



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

NORTH WALES ECONOMIC AMBITION BOARD DECISION NOTICE

DATE OF DECISION

08 November 2024

SUBJECT

Item 5: FINAL ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024 AND THE RELEVANT AUDIT

DECISION

To approve:

- 'ISA260' report by Audit Wales in respect of NWEAB.
 - NWEAB's final Statement of Accounts for 2023/24 (post-audit).
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REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The final version (post-audit) of the Statement of Accounts for 2023/24 is presented here. The main amendments since the pre-audit version were outlined in Appendix 3 of the Audit Wales 'ISA260'.

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST

No declarations of personal interest were received.

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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08 November 2024

SUBJECT

Item 6: NORTH WALES GROWTH DEAL - QUARTER 2 PERFORMANCE AND RISK REPORT 2024/25

DECISION

- To consider and note the Quarter 2 Performance Report and updated Portfolio Risk Register.
 - To approve the submission of the Quarter 2 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.

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST

No declarations of personal interest were received.

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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08 November 2024

SUBJECT

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

DECISION

- 1. To accept the update on work to establish the North Wales CJC including the transfer of the Growth Deal and progressing on tasks required to carry out the statutory duties of the CJC.**
 - 2. To authorises the Portfolio Director to agree a revised programme and transfer date with the Local Authorities and Higher and Further Education partners within the target date of 31 March 2025.**
 - 3. To approve the extension of the temporary arrangements to release the Portfolio Director's time for two days per week to undertake the Interim Chief Executive role until 31 March 2025 or the transfer date, depending on which comes first.**
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REASONS FOR THE DECISION

In December 2021/January 2022, the Cabinet and Executives in each of the six Local Authorities and the wider Ambition Board partnership agreed, in principle, that the functions of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board (the Ambition Board) should be transferred by way of a delegation agreement to the CJC. The statutory framework and the establishment of the CJC require the focus and resources needed to develop the transfer work. Approval from all partner organisations and governments is required before the transfer can take place.

The functions and partnership organisation of the Ambition Board are currently set out in GA2. This also includes the governance and long-term arrangements for financially supporting the Growth Deal and the Portfolio Management Office to deliver the plan. Under the proposed delegation agreement, the Growth Deal and associated financial arrangements would transfer to the CJC and would respond in part to the power given to the CJC to promote regional economic well-being. This Economic Well-being function co-exists with the economic development powers of each of the councils in the north. Regional partners will need to agree and co-develop how these functions will work

regionally, as part of the establishment of the CJC. It also needs to be recognised that the original decisions in principle to transfer the Growth Deal were taken when the CJC concept was still being developed. Therefore, the exact model for the transfer arrangements will be agreed with partners as part of the next steps.

In order to implement the transfer, there are key legal issues that are being Developed

1. Agreement with the Governments on the transfer (novation) of the Growth Deal to the CJC and the model for achieving this. The principle of transfer has received government support.
2. Formal decisions by the parties to Governance Agreement 2 (GA2) and the CJC to agree to transfer the functions of the Growth Deal and the function of the Accountable Body to the CJC.
3. Create a Collaboration Agreement between the GA2 parties and the Corporate Joint Committee. The agreement will be a successor to GA2 and will in many ways reflect the current arrangements. However, the different corporate status of the CJC will mean that aspects of the agreement will need to be approached in different ways. These reflect the fact that GA2 created a Joint Committee of Constituent Councils with delegated powers while the CJC (despite its name) was a statutory corporation. The aim, however, is to reflect and seek to replicate the partnership arrangements within the transfer model and to provide a contractual framework to ensure that the Growth Deal is delivered and to continue the partners' financial commitments to the project.

1 November has been set as a provisional target date for the transfer of functions from the Ambition Board to the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee. This date was contingent on the receipt of the required transfer approvals and a number of key steps and decisions remain incomplete. These include:

- agreement on the governance model for decision making.
- circulating and agreeing the draft GA3 (successor to GA2) to make coding arrangements.
- reaching a novation agreement for the Growth Deal with the Welsh Government.
- completion of a GA3 partnership agreement.

Therefore a transfer date of 1 November 2024 is unachievable.

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 Corporate Joint Committee. It was noted that it was a prejudicial interest and she withdrew from the meeting during the discussion, after the presentation of part of the Report.

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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Item 9: UPDATE ON THE 2024 PORTFOLIO BUSINESS CASE

DECISION

1. To approve the 2024 update of the Portfolio Business Case and its submission to the Welsh Government and UK Government as part of the annual award of funding process.
 2. To request that the Portfolio Director submit all required documentation and change request form to the Welsh and UK Governments as part of the annual award of funding process and delegate to the Portfolio Director, in consultation with the Vice-chair of the North Wales Ambition Board, the Monitoring Officer and the s151 Officer, authority to negotiate with the Welsh Government and UK Government on the timing of the award of funding and to make any minor amendments for either government.
 3. To note the Gateway Review report and request that the Portfolio Director develop an action plan to address the recommendations.
 4. To approve the withdrawal of the Deeside Anaerobic Digestion plant project from the North Wales Growth Deal.
 5. To agree the approach to projects that are at risk of reallocation of funding and ask the Portfolio Director to initiate the process and report to the Board on the main decision points set out in Appendix 5.
 6. To arrange a meeting with relevant Welsh Government and UK Government Ministers, ensuring that additional strategic matters are arranged in advance to provide further certainty in the North Wales Economic Ambition Board Portfolio Business Case.
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REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The reasons were stated within the report.

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST

No declarations of personal interest were received.

ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION

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