

Meeting

NORTH WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

Date and Time

2.30 pm, FRIDAY, 13TH JUNE, 2025

Location

Cyfarfod Rhithiol / Virtual Meeting

Contact Point

Annes Sion

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(DISTRIBUTED 09/06/25)

NORTH WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

Council Members

Cllr. Jason McLellan- Denbighshire County Council
Cllr. Gary Pritchard - Isle of Anglesey County Council
Cllr. Charlie McCoubury - Conwy County Borough Council
Cllr. Mark Pritchard - Wrexham County Borough Council
Cllr. Dave Hughes - Flintshire County Council
Cllr. Nia Jeffeys - Cyngor Gwynedd

Eryri Member

Cllr. Edgar Wyn Owen – Eryri National Park Authority

Constituent Council Chief Executives

Dafydd Gibbard - Cyngor Gwynedd
Dylan Williams - Isle of Anglesey County Council
Rhun ap Iareth - Conwy County Borough Council
Neal Cockerton - Flintshire County Council
Graham Boase - Denbighshire County Council
Alwyn Jones – Interim CEO - Wrexham County Borough Council
Jonathan Cawley – Snowdonia National Park Authority

Statutory Officers

Alwen Williams – Interim Corporate Joint Committee Chief Executive
Dewi Aeron Morgan – Chief Finance Officer
Iwan G Evans – Monitoring Officer

A G E N D A

1. CHAIR

To appoint a Chair for 2025/26.

2. VICE-CHAIR

To appoint a Vice-chair for 2025/26.

3. APOLOGIES

To receive any apologies for absence.

4. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

To receive any declaration of Personal Interest.

5. URGENT BUSINESS

To note any items that are a matter of urgency in the view of the Chair for consideration.

6. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING 5 - 11

The Chair shall propose that the minutes of the previous meeting held 21 March 2025 be signed as a true record.

7. ANNUAL CALENDAR 12 - 14

Iwan Evans, Monitoring Officer to present the report.

8. CO-OPTION AND VOTING REVIEW 15 - 18

Iwan Evans, Monitoring Officer to present the report.

9. CJC POST TRANSFER IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMME 19 - 22 2025/26

Iwan Evans, Monitoring Officer and David Hole, Implementation Programme Lead to present the report.

10. FLINTSHIRE AND WREXHAM INVESTMENT ZONE 23 - 37

Alwen Williams, Interim Chief Executive and Iain Taylor, AMION Consulting to present the report.

11. NWEAB'S REVENUE AND CAPITAL OUT-TURN POSITION FOR 38 - 47 2024/25

Dewi Morgan, Head of Finance (CJC's Statutory Finance Officer) and Sian

Pugh, Assistant Head of Finance to present the report.

12. CJC'S 2024/25 OUT TURN REPORT AND ANNUAL RETURN 48 - 58

Dewi Morgan, Head of Finance (CJC's Statutory Finance Officer) and Sian Pugh, Assistant Head of Finance to present the report.

13. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT FOR 2025/26 59 - 67

Dewi Morgan, Head of Finance (CJC's Statutory Finance Officer) and Sian Pugh, Assistant Head of Finance to present the report.

14. PAY POLICY STATEMENT 68 - 73

Eurig Huw Williams, HR Service Manager to present the report.

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

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

(Chair)

NORTH WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

13 June, 2025

TITLE: Calendar of Meetings

AUTHOR: Iwan Evans, Monitoring Officer

1. DECISION SOUGHT

- 1.1. To endorse the draft calendar for the period up to June 2026 (*Appendix 1*).

2. REASON FOR THE DECISION

- 2.1. At its AGM the Corporate Joint Committee may determine the frequency of its meetings for the following municipal year.

3. BACKGROUND AND RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1. The number and frequency of meetings is at the discretion of the Corporate Joint Committee. To allow for the effective and efficient exercise of the Corporate Joint Committee's functions and to ensure transparency of its decision-making Statutory Guidance states that meetings should be of sufficient frequency, and promote and support participation by its Members and the public in its work.
- 3.2. The calendar shows the frequency and interaction of the Corporate Joint Committee and its sub-committees.
- 3.2. The proposed meetings of the CJC (start at 13:30) are as follows:
- 18 July, 2025
 - 19 September, 2025
 - 28 November, 2025
 - 23 January, 2026 (budget)
 - 20 March, 2026
 - 19 June, 2026 (AGM)
- 3.3. The recommendation is that the CJC endorses the draft calendar.
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APPENDICES:

Appendix 1: Draft calendar up to June 2026

STATUTORY OFFICERS RESPONSE:

i. Monitoring Officer:

Report author.

ii. Statutory Finance Officer:

“In relation to financial matters, the proposed dates for the relevant meetings allow the Corporate Joint Committee to comply with financial reporting timetables.”



CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE
CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2025 - 2026

Committee	Usual Meeting Day	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
Corporate Joint Committee	Fridays at 13:30	13 14:30	18		19		28		23		20			19
Economic Well-being Sub-Committee	Fridays at 09:30		11			3	7	5		6	13		8	12
Strategic Transport Sub-Committee	Mondays at 14:00	30				6		15			23			
Strategic Planning Sub-Committee	Mondays at 14:00 (tbc)				9				26		9			
Governance & Audit Sub-Committee	tbc													
Standards Sub-Committee	tbc													
Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee	tbc													

NORTH WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

13 June, 2025

TITLE: Co-option of membership onto the Corporate Joint Committee

AUTHOR: Iwan Evans, Monitoring Officer

1. DECISION SOUGHT

1.1. That the Corporate Joint Committee agree as follows:

- (i) That the Monitoring Officer review the principles of co-option onto the Corporate Joint Committee and its sub committees as set out in the Establishment Regulations (as amended) and statutory guidance.
- (ii) That the review includes consultation with the four Higher and Further Education providers in relation to their membership on the Economic Well-Being sub-committee to be reported to a future meeting of the Corporate Joint Committee.
- (iii) That in relation to the future governance of the Corporate Joint Committee consideration be given to options around creating advisory membership or stakeholder liaison groups with representatives of the Trade Unions, Third Sector, Housing Associations, private sector and health, the terms of which to provide for the exchange of information and collaboration in supporting the decision making of the Corporate Joint Committee.
- (iv) That the review be undertaken in consultation with the Members of the Corporate Joint Committee and Chief Executives of the Constituent Authorities with the intention of presenting a report to the Corporate Joint Committee with a recommendation as to the model for co-option.

2. REASON FOR THE DECISION

- 2.1. The membership of the Corporate joint Committee is made up of the six Council Members, the Eryri Member and any co-opted member. The 6 leaders of the constituent councils and the Eryri Chairman currently make up the membership of the Corporate Joint Committee. Further to Regulation 9 of the Establishment Regulations the Corporate Joint Committee may co-opt individuals as members of the Corporate Joint Committee on such terms as it determines.
- 2.2. The Further and Higher Education partners have requested that the Corporate Joint Committee review the position on any entitlement to vote in relation to their co-option onto the Economic Well-Being sub-committee.

3. BACKGROUND AND RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

3.1. The Establishment Regulations provide that the membership of the Corporate Joint Committee is comprised of the six Council members, the Eryri Member and any co-opted member. Currently the membership consists of the Leaders of each Council and the Chairman of Eryri National Park, who acts as a member in relation to the strategic planning function and those functions ancillary or incidental to those functions. The Corporate Joint Committee has power to co-opt individuals as members of the Corporate Joint Committee on such terms as it determines. To date the Corporate Joint Committee has co-opted members onto its strategic transport and planning sub-committees, Governance and Audit sub-committee and Economic Well-Being sub-committee.

3.2. Statutory guidance states that:

“4.1 In order to fulfil their responsibilities and duties effectively, CJs will need to, and be expected to, actively involve others in their work. It will be important that each CJC creates an inclusive and collaborative culture to ensure a wider perspective and approach to its work. Each CJC will wish to give thought to how this can best be achieved taking into account its own unique circumstances.

4.2 The regulations establishing CJs provide the flexibility for them to engage and involve others in their work through co-option (see Regulation 9 of the Establishment Regulations). Who is co-opted and how they are co-opted (the terms of the co-option) will be for the CJC to decide. In some cases members may also enable co-opted members to vote on such matters. In most cases this will be for the council members to decide unless it is in relation to the exercise of the functions in Regulation 13 of the Establishment Regulations, in which case such decisions will include the NPA member.

