

# NORTH WALES ECONOMIC AMBITION BOARD NEWSLETTER

Term: Spring | Issue: 1

## WELCOME

It's my pleasure as the newly elected Chair of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board (NWEAB) to welcome you to the first Newsletter. We are dedicated to producing a quarterly Newsletter to share the latest news on the North Wales Growth Deal with you.

We have worked hard over the past few months to get to this position, there is still a long road ahead but the funding from both the UK and Welsh Governments means we have a firm foundation on which to build. Our focus now is moving ahead and delivering the seven programmes to kick-start a new phase of economic prosperity in North Wales.



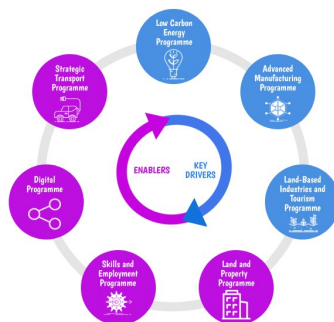
## NORTH WALES GROWTH DEAL

The North Wales Economic Ambition Board is laying the foundations for the £1bn Growth Deal that will boost the economy and create up to 15,000 jobs over the next decade. Members of the six local authorities, colleges, universities and the private sector are putting the final touches to a 2019/20 timeline and work programme.

The seven Strategic Programmes are now in place and cover, low carbon energy, advanced manufacturing, land based industries, land and property, skills and employment, digital connectivity and strategic transport, and will have an impact on tens of thousands of households, businesses and organisations across the region.

Within the 7 programmes we have 14 projects, work will take place over coming months to develop full

business cases for the projects with the aim of starting work on 6 of the projects during 2020/21.



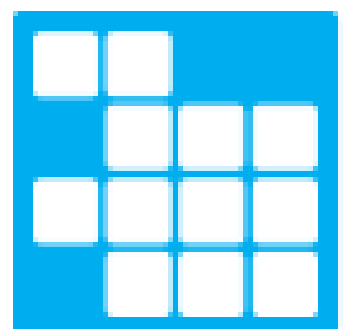
The NWEAB have a draft Implementation Plan in place which sets out the arrangements for the implementation of the Growth Deal—in accordance with the requirements of the UK and Welsh Government.

The Plan includes high-level activities that will support the delivery of the Growth Deal, and details of the projects and programmes.

## GROWTH DEAL FUNDING ENVELOPE

The UK Government and the Welsh Government have both allocated £120 million each for the purpose of a Growth Deal for North Wales.

However, the NWEAB have made the case for an additional sum of £20 million from each Government to support the funding of a package of projects that address the challenges faced by the region, particularly in view of the recent announcement by Horizon that work on the proposed £20bn Wylfa Newydd Nuclear Power Station is to be suspended indefinitely.



## NORTH WALES ECONOMIC AMBITION BOARD

Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn, Leader of Gwynedd Council has been appointed as Chair of the NWEAB, and Councillor Mark Pritchard, Leader of Wrexham Council has been appointed as the Vice Chair.

## GOVERNANCE AGREEMENT 1

Governance Agreement 1 formalised the constitutional arrangements for the North Wales Economic Ambition Board, and is the legal framework for establishing the North Wales Economic Ambition Board as a Joint Committee. The Joint Committee held its first meeting on 1/02/2019.

## BUSINESS DELIVERY BOARD

Arrangements are underway to establish the Business Delivery Board. The Board will act as the voice of business and employers in the region. It has a key role in challenging and advising the NWEAB on matters relating to the Growth Vision and Deal.

## LFFN

The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) 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. The move will provide locations including GP surgeries, libraries, hospitals and social services with resili-

ent, cost-effective ultrafast broadband connectivity which can be upgraded in the future as new technologies emerge.

## COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT

A Communication and Engagement plan has been developed to ensure a joined-up and consistent approach for the promotion of the North Wales Growth Vision.



## NEXT STEPS

- ⇒ Over coming month's further engagement will take place with both Governments, with a view to reach Heads of Terms by the end of July 2019.
- ⇒ The Programme Office Structure will be developed by the Programme Director in partnership with the NWEAB.
- ⇒ Establish the Business Delivery Board and appoint a Chair.
- ⇒ Develop the 14 projects further into Full Business Cases.