



# WHAT HAS CONVERGENCE FUNDING DONE FOR PEMBROKESHIRE?





# CONVERGENCE FUNDING

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# CONVERGENCE FUNDING

## FOREWORD

Welcome to our brochure about the 2007-13 Convergence funding programme and the impact it has had within Pembrokeshire.

## HOW HAS CONVERGENCE FUNDING HELPED PEMBROKESHIRE?

In Pembrokeshire, the funding has contributed to the success of a huge variety of schemes ranging from developing new roads to providing grants and support to local businesses and community projects through to helping people to re-engage with the employment market.

There have been in excess of 40 projects delivered across the county by public, private and third sector organisations. With an investment of over £120 million, the projects have helped towards:

- creating sustainable jobs
- helping businesses invest and grow
- assisting people gain skills and take up employment
- improving our buildings and infrastructure
- protecting and enhancing our environment.

In this brochure we have highlighted just a few examples of the many successful projects that received Convergence support in Pembrokeshire.

## WHAT IS CONVERGENCE FUNDING?

The **Regional Policy of the European Union (EU)** aims to improve the economic well-being of regions in the EU and avoid regional disparities. The EU's regional policy covers all European regions, although regions across the EU fall into different categories or objectives, depending on their economic situation. During the 2007–2013 funding period, by far the largest amount of regional policy funding (81.5%) was dedicated to regions falling under the Convergence objective which covers Europe's poorest regions where the gross domestic product (GDP) per capita was less than 75% of the EU average.

The West Wales and the Valleys region were awarded Convergence funding from the European Union and the 2007 – 2013 programme invested over £3.5 billion into projects operating across the region.

Managed and administered by the Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO) the programme has two different funding streams designed to help create brighter futures and better prospects for people and communities across Wales.

The **European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)** focuses on infrastructure developments, improving economic structures and creating jobs.

The **European Social Fund (ESF)** breaks down barriers to employment and gives people more skills to contribute to the Welsh economy.



**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT  
CONVERGENCE AND OTHER EUROPEAN  
FUNDING, PLEASE VISIT:**

[www.wefo.wales.gov.uk](http://www.wefo.wales.gov.uk)

Or

[www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/european](http://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/european)



# BUSINESS AND ECONOMY

## LOCAL INVESTMENT FUND

The **Local Investment Fund (LIF)** South West Wales was the first Local Authority led project to receive Convergence support from the European Regional Development Fund.

Targeted at small and medium sized enterprises (employing fewer than 250 people) LIF offered capital grants of 40% subject to a minimum of £1,000 and a maximum of £10,000 grant.

Designed to help develop the local economy by stimulating business activity, to be considered, eligible projects had to meet one or more objectives including:

- Creating or sustaining jobs
- Increasing turnover
- Increasing competitiveness
- Making efficiency gains
- Stimulating further investment/growth
- Introducing new products, services or markets.

Between 2010 to 2014 over £1 million of grant funding was awarded to over 250 new and existing Pembrokeshire businesses and over 130 new jobs were created with the support of the scheme.

### TYF Group, St Davids

The TYF Group based in St Davids 'create life changing adventures with a light touch on nature, focus young people's sight & skills for the future and help organisations with innovation & sustainability'.

Back in 2010 they were put into to contact with the LIF team after enquiring about funding for a new computer system which would enable them to manage stock, diary bookings, and to tailor promotions and special offers. After receiving support with the grant process TYF were successful with their application which helped them to install a new I.T. system better suited for their business needs.

At the 2011 Pembrokeshire Tourism Awards, TYF won the silver award for the 'Best Sustainable Tourism Business'.

### Ocon Fire & Security, Neyland

Mr Thompson, owner of Ocon, contacted the Pembrokeshire LIF Officer when his business had grown to an extent where new specialist equipment was needed. With business advice and support they were able to submit a successful application for funding which they used to purchase an Access Platform and Trailer, Room integrity tester and breathing apparatus recharging compressor.

The equipment and new service offerings allowed them to expand into new sectors within the county, creating one full time post for an electrician.



