NORTH WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE
21/03/25

Present: Chair: Councillor Mark Pritchard (Wrexham County Borough Council)

Councillors: Dave Hughes (Flintshire County Council), Nia Jeffreys (Cyngor Gwynedd), Charlie McCoubrey (Conwy County Borough Council), Gary Pritchard (Isle of Anglesey County Council), Jason McLellan (Denbighshire County Council) and Edgar Owen (Eryri National Park Authority).

Chief Officers: Dylan Williams (Isle of Anglesey County Council), Jenny Williams (Conwy County Borough Council), Neal Cockerton (Flintshire County Council), Linda Roberts (Wrexham County Borough Council), Dafydd Gibbard (Cyngor Gwynedd) and Jonathan Cawley (Eryri National Park Authority).

Statutory Officers
Iwan Evans (Monitoring Officer).

Other officers present:
Alwen Williams (Interim Chief Executive of the CJC), Hedd Vaughan Evans (Head of Operations), Sian Pugh (Assistant Head of Finance), Claire Incledon (Solicitor), Dave Hole (Corporate Joint Committee Implementation Programme Manager), Geraint Owen (Cyngor Gwynedd) and Jack Latkovic (Corporate Joint Committee Democracy Officer).

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:
- Graham Boase (Denbighshire County Council)
- Alwyn Jones (Wrexham County Borough Council) with Linda Roberts deputising
- Rhun ap Gareth (Conwy County Borough Council) with Jenny Williams deputising
- Dewi Morgan (Chief Finance Officer)

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

A declaration of personal interest was received from Alwen Williams for Item 10 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 during the discussion.

3. URGENT ITEMS

None to note.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Chair signed the minutes of the previous meeting held on 21 March 2025 as a true record.

5. TRANSFER OF THE ECONOMIC AMBITION BOARD AND GROWTH DEAL TO THE CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

The report was presented by the Interim Chief Executive of the CJC and the Monitoring Officer.

RESOLVED:

1. **To agree to enter into a Delivery and Funding Agreement whereby the role of Accountable body, responsibility for the delivery of the North Wales Growth Deal and funding arrangements for the Growth Deal are transferred to the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee on or before the 31 March, 2025.**

2. **To agree to novate and assign as required the delivery of the North Wales Growth Deal and rights and obligations in all incoming funding agreement held by Cyngor Gwynedd as Accountable Body on behalf of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board transfer to the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee on or before 31 March, 2025.**

3. **To agree to transfer and novate and/or assign all interests in the portfolio of projects funded by the North Wales Growth Deal together with any ancillary agreements, charges and leases from Cyngor Gwynedd as Accountable Body on behalf of NWEAB to the NWCJC on or before 31 March, 2025.**

4. **To agree to the transfer and/or assignment of all financial balances, monies due and assets as held on behalf of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board by Cyngor Gwynedd to the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee on or before 31 March, 2025.**

5. **To delegate authority to the Interim Chief Executive, in consultation with the Monitoring Officer and Section 151 Officer, to agree and execute the final form agreements, deeds and all other legal documents necessary to implement the transfers referred to in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 above by or before 31 March, 2025.**

6. **To agree to the transfer of accountability to the CJC and that the CJC accept responsibility for decision making for the implementation of the North Wales Growth Deal subject to novation of the Growth Deal and approval of additional Standing Orders incorporating the key terms of the Joint Working Agreement between the 6 Constituent Councils and 4 Education parties.**

DISCUSSION

Members were reminded that the date set for the transfer of the functions of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board and the Growth Deal to the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee was 1 April 2025. It was confirmed that the procedures of all relevant Local Authorities had approved the transfer stating that the Report detailed the steps that needed to be taken in order to finalise in a timely manner.

It was explained that the Joint Committee would receive agreement imminently from the Growth Deal partners for this transfer.

