

More than £50m approved for City Deal Low carbon programme

The UK and Welsh Governments have approved the £58.7 million Swansea Bay City Deal's Supporting Innovation and Low Carbon Growth programme.

The programme will help establish the Swansea Bay City Region as a leader in low carbon growth and the green economy. Close collaboration with industry, government and academia is key to its success by delivering low carbon, sustainable and inclusive economic growth through creating the right environment to develop new technologies from the research stage, through to production, to support job creation in the region.

Led by Neath Port Talbot Council with Swansea University and University of South Wales as delivery partners, this programme aims to support the creation and safeguarding of 1,320 jobs in the green economy through seven interlinked projects that will enhance infrastructure, research and development and commercialisation:

- Bay Technology Centre – energy positive building providing high quality, flexible office and laboratory space
- South Wales Industrial Transition from Carbon Hub – purpose-built facility and specialist equipment to decarbonise the steel and metal industry and supply chain
- Advanced manufacturing production facility – providing production units with open access to shared specialist equipment to support start-up companies and local business growth in the innovation and manufacturing sectors linked to energy and renewables
- Property development fund – gap funding for bespoke and speculative commercial buildings in the Port Talbot Waterfront Enterprise Zone area
- Hydrogen stimulus project – enabling a demonstrator to prove commercial viability of carbon-free hydrogen supply to fuel hydrogen vehicles
- Air quality monitoring project – test bed for new technology to establish a greater understanding of air quality and levels of pollution to inform local action planning
- Low emission vehicle charging infrastructure – developing a strategy to decarbonise journeys in the Swansea Bay City Region and develop a pilot in the Valleys area of Neath Port Talbot

The funding will provide solutions to decarbonise commercial and industrial buildings, transport and industrial processes that will support the policies and strategies laid out by the Welsh and UK governments.

Wales Office Minister, David TC Davies, said:

This multi-million pound deal is vital to create jobs and prosperity across a large part of South Wales. When I visited in July I was hugely impressed with the projects that are driving the

move to a low carbon, modern economy in Wales, fit for the 21st century. I'm delighted that the UK government's investment will support this growth.

Chair of the Swansea Bay City Deal Joint Committee, Cllr Rob Stewart said:

I very much welcome the approval of this programme which means we now have more projects and programmes approved, and either in delivery or ready for delivery than any other city or growth deal in Wales. I want to pay tribute to the excellent work being done to ensure we deliver the city deal for South West Wales.

The Swansea Bay City Deal is an investment of up to £1.3 billion in a portfolio of nine major programmes and projects across the Swansea Bay City Region, which are together worth over £1.8 billion and 9,000 jobs to the region's economy in coming years.

Funded by the UK Government, the Welsh Government, the public sector and the private sector, the City Deal is being led by Carmarthenshire Council, Neath Port Talbot Council, Pembrokeshire Council and Swansea Council, in partnership with Swansea University, the University of Wales Trinity Saint David, Swansea Bay University Health Board and Hywel Dda University Health Board.

[Readout – UNGA P5 Meeting](#)

News story

The Foreign Secretary chaired a meeting of the Permanent 5 members of the UN Security Council at the UN General Assembly in New York.



An FCDO Spokesperson said:

On 22 September, the Foreign Secretary chaired the first in-person meeting of P5 Foreign Ministers for two years. They discussed Iran nuclear talks, Afghanistan and COVID -19.

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[Civil news: use updated contract schedules from 1 October](#)

News story

You can start using year 4 civil contract schedules to report work completed in September 2021 from 1 October.



New civil contract schedules are now in place for you to report work completed since 1 September 2021.

You can start reporting work under the new 'year 4' schedules from 1 October 2021.

These replace the year 3 schedules for the 2018 Standard Civil Contract which ended on 31 August 2021. All schedules run for 12 months.

Where to find new schedules

You can view the new year 4 schedules in Contracted Work and Administration (CWA).

Reporting work

Work completed in September can be reported from 1 October 2021. Remember to use the new schedule reference when reporting work started or completed.

Further information

[LAA Online Portal](#) – to log into Contracted Work and Administration

[Standard civil contract 2018](#)

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Lord Chancellor Swearing-in Ceremony: Lord Chancellor's speech

May I first thank the Lord Chief Justice for his warm welcome. And your assiduously researched speech.

I would also like to welcome back the Attorney General to her post following her maternity leave – I hope your gorgeous daughter is allowing her Mum at least some sleep.

The country owes you Lord Chief and the entire judiciary a debt of gratitude, For keeping the wheels of the justice system rolling throughout this awful pandemic.

