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## SECTION 6 – PROJECT SCHEDULE LIST

The Projects for which investment is sought are included in this section. They are all strategic and their delivery will transform the performance and opportunities across the region. They have been developed in the context of our Vision and Aims, and are presented within the Strategic Programmes.

The Projects are inter-related and co-dependent. They have all been tested in terms of strategic fit, delivering value for money, commercial sustainability, deliverability and partnership support and commitment.

They have been designed and developed through partnership working and co-production amongst the public, higher education, further education and particularly the private sector in the region.

The Project Schedule List includes a mix of solutions that are:

- Spatially targeted
- Global across the region
- Enablers, e.g. transport, housing
- Supporting growth and attracting private sector investment
- Promoting innovation

The balance of benefits from the investment will be shared to support sustainable and inclusive growth across the region – in accordance with our Vision as well as the priorities of the Well-Being of Future Generation Act.

An Outline Business Case (OBCs) for each Project is included in **Appendix 1**. These OBCs have been prepared in accordance with the Treasury's Green Book.

A narrative of each Project is included below:

### 1. *Digital Connectivity Programme*

**This Programme will bring forward Projects that will improve digital connectivity for business and households across the region, as well as digital skills and innovation in digital signalling.**

- **North Wales Digital Connectivity Project**  
**[Lead Sponsor: 6 Local Authorities]**

This Project will develop improvements in fixed broadband and mobile infrastructure necessary to support new and existing competitive business activity in North Wales. It will also enhance the region as a place to invest, work and live. It will focus in particular on full fibre passive infrastructure, an affordable gigabit service, and rural broadband deployment.

The private sector across the region view this project as a top priority. They have been engaged and involved in its design and development.

The Project will also be the vehicle to leverage private sector funding from the private sector, particularly from network operators. Serious consideration will be given by network operators to invest direct private sector money in the Project through a joint venture.

The need for the Project is highlighted by the fact that four of the six counties in North Wales are ranked in the bottom 25% of UK Local Authority areas for Superfast (>30 Mbps) broadband coverage (March 2018).

The Project will be delivered between 2019-2021.

The Project will have clear outcomes and impact, including 80% of strategic employment sites will be “passed” by direct infrastructure and 100% of the duct provided will be accessed by at least one network provider. These outcomes will be delivered by 2021.

The cost of the Project is £69,750,000.

- **Digital Signal Processing Centre Project**  
**[Lead Sponsor: Bangor University]**

This Project will transfer market-driven Research & Development activities into commercial exploitable products, processes and services for digital communication. It will ensure that the region is at the forefront of the new digital economy, and will undertake market-drivers Research & Development for digital signal processing for both wired and wireless networks.

The Project will be based at Bangor University – the University has a worldwide reputation in the application of this technology with the Telecoms sector. Close collaboration with major international companies will take place through this project.

Funding is required in order to develop the Processing Centre and ensure it has the appropriate equipment and facilities.

This Project will position the region as a Centre for International Expertise in digital signalling, and increase in particular levels of commercialisation of research in high value sectors. It will also raise the number of graduates and post-graduates in high demand disciplines within the region.

It will create 160 direct jobs, and generate 30 additional highly skilled graduates in the local workforce annually.

The Project aligns closely with the Digital Infrastructure Connectivity Project, together with the core business of M-Sparc Science Park on Anglesey.

The Project will be delivered between 2019-2021.

The total Project cost is £7.5m.

- **Digital Skills for North Wales Project**  
**[Lead Sponsor: 6 Local Authorities]**

This Project aims to develop a clear delivery plan to improve the digital skills of the current and future workforce of North Wales.

It will be a partnership approach between Bangor University, Glyndwr University, Grwp Llandrillo Menai, Coleg Cambria and the 6 Local Authorities. The delivery plan will be co-ordinated by the Regional Skills & Employment Partnership.

This is a key project within the Programme and will ensure that the workforce is equipped with the necessary skills to keep up with the speed of digital and technological change. We need to increase the supply of digital skills across the economy. Highly skilled and highly paid digital jobs grew at twice the rate of non-digital jobs between 2011-2015 (UK Industrial Strategy). We need to ensure that the computing curriculum for pupils aged 5-16, including coding and the basics of programming, is ambitious and rigorous. We need to deliver a comprehensive programme to improve the teaching of computing and drive up participation in computer science.

The new digital age will change jobs and businesses, and we want to ensure that the local workforce in North Wales are able to capitalise on these opportunities.

This is a Project that is currently under development.

## **2. Land and Property Development Programme**

**This Programme includes a package of projects to unlock growth opportunities in the region. Their development will deliver high quality sites and premises to accommodate innovation and expansion in the business base, in particular in advanced manufacturing and low carbon energy related industries.**

- Bodelwyddan Strategic Site Project**  
**[Lead Sponsor: 6 Local Authorities]**

The purpose of the Project is to support the development of a strategic mixed-use development site at Bodelwyddan in Denbighshire.

The site is located as a key strategic site within the Denbighshire Local Development Plan and planning consent has been agreed.

