



**Bwrdd Uchelgais Economaidd  
Gogledd Cymru**  
**North Wales  
Economic Ambition Board**

**NORTH WALES ECONOMIC AMBITION BOARD DECISION NOTICE**

**DATE OF DECISION**

15 March 2024

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**SUBJECT**

Item 5: 2024/25 REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET

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**DECISION**

To approve:

1. The 2023/24 Revenue Budget as presented in Appendix 1.
  2. Funding contributions to include the partner contributions and local authorities' supplementary contributions.
  3. Capital Budget for the Growth Deal as presented in Appendix 2.
  4. Extension of the fixed term staff contracts from March 2025 to March 2026.
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**REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

In order to operate effectively within the funding available, the NWEAB requires an annual budget to be approved.

Appendix 1 sets out the proposed budget per expenditure heading and the corresponding funding streams for the year.

Appendix 2 sets out the proposed capital budget per project and the corresponding capital funding for the Growth Deal of £240m.

Appendix 3 provides a summary of the 2024/25 budget against the draft budget for 2025/26.

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**DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST**

No declarations of personal interest were received.

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**ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION**

The Statutory Officers were consulted to seek their views, which have been included in the report.

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**SUBJECT**

Item 6: INVESTMENT STRATEGY

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**DECISION**

**To approve the detailed Investment Strategy comprising both the principles and plan, accepting that realising aspects of its implementation are subject to funding being secured.**

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**REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

The investment strategy and plan build on assurance that our collective ambition to deliver the £1bn Growth Deal for North Wales can be achieved.

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**DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST**

No declarations of personal interest were received.

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**ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION**

The Statutory Officers were consulted to seek their views, which have been included in the report.

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**SUBJECT**

Item 7: FUNCTIONS OF THE NORTH WALES ECONOMIC AMBITION BOARD - TRANSFER TO THE CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

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**DECISION**

1. To support the progress update on work to establish the Corporate Joint Committee (CJC), and to respond to the tasks required by its statutory functions.
  2. To support the proposed plan and provisional timetable for the transfer of the North Wales Growth Deal to the North Wales CJC.
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**REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

In December 2021/January 2022, the Cabinet and Executives in each of the six Local Authorities agreed, in principle, that the functions of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board should be transferred by way of a delegation agreement to the CJC. The statutory framework and the establishment of the CJC means that the proposed transfer needs to be progressed.

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**DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST**

No declarations of personal interest were received.

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**ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION**

The Statutory Officers were consulted to seek their views, which have been included in the report.

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**SUBJECT**

Item 8: NORTH WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE (CJC) - EXTENDING THE PART-TIME SECONDMENT OF THE EAB PORTFOLIO DIRECTOR AS INTERIM CJC CHIEF EXECUTIVE

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**DECISION**

1. To support the extension of the arrangement to release the Portfolio Director's time for two days per week until 30 June 2024 on a part time secondment basis to undertake the Interim Chief Executive role.
  2. It was noted that all employment and associated costs will continue to be covered by the North Wales CJC.
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**REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

Taking into consideration the Councils' decision, in principle, to the transfer of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board's functions in assisting the region to establish a Corporate Joint Committee and to ensure that the Ambition Board's interests are safeguarded as the CJC moves forward.

By now, the 1 July 2024 has been identified as the date for the final transfer of the Board's functions to the CJC and a report outlining the steps to be taken in order to realise that transfer will be submitted to the Corporate Joint Committee's next meeting on 22 March 2024.

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**DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST**

A declaration of personal interest was received from Alwen Williams (Portfolio Director) due to her appointment as interim Chief Executive of the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee. It was noted that it was a prejudicial interest and she withdrew from the meeting for the item.

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**ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION**

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**SUBJECT**

Item 10: 4G+ (CONNECTED KEY SITES AND CORRIDORS) - OUTLINE BUSINESS CASE

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**DECISION**

1. To approve the Outline Business Case for the 4G+ (Connected Key Sites and Corridors) project subject to the portfolio management office addressing the matters set out in the report, as described in Section 7, and recommend to the Economic Ambition Board that a Full Business Case is prepared for the Board to consider.
  2. To authorise the Portfolio Director in consultation with the Host Authority Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer to agree draft terms in accordance with this report for approval by the NWEAB as a basis for the final funding arrangements for the project which will form the basis of the Grant Offer Letter which will be agreed by the Board at the Full Business Case stage.
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**REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

To seek the Portfolio Board's approval of the Outline Business Case for the 4G+ (Connected Key Sites and Corridors) project.

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**DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST**

No declarations of personal interest were received.

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**ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION**

The Statutory Officers were consulted to seek their views, which have been included in the report.

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**NORTH WALES ECONOMIC AMBITION BOARD DECISION NOTICE**

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**SUBJECT**

Item 11: HYDROGEN SPONSOR CHALLENGE - FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

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**DECISION**

- To support the recommendation for the following projects:**
    - HSC01 – North East Wales Hydrogen Hub (NEW – H2):** To invite the project to join the North Wales Growth Deal, subject to agreeing an MOU with the project sponsor.
    - HSC03 – Project HydRive:** While not inviting the project to join the Growth Deal, to support the concept and further development of the project with the PMO with a view that the project could be considered for funding through the Smart Local Energy fund once launched.
  - To delegate authority to the Portfolio Director and Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-chair to confirm conditions with the project sponsor of HSC01 and to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the project sponsor clarifying the requirements and expectations relating to Growth Deal Funding.**
  - To note that inviting a project to join the Growth Deal is not a decision to invest in the project. In line with the usual process to access funding, all projects will be required to produce a business case for consideration by the Board.**
  - To note that supporting the principle of project HSC03 does not provide any guarantee of funding through the alternative sources suggested. Any future application would need to be assessed on merit against the criteria set out.**
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**REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

A decision is required following the conclusion of the Hydrogen Sponsor Challenge.

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**DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST**

No declarations of personal interest were received.

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**ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION**

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**SUBJECT**

Item 12: DEESIDE ANAEROBIC DIGESTION PLANT - OPTIONS PAPERS

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**DECISION**

**To defer consideration of the Full Business Case in accordance with Option A and to ask for a further report to the next meeting of the Board with a recommendation on the way forward for the project.**

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**REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

To provide clarity to the Portfolio Management Office and the project sponsor on the next steps in relation to the project.

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**DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST**

No declarations of personal interest were received.

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**ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION**

The Statutory Officers were consulted to seek their views, which have been included in the report.

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