



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

**NORTH WALES ECONOMIC AMBITION BOARD DECISION NOTICE**

**DATE OF DECISION**

19 July 2024

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**SUBJECT**

Item 5: NORTH WALES GROWTH DEAL - QUARTER 1 PERFORMANCE AND RISK REPORT  
2024/25

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**DECISION**

- 1. To consider and note the Quarter 1 Performance Report and updated Portfolio Risk Register.**
  - 2. To approve the Quarter 1 Performance Report to the Welsh Government and UK Government, as well as the local authority scrutiny committees.**
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**REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

Quarterly reporting on progress against the North Wales Growth Deal is one of the requirements of the Final Growth Deal Agreement. Following consideration by the Ambition Board, the reports will be shared with the Welsh Government, UK Government and the local authority scrutiny committees.

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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: STATEMENT OF NORTH WALES ECONOMIC AMBITION BOARD ACCOUNTS FOR 2023/24

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**DECISION**

**To accept and note the Ambition Board's Draft Statement of Accounts (subject to audit) for 2023/24.**

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**REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

There is no statutory requirement for the Board to approve the draft Statement of Accounts of the Joint Committee, but we consider that the submission of the draft statement for information is good practice to follow.

The Board will need to approve the final version following receipt of the Audit Wales report, and the submission of the draft now is an opportunity for Board members to consider the content and ask financial officers about the content. This is an opportunity for members to equip themselves with relevant information to consider relevant risks, and other issues that will be subject to audit, in their context.

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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: ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

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**DECISION**

**To accept and approve the Annual Governance Statement.**

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**REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

The Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 (as amended) sets fixed requirements on public bodies that operate partnership management arrangements through formal joint committees.

Regulation 5 requires the Joint Committee to review and approve annually a statement of internal control. To comply with this requirement the Annual Governance Statement has been prepared. The document has been produced to offer a framework to the Economic Ambition Board's operation.

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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**

### **DATE OF DECISION**

19 July 2024

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### **SUBJECT**

Item 8: LPWAN (LOW-POWER, WIDE-AREA NETWORK) - BUSINESS JUSTIFICATION CASE

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### **DECISION**

1. That the Board approve the Business Justification Case for the LPWAN project and authorise the Portfolio Director, in consultation with the Chair, Vice-Chair, Section 151 Officer and the Monitoring Officer to procure and establish the required frameworks for the delivery of the project, subject to the Portfolio Management Office addressing the outstanding issues set out in section 7.1 of the report.
  2. That the Board note the process for accessing funding through the frameworks will involve the submission of a delivery plan for each local authority area and delegate authority to the Portfolio Director in consultation with the Lead Member for the Digital Programme and the Digital Programme Board to approve the delivery plans and delegate solely to the Portfolio Director the subsequent allocation of funding through the frameworks.
  3. That the Board note that the LPWAN Business Justification Case is a sub-set of the larger Connected Campus project from which funding will be allocated and agree to the principle that any underspend within the LPWAN project budget is ringfenced to the Connected Campus project in the first instance.
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### **REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

To seek the Board's approval of the Business Justification Case for the LPWAN Project.

As a project delivered by Ambition North Wales, approval is required by the Board to establish the frameworks that will deliver the project. Due to the nature and value of the project, in line with the Better Business Case guidance a Business Justification Case is presented that requires only a single approval from the Board.

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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 10: CYDNERTH - OUTLINE BUSINESS CASE

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**DECISION**

1. To approve the Outline Business Case for the Cydnerth project, subject to Menter Môn Morlais Cyf, addressing the matters noted in the report, as described in Section 7.1, and requesting a Full Business Case to be prepared for the Board's consideration.
  2. To authorise the Portfolio Director, in consultation with the Host Authority's Section 151 Officer and the Monitoring Officer, to agree on draft terms in accordance with the Report as a basis for the final financial arrangements for the project, which will determine the funding to be agreed by the Board at the Full Business Case stage.
  3. To note that the proposed funding model for the project is 100% commercial loan, subject to confirmation of the subsidy control position on approval of the Full Business Case, and approves in principle that the interest from the loan once the cost of borrowing payments for the loan element have been paid, is allocated to a reserve to be used to fund the Portfolio Management Office in future years.
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**REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

To seek the Board's approval of the Outline Business Case for the Cydnerth 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**

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

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**SUBJECT**

Item 11: ENVIRONMENTAL BIOTECHNOLOGY CENTRE - BUSINESS JUSTIFICATION CASE

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**DECISION**

1. To approve the Business Justification Case for the Environmental Biotechnology Centre and to authorise the Portfolio Director, in consultation with the chair, the Section 151 Officer and the Monitoring Officer, to agree and enter into a funding agreement with Bangor University for the delivery of the project, subject to Bangor University addressing the outstanding issues noted in Section 7 of the Report and securing all necessary internal approvals for the project.
  2. To note that there will be two further procurement steps to deliver the project and to delegate to the Portfolio Director, in consultation with the Chair, Vice-chair, Section 151 Officer and the Monitoring Officer to approve procurement details and allocate prior to releasing funding for these steps.
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**REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

To seek the Board's approval to the Full Business Justification Case for the Environmental Biotechnology Centre Project.

Bangor University has completed the procurement work for the project with a plan to buy equipment. The Business Justification Case will be submitted to the Board for a final Investment decision. Due to the nature and value of the project, in accordance with the 'Better Business Case' guidance, a Business Justification Case is submitted, asking for a single approval from the Board only.

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**DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST**

A declaration of personal interest was received by Chris Drew (Bangor University). It was noted that it was a prejudicial interest and he withdrew from the meeting for the item.

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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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