# BUSINESS AND ECONOMY

**“The start up assistance available through PBI helped to lift the worries of our first year trading...”.**

**UniqueWorks Ltd**

## START UP SUPPORT

The **Welsh Government Business Start-up service** which was part funded through the ERDF, was delivered in Pembrokeshire by Pembrokeshire Business Initiative (PBI) and provided access to a range of free-of-charge business skills sessions for those looking to start their own business. The training sessions were specifically designed to give potential entrepreneurs the key business skills needed to successfully go on and run their own businesses.

Budding entrepreneurs could access to the support and a range of services from the Welsh Government to help them start and grow their business, including:

- locally run 'Taking the Plunge' sessions which explore the first steps and the issues involved with running a new business
- a range of business skills workshops to help build and plan for the launch of a new business
- face to face advice surgery sessions with professional business advisers
- ongoing 1 to 1 business advice to further develop the business idea and to support entrepreneurs once they have started trading
- enhanced support to help if the business has the potential to grow and employ staff
- information on the sources of finance including business loans.

Since 2007 PBI and the Start Up support services have helped to create over 700 new businesses.

### Phil's Computer Services

Phil Felice went to PBI for initial business start up advice, and through a business adviser received support in the key areas of profitability and financial projections. Additionally he was supported with the all important tax and national insurance implications of running his own business.

After the launch of his business Phil continued to keep in contact with PBI who were able to further assist with marketing advice and financial planning.

Phil now runs a computer sales and repair business from Haverfordwest and can regularly be found at markets across Pembrokeshire.

### UniqueWorks Ltd

As with many people wanting to set up their own enterprise, Jake and Stephanie Humphries had considerable expertise and a passion for making their own products - classic, high quality and bespoke furniture - , but having never run their own business before, they needed additional guidance and encouragement to help them to set-up their business and promote themselves to customers.

Through the start up scheme they were able to access relevant advice and were signposted to additional services that provided specialist marketing and ICT support.



# TOURISM

## COASTAL TOURISM CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

The **Pembrokeshire Coastal Tourism Centre of Excellence** formed part of a suite of Visit Wales' Environment for Growth projects which had schemes across the length and breadth of Wales. The ethos behind Coastal Tourism was to deliver a superior tourist experience through high-quality facilities and improved access to enable visitors from Britain and further afield to enjoy some of Wales most stunning scenery.

Led and managed by Pembrokeshire County Council in conjunction with Visit Wales the schemes were:

### **COPPET HALL VISITOR CENTRE (Hean Castle Estate)**

The project contributed towards the development of a Beach Centre which involved the construction of a new landmark building that contains a restaurant, watersports retail and activity centre in addition to new public conveniences, which are complemented by the provision of family changing spaces and external beach showers.

The development was carefully designed to allow visitors to enjoy the views from the panoramic windows of the restaurant stretching across Carmarthen Bay, whilst not compromising its setting in the wooded landscape surrounding Coppet Hall or its Blue Flag beach.

The building plays host to a number of environmentally friendly features, including solar panels, air source heat pumps and a sedum roof, which all contribute to its BREEAM 'Excellent' rating, one of the highest levels of environmental rating for new buildings.

### **SOLVA & PORTHGAIN (Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority)**

At these two picturesque harbour villages the project assisted improvements to existing facilities to create hubs from which visitors can enjoy a wide range of enhancements such as improved coastal access and accessible vantage points along with improved parking.

### **MILFORD HAVEN YACHT LOCK (Milford Haven Port Authority)**

The situation of Milford Marina in the Milford Haven waterway makes it an ideal base to explore Pembrokeshire's coastal delights from the water and the project has enabled the creation of an impressive new Yacht Lock within the existing lock to allow access to the Marina at all stages of the tide.

### **TENBY PUBLIC REALM IMPROVEMENTS (Pembrokeshire County Council)**

Tenby is a vibrant historic fishing village extremely popular with tourists of all ages and has a longstanding affinity with the sea. Work included improvements to facilities in Tudor and Castle Squares and new seating and lighting schemes were also designed.