I look forward to working with you and the other members of the Bench here today – as well as judges up and down the country as we come out of the pandemic and return to something akin to normal.

And as a solicitor, I look forward to working with and supporting our brilliant legal professions, our solicitors and barristers, as we tackle the challenges we face together.

With that in mind, I'm also delighted to welcome my friend and highly esteemed colleague, Alex Chalk, to his new role as Solicitor General.

As a Law Officer, he holds a historic and very important role in our democracy – ensuring governments act lawfully and overseeing the vital work of our prosecuting authorities.

In truth, I am sorry to lose him from the Ministry of Justice but buoyed to know that he will bring all his usual energy, diligence and pizzazz to his new role.

May I also take a moment to thank my predecessor, Robert Buckland, for his deep commitment to supporting the judiciary and the rule of law.

I swore I wouldn't mention Brexit at this Oath. So please forgive me Lord Chief, but my abiding memory of working with Robert – in the aftermath of the

EU referendum with all of its polarisation – where, because we were friends, we, how shall I say it, managed to view the brief from different vantage points without falling out. But we worked together in a harmonious and, dare I say it, rather jolly way, through a rather bad-tempered period of British politics, including on the legal and judicial aspects of the Withdrawal Agreement Bill, we were both on the Bill team, during its passage through Parliament.

While I reflected on this, it reminded me at the time of the words of the great John Stuart Mill, “He who knows only his own side of the case knows little of that.”

Of course, that is a central tenet to the common law view of justice. A fundamental, if sometimes overlooked, secret to its success. Both on principle and on the outcomes it delivers.

I have also always felt that is a quintessentially British disposition, and it wouldn't hurt to have a bit more of it in our public discourse, including today as we bounce back from this appalling pandemic, which at least has served to galvanise some national sense of unity of spirit.

In any case, from the unique position of this office which I am now truly honoured to hold, I sense that Mill's maxim will be quite an important lodestar on the road ahead.

In preparation for my swearing in as the Lord Chief was engaged himself, my wonderful officials did their ritual due diligence to see if there was anything particularly unique in my appointment.

Despite their best efforts, there wasn't much. The best they could valiantly come up with was to point out that that I am the first Lord Chancellor to hold a black belt third Dan in Karate, and suggest that this was a perhaps sign of how tenaciously I would defend the rule of law.

I do hope it won't come to that, not least because I had a hip replacement a just few years ago.

But what I can say is that I take the Oath that I have sworn very seriously indeed.

And I will be unflinching in upholding the long-held principles of the rule of law and the independence of the judiciary.

As we all know, this is not just a matter of pure legal form, but a pledge to safeguard the fairness and freedoms which in our society are safeguarded under the umbrella of the rule of law and access to justice.

For your part, you, the judiciary, bring huge knowledge, a wealth of experience and a range of erudite expertise to the judgments that you make.

I know that these can often be challenging and hugely complex cases.

And I want to thank you for all the dedication, the diligence and the

personal care and sensitivity with which you all approach those decisions.

There are many finer legal minds in the room today than mine. But I hope that I can offer at least some range of perspective.

I started my training as a solicitor on secondment at Liberty, I spent time visiting many young men in prison, who seemed to have tripped up into their fate, rather being particularly malevolent.

I believe in firm and robust criminal justice, but I also believe in providing the springboard of opportunities to divert young people from the most disadvantaged backgrounds away from gangs, drugs and violence that plague not just their own lives, but their communities.

I spent many years as a volunteer and then Trustee at Fight for Peace, a martial arts and boxing charity in Newham seeing how this can be achieved, transforming the life chances of those young people, to the enormous benefit of their communities.

Later, I served for six years as a Foreign Office legal adviser at the time of the acute tensions surrounding the second Iraq War.

I am not seeking to rake over old coals, but I did want to explain how an abiding and passionate commitment to the rule of law has been forged in my head and my heart, throughout my career.

Above all, as we pursue reform to improve the conditions of our society, whether that be credible community sentences or improving the family law system, I've learnt the overwhelming need for perseverance.

In 2004, when I was posted to the Hague as a young war crimes lawyer, I had the opportunity to negotiate the UK-UN sentence enforcement agreement for the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.

I remember at the time, we were all wondering with colleagues if we'd ever see justice for those responsible for the worst war crimes Europe had seen since the Holocaust. In fact, I wondered if we'd arrest anyone at all

It seemed a rather forlorn hope amidst the ashes of Yugoslavia at that time. But British fashion we kept plugging away.