4.3 The benefits of co-opting to the CJC are:

- to strengthen the breadth of experience and skills available to the CJC
- to enable local input or to provide for local representation
- to provide specialist expertise on specific issues

4.4 CJs will want to give thought to the type and range of organisations they wish to be represented by co-opted members, based on the skills and experience that will be beneficial and relevant to its work – for example representatives of:

- Further and Higher Education Institutions
- Third sector representatives
- Business or Sector specific organisations
- Trade Unions

4.5 They could equally be private individuals with expertise that may be useful to the CJC.”

3.3. The guidance confirms that it is a discretionary matter for the Corporate Joint Committee to make decisions in relation to who can be co-opted, how long and the purpose of that co-option, or if members are co-opted with or without voting rights, as long as the co-option agreement is clear as to the terms of the co-option. It is important that when exercising this discretion that Members are clear that the co-option is as a Member of the Corporate Joint Committee on those terms and for those purposes and functions as agreed in the co-option agreements; and equally that those being co-opted to represent organisations are doing so on the basis of the skills and experience they bring to benefit the work of the Corporate Joint Committee. Co-

option onto the sub-committees is on terms specific to those functions to be exercised by each sub-committee.

- 3.4. The regulatory position provides Members of the Corporate Joint Committee with an entitlement to vote subject to whatever agreed terms they have been appointed on as set out in their co-option agreement which will specify the function. This entitlement must however be read in conjunction with the requirement that the number of co-opted members entitled to vote may not exceed the number of other members entitled to vote in relation to any matter to be decided.
- 3.5. The composition of the transport, planning and Governance & Audit sub-committees is currently entirely co-opted membership. Membership and tenure of each is specified in the terms of their co-option agreements, including the entitlement to vote. The Council leaders make up the membership of the Economic Well-being sub-committee, with the following representatives currently being co-opted – Eryri National Park, the Regional Skills Partnership and four representatives from the Further and Higher Education partners. As the review of the Business Board and its membership is underway the model for the participation of the Chair in the Economic Wellbeing subcommittee will be considered as part of that process.
- 3.6. Currently the composition and function of the Economic Well-Being sub-committee reflects that as established under Economic Ambition Board, and as part of the Growth Deal transfer the membership and function was a direct lift and shift into the sub-committee. Following the establishment of the Economic Well-Being sub-committee those partners representing the four Further and Higher Education key providers have requested that they have a right to vote on the Economic Well-Being sub-committee. It is only right that in modelling a way forward that an open dialogue is commenced to include modelling around options for partnership engagement. The intention would be that a protocol for co-option is created that would be brought back to the Corporate Joint Committee for approval.
- 3.7. There is the option also that appointments onto the sub-committees may include or indeed be entirely comprised of members who are not members of the Corporate Joint Committee. The appointment of such members, numbers and term of office would be a matter to be decided by the Corporate Joint Committee. There is the opportunity to support the work of the Corporate Joint Committee by also looking to develop different engagement options. This could include consultative groups and options around co-production and collaboration with stakeholders. This could be developed as part of the work around co-option.
- 3.8. It is important that the Corporate Joint Committee listens carefully to its partners and develops its governance in order that it can support its future functions, especially around economic well-being. The Economic Well-Being sub-committee will need to regularly review its membership and function as it develops and establishes its economic well-being powers. Its governance will also need to encompass the Investment Zone which will also have governance requirements to be agreed and adopted. Subject to its direction of travel different skills and expertise will be needed in order to inform and promote economic growth in a sustainable and collaborative way. The progressive work around the development of the Investment Zone with accountability resting with the Corporate Joint Committee will also need to be factored into the governance profile.

STATUTORY OFFICERS RESPONSE:

i. Monitoring Officer:

Author of the report.

ii. Statutory Finance Officer:

“No comments from the perspective of financial propriety.”

NORTH WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

13 June, 2025

TITLE: CJC Post Transfer Implementation Programme 2025-26 Update

AUTHOR: Iwan Evans, Monitoring Officer
Dave Hole, CJC Implementation Programme Lead

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1. To update Members, post transfer on project development and continuing programme implementation progress to support the continuing establishment of the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee (CJC).

2. DECISION SOUGHT

- 2.1. The CJC accepts the update and progress made and notes the current constraints to continue the ongoing establishment of the CJC through a programme of change (new and continuous improvement) initially for 2025/26.
- 2.2. Directs that a further report be presented in September to update on 2025/26 programme delivery progress.

3. REASON FOR THE DECISION

- 3.1. To support good governance and corporate accountability it is important that the CJC is regularly updated of the project management and implementation delivery programme supporting the establishment of the CJC. This will require the development of a multi-year programme to introduce new capability and capacity following the formal appointment process of a Chief Executive Officer, whilst currently it is important to maintain momentum and continue any immediate programme of change initially for this year. This will ensure that not only outstanding pre-transfer delivery is completed, but also new capability required for 2025/26 is planned and delivered.

