but also play a key role in shaping the future of our automotive industry here in Wales.”

The Welsh Government will publish a full business case for the Automotive Technology Park later this year. This will draw upon the specialist advice already received from internal and external experts and reflect the views emerging from today's meeting and from other engagement work with key partners.