Funding is required in order to support up-front infrastructure costs. The site comprises 137Ha of land on which a master plan has been developed to accommodate housing development, employment, land and local facilities. The site will complement the existing St.Asaph Business Park and Kimmel Park employment sites, and will provide additional capacity for development in the central part of the A55.

There is a “named” developer for the site who will contribute £4m of direct private sector investment into the Project. The Project is expected to secure private sector leverage of £185m and will create up to 3,000 indirect or construction jobs. A joint venture mechanism will be used to generate a return on investment. This will be used to fund future projects within the Land and Property Development Programme.

The Project will be completed by 2021.

The total Project cost is £10m.

- Warren Hall Strategic Site Project**  
**[Lead Sponsor: 6 Local Authorities]**

Warren Hall is a major strategic site in Flintshire that has been in public sector ownership since the early 1990's. Although some primary road junction infrastructure has been installed, the site remains undeveloped and incapable of further development until additional on-site infrastructure has been provided. The site is located close to the A55 and has planning consent.

Funding is required to support up-front infrastructure costs. The site comprises 65Ha of land available for development. The proposals include a mixed-use development of housing and Business Park, and will complement and capitalise on the success of the Deeside Industrial Zone and Chester Business Park.

There is clear evidence of demand from the private sector, and major enquiries are currently under discussion. However, private investment cannot be secured and interest can't proceed unless the primary infrastructure is provided.

The site has the potential to generate private sector investment leverage of £55 million, with a scope for up to 4,000 indirect or construction jobs.

The Project will be delivered between 2019-2021.

The total cost of the Project is £15m.

- **Expansion to Wrexham Business Park Project**  
**[Lead Sponsor: 6 Local Authorities]**

The purpose of this Project is to bring forward an extension to the Wrexham Technology Park – which is a strategic site located between the town centre and the main A483 road corridor. Additional brown field site is available for development, but new road access is required, together with improved junctions on the A483, electricity grid connections and other new primary infrastructure.

Recent progress by Welsh Government to support significant junction improvements to be delivered over the next few years means that the site can now be bought forward for development.

The site comprises 5Ha of development land, in four plots, with a proven demand from the private sector for development. A major local occupier with significant growth and job creation potential is known to require additional development land.

Funding is required in order to support up-front infrastructure work to bring forward the site. The site has been in public ownership for many years and has not progressed due to the inadequate infrastructure supporting the site. The site has the potential to accommodate significant opportunities for digital and financial services employment opportunities.

The Project will deliver direct private sector investment of £2 million. It is also considered that there will be an additional indirect leverage of £32.4 million. The Project will generate up to 1,000 direct jobs and 500 indirect jobs.

The Project will be delivered between 2022-2025.

The total Project cost will be £11 million.

- **Parc Bryn Cegin, Bangor Project**  
**[Lead Sponsor: 6 Local Authorities]**

Parc Bryn Cegin is a strategic development site close to the A55 on the outskirts of Bangor. The site has remained undeveloped – despite investment in primary infrastructure in the early 2000's.

There is known private sector interest in the site and area, in particular in view of opportunities related to the energy sector and Wylfa Newydd. However, the return on investment is not deemed sufficient to persuade private sector developers to build units for occupation on terms acceptable to potential occupiers.

Funding is required to provide industrial floor space to meet known demand for units. It is proposed that up to 10km<sup>2</sup> of industrial and B1 floor space will be provided on the site. The completed development could be sold on completion, either to end users or on the investment market. There is potential for a return on some of the investment made from the sale of the occupied units.

There is scope to generate 250 indirect jobs, and up to 5 large businesses could be accommodated. It has potential to generate £12m private sector leverage.

The total cost would be £12million.

The Project will be delivered between 2019-2021.

- **Sites and Premises Fund Project**  
**[Lead Sponsor: 6 Local Authorities]**

The purpose of the Project is to enable on-going arrangements to increase the supply and delivery of sites and premises in North Wales.

The defined early “Projects” within the Programme are sites where pump-priming investment is needed to bring forward development. These sites will produce income generated from rents and disposals of land and property that has successfully achieved occupation. This Project will enable income from such sites to be recycled to fund further “land and property” projects in the region.

The Project will require a high-level joint venture between the Welsh Government and North Wales Economic Ambition Board.

Funding is required in order to support the de-risking of certain sites and provide up-front infrastructure costs. There will also be revenue costs associated with this Project to fund a technical expertise unit at a cost of £250,000 annually.

The outcome over 15 year period will be to deliver 100Ha of “shovel ready” business land provided, and 15m<sup>2</sup> of business space provided. There is potential to achieve a private sector leverage of £180m, with the creation of 2,500 indirect or construction jobs.

The total cost of the Project is £41.2m.

The Project will be delivered over a period between 2020 and 2025.

- **Housing Acceleration Project**  
**[Lead Sponsor: 6 Local Authorities]**

The purpose of the Project is to provide easier access to funding for local and regional house-builders to accelerate the rate of house building across the region. The aim is to work in partnership with the Development Bank of Wales to ring-fence, expand the scope of, and promote specific loans which are targeted at the SME house-building sector within the region.

