



Cymru Wledig LPIP Rural Wales

The Rural Wales Local Policy and Innovation Partnership

Partneriaeth Polisi ac Arleosi Lleol Cymru Wledig

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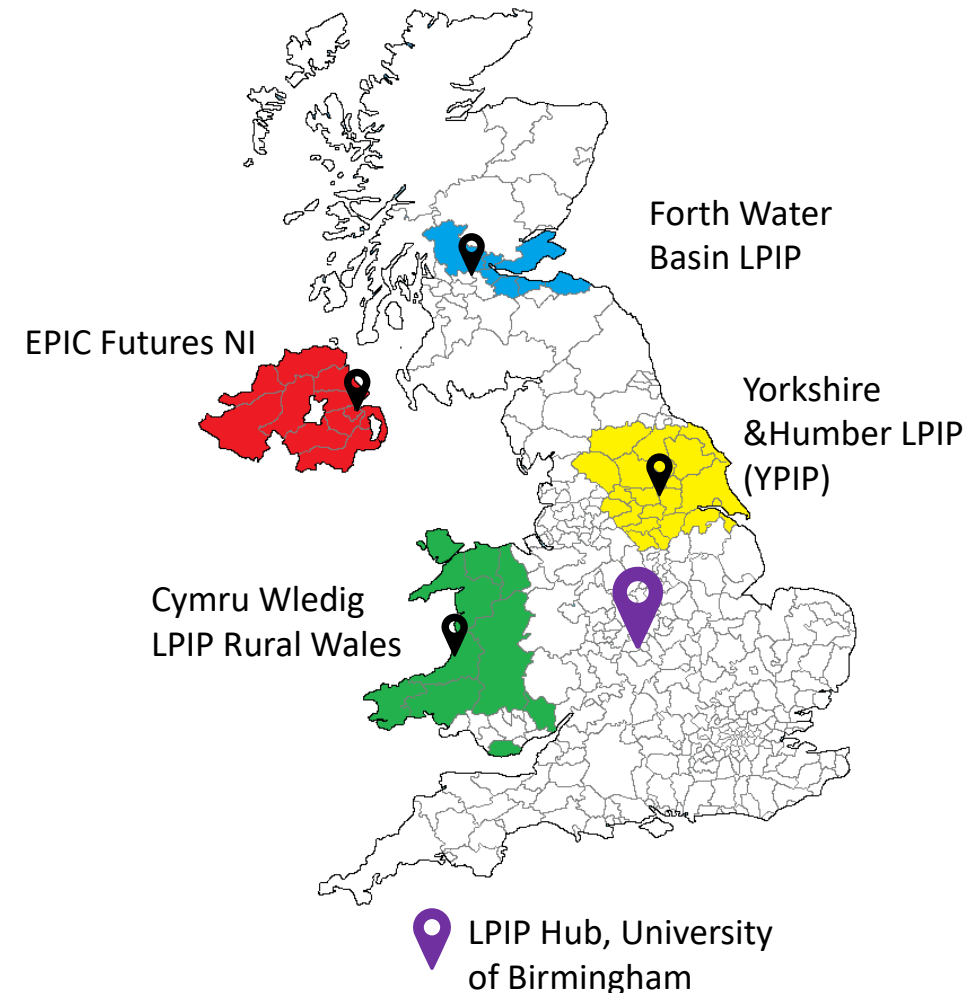


Core partners



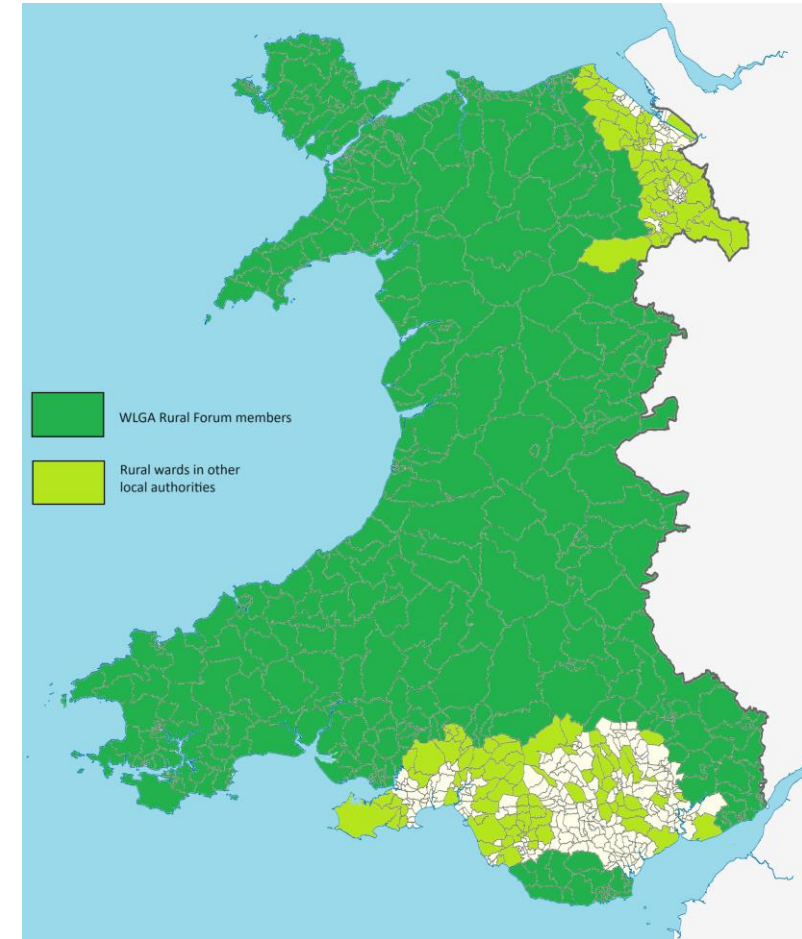
Local Policy and Innovation Partnerships