### **FACT FILE**

- Scheme ran between 2010-14
- Over £4 million of both public and private investment
- ERDF grant of £1.9 million
- 300,000 extra visitors
- Over 25 new jobs created

## GREEN SEA BEACH IMPROVEMENT

The **Green Sea** project was designed to improve and promote the South West Wales coastline and marine environment by investing in facilities at Blue Flag and Green Coast Award beaches.

The project had 14 schemes across the South & South West Wales area including developments at Pendine & Aberafan. In Pembrokeshire:

### **SEA, SAND & RECYCLING SCHEME (Pembrokeshire County Council)**

This scheme provided new and improved recycling and general litter facilities at 14 rural Green Coast Award beaches and recycling facilities for mixed glass at 13 Blue Flag Award beaches. It has also helped to fund a specialist collection vehicle to reach rural locations and marketing activities to promote the importance of keeping our beautiful beaches clean and tidy.

### **POPPIT SANDS (Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority)**

A much needed upgrade of the existing car park included improving re-surfacing, drainage and landscaping to bring the facility up to the standard expected of this Blue Flag beach and improve visitor access.

### **BEACH INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS SCHEMES (Pembrokeshire County Council)**

The project has improved access at a number of the counties beaches including new wooden walkways installed at Newgale Sands and Tenby South Beach and notice boards and new signage installed at other key destination sites.

Newgale has also benefited from further enhancements to the main car park and has improved visitor facilities with the addition of recycled furniture, an outdoor shower, cycle racks and better access to the beach.

### **MOBILE INTERPRETATION UNIT (Pembrokeshire County Council)**

This scheme saw the refurbishment and renovation of a disused lifeguard unit which was converted into a mobile interpretation unit. The unit has attended major county events and moved around different award beaches throughout each season to inform and educate about safety and environmental issues, beach user rules, recycling and beach cleaning, bylaws and other interesting information about Pembrokeshire's beaches.

### **SAUNDERSFOOT HARBOUR TOILETS (PCC and Saundersfoot Harbour Commission)**

Green Sea funding has been used to refurbish the public toilet block in Saundersfoot Harbour, with the addition of secure lockers and shower facilities.



#### FACT FILE

- Scheme ran between 2011-14
- Over £1.8 million of both public and private investment
- ERDF grant of £800,000
- 200,000 extra visitors



# TOURISM

## FACT FILE

- Scheme ran between 2010-14
- Over £4 million of both public, private and third sector investment
- ERDF grant of £1.9 million
- 800,000 extra visitors
- 14 new jobs created

## ONE HISTORIC GARDEN

The **One Historic garden** project formed part of Visit Wales' Environment for Growth (E4G) Sustainable Tourism Project. The aim was to establish a 'Centre of Excellence' through existing gardens attractions in South West Wales, linked together by a common historical thread to form a 'trail' entitled 'One Historic Garden'. Led by Pembrokeshire County Council, the delivery partnership included seven project partners and gardens across five Local Authority Areas in South West Wales including Aberglasney, Penllergare Valley Woods and Margam Park.

In Pembrokeshire, two gardens were involved in the partnership:

### **COLBY WOODLAND GARDENS (The National Trust)**

Family days out are what it is all about at in this tranquil Pembrokeshire valley. No 'keep off the grass' signs here, just a wonderful feast of fun for children and adults alike, where everyone is encouraged to enjoy all things natural and join in the fun, from planting bulbs to spreading wildflower seed, spotting otters and water shrews to climbing trees.

With assistance from the funding, the team at Colby Woodland Gardens have worked hard to enhance the visitor experience and upgrade facilities. Included in their schemes have been improvements to interpretation and the 'Bothy' information room, better access around the garden and woodlands via improved pathways for wheelchair users and pushchairs, new family friendly areas and play activities in the meadow and planting throughout the gardens, not forgetting upgrades to the café and toilet facilities.

### **SCOLTON MANOR (Pembrokeshire County Council)**

The majority of the work at Scolton focused on carefully restoring the previously dilapidated Walled Garden compound to its former glory and enabling the re-establishment of an authentic working kitchen garden. The Museum Service's agricultural machinery collection was relocated from the old Exhibition Hall to a purpose built viewing barn in a new location on the Park's estate.