There are a series of “stalled sites” across the region where progress has been halted for a variety of reasons, such as viability issues caused by high infrastructure costs and limited access to affordable finance for SME’s. Problems accessing finance limits the ability to unlock stalled sites which is a key barrier to house-builders in the region.

Supporting small and medium sized house-builders will have a direct knock-on effect on the local economy, as they in turn use local suppliers to source materials and skills.

Funding is required in order to enlarge the Property Development Fund delivered by the Development Bank of Wales, enabling a £30m allocation to be ring-fenced for projects in North Wales.

Only sites with planning permission for housing, will be considered for support under this Project.

The Project will achieve a £190m private sector investment as leverage, and at least 1,000 new homes - with 25% as affordable homes. It has the potential to create up to 1,250 indirect or construction jobs across the region.

The total cost of the Project is £40million.

The Project will be delivered between April 2020 and March 2025.

### **3. Smart Access to Energy Programme**

**This Programme includes a package of Projects that will focus on positioning North Wales as one of the leading UK locations for low carbon energy generation and production, as well as innovative small scale smart local energy networks. It will focus in particular on capitalising on the opportunities from the £15 billion investment taking place as a result of the Wylfa Newydd Nuclear Power Station.**

- **Holyhead Port & Breakwater Project**  
**[Lead Sponsor: 6 Local Authorities]**

The purpose of the Project is to upgrade and improve the infrastructure of Holyhead, a strategic gateway into North Wales and the UK. The Project will provide new deep-water cruise and heavy loading facilities, thereby, maximising the economic impact of the raft of North Wales energy projects, in particular Wylfa Newydd.

The Project will be developed and delivered in partnership with the private sector. Stena Line, the owners and operators of the Port of Holyhead, have made a clear commitment to inject private sector funding into the Project.

There is an urgent need for improved port facilities for the loading and unloading of heavy items. Very strong indications have been given by potential key customers that they will use Holyhead Port if the appropriate infrastructure improvement are delivered. This includes Horizon for the purpose of Wylfa Newydd.

Funding is required in order to support the infrastructure improvements to the Port, including reclamation of a site to deliver a multi-purpose berth and flexible holding area and the development of an integrated deep-water berth, enabling visits from larger cruise ships. There will also be a breakwater restoration scheme as part of the Project and the introduction of technologies to enable Holyhead to become the UK's first "smart" Port.

The Project will deliver up to 1,250 direct jobs and 1,400 indirect of construction jobs, and 17 acres of new and improved port facilities.

The overall Project cost is £80m, with a direct private sector contribution of £45m.

The Project will be delivered between April 2019 and March 2023.

- **Trawsfynydd Power Station Project**  
**[Lead Sponsor: 6 Local Authorities]**

The purpose of this Project is to represent the first phase of infrastructure development to enable further energy-related development to take place at Trawsfynydd.

The site is within the designated area of the Welsh Government's Snowdonia Enterprise Zone – its inherent characteristics, infrastructure and grid connections lending itself well to further energy related development.

Funding is required in order to support complex feasibility studies in relation to the site, and upgrading infrastructure to and from the site. The aim is to enable the site to have the necessary licence to host a Small Modular Reactor.

Strong links have already been forged with key Small Modular Reactor developers, industry bodies, and governments, and consequently the benefits offered by the Trawsfynydd site are now widely recognised.

There is strong synergy between this Project with the ongoing and proposed developments at Bangor University, especially in Research & Development. The activities of the Energy Catapult Project, for example, will align closely with the Trawsfynydd Project, and enable innovation and testing to take place on advanced technology.

The Project will lead to 250 direct jobs, over 1,000 construction jobs, and support over 600 new long-term jobs across the North Wales supply chain. It has the potential to achieve a leverage of £2bn in private sector investment.

The total cost of the Project is £10.1m.

The Project will be delivered between April 2019 and March 2030.

- **Morlais Project**  
**[Lead Sponsor: 6 Local Authorities]**

The Morlais Project is one of the most innovative marine energy Projects in the World. The Project will provide a "plug and play" seabed zone where tidal stream turbine manufacturers can install their turbines to generate energy.

The Project has identified sub-tenant customers with a range of technologies, a deliverable route to commercial readiness and proximity to expandable grid connectivity.

It has the potential to provide an output of 180MW of energy.

This Project has seven named tidal turbine manufactures signed up on the sequential contracts. It will generate a new innovative method of generating energy through renewable sources. The development will be the first of its kind, and may well lead the way in the tidal stream energy sector.

Funding is required in order to support up-front infrastructure costs to develop the “plug and play” model. The Project will deliver a fully consented and connected zone for commercial roll-out, with the potential of private sector leverage of £720m with 8 turbine manufacturing companies establishing bases in the region. The Project will facilitate over 300 direct jobs.

The cost of the Project is £28m and the Project will be delivered between 2019-2022.

