

# Monthly Report

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## Tidal Lagoon

Climate change continues to be one of the biggest challenges facing the world today. We are already seeing the effects of climate change here in Wales. Over the last decade we have seen some of the heaviest rainfall to parts of Wales and the UK for almost 270 years. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has cited human activity as the main cause of the changes seen in climate during recent decades. In Wales, approximately 37% of our greenhouse gas emissions come from creating energy for use in our homes, offices and transport. Whilst our energy needs in a modern society will remain considerable they must be met securely from low carbon resources.

One such resource is tidal power. Converting the energy obtained from tides into useful forms of power, mainly electricity is part of our future. Although not yet widely used there are proposals for tidal lagoons across the UK. The Swansea Bay scheme would be the first of its kind in the world and is regarded as a small-scale prototype for bigger schemes. This is an important local issue as we live next to a significant renewable energy resource provided by the Severn Estuary.

Located in the Severn Estuary, a Cardiff lagoon would harness the second highest tidal range in the world. It could generate nearly as



much electricity as the planned nuclear power station at Hinkley Point. A Cardiff project could comfortably meet the equivalent of the annual electricity requirement of every home in Wales. It would also create thousands of jobs in Wales and contribute significantly to the economy. A Cardiff Lagoon would of course have a considerable impact on our constituency.

However energy decisions are not fully devolved to the Welsh Government. Most of the responsibility for energy planning and policy lies with the UK Government. Last year the UK Government commissioned a report to look into what role if any tidal lagoons could play in Britain's energy future. When considering large scale energy infrastructure projects there are important local and national considerations which must be taken into account, including energy security, climate change, lifestyle choices, jobs and the visible environment. The recently published Hendry report was over-

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including energy security, climate change, lifestyle choices, jobs and the visible environment. The recently published Hendry report was overwhelmingly positive. In it he urged the UK Government to proceed "apace" with reaching agreement on financial support with Swansea lagoon developers Tidal Lagoon Power. I think we have much to gain from proceeding in Swansea. As with representatives across South Wales I believe the UK Government should finally act and give the green light to the Swansea Lagoon and a new industry.

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## **£10million Regeneration Fund Set to Benefit Butetown and Grangetown**

I was pleased to welcome the recent announcement that Grangetown and Butetown are to benefit by £1million from the Welsh Government's Regeneration Fund. The fund will help to bring empty, underused sites and premises in town centres back into use. The proposed activities for Grangetown and Butetown include:

- Completion of the second phase of the Tramshed.
- Regeneration of the unused listed train station in Bute Street to create 20 live/work units, 2,000 sq. ft. of retail space and 25 business start-up units.
- Regeneration of the Military Museum of Medicine in Bute Street to create a tourist attraction.
- Restoration of three buildings in Merchant Place to create a mixture of residential



and retail units and creation of a hotel.

- Creation of 'Box City' in Cardiff Docks. The scheme will create 36 retail units, leisure facilities, serviced business units and an apartment hotel from shipping containers.
- Provision of loans to property owners in Mount Stuart Square to restore listed buildings in this area.
- Regeneration of an old timber storage shed into a tech hub scheme for adaptable business use.

## **Success for Ninian Park and St Cuthberts**

This month saw the publication of the Welsh Government's colour coded school performance ratings. The National Categorisation System was introduced by the Welsh Labour Government in 2014 to help identify schools in need of support to improve. Schools are placed into one of four colour-coded support categories to demonstrate the level of support they need. This year's results show that there are fewer schools in Wales in need of the highest levels of support when compared to last year. I was delighted with the performance across the constituency. The biggest risers are Ninian Park and St Cuthberts, jumping from red to yellow. This is a fantastic result for staff, par-

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staff, parents, governors and of course the children.

## Daffodil Appeal

I was pleased to be able to attend the launch of Marie Curie's Great Daffodil Appeal and speak to some of the great staff based at Penarth hospice. Marie Curie



offers considerable support to those affected by terminal illness in my constituency and across the whole of Wales, so I am hugely proud to support them during this year's Great Daffodil Appeal. I have visited the hospice many times and I have seen first-hand the fantastic work that they do.

## Celsa Manufacturing

I am very pleased with the Welsh government decision to provide £1.6million towards major environmental improvements at Celsa Manufacturing (UK)'s two key steel production sites in Cardiff, both of which are in my constituency.

The move will safeguard up to 280 jobs and support the growth and sustainability of the busi-

ness, directly benefitting my constituents and the Welsh economy.

Celsa Manufacturing UK is the UK's largest manufacturer of steel reinforcement products with 100% of its output produced from recycled scrap. Across its two main sites in Cardiff, it directly employs 600 people.

## Channel View

I was very impressed during my recent visit to Channel View Leisure Centre with Cllr Thorne. I was pleased to hear staff talk about the increased use of the centre. A wide range of activities are taking place at the centre with investment being delivered this year.

## South Wales Metro

I continue to make representations about constituency links to Butetown and St Mellons in particular. The Welsh Labour led Government has committed £369million to the Metro over the next 4 years; and is seeking a further £110million from the European Commission. The potential benefits include improved access to jobs, becoming a better place to do business, promoting tourism. The scheme will open up opportunities for con-

stituents especially in the East of Cardiff where there is currently no rail network link to the city centre.

## Apprenticeships

Last week the Welsh Government launched its new Apprenticeship policy, which sets out its vision for addressing the needs of Welsh businesses and the wider economy. The policy and its five year action plan sets out how the Welsh Government will support the delivery of our manifesto commitment to create a minimum of 100,000 high quality apprentices in Wales over this Assembly term. The Welsh Government will be increasing its own investment in apprenticeships from £96 million to £111.5 million for 2017-18.

I am proud of the Welsh Government's commitment to helping thousands of people into training and benefitting businesses across Wales. I am particularly proud that Wales leads the way in the UK with apprenticeship completion rates remaining over 80%, considerably higher than the 69% success rate in England.