The project was also the catalyst for other partnership projects which brought about the restoration of the working Pineapple House and a Honey Kitchen established by the Pembrokeshire Bee Keepers Association.

It is hoped that the improvement works will enhance the visitor's Scolton experience and provide a more comprehensive window into the Victorian era and Scolton's place in it, as a self-sufficient community in the nineteenth century.

# COMMUNITIES AND NATURE



The **Communities and Nature** project was run by the Countryside Council for Wales (now Natural Resources Wales) with funding from the European Regional Development Fund through the Welsh Government. A number of schemes were funded through this project throughout Wales.

## WESTFIELD PILL

The cycle trail down to Westfield Pill in Neyland was steep and could be dangerous to use under wet conditions. With the assistance of funds from the Communities and Nature project Pembrokeshire County Council built a new path which forms a part of National Cycle Network Route 4 (Celtic Trail) and links two existing Shared Use paths, the 'Brunel Trail' and the 'Milford Haven to Pembroke Route'. A cycle counter was installed in July 2011 and in that month alone the path was used by over 2,000 cyclists.



## STACKPOLE GARDENS

The walled gardens at Stackpole are leased by Pembrokeshire Mencap and a large range of plants, fresh fruit and vegetables are produced by Pembrokeshire adults with learning disabilities. The trustees applied to the Communities and Nature project for funding towards building a visitor centre on the site, which would include a cafe. The centre was a straw bale construction with lime render and involved many local groups and volunteers in its construction. It was officially opened in August 2013 and visitors can now enjoy delicious refreshments in Cawdors tea room which is part of the centre.





# PEMBROKESHIRE PEOPLE

## FACT FILE

- Project ran between 2009 - 12
- Project investment (in Pembrokeshire) was in excess of £4.1 million with over £2.1 million ESF grant.
- There were 3,660 project participants of which:
- 1,672 gained qualifications
- 1,078 entered further learning
- 99 completed work placements

## ENGAGE

The Engage project was led by Neath Port Talbot Borough Council and in Pembrokeshire was delivered by Pembrokeshire County Council and Pembrokeshire College. The overall aim of the project was to reduce the number of young people who were at risk of becoming NEET (not in education, employment or training).

It targeted 14-16 year olds who were facing difficulties such as underachievement and absenteeism and 16-19 year olds who were in college but at risk of dropping out.

Various techniques were used to re-engage with the participants and to boost their confidence including mentoring, coaching, community based activities, and sports. Alternative curricula was designed to meet individual needs such as vocational training and work placements were organised with local employers.

The participants received individualised and intensive support which assisted them in improving in confidence and general social skills. Overall more participants gained qualifications and entered further learning than had been anticipated at the outset of the project.

## GYPSY TRAVELLER LEARNING AND FUTURE EMPLOYMENT PROJECT

Started in 2009 the aim of the Gypsy Traveller Learning and Future Employment Project was to encourage and improve the participation rates in education and employment of young people in the Gypsy Traveller population in West Wales and the Valleys. Led by Pembrokeshire County Council, the scheme ran in six other local authority areas.

The activity was not delivered via mainstream educational provision as previous research and projects had identified that such provision does not cater for the specific needs of Gypsy Travellers. Instead this project focused on alternative curriculum, PSE, developing participation in learning, citizenship, outreach support to disadvantaged young people and, crucially, developing a range of initiatives to underpin the continued engagement of participants in learning and training.

The support available through the project was open to any young person between the ages of 11 - 19 from a Gypsy or Traveller community and also young people from travelling fairground families.

Through the encouragement of increased education participation, with tailored support provided to all individuals, the long term goal was to help each individual be better placed for entering employment and to access opportunities which may have previously been unavailable to them. The project additionally aimed to help reduce and remove negative stereotypes perceived with the Gypsy Traveller communities.