- **Smart Local Energy Network Project**  
**[Lead Sponsor: 6 Local Authorities]**

The purpose of this Project is to develop sustainable local energy solutions for communities across the region. There are significant opportunities for local energy generation in the region, but often these are constrained by grid capacity, especially in rural and peripheral areas. The project will support local community owned sustainable electricity generation schemes and develop local energy networks that provide balanced energy generation in rural areas where a mix of hydro, wind and solar generation, supported by storage and gas storage solutions, can provide a 24/7 mix of renewable energy. It will also deliver a pilot Project for producing hydrogen in modular facilities to support decarbonisation of transport networks.

The project would seek to develop local energy networks that improve resilience, use energy generated more locally, and store energy for times when gaps in supply occur.

Funding is required in order to support small-scale infrastructure costs associated with delivering the project. The project would be a means of demonstrating the potential of these solutions in rural and peripheral areas.

The Project will deliver a network of local energy networks across the region, empowering community, enterprises, and creating 25 direct jobs. It has the potential to achieve £3m of private sector leverage.

The overall Project cost is £18m.

The Project will be delivered between April 2019 and March 2023.

#### **4. Smart Technology & Innovation Hubs Programme**

**This Programme includes Projects that will deliver world-class resources in sector leading facilities, building on expertise in the region to maximise local economic impact from research and technology. It will focus in particular on opportunities in low carbon energy and advanced manufacturing.**

- **Sustainable Energy Centre & Nuclear Energy Catapult**  
**[Lead Sponsor: Bangor University]**

The purpose of this Project is to establish world-class facilities and expertise on Sustainable Energy with a strong nuclear focus. The economic opportunities for a Nuclear Energy Catapult arise from the proposal to build a £15bn new nuclear power station Anglesey and the plans by Rolls Royce, GE Hitachi and others to develop SMR technologies relevant to Trawsfynydd.

The plans in place and proposals being developed, namely the BWR Hub & Network, the academic capacity in nuclear engineering within the recently established Nuclear Futures Institute in Bangor University funded through Sêr Cymru, the attraction of world leading academics and the proposals for a Thermal Hydraulic Experimental Facility indicates a clear commitment by Bangor University, Imperial College London, Menai Science Park and their industry partners to bring transformational change to the economy of the region. These have the potential to bring about the biggest economic boost to the region in a generation.

Catapult centres are a network of world-leading centres designed to transform the UK's capability for innovation in specific areas and help drive future economic growth. They are a series of physical centres where the very best of the UK's businesses, scientists and engineers work side by side on late-stage research and development – transforming high potential ideas into new products and services to generate economic growth.

Funding is required in order to develop the Sustainable Energy Centre and the Nuclear Energy Catapult. The private sector will be a key partner in the development of the Centre. Companies such as GE Hitachi, Rolls Royce, The Wood Group and Horizon have shown a clear interest in supporting the Centre.

The Centre will increase innovation in the energy sector, and levels of commercialisation of research in high value sector. It will help to support positioning North Wales as a centre of international expertise in nuclear technology and create high value jobs. It will also increase the number of graduates within high demand disciplines.

It has the potential to create 90 direct jobs, and up to 900 indirect construction jobs.

The cost of the Project is £87.3m.

- **Enterprise Engineering & Optics Centre Project (EEOC)**  
**[Lead Sponsor: Wrexham Glyndwr University]**

The project is to build on Wrexham Glyndwr's existing expertise in advanced manufacturing and optics to provide businesses in the region with facilities, research and innovation and skills in critical areas.

The Enterprise Engineering & Optics Centre will provide facilities targeted to boost high-level skills development for the region and enable SME's and large businesses to work in partnership with WGU on commercially driven research and development.

The provision of new state-of-the-art equipment that has wide industrial, R&D and educational application will support business in the region to deliver on the priority & growth sectors: advanced manufacturing, energy & environment, construction. Funding is therefore required to support the development of the Centre.

Key initiatives within the planned Enterprise Engineering & Optics Centre include: Precision Optics and Photonics (primarily based at St. Asaph); Microwave Technology & Composite Materials and Hydrogen Cell Technology (based in Wrexham).

Some 500 businesses will expect to be accessing services and facilities from the Centre with 30 being co-located on campus.

The total cost of the Project is £30.71m and it will create 145 direct jobs.

The Project will be delivered between April 2019 and March 2024.

- **3D Factory UK**  
**[Lead Sponsor: Wrexham Glyndwr University]**

The project is to build on Wrexham Glyndwr's existing expertise in advanced manufacturing to provide businesses in the region and beyond with production-level capacity in additive manufacturing.

The 3D Factory UK is the UK's first comprehensive commercial production centre for additive manufacturing, based in Wrexham.

The facility will provide commercial production level 3D printing across key materials and multiple technologies. These will include titanium, plastics, steel, nylons, ceramics and printed circuit boards. This technology will support a wide spread of manufacturing and construction industries, from automotive, aerospace and energy to health and medical.

The 3D Factory UK's physical facilities will be underpinned by senior design engineers who will be able to advise commercial partners on technology applications and design solutions and work closely with partner staff on process management.

The rise of the digitally-driven economy and "Industry 4.0" are transforming manufacturing industry and revolutionising the development and prototyping of new products. This facility will be a significant regional asset, placing North Wales at the forefront of manufacturing and supporting our place as a centre for leading-edge engineering.