- Programme funded by UKRI (ESRC lead with AHRC and Innovate UK)
- Aims to support knowledge exchange with local and regional government, strengthen community engagement, and work towards inclusive, sustainable, growth
- 10 projects funded in 'Phase 1' development stage (April – September 2023) and 4 LPIPs funded at Phase 2 (January 2024 – December 2026) plus LPIP Hub at University of Birmingham
- Each LPIP funded at £5m FEC over 3 years



Who we are

- Director: Professor Michael Woods (Aberystwyth)
- Co-Directors: Meilyr Ceredig (Sgema), Prof Sue Denman (Together for Change), Prof Paul Milbourne (Cardiff), Dr Matt Reed (CCRI), Prof Thora Tenbrink (Bangor)
- Inter-disciplinary Col team from Aberystwyth, Bangor & Cardiff universities and the Countryside & Community Research Institute (U of Gloucestershire)
- Non-academic Cols from core partners: Centre for Alternative Technology, Together for Change, Sgema, Antur Cymru, DEG, Represent Us Rural, and Rural Health & Care Wales
- Strategic Partners: Ambition North Wales, Growing Mid Wales, Natural Resources Wales, One Voice Wales, PAVO, Welsh Local Government Association.



Our objectives

Supporting inclusive and sustainable development towards a **wellbeing economy** in Rural Wales

- A wellbeing economy prioritises social justice for current and future generations on a healthy planet in which citizens are actively engaged in their communities
- A wellbeing economy forms one of the four 'missions' of the Future Generations Commissioner in Wales

Addressing challenges of:

- A dispersed population with no dominant urban centre, typically small business size, limited endogenous capital, and poor infrastructure
- Youth out-migration, housing inaccessibility, erosion of public services, persistent poverty, and precarity of majority Welsh speaking communities
- Pressures from climate change and competing claims on land use under net zero
- Fragmented governance structure with small bodies with limited analytical capacity

Themes

- Building a Regenerative Economy
- Supporting the Net Zero Transition
- Enhancing Wellbeing in Place
- Empowering Communities for Cultural Recovery



Thematic Groups

- A 'Thematic Group' of researchers, stakeholders and community representatives is attached to each of the themes
- Co-chaired by an academic Col and a stakeholder Col
- Meet three times a year
- Review current issues and share intelligence
- Forum for knowledge exchange between members connecting research and policy
- Identify and suggest areas for new research and analysis by Cymru Wledig LPIP Rural Wales
- Review, discuss and disseminate Cymru Wledig LPIP Rural Wales research findings and outcomes

Executive Group

Director: Woods (AU); Co-Directors: Ceredig (Sgema), Denman (TfC), Milbourne (CU), Reed (CCRI), Tenbrink (BU) & admin support team

Thematic Groups

Building a Regenerative Economy

Leads: Bennett-Gillison (AU) & Raine (Antur Cymru)

Supporting the Net Zero Transition

Leads: Wynne-Jones (BU) & Peisley (DEG)

Empowering Communities for Cultural Recovery

Leads: Thomas Lane (BU) & Gwynn (BU Pontio)

Enhancing Wellbeing in Place

Leads: Milbourne (CU) & Prytherch (RHCW)

Propose topics and questions



Equality & Inclusivity Mainstreaming Action

Leads: MacBride-Stewart & Parken (CU)



Disseminate and discuss results

Work Streams

WS1: Innovation Labs. Coordinator: Tbc (CAT)

WS2: Community Action Research.

Coordinator: Buchanan (TfC)

CF

WS3: Data Synergy, Analysis & Mapping.

Coordinator: Orford (CU)

WS4: Surveys. Coordinator: Woods (AU)

WS5: Responsive Research.