It was noted that there had been a delay in the arrangements for receiving agreement from the Welsh Government to relieve Cyngor Gwynedd of its responsibilities and the Growth Deal funding agreement allowing the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee to take responsibility for it from 1 April 2025. It was emphasised that this agreement was crucial for the transfer. It was explained that a draft agreement had been sent to the Welsh Government in February 2025. Gratitude was expressed that the Welsh Government had

confirmed on 21 March 2025, following lengthy discussions, that this agreement was acceptable for finalising the transfer. It was advised that the Joint Committee could approve the transfer, subject to the Welsh Government's commitment that officers would receive an agreement to be signed by 25 March 2025, to ensure that the proposed timetable was adhered to.

It was highlighted that the decisions set out within the Report referred to the winding up of the functions of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board on 31 March 2025. It was also noted that the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee would take on those functions from 1 April 2025.

All officers were thanked for their work in striving to ensure that everything was in place for this transition in a timely manner, and Welsh Government was also thanked for its co-operation on the matter.

6. ECONOMIC WELL-BEING SUB-COMMITTEE

The report was submitted by the Monitoring Officer.

RESOLVED

1. **To approve the appointment of the representatives from each partner organisation as co-opted (non-voting) Members of the Economic Well-being Sub-committee.**

2. **To confirm the membership of the Well-being Sub-committee as set out in the following table:**

ECONOMIC WELL-BEING SUB-COMMITTEE		
Council	Councillor Member	Voting Members
Gwynedd	Cllr Nia Jeffreys	Approved by CJC on September 2024
Conwy	Cllr Charlie McCoubrey	
Wrexham	Cllr Mark Pritchard	
Anglesey	Cllr Gary Pritchard	
Denbighshire	Cllr Jason McLellan	
Flintshire	Cllr Dave Hughes	
	Co-opted Members	Non-voting Members
Bangor University	Professor Edmund Burke Paul Spencer (subs)	co-opted for a 2-year period to 1 April 2027
Wrexham University	Professor Joe Yates Richard Day (subs)	
Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	Aled Jones-Griffiths Gwenllian Roberts (subs)	
Coleg Cambria	Yana Williams Steve Jackson (subs)	
Chair of the Regional Skills Partnership	David Roberts	
Chair of the Business Advisory Board	TBC	
Eryri National Park	TBC	

DISCUSSION

The Report was presented stating that it confirmed the membership of the Economic Well-being Sub-Committee of the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee. It was noted that the

establishment of this Sub-Committee was key to supporting the transfer of the Growth Deal to the Joint Committee and taking control of the functions of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board.

The Wrexham University membership was corrected to state that Mr Moss Garde was the substitute in the Co-option Agreement.

It was pointed out that every effort was being made to establish this Sub-Committee to be of the same nature as the Economic Ambition Board and therefore it was confirmed that all Co-opted Members were non-voting Members. It was highlighted that the Co-opted Members identified within the report were already members of the Economic Ambition Board as advisors.

It was explained that a further Report would be submitted to the Corporate Joint Committee at its next meeting, in order to share information on co-option matters including voting rights, for clarity.

7. BUSINESS ADVISORY BOARD AND NON-EXECUTIVE ADVISORS

The report was presented by the Head of Operations.

RESOLVED:

1. **To approve the Terms of Reference and appointment process for the establishment of a new Business Advisory Board following transfer of the Growth Deal and to delegate the implementation process to the Interim Chief Executive.**

2. **To approve the role description for the two new Non-Executive Advisor roles and authorise the Interim Chief Executive to undertake all necessary steps to procure candidates to be recommended for appointment to the CJC's Economic Well-being Sub-committee.**

3. **To delegate to the Interim Chief Executive, in consultation with the Monitoring Officer, the Chair and Vice Chair the authority to make any minor amendments to the Terms of Reference and role descriptions in response to any feedback received from Welsh and UK Governments prior to implementation.**

DISCUSSION

The Terms of Reference of a new private sector advisory body (Advisory Business Board) were presented as well as role descriptions for two new Non-Executive Advisors. It was explained that developing these would ensure that the procedures of the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee met what was expected in order to implement the Growth Deal. It was added that presenting these was also in response to the Welsh and UK Governments' recommendations regarding appointing non-executive advisors.