Funding is required in order to support the development of the facility. The Project cost is £14.9m and it will create 92 direct jobs.

Over 300 businesses will access the facility, capitalising on the first multiple technology platform 3D Manufacturing Facility in the UK.

The Project will be delivered between April 2019 and March 2023.

- **Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub Project**  
**[Lead Sponsor: Grwp Llandrillo Menai]**

The purpose of the Project is to develop the role and contribution of the Grwp Llandrillo Menai Glynllifon campus to support rural economic development, specifically to stimulate economic growth and create jobs. The Rural Economy Hub (REH) will be a regional centre of excellence supporting rural enterprises with the space, knowledge and tools to enable them to reach their productive potential. Customers and users will include pre-start-ups, start-ups and growing SMEs who will take advantage of the support infrastructure, research and innovation excellence to become competitive in the global market place.

The Hub will provide an innovation bridge between research in agriculture methods and the local farming community and the land-based sector in general. The Hub will work closely with GLLMs current Food Technology Centre at Llangefni who have a very positive regional reach and impact. The Hub will enhance this reach and impact across the region.

The REH will be a joint venture between national and regional partners with the aim of supporting the regional rural economy through nurturing entrepreneurship, innovation and enterprise development. The hub will comprise of three facilities: the **Knowledge Centre** – which is centred on creating a pool of “know-how” and practical experience to support innovation and enterprise growth in the region; **Food Enterprise Park** – including incubator space for start-ups and flexible food grade units designed to attract growing SMEs; and the **Demonstration space** – which will stimulate research and innovation in rural development across all sectors, e.g. sustainable energy, robotics and telecommunications.

The project will address the challenge of Brexit, provide higher value employment opportunities for young, skilled people and provide a solid local and regional infrastructure to support the growth and development of the rural economy.

Funding is required in order to support the infrastructure costs associated with the development of the Hub.

The Project will achieve £3m of partner investment and create at least 80 new jobs. Some 2,300sq.m. of dedicated space for specialist food grade accommodation will be developed and near 1,000sq.m. for the Knowledge Centre. Around 200 businesses will expect to be accessing services and facilities from the hub.

The total cost of the Project is £13m.

The Project will be delivered between April 2019 and December 2022.

- **Centre of Environmental Technology and Industrial Accreditation Project**  
**[Lead Sponsor: Bangor University]**

The purpose of the Project is to provide businesses with industrial-scale facilities to enable them to design and test new products and materials, and help achieve the necessary industrial and environmental standards and accreditation.

The Centre for Environmental Biotechnology (CEB) will apply Bangor University’s international excellence in environmental science and biochemistry to contribute to the development, long-term sustainability and competitiveness of a new high-tech industrial sector in North Wales, providing innovative solutions to improve the efficiency and reduce the environmental footprint of traditional processes. This commercial use of natural resources in a sustainable manner or Green Growth – is a key contribution Bangor University can make to the future economic development of the region reflecting true Smart Specialisation whilst maintaining an important sense of environment and place. The CEB project thus contributes significantly to the principle of place-based innovation that is key to the Growth Deal’s Smart Technology and Innovation Resource Hubs programme.

The CEB project is focused on transforming biological processes into industrial/ commercial applications (bioengineering and biocatalysis). One of many potential applications is pulp extraction for paper-making which currently takes place at 80°C, and employs corrosive, toxic and greenhouse-gas producing chemicals such as Sodium Hydroxide, Sodium Sulphide and Chlorine. In efforts to complement the current procedures, enzymatic bio-pulping is becoming an attention-grabbing approach as it offers an eco-friendly, safer, and profitable solution for the pulp and paper industry.

The Accreditation Arm of the Centre will provide Welsh and wider UK businesses with industrial-scale facilities to enable them to design and test new products and materials for a wide range of high value sectors, including: nuclear, solar photovoltaics, photonics, aerospace, automotive and space technology. This facility will enable businesses achieve the necessary industrial and environmental standards and qualifications, providing direct commercial benefits by decreasing time to market and improving product quality/conformance, for example, for export.

The proposed Centre will provide access to highly specialised equipment supported by world-class academic expertise, focussing not just on engineering product design but on commercially vital lifetime and reliability testing. This capacity will be a critical addition to the engineering and manufacturing research and development infrastructure in the region and the UK post Brexit.

The Centre will provide access to highly specialised equipment supported by world-class academic expertise, focussing not just on engineering product design but on commercially vital lifetime and reliability testing. This capacity will be a critical addition to the engineering and manufacturing R&D infrastructure in the region. Private sector project partners include TWI - one of the world's foremost independent research and technology organisations, with expertise in materials joining and engineering processes - Qioptiq Ltd (North Wales) and IQE Ltd (South Wales) - the leading global supplier of advanced wafer products and wafer services to the semiconductor industry and a Welsh company at the forefront of the compound semiconductor industry for more than twenty-five years. Supporters / potential customers from across North Wales include Raytheon UK, QinetiQ Group plc, Denis Ferranti Group, PPM Technology, Siemens, Menai Organics, Dyesol Ltd, and UK Micromachining Ltd.