Coordinator: Tenbrink (BU)

CF

WS6: Public Engagement, Knowledge Exchange and Capacity Building. Coordinator: Morris (AU)

WS7: Evaluation and Learning. Coordinator: Jones (AU)



= Commissioning Fund

Innovation Labs

Coordinated by the Centre for Alternative Technology

- **Aim:** To develop and test innovative solutions to overcome obstacles to change
- Four innovation labs, one linked to each theme
- Stakeholder mapping to identify participants
- Three workshops to identify goals, discuss obstacles, explore potential solutions and select one intervention for testing
- Implement and test a 'solution' with a stakeholder/partner
- Evaluation workshop

Community Action Research

Coordinator: Jessie Buchanan (Together for Change)

- **Aim:** To equip communities to gather and analyse evidence to address locally-identified policy challenges and needs.
- Communities identify research topics and questions, plan research, collect and analyse data, and agree on follow-on strategies for using the evidence
- Assigned an academic mentor who will support research design, implementation and interpretation
- Initial focus on five pilot communities building on engagement in Phase 1
- Extension and learning through a Community Research Network
- 10 further projects funded through an open Commissioning Fund call

Responsive Research

Coordinator: Thora Tenbrink (Bangor University)

- **Aim:** To produce evidence to support policy-making on current & emerging issues
- Topics proposed by Thematic Groups and selected by the LPIP Exec
- Could be on any issue within the LPIP themes and could use a range of methods. Typically 3-6 months in duration.
- Half will be assigned to LPIP Cols and post-doc researchers to complete in-house
- Half will be commissioned from external experts through a competitive Commissioning Fund
- First two projects on how rural businesses understand ‘innovation’, and women-run rural enterprises, identified from Phase 1

Data Synergy, Analysis & Mapping

Coordinator: Scott Orford (Cardiff University)

- **Aim:** To strengthen the evidence base accessible to policy-makers and practitioners
- Integration of existing data resources in public domain & held by various partners (e.g. local authorities, Natural Resources Wales)
- Bespoke new analysis of data on topics proposed by the Thematic Groups, including of Census 2021 results and ADR Wales databases
- Mapping and visualisation of data to increase accessibility, including mapping of community assets
- Creation of an Online Integrated Evidence Hub for Rural Wales

Surveys

Coordinator: Michael Woods (Aberystwyth University)

- **Aim:** To update data and fill gaps in the evidence base
- Survey of Rural Communities – Summer 2024 (with One Voice Wales)
- Rural Businesses Survey – Autumn 2024 (with Antur Cymru, Mid Wales & North Wales growth deals)
- Rural Households Survey – Early Summer 2025 (4000 household sample)
- Rural Crime Survey – Autumn 2024 (with Dyfed-Powys Police & Crime Commissioner)
- Rural Youth Survey – Early Summer 2026

Public Engagement, KE and Capacity Building

Coordinators: Meilyr Ceredig (Sgema) and Wyn Morris (Aberystwyth University)

- Series of four ‘Dialogues’ in final year involving stakeholders and community representatives exploring solutions for ‘wicked issues’ for rural policy in Wales, informed by evidence collected in the LPIP work programme.
- Annual showcase events at Royal Welsh Show and the National Eisteddfod
- Online and in-person public panels, workshops and other events
- Capacity-building workshops for researchers, policy-makers and practitioners on topics such as KE, using evidence in policy, engaging communities etc.
- Communication and dissemination through reports, social media, infographics, video, creative methods etc.

Evaluation and Learning

Coordinators: Rhys Jones (Aberystwyth University)

- Ongoing evaluation throughout the LPIP programme
- Narrative evaluation
- Involvement of stakeholders and communities in evaluation
- Accompanied by research on the use of evidence in policy and practice

Equalities and Inclusion Mainstreaming

Coordinators: Sara MacBride-Stewart and Alison Parken (Cardiff University)

- **Aim:** To engage and include individuals and communities excluded or under-represented from the research and policy ecosystems
- ‘Equalities Mainstreaming’ workshops with LPIP researchers and partners to embed thinking about equalities and inclusion about all aspects of the LPIP research and delivery
- Workshops with under-represented groups to discuss needs and priorities around the LPIP themes to inform the work programme
- Encouragement for individuals from excluded or under-represented backgrounds to participate in Thematic Groups and Innovation Labs with mentoring and coaching, and to apply for placements with the LPIP.

Reaching Beyond Wales

- Although focused on Wales, Cymru Wledig LPIP Rural Wales intends to learn from lessons and good practice outside Wales and to share results and lessons beyond Wales
- Need to engage with policy-makers in Cardiff Bay and Westminster
- Links with NICRE through CCRI
- Links with the Marches Partnership
- Coordination with other LPIPs through the LPIP Hub
- Members of our Advisory Board will help to facilitate connections within the UK and internationally