## FACT FILE

- Project ran between 2009-12
- Project investment was in excess of £4 million with an ESF Grant of over £2 million

### **The project had 91 participants, of which:**

- 25 gained qualifications
- 14 entered further learning
- 16 entered employment

# PEMBROKESHIRE PEOPLE



## WORKWAYS

The aim of the Workways project was to help unemployed and economically inactive people to overcome barriers that they faced in finding and sustaining employment. The project supported individuals to overcome those barriers by providing a dedicated mentor and individual action plans. A team of Employer Liaison Officers made contact with local businesses to source vacancies and work placements specifically for project participants.

**Individuals:** Via one to one support from a personal mentor, project participants were provided with assistance in confidence building and soft skills development, job search, writing CVs, completing application forms, interview skills, telephone techniques and also access to relevant training.

Wherever possible, participants were also matched with local businesses for work placement experience opportunities and some participants were eligible for financial support towards training, clothing, childcare and subsidised employment opportunities.

**Businesses:** The Workways project was able to provide a vital link between local companies and the project participants. Employer Liaison Officers worked closely with businesses to assist with their recruitment needs and processes, identify potential participant matches and provide ongoing support to ensure that both parties could benefit from a long term employer/employee relationship.

### FACT FILE

- Project ran from March 2010 – December 2014
- ESF Grant of over £3.3 million
- 1,523 project participants
- 616 entered employment
- Over 120 participants gained qualifications
- 736 gained positive outcomes such as attending an interview, completing a course or starting voluntary work.



# HERITAGE AND REGENERATION



## FACT FILE

- Project ran from 2012-14
- Level of Investment £2,093,451
- ERDF Grant £626,698
- Private sector match funding
- 18 business properties benefited from improvement grants
- In excess of 22 new jobs created

## HAVEN TOWNS REGENERATION SCHEME

This project set out to deliver physical regeneration activities in the towns of Pembroke and Pembroke Dock. Both locations had been identified as being in a cycle of decline which stemmed from under-performing businesses in the town centres and under-investment in commercial properties giving the towns a run-down feel. This discouraged visitors and customers leading to under-performance amongst the local businesses, vacant commercial units and so even less incentive for shoppers.

The key aim of the project was to increase footfall in both town centres by making both Pembroke and Pembroke Dock more attractive places to visit and spend time in. There were three main activity streams:

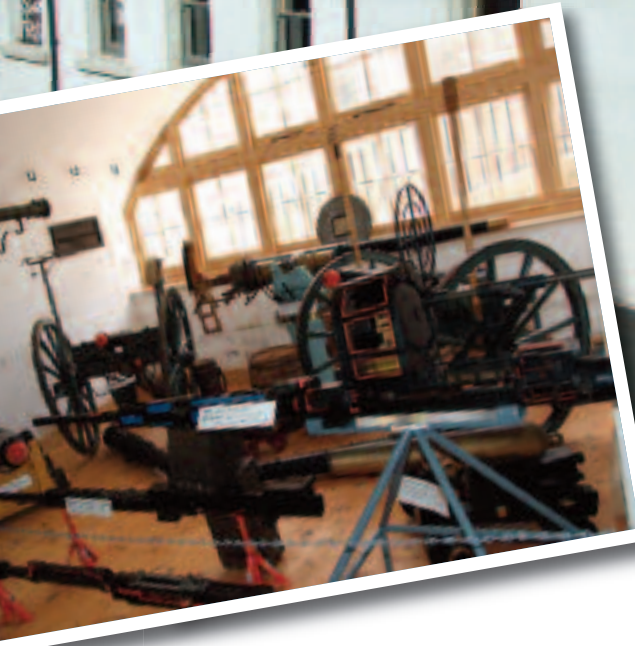
**Community improvements** which involved extensive repair and refurbishment works at the Pater Hall such as improving many of the essential facilities and access to the building. The scheme also supported developments at the Garrison Chapel including an extension housing new meeting rooms, toilet facilities and upgraded heating throughout the Chapel.