Funding is required in order to support the development of the Centre, enabling investment in world-class facilities and equipment.

The Project will achieve £20.1m of partner investment and create at least 50 new jobs.

The total cost of the Project is £29.15m.

The Project will be delivered between April 2019 and March 2023.

- **The Wrexham Food Centre Project**  
**[Lead Sponsor: 6 Local Authorities]**

The purpose of the Wrexham Food Centre is to strengthen and enhance the regional food and beverage sector, improve opportunities for local people to start and grow food-based businesses; and demonstrate best practice in energy use and sustainability. These objectives will be achieved through the development and provision of speculative business units and a Hub to support the regional food industry.

Meeting the needs of the food and drink manufacturing sector can be complex considering the varying fit-out requirements for different food categories. Without exception, successful food parks have required public intervention to become established. Best practise indicates the provision of 1,250 sq.ft. (115m<sup>2</sup>) units up to 5,000 sq.ft. (465m<sup>2</sup>) units with the opportunity for businesses to share individual units. The positioning of units is important in order to allow businesses to access multiple units to grow. The North Wales region has a strong food and drink offering and the development of the Wrexham Food Centre is designed to complement existing and prospective projects at mid and west North Wales. Wrexham Food Park should include 'grow on space' for long-term development of the industry as well as enable Wrexham to compete for inward investment. Focus in the short to medium term must be to develop speculative rental units with onsite support to create a small sector cluster and an appropriate skills base for the future.

The Project will achieve c. £300k of private sector rent and service charges pa through providing a total of over 23,000sq.ft. (2,135m<sup>2</sup>) NIA lettable space for production units with associated Hub Office with meeting rooms and hot desk office space. The gross number of jobs supported at maximum capacity is estimated at 60 jobs

The total cost of the Project is £10m.

The Project will be delivered between April 2019 and December 2023.

## 5. *Regional Growth Business Fund & Hubs Programme*

**This Programme will deliver Projects that will provide financial, technical and coherent advice to businesses in the region, focusing in particular on accelerating the rate of decarbonisation and promoting innovation with the business base.**

- **The North Wales Regional Business Growth Fund Project(RBGF)**  
**[Lead Sponsor: 6 Local Authorities]**

The North Wales Regional Business Growth Fund (RBGF) is a targeted, dedicated regional suite of business support aids that will lever in significant private sector investment and accelerate the rate of decarbonisation within the North Wales business base. The RBGF will complement existing services and strategic projects across North Wales, adding substantial value to the area's current offer and ensuring that business support and advice is much more co-ordinated and coherent across the region. The Project has been designed and developed by the private sector in the region.

The focus for the Regional Business Growth Fund is to ***accelerate Innovation, increase Productivity and Harness Local Talent through the following:***

**Accelerating Innovation**

- Cultivate and Commercialise World Leading Research & Development
- Adoption and Commercialisation of Digital - Industry 4.0 technologies across all Sectors
- Increasing Knowledge Transfer and collaboration

**Increasing Productivity**

- Increasing Exports
- Boost Supply Chain / Accreditation development
- Targeted Marketing of the North Wales region

- Supporting Clean Business Growth – Accelerate the decarbonisation of the business base

#### **Harnessing Local Talent**

- Boosting Graduate Recruitment and Retention

Funding is required in order to support the development of the Business Growth Fund.

The Project will achieve circa £100m of private sector investment as leverage, create at least 1250 new jobs, increase export sales by over £80m, deliver 140 significant R&D projects and save 450,000+ tonnes of carbon within the NWMD region. 1000s of businesses will benefit ranging from micro-businesses (which are usually excluded or ineligible) to the very largest in the North Wales economy.

One key component of the Project is the establishment of a “Business Growth Hub” to deliver a more co-ordinated and integrated support network for businesses. It will enable the co-location of existing officers working in various organisations to achieve a more co-ordinated, joined-up service in the region.

The total cost of the Project is £52.5m.

The Project will be delivered April 2019 and March 2024.

## **6. Pathways to Skills & Employment Programme**

**This Programme includes Projects that will tackle economic inactivity and deliver a more co-ordinated skills and employment advice and support service in the region.**

- **Information & Advice Gateway**  
**[Lead Sponsor: 6 Local Authorities]**

The aim of the project is to facilitate the upskilling of the North Wales Population for future employment needs, by improving the regional skills and employment knowledge, advice and support available across the region for individuals, employers and service providers.

This is a bespoke enabling project that will support delivery of a number of other key growth deal projects by ensuring appropriate skilled labour is available at the right time and in the right place that is also aligned to and supportive of national policy.

Work will be focused on increasing the level of impartial employer engagement in the region, to increase and share knowledge about future employment and training needs and stimulate apprenticeships. Providing a brokerage service for skills development and recruitment for large regional projects, to aid successful implementation and capitalise on skills development opportunities. Piloting Welsh Governments ‘Employment Advice Gateway’ in the region, including an Adult Bursary Scheme, to influence and increase the availability of good quality impartial advice and support, to inspire people to train in skills related to future job opportunities in North Wales.