It was confirmed that officers had received legal advice on the model for the appointment of non-executive advisors and it was noted that the Corporate Joint Committee arrangements were based on local government legal requirements for individuals who were in a role and receiving payment for services.

The employment package of the non-executive advisors was considered and it was asked if consideration had been given to a daily fee for their services. In response, the Interim Chief Executive confirmed that work had been carried out in order to establish a daily pay scale

for the nature of the appropriate advisory service. It was explained that there was a wide range of advisory employment arrangements and that they were very diverse. It was confirmed that salaries for daily advisory services would be determined as the Joint Committee succeeded in refining the type of advisory service required.

In response to considerations that the non-executive advisors would be required to have Welsh language skills in order to be appointed, the Interim Chief Executive confirmed that the Welsh language was vital to the work of the Joint Committee and confirmed that every effort would be made to try to find advisors who were Welsh-speaking in order to assist the work of the Joint Committee. However, it was noted that consideration would be given to any application in order to determine whether the right level of advice would be provided to the Advisory Business Board in order to inform decisions of value to the region. It was confirmed that these roles would be advertised to indicate that Welsh language skills would be desirable but not necessary.

8. CONTRACT PROCEDURE RULES

The report was presented by the Head of Operations.

RESOLVED:

1. **To adopt the amendments to the Contract Procedure Rules and that the Constitution be updated accordingly.**
2. **To delegate to the Monitoring Officer the power to make the following minor variations to the Constitution:**
    - **a. Legal or technical amendments that do not materially affect the Constitution.**
    - **b. Changes required to be made to remove any inconsistency, ambiguity or typographical error.**
    - **c. Wording so as to put into effect any decision of the CJC or its sub-committees or officer exercising delegated powers.**
    - **d. Changes required to reflect any changes to job or role titles.**

DISCUSSION

It was explained that arrangements had been amended following the emergence of the Social Partnership and Public Procurement (Wales) Act 2023. Revised regulations of procurement arrangements had been introduced for the operations of the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee.

Gratitude was expressed for the regional and expert cooperation to ensure that the documentation was revised to be current in line with the legal requirements.

9. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED to exclude the press and public from the meeting during the discussion of Item 10 as it is likely that exempt information will be disclosed as defined in Paragraph 14 of Annex 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 - Information regarding the financial or business transactions of any particular person (including the authority holding such information).

There is an acknowledged public benefit in being open about the use of public resources and related financial issues. It is also acknowledged that there are occasions, in order to protect the financial and commercial interests that matters related to such information need to be discussed without being publicised. The report is specific about agreeing

appointment arrangements including job details and conditions and terms of pay that will be subject to a competitive recruitment process. I also note that the agreed information will be published as part of an open appointment process. Prematurely publishing this draft information can undermine the recruitment process. This would be contrary to the wider public interest of securing the best composite output. For these reasons, I am satisfied that the matter was closed despite the public interest.

10. APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE FOR THE CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

The report was submitted by the Corporate Director of Cyngor Gwynedd.

RESOLVED:

1. **To agree to establish a Chief Executive post on a permanent full-time basis at an annual salary of up to £125,000.**

2. **To authorise the commencement of a recruitment process to appoint a Chief Executive.**

3. **That the language requirements for the post in the Person Specification are that the Welsh language is 'desirable' and ensure a commitment from the successful candidate to learn the language (if they do not already speak Welsh).**

4. **To confirm that the existing interim arrangements in relation to the undertaking of the functions of the Chief Executive of the Corporate Joint Committee and the Portfolio Director of the Growth Deal are extended until a permanent Chief Executive is able to undertake their responsibilities.**

5. **To confirm that conducting the recruitment process, including advertising, is delegated to the lead Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair.**

DISCUSSION

The Report was discussed.

The meeting commenced at 13:00 and concluded at 13:55

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(Chair)