**Townscape improvements** which included Pembroke streetscape enhancements and the Historic commercial property restoration & improvement grant scheme. In both towns, grants were available to commercial property owners for structure and external fabric repair, reuse of vacant historic floor space and to restore architectural heritage detail. A number of buildings were vacant and semi-derelict, requiring comprehensive repairs and many buildings had suffered from the loss of architectural detail and original. To qualify for the grants the buildings had to be within the boundary of the Conservation Area, be a business or commercial property and of architectural or historic interest. The level of grant varied according to the types of work undertaken and the business/property owners had to match fund the balance of the costs.

**Access improvements** which focussed on the Monkton – Pembroke community safe route project delivered in two phases. Phase one involved traffic calming measures including footpath and shared use path improvements, the installation of signage and cycle stands and new lighting. The second phase comprised the construction of an off-road section of the shared use path from the B4320 Monkton Road.



# HERITAGE AND REGENERATION



## CHAPEL BAY FORT AND MUSEUM

Following many years of painstaking restoration the historic Chapel Bay Fort and Museum, based in Angle officially opened its gates to visitors in April 2015.

The coast artillery fort, a scheduled ancient monument, was completed in 1891 and is the earliest known fort in the world constructed principally in mass concrete. Sadly, after being de-commissioned in the 1930s the fort gradually fell into disrepair.

After a career in the military and education, George Gear (Operations Director) was instrumental in setting up a registered charity with the long-term aim of opening the site as a museum and interpretation centre for the military history of Milford Haven and its environs. Over the years the volunteers, with occasional help from the Royal Engineers and local TA units, had slowly been restoring the 4 acre site and buildings.

However, in 2012, the charity was fortunate to benefit from financial support via Cadw's Heritage Tourism Project, which was part-funded by the ERDF through the Welsh Government. This funding facilitated the undertaking of major works, moving the project forwards and enabling the opening of the fort to the public.

Visitors can now enjoy guided tours of the fort, including its casemated barracks and Officers Mess, the museum of military technology, underground works and tunnels, gun emplacements and magazines and refreshments at the new Cookhouse café.



# ENVIRONMENT

## RECYCLING

The **Materials Efficiency Project** was developed to invest in the improvement of the infrastructure and services available to deal with waste and recycling, creating a more attractive and cleaner environment for all. Led by Pembrokeshire County Council and working in conjunction with Carmarthenshire County Council the project delivered a suite of projects and schemes to engage with households and users of Civic Amenity sites in order to maximise materials efficiency activity i.e. recycling. The overall objective was to achieve a reduction of waste entering the waste stream and onto landfill through various reduce, re-use, & recycling schemes.

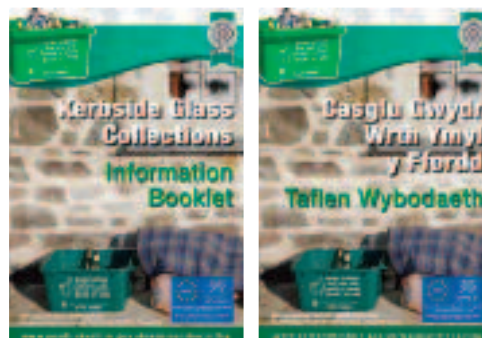
The Pembrokeshire elements of the project included:

### KERBSIDE GLASS COLLECTION

Launched at the start of 2012, this scheme was developed to give domestic households access to a kerbside glass collection service in conjunction with the existing kerbside recycling options of orange bags, food and garden waste to make the recycling of glass more convenient.

The glass recycling boxes, appropriately made of recycled green plastic, were delivered to most properties in the county to be put out for collection on normal 'black' bin bag days and associated specialist collection vehicles were also purchased with the support of the grant.

This service is now available to 98.6% of Pembrokeshire households.



### NEW CRANE CROSS CIVIC AMENITY SITE

Opened in March 2015, the new Civic Amenity site at Crane Cross was developed to offer additional benefits to South East Pembrokeshire through the provision of a full range of recycling and reuse facilities not previously available or accessible in that part of the county. This includes items of furniture, for example, sofas, chairs, tables, dressers, beds, desks, wardrobes, etc which are suitable for reuse and are collected from the site as part of Pembrokeshire County Council's 'Bulky Waste' scheme and taken for refurbishment.