The project will aim to stimulate an 8% shift in skilled labour available in the regional market by 2034, with a 50% increase in the number of higher level apprenticeships in key and growth sectors undertaken and 4000 job opportunities taken up by the local workforce, facilitated via the brokerage service by 2024.

Funding is required to support the pilot, stimulate employer engagement and resource the brokerage service and adult bursary scheme. Private sector investment of circa £1.5m will be leveraged for the brokerage service.

The total cost of the project is £15.3m.

The project will be delivered between 2018 and 2024.

- **Employability Pathway**  
**[Lead Sponsor: 6 Local Authorities]**

It is important to recognise that for those who need help and support in to employment, many are not thinking about work, are not job ready and/or have too many barriers in their way. To support these people on their journey to employment, there is a need to respond locally with bespoke support, but added value in the response can be achieved through a regionally co-ordinated approach.

The aim is to develop a Regional Employability Pathway Framework, which partners in the region would sign up to and use to influence their funding, commissioning and service delivery decisions. The Framework is underpinned by the delivery of a variety of programmes and services both locally and regionally and will be complimented by the National commissioning of the Working Wales employability programme contracts, currently out for tender.

Work will focus on better understanding and co-ordination of the delivery of these programmes and services within the commonality of the Framework, to make best use of available funding, especially in the changing landscape of funding, with the ending of ESF funding.

The project will aim to achieve a 15% reduction in the number of people claiming work related benefits and a 20% reduction in the number of households claiming work related benefits by 2024.

Funding is required initially to stimulate the framework development and co-ordination activity.

The initial cost of the project is £0.3m.

The project will be delivered between 2019 and 2024.

## **7. Skills Centres of Excellence Programme**

**This Programme includes a package of Projects that will improve the skills infrastructure in the region to increase the supply of skills in key growth sectors.**

- **Renewable Energy and Digital Precision Technology Centre**  
**[Lead Sponsor: Coleg Cambria]**

The vision is to create a centre of excellence in renewable energy technologies that will act as an innovation demonstrator platform and test bed for new and existing renewable low carbon technologies. This will facilitate growth in the commercial Agricultural sector in North Wales and wider regions through the efficient use of digital precision primary food production.

The digitalisation of the sectors and the business infrastructure delivering rural sustainability are all closely related with the skills base, and the future development of innovation. The aim is to provide a dynamic workforce with the correct skills and knowledge for the rural and wider Welsh economy.

This project fits into the vision by Welsh Government that Wales becomes a global leader in clean energy and low carbon electricity generation, and the aspirations of 'best in class' of Wales industry in future years.

The project will be achieved by working in partnership and forming close collaborations a range of organisations including: Welsh Government; Natural Resource Wales (NRW); Local Government; A range of appropriate Universities - UK and international; Tillhill / BSW Forestry management, wood processing and transport logistics; LEAF-FACE (Linking Environment and Farming- Food and Countryside Education with links to schools and careers education); National Renewable Energy businesses - The Greener Group, FreEnergy, Aeolus Energy group. Dulas; UK renewables; Wales farming unions (National Farmers Union - Cymru, Farmers Union Wales); Young Farmers Wales (YFC Wales); Levy boards (AHDB, HCC); General public and local/regional communities; plus a further range of blue chip businesses Regional, National and International.

The project will aim to improve the uptake of renewable energy projects with a target of 40 projects over five years, along with improved knowledge transfer to 500 businesses/communities. It will provide a test bed for commercial testing of near market technology, with the target of 20 projects over the next five years, whilst delivering economic rural diversification enhancement.

Capital funding is required towards building development and equipment and machinery purchase. Private/commercial sector and Coleg Cambria investment of £5m each is being leveraged, to match fund the ask from the Growth Deal bid.

The total capital cost of the project is £20m

The capital element of the project will be delivered within 2 years of the funding being secured.

- **North Wales Tourism & Hospitality Centre of Excellence**  
**[Lead Sponsor: Grwp Llandrillo Menai]**

The Tourism and Hospitality Centre of Excellence aims to provide targeted skills development, product research and business support across North Wales. It seeks to increase the resilience of tourism businesses, support the development of sustainable high value tourism jobs, position tourism as an aspiration career choice and support the growth and value of the tourism industry in North Wales.

It will operate in partnership with the private sector as a hub and spoke model. The primary skills excellence hub will be a purpose-built new facility at Coleg Llandrillo in Rhos-on-Sea with much of the training and development being delivered by partner tourism businesses across the region, supported by the very latest training delivery technology in bespoke training facilities.

The hub and spokes will provide training, exhibitions, taster sessions and real work experience to several cohorts including: school pupils, full-time post 16 learners, apprentices and those who are not in employment, education or training. Facilities will be developed that support the development of the skills in demand across the sector with each spoke potentially developing a different area of training. An integral part of this will be that each spoke will commit to operating a high quality apprentice scheme that could be in partnership with other smaller or newer business.

