



REPORT TO THE NORTH WALES ECONOMIC AMBITION BOARD

28 JUNE, 2019

TITLE: *Update on the EAB Work Programme*

AUTHOR: *Iwan Trefor Jones, Lead Director – North Wales Economic Ambition Board*

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1. The North Wales Economic Ambition Board requested that the work programme be submitted to each Board meeting for consideration.

2. DECISION SOUGHT

- 2.1. Review, update and approve the RAG status of all actions within the Work Programme.

3. REASONS FOR THE DECISION

- 3.1. To update on the progress of the actions within the Work Programme.

4. BACKGROUND AND RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

4.1. Work Programme (*Appendix 1*)

- 4.1.1. The Work Programme sets out initial key actions for the North Wales Economic Ambition Board. The Work Programme outlines 10 key categories, supported by key actions required. Each action has a timeframe and has been assigned responsibility, and a RAG status.
- 4.1.2. All tasks have been reviewed and given a RAG status, in accordance with the guidelines below:

RAG Status	Action Status	Action required
GREEN	On track for completion within the desired timescale	No action required
AMBER	Action may be at risk to meet the deadline	Action required to address the issues
RED	Action is at risk to miss the completion date	Immediate action required to address issues.

- 4.1.3. Since the last meeting of the NWEAB we have revised the format, and the Work Programme has been split into two tables. The first table includes future actions and the second table includes a log of all completed tasks. All tasks take into consideration the reporting requirements, including details of reports to the NWEAB as well as to individual Councils.
- 4.1.4. Additionally we include a list of all NWEAB Decisions in Appendix 2.
- 4.1.5. One task within the work programme remains with a Red RAG status:

- 4.1.5.1. Formal Approval of the Heads of Terms for the Growth Deal – We have had initial indication that we will see a draft Heads of Terms soon. The Challenge Sessions, both with the Private Sector and the Ministers have been arranged on the 27th of June, 2019.
- 4.1.6. All other tasks for completion during Q2 2019 have a Green or Amber status. Please see below progress on specific tasks:
- 4.1.6.1. Collaborative feedback on the 6 projects within tranche 1 has been received by both Governments, additionally Welsh Government have provided detailed feedback on the 14 Growth Deal projects OBC's.
- 4.1.6.2. Work is underway to finalise the individual project funding profiles, once this is complete the Accountable Body's Finance Officers will commission a consultant to identify the borrowing requirements.
- 4.1.6.3. The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport has approved up to £7million for the area to make the switch from copper-based services to 'gigabit capable' full-fibre optic provision, as part of its Local Full Fibre Network (LFFN) Programme.
- 4.1.6.4. As requested by the NWEAB, a working draft quarterly report has been included in Appendix 3. The draft version is not complete and requires additional information. The draft newsletter has been included as an appendix to ask for your feedback on the template and content. The intention is to release a two sided quarterly newsletter, as opposed to a standard report. Partners will be required to share the newsletter within their organisations.
- 4.1.6.5. The Digital Programme Manager post has been advertised, with the closing date for applications on the 4th of July, 2019. Full details are available on the NWEAB website.
- 4.1.7. Following the NWEAB meeting on 28th of May, 2019 an update letter was sent to Ken Skates AM, Alun Cairns MP and Kevin Foster MP (Appendix 4). Similar correspondence will be sent to Ministers with an update following all NWEAB meetings.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. None at this stage.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. None at this stage.

7. STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. None at this stage.

8. IMPACT ON EQUALITIES

- 8.1. None at this stage.

9. CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN

- 9.1. The Work Programme was discussed and approved by the Executive Officers Group on 14/06/2019.

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1	Work Programme
Appendix 2	List of Decisions
Appendix 3	Draft Quarterly Report
Appendix 4	Letter to Ministers 28/05/2019

STATUTORY OFFICERS RESPONSE:

i. Monitoring Officer – Accountable Body:

“No comments to add in relation to propriety.”

ii. Statutory Finance Officer (the Accountable Body’s Section 151 Officer):

“Nothing to add from a financial propriety perspective.”