### SECONDARY RE-PROCESSING CENTRE

This centre was established at the Winsel Civic Amenity site with the facilities to reprocess and sort items collected as part of the Council's Bulky Household Collection service. The intention of the service was to ensure fewer household furniture items/materials would go to landfill and involved 'second stage' recycling based on stripping materials from sofas, armchairs, mattresses, etc focusing on those items that are otherwise unable to be reused.

The reprocessing activity was contracted out to Pembrokeshire FRAME in April 2013 and as part of their activities they provided work experience placements for over 85 volunteers who had been displaced from the job market due to disability and/or ill-health and who needed the opportunity to obtain experience and confidence building in order to help them move back towards employment.



## IMPROVED LITTER RECYCLING FACILITIES AT BLUE FLAG BEACHES, CONSERVATION AREAS AND VISITOR CENTRE

The street litter recycling project focused on improving recycling facilities at high footfall visitor locations, selected in conjunction with the street cleansing and area maintenance teams at PCC.

The new-style dual compartment bins have two separate sections – one for general litter (for materials that cannot be recycled) and the other for paper, cans and plastic bottles, which can be recycled. They also have an ash tray on the top and were designed to make it easier for residents and visitors to 'recycle on the go'.

In excess of 200 new bins have been installed at over 50 locations around the county, including the major towns of Haverfordwest, Tenby, Narberth, Pembroke and Fishguard with the aim of contributing towards helping divert waste from landfill and keeping the environment cleaner and safer.

## RESOURCE AND RECYCLING ADVISORS

A key element of the project was the introduction of specialist resource and recycling advisors. The main focus of their role was empowering and enabling residents and communities to actively participate in recycling, through a programme of education and awareness-raising activities regarding existing and new recycling and re-use opportunities supported by marketing and promotional materials. This included:

- Monitoring and research
- One-to-one door knocking
- Letters
- Leaflets and promotional campaigns (e.g. 'Love food, hate waste' campaign)
- Attendance at supermarkets and events, using an exhibition trailer and pop up stands.

During the course of the project over 18,000 households had direct contact with advisors and there was a marked improvement in both Orange Bag and Food Waste participation.

### FACT FILE

- Over £6.5 million of investment
- ERDF grant of £3.1 million
- Over 15 new jobs created
- Over 85 Volunteers recruited and given up-skilling opportunities
- The amount of waste going to landfill reduced by over 10,000 tonnes



# INFRASTRUCTURE



As a rural county, transport links within Pembrokeshire are vital to economic prosperity and two key projects were delivered with the assistance of ERDF.

## BULFORD ROAD BYPASS

Bulford Road was a narrow, single track road between the villages of Johnston and Tiers Cross. The increased congestion on the road by HGV traffic from the Tiers Cross quarry and from the oil and gas industries at Milford Haven had a negative effect on a road which was in a sub-standard condition. Bulford Road's condition made it a particularly difficult route for all road users, including pedestrians and cyclists and those who live in the properties fronting onto the road.

Pembrokeshire County Council successfully applied for funds from both Welsh Government and the European Regional Development Fund to construct a 2.7km two lane road together with a shared use cycle path. The new road was officially opened on 20 July 2015 by Edwina Hart AM, the Welsh Government's Minister for the Economy and Transport and has been particularly appreciated by local residents.

## A40 PENBLEWIN TO SLEBECH PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Starting in 2007 and completed in 2011, the £20 million ERDF grant invested in the £37 million infrastructure project helped to create and reconstruct 4.5km of road along the A40 from Penblewin to Slebech Park including a bypass for Robeston Wathen. Led by the Welsh Government, it was the first time in Wales that a two plus one overtaking layout was created to provide additional overtaking opportunities, help to improve journey times and reduce traffic volume and noise through the village of Roberston Wathen. The scheme also helped to develop around one kilometre of extra footpaths linking with existing public paths and bridleways via two underpasses either side of Canaston Bridge.