Strong engagement and support is being demonstrated by the private sector with partners involved so far including Zipworld, Surf Snowdonia, Always Aim High, Continuum/Greenwood Forest Park, Dylan's, North Wales Tourism, British Hospitality Association, Llandudno Hospitality Association, Wrexham County Council, Conwy County Borough Council, DWP/JCP. Letters to formally register their interest in the project have been received from a number of these partners.

The project aims to achieve 45 new junior apprenticeships and 50 new apprenticeship opportunities, with 480 hospitality and tourism level 1 to 3 qualifications available at the Hub and Spokes across North Wales.

Funding is required to establish the hub and spoke model, with a potential leverage of £1.25m private sector investment and £5m investment from Grwp Llandrillo Menai.

The total anticipated cost of the project is £16.25m

A timeframe for the delivery of the project currently being developed.

- **North Wales Rail Engineering Centre of Excellence**  
**[Lead Sponsor: Grwp Llandrillo Menai]**

The purpose is to develop workforce skills in rail engineering that support rail infrastructure improvements in Wales and North West / Mid England.

Aligned with the aspirations set out in Growth Track 360, the West and Wales Rail Prospectus and discussions between Network Rail, Grwp Llandrillo Menai and Denbighshire County Council, this project will provide a highly skilled regional workforce, able to support the significant rail infrastructure improvements required across North Wales. To achieve this, a new North Wales Rail Engineering Centre of Excellence will be developed in the town of Rhyl.

The centre will house a wide range of skills development opportunities across the broad spectrum of rail engineering. Training will be offered to those seeking employment and to those wishing to upskill. Initially the centre will focus on signal engineering to meet the demands of the ongoing upgrade to the North Wales line.

The project will aim to deliver 1000 training days for upskilling, 24 new junior apprenticeships, 36 rail engineering trainees and 24 rail engineering apprenticeships in the each year. With the development of a new higher education programme in rail engineering in year two.

Capital funding is required to fund the development of the infrastructure of the facility and will leverage £0.5m from Network Rail, along with £3.5m from Grwp Llandrillo Menai.

The total capital cost of the project is £7.5m

The construction of the centre can potentially commence in the summer 2019 with completion the following year.

- **Regional STEM – Achieving Excellence in Skills Development**  
**[Lead Sponsor: TBC – currently with Regional Skills Partnership]**

This project is in its early development phase and is currently being scoped by the Regional Skills Partnership, ensuring it interlinks with other STEM related projects taking place in the region.

- **North Wales Health & Social Care with Higher Education –Achieving Excellence in Skills Development**  
[Lead Sponsor: TBC – currently with Regional Skills Partnership]

This project is currently at concept stage and the Regional Skills Partnership has commissioned a piece of work to understand the skills requirements in the region for Health and Social Care, to inform the scoping of a solution.

- **North Wales Digital Automation –Achieving Excellence in Skills Development**  
[Lead Sponsor: TBC – currently with Regional Skills Partnership]

This project is co-dependent on the Digital Skills for North Wales project. It is currently at concept stage and the Regional Skills Partnership has commissioned a piece of work to understand the skills requirements in the region for digital automation, to inform the scoping of a solution.

## **8. Strategic Transport Programme**

**This Programme will include Projects to improve local transport infrastructure to support accessibility and connectivity.**

- **Strategic Transport Project**  
[Lead Sponsor: 6 Local Authorities]

The purpose of the project is to improve transport connectivity across North Wales. The transport network is heavily dependent of private cars and good vehicles to service business and tourism. Journey times are long, there is increasing congestion on the road network, public transport provision is fragmented and there is little integration between transport modes.

The project will deliver a number of Integrated Transport Zones across North Wales. These are areas where there is conflict between local journeys and longer distance travel on the strategic road network. This causes specific congestion points, impacting on access to employment and services, reducing the ability to travel to work and adds costs to business supply chains.

Integrated Travel Zones have been identified for the following locations:

- Deeside Corridor
- A483 and Wrexham Town Centre
- Prestatyn, Abergel, St Asaph and Llandudno, Conwy, Colwyn Bay
- Caernarfon Menai Corridor
- North Anglesey

In addition there are some region wide projects aimed at preparing the ground for decarbonisation of transport, improving integration between modes and providing public transport solutions in rural and peripheral areas currently dependent on private cars for transport.

Funding is required in order to deliver intertwined transport projects in the areas identified above. The project will be delivered between March 2019 and March 2024.

The project supports all other projects in the Proposition bid and outcomes and outputs are likely to be related to transport objectives rather than specific job and private investment. Transport is fundamentally an enabler of economic growth and without the interventions being developed, growth will be stifled. Outcomes to be achieved from the project are:

- Enable businesses to access markets, goods, services and labour
- The local population to access employment, education and services
- Visitors to access destinations, accommodation and attractions in the region
- A fully integrated transport system that enables non private car journeys to be undertaken easily and cost effectively
- A sustainable transport infrastructure that does not damage the environment

The cost of the Project is £150million. It is estimated that the Project will create over 1,950 indirect or construction jobs across the region.

The Project will be delivered between April 2019 and March 2024.