

Statement regarding Welsh Government advisory panel's recommendation on Yr Egin funding

Council Leader Emlyn Dole said: "It was extremely disappointing and concerning to read the headlines in the news in relation to the funding for the creative industries hub at Yr Egin.

"The comparison between the development in Swansea and Yr Egin is completely inappropriate. Yr Egin involves the construction of a pioneering creative and digital hub and the development of a creative sector cluster not just for the Swansea Bay region, but for the whole of Wales. Whilst S4C will be the anchor tenant in Yr Egin, it will also house over 20 commercial enterprises from across the UK, which will create in excess of 150 new jobs, and associated spin-off companies providing further opportunities. It's worth noting also the importance of bringing S4C to west Wales which supports the region's commitment to supporting the Welsh Government's new Welsh Language Strategy and aim to reach a million Welsh speakers by 2050.

"The benefit to the local economy will be huge, with a projected £11million boost to the regional economy. This is supplemented by the University of Wales Trinity St David's commitment to enhancing skills and training provision related to the creative industry as well as fostering innovation partnerships.

"Phase two of the Yr Egin development is one of the projects that form the Swansea Bay City Deal, which we are on the brink of signing – if successful this will be the biggest investment in the region for a generation which will transform the economic landscape of the area and provide nearly 10,000 jobs. The Welsh Government is supportive of the City Deal proposals, and so it is particularly disappointing that the advisory panel has made this recommendation at such a crucial time."

Cllr Rob Stewart, lead Leader for the Swansea Bay City Region, said: "It is important that creative industries benefit the regions of Wales and not just the capital. The Yr Egin project can help ensure a fairer spread of creative industries in Wales. The additional inward investment from the private sector this project will generate is significant."