

Economy Secretary committed to working with business to make Wales' economy stronger

Speaking at an event at Moneypenny, which brought businesses from across North Wales together, the Economy Secretary said he wanted – in collaboration with the business sector – to find new ways of working that break down traditional barriers and borders.

The Economy Secretary said:

“My Economic Action Plan sets out a clear blue print of how we can drive inclusive growth and future proof the economy in all areas of Wales.

“With the plan now published, our Economic Contract and Economy Futures Fund now launched, and our Fair Work Commission and Expert Panel on Automation in operation we have made excellent progress on the first phase of implementation on the plan.

“My focus now is on delivering the wider objectives of that plan and part of this is finding new ways of working that break down traditional barriers and borders such as the ones between government departments, between local authorities, between governments and across borders.

“For me, the next phase of devolution in Wales has to be about helping businesses to trade, invest and develop their people in creative ways that promote new collaboration and new relationships across borders.

“This is a challenge for Government and it is one I am committed to taking on, with business, over the coming years in order to make our economy stronger.

“I also want to continue my focus on supporting the rise of Wales' regions in order to stimulate new opportunities and growth.

“We know a “one size fits all” approach will not give us the economic growth we need and this was very much in my mind when I visited Stena Line in Holyhead, BioComposites in Gwalchmair, Bee Robotics in Caernarfon and Siemens Healthcare in Llanberris to hear their views on the real opportunities and challenges facing North Wales.

“I want to build a genuine partnership approach that will enrich and empower the local economy and overcome obstacles. A partnership approach like the one shown between the Welsh

Government, Wrexham Council and Glyndwr University this week through our collective plans for a business and transport hub at Wrexham General that will open up new and exciting opportunities for jobs and commercial growth.”

The Economy Secretary also said the Welsh Government would be looking at how it could develop indicative budgets for economic development and infrastructure in the regions across Wales.

In thanking Moneypenny for hosting this business event, Ken Skates added:

“Our Economic Action Plan is all about public investment with a social purpose and helping business to prepare for the future.

“Moneypenny, in the way they support their employees, the way they bring new talent into the business and the way they are planning for the future is a great example of a business doing things the right thing and I am grateful for their co-operation and hospitality.”

Rachel Clacher, co-founder of Moneypenny, the world’s leading outsourced communications provider in Wrexham said:

“We were delighted to host the Economy Secretary, Ken Skates, here at Moneypenny and hear about the plans to work more closely with businesses to encourage trade, investment, and development of people in Wales. We look forward to continuing to strengthen our relationship with the government and local businesses to help further improve everyone’s future.”