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Link road opens up hopes of new jobs and more investment

PROJECT ON BUDGET AND AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

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A £3M link road forming part of the Fabian Way Corridor development has been completed and handed over to Neath Port Talbot Council.

Three months ahead of schedule and on budget, the second and final stage of the Ffordd Amazon road has been built to serve the industrial land to the rear of the former Visteon factory and Amazon's distribution centre.

Construction of the road will further advance the council's work to redevelop a location which includes Swansea Bay studios and the planned second Swansea University campus. The project has opened up access to some plots of land and it

is hoped that this will encourage new opportunities for investment in the area.

As well as enabling access to more than 35 acres designated

for commercial development purposes, the road will form part of a key public transport link to Coed Darcy, a £1bn regeneration scheme on the site of the decommissioned Llandarcy Oil Refinery.

Built on brownfield land, the 1.5km highway was funded by the Welsh Government, with more than £1.5m from the European Regional Development Fund and £1.1m from Coed Darcy developers St Modwen.

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council supported the project by making a compulsory purchase order to facilitate the

acquisition of land which formerly contained industrial premises, tinplate works and railway sidings.

Future bus services between Neath and Swansea will use the route and serve the 4,000 homes and businesses planned as part of the Coed Darcy development.

A road blocker is in place to prevent the overloading of the junctions at Baldwin's Bridge by heavy goods vehicles and the use of the road as a short cut for cars travelling to and from Swansea.

Leader of Neath Port Talbot Council, Ali Thomas, said: "This is a fantastic example of the partnership working which is needed to meet the economic challenges that face us. Neath Port Talbot Council, the Welsh Government and St Modwen



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have worked closely to develop a scheme that will deliver real benefits to the Swansea Bay region.

"I also commend the work of the contractors in completing the works on budget and three months ahead of schedule."

Business Minister Edwina Hart said the new road would open up new investment and job creation opportunities.

Apart from job opportunities, the project supports the development of Coed Darcy, a new sustainable community with extensive commercial development land that will create job opportunities, she said.

Ben Cook, residential land director for St Modwen in South Wales, commented: "The opening of this major road into the growing employment area of Swansea is a significant infrastructure improvement for the region and the local economy.

"It will improve the local area and enable linkages to be made with the proposed new science and innovation Campus, which will be built on our 65-acre site and where we have now agreed terms to develop the £150m first phase of development with Swansea University.

"This is a major milestone for our Coed Darcy development, where the first properties developed by Persimmon have been launched to market last month with positive response from the market.

"More than 10,000 residents will eventually benefit from this road connecting the Coed Darcy community with the Swansea Bay region as well as those working at the established Business Park."



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■ Pictured at Ffordd Amazon are, from left, Neath Port Talbot Council leader Ali Thomas, Business Minister Edwina Hart, Neath Port Talbot director of environment John Flower and residential land director for St Modwen in South Wales, Ben Cook