4. BACKGROUND AND RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1. The CJC has full operating status, meaning that it can function as a corporate entity, has the ability to employ people, and has in place the necessary governance arrangements. This provides the primary framework of governance which will enable the CJC to function as a public authority across all its functions.
- 4.2. In addition, the decision of the CJC (21st March, 2025) to enter into a Delivery and Funding Agreement whereby the role of Accountable body for the North Wales Growth Deal (responsibility for delivery and funding arrangements) are transferred to the North Wales

Corporate Joint Committee has enabled the transfer of the staff and assets into the CJC. The Economic Well-being Sub-Committee is established to undertake this work. The transfer was the critical focus of the team and was successfully completed on 1st April, 2025.

- 4.3. Throughout this process the CJC has acknowledged the complexity of the Growth Deal delivery programme, in particular the transfer arrangements but also the people, procedures and systems to be established following transfer. The following sections of this report outline delivery completed and outlines the developing immediate programme of delivery for 2025/26.

5. PROGRESS TO ESTABLISH THE CJC PRE-TRANSFER

- 5.1. The CJC Implementation Programme has made significant progress up to and including the transfer taking place on 1st April, 2025. Some of the key highlights delivered have included:

- i. CJC appointments (Chair, Vice, Lead CEO, Monitoring Officer, Section 151 Officer)
- ii. Transfer of the Growth Deal and its funding
- iii. Grants transfer
- iv. TUPE of Portfolio Management Office (PMO) staff into the CJC
- v. Establishing the Strategic Transport Sub-Committee, the Strategic Planning Sub-Committee, the Economic Well-being Sub-Committee and preparatory development of further sub committees
- vi. Constitution and Standing Orders adopted
- vii. Welsh Language Standards compliance published
- viii. Initial staff benefits
- ix. Staff policies
- x. CJC website
- xi. Procurement system changes to CJC
- xii. New banking arrangements
- xiii. CJC Insurance policy arrangements
- xiv. Payroll system arrangements
- xv. Treasury Management Strategy

- 5.2. The many challenges and complexity of this type of programme resulted in readiness for transfer 1st November, 2024 being delayed. Areas of complexity included partner agreement pathway approvals for signing of agreements to transfer the growth deal, novation of its funding, and TUPE transfer of the Portfolio Management Office (PMO) staff including enabling functions such as finance, HR, IT.

6. PROGRESS TO ESTABLISH THE CJC – 2025/26 PROGRAMME

- 6.1. Following the transfer on 1st April, 2025 the CJC Implementation Board recognised the requirement to shape a new programme for 2025/26 to include any delivery (identified as non-essential for transfer) not completed pre-transfer, and to identify initial priority changes to be completed. The CJC Programme Implementation Lead in consultation with officers has developed a programme of change and improvement based on priorities and some constraining factors for this year. Further work will be required for change in subsequent years yet to be developed.
- 6.2. Our current developing programme is being delivered or in the process of doing so. This programme remains significant, complex and resource intensive. A summary of the programme includes:

- i. **CEO's office**
 - a. Corporate Plan development
 - b. CJC Prospectus development
 - c. Organisational Design (including development)
- ii. **Legal and Governance**
 - a. Development of the governance around the Economic Well-being Sub-Committee (formerly EAB)
 - b. Other committees in development include Governance and Audit, and Standards
 - c. The establishment of a Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee (JOSC)
 - d. Formal Service Level Agreement (all functions) to be established with Cyngor Gwynedd
 - e. Constitution review and further development
 - f. Resources recruited
- iii. **Information Technology & Digital**
 - a. Implementation of a committee management system supported by Democratic Services
 - b. New webcasting solution for CJC supporting Democratic Services
 - c. Website further development
 - d. SharePoint Document Management established
- iv. **CJC Operations**
 - a. A range of policies to be developed and published to meet legislative requirements and support corporate planning
 - b. Procurement contracts novated
 - c. New building renewals and leases agreed
 - d. Resources recruited
- v. **Finance**
 - a. Corporate Risk Management established
 - b. Financial contracts completed
 - c. Audit process
 - d. Insurance renewals
 - e. Pensions transferred
 - f. Resource recruited
- vi. **HR (People)**
 - a. CEO recruited and appointed
 - b. Further benefits launched
 - c. Pay Policy 2025/26 and 2026/27
 - d. CJC HR T&Cs created
 - e. Social partnerships/Trade Unions

6.3. Constraining risk factors in developing our new programme may include:

- i. Market conditions to recruit in demand resources to support delivery of new systems, process, policies
- ii. CJC budget limitations
- iii. Grant funding certainty e.g. CJC prospectus development opportunity and/or threats

- iv. Service Level Agreement boundaries and limitations
- v. CEO appointment and any changes in direction
- vi. Partner engagement and support to key areas of development to enable improved CJC governance e.g. committees, co-option etc.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. The CJC implementation programme is being supported by a few contract resources targeted at supporting programme management, legal and democratic services. This capacity will be required in the short to medium term during 2025/26 until the CJC has recruited resources, stabilised and can drive forward the work without this support.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1. The report sets out the legal and governance implications of the decision sought.

APPENDICES:

None

STATUTORY OFFICERS RESPONSE:

- i. **Monitoring Officer:**

Joint author of the report.

- ii. **Statutory Finance Officer:**

“Officers from the Finance Service will continue to provide support to facilitate the further development of the CJC. The budgets and expenditure of both the CJC and the Growth Deal are the subject of regular review, and I am confident that the financial arrangements are robust.”

NORTH WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

13 June, 2025

TITLE: Flintshire and Wrexham Investment Zone

AUTHORS: Alwen Williams, Interim Chief Executive
Iain Taylor, AMION Consulting

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the progress of a new Investment Zone in Flintshire and Wrexham focused on Advanced Manufacturing. Much of the report is to provide an update on the Investment Zone elements, but decision is requested on the principles of how the Investment Zone will be established and decisions and delegations taken.

2. DECISION SOUGHT

- 2.1. The CJC is asked to:

- Accept the Update Report.
- Review the proposed outline arrangements for the Flintshire and Wrexham Investment Zone Advisory Board at Section 3.7 and advise on the proposal.
- Review the proposed Delegation and Decision Framework at Section 3.10 and advise on the proposal.
- Request a further report with detailed proposals following the Inter Authority Workshop.

3. REASON FOR THE DECISION

- 3.1. The process for developing Investment Zones is collaborative in nature and relies on the sharing of documentation for review across local stakeholders, Welsh Government and UK Government (MHCLG).

3.2 Overview of Year 1 of the Investment Zone (April 2025 - March 2026)

The immediate focus of Year 1 (2025-2026) is on securing the Investment Zone Programme via Memorandum of Understanding Agreements with Welsh Government and UK Government, allowing for the Year 1 funding to be secured and commencing with the delivery of the Investment Zone. The aim is to have achieved full sign off by September 2025. This includes the publication and activation of the Investment Zone Tax Sites.

The immediate delivery focus is on the following:

- **formalising the delivery team** - this includes appointing AMION to undertake a programme management role for the CJC working closely with Flintshire and Wrexham to ensure Government's requirements are in place and the Year 1 and Flintshire and Wrexham Council's individually appointing (following a recruitment exercise) Investment Zone leads for their area. The two Councils will establish the Investment Zone Planning Unit.
- **establishing the governance structure** - establishing and managing the Advisory Board and Working Groups.
- **progressing key project business cases** - ensuring that the identified projects make progress through the CJC assurance process and come forward for decision.
- **launching the Investment Zone Skills Programme** - securing approval to the Investment Zone Skills Plan by the Regional Skills Partnership and ensuring project awards to key delivery partners.
- **launching the Investment Zone Business Support Programme** - the grants programme available to manufacturing businesses across Flintshire and Wrexham.
- **securing the business case for bus transformation** - the appointment of Transport for Wales to undertake the business case and procurement specification for bus services awarded by the two Councils in Years 2-10.
- **Innovation delivery** - partnerships with key innovation delivery partners (including Airbus, Wrexham University, Bangor University and Coleg Cambria)

3.3 Overview of Gateway 4

Gateway 4 was submitted in early May 2025, and set out how the 'on menu' interventions proposed have the potential to address the constraints and barriers to growing the Advanced Manufacturing sector in Flintshire and Wrexham. The Gateway response was comprised of a primary textual document covering issues such as additionality, strategic alignment with other non-IZ interventions and details of stakeholder engagement and potential match funding, and was also supported by a technical spreadsheet. The Gateway 4 spreadsheet explored the intervention funding allocations across the Tax and NNDR sites and other flexible spend themes, as well as the corresponding outputs and outcomes.

Table 2 below provides a