We signed the agreement, and I'm proud to say that 17 years on, this year, Radovan Karadžić is serving his prison sentence in a British jail for the crime of genocide – one of the few sentences for genocide ever given – a sign of Global Britain as an even stronger force for good in the world.

As the son of a refugee who fled the Holocaust, this is something that I, and I believe we as a country, should take great pride in.

I do hope however you'll forgive me if I am restless to deliver a little more swiftly when it comes to Her Majesty's government's domestic agenda, here at home.

Because, we have a lot to be getting on with. I am determined to carry on the great work that's underway.

To increase court capacity, because as we bounce back from the pandemic we need to harness and lock in the digital lessons we've all learned during COVID.

To see through our prison building programme, because incarceration protects the public from the most serious and dangerous offenders, and that is one of my overriding priorities alongside upholding the independence of the judiciary.

To create a prison system that properly rehabilitates prisoners, because reducing re-offending is the most sustainable way to cut crime. And we know, one of the differences between one of my previous duties at the Ministry of Justice, we have the empirical basis, to support offenders through training, alcohol and drug rehabilitation, strengthening family bonds, job opportunities and ensuring a roof over the heads of those discharged from prison.

I want to deliver a step-change too in the support, and coordination of support for victims too, because I believe we have an overriding duty of care to the most vulnerable in society.

Throughout, I will use my time in this position to continue safeguarding judicial independence – supporting a clear separation of powers between the three branches of government.

Our justice system has been tested over the past 18 months. But it has continued to operate throughout the pandemic and I'm very proud that we were the first jurisdiction anywhere to resume in-person jury trials, an important symbol and to the world.

Having all been cooped up for so long, I confess I am restless – determined to build on the rapid innovations that the courts have overseen to help us tackle the impact of coronavirus – not least the rapid roll out of remote technology across the estate to beam people into courtrooms – something that was lucky enough to work on in 2017 as courts minister, a just a policy proposal .

This is a real testament to the judges, court staff and those in the legal sector who worked tirelessly to ensure that, while everything else appeared to be grinding to a halt, victims were supported, and criminals were brought to justice.

Of course, all of those cases cannot progress without the dedication of our lawyers and judges, and I want to take this opportunity to personally thank all those who worked and continue to work so hard to see that justice is done. You truly went the extra mile, and your commitment and dedication is enormously appreciated by me and the public at large.

The evolution and endurance of this great office of state gives a truly privileged insight into the principles upon which our justice system hinges,

and our society as a whole depends.

The foundations of those principles remain strong, and the roots run deep.

But, if we can also reform, if we adapt, and if we can realise the enormous potential on display across our professions, I have no doubt that we can go from strength to strength, and write an even brighter chapter for the next generation, inspired by their idealism and the ideas of their age.

So, I will strive to maintain the unrivalled international reputation for excellence that we have on these shores. I will strive to defend our legal services, our judiciary and our justice system at large.

And here at home, I want our citizens to feel a renewed confidence in their every-day experience British justice, as a system that is fair, open and accessible, one that protects victims, makes our streets safer and serves the public, in a way that is both true to our values, but also equipped for the challenges that lie ahead.

Thank you.

UK responds at OSCE to Russian State Duma elections

Thank you Madam Chair,

The State Duma elections which took place from 17 to 19 September represent a serious decline in democratic freedoms and fundamental rights in Russia. The conditions in which the elections took place were not conducive to free and fair elections.

The Russian authorities' targeted use of laws on so called "undesirable organisations", "foreign agents", and "extremist organisations" marginalised civil society, silenced independent media, and excluded independent opposition candidates from participating in the elections.

Election observation is a key element of democratic scrutiny. We are disappointed by the undue limitations that Russia placed on election monitoring, which prevented the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights and the OSCE's Parliamentary Assembly from observing the elections and providing Russian voters with a transparent and authoritative assessment of their State Duma elections.

Furthermore, we condemn the holding of these elections on the sovereign territory of Ukraine and Georgia. The annexation of Crimea by Russia in March 2014 was illegal and illegitimate, and remains so to this day. We reiterate

our firm support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine and Georgia within their internationally recognized borders.

The Russian authorities' efforts to control the election process undermines political plurality, disregards the civil and political rights of Russian citizens, and contradicts its commitments as an OSCE participating State.

We urge the Russian authorities to end its repression of civil society, independent media, and independent opposition figures, and take all measures necessary to fulfil their obligations under the OSCE's Human Dimension and other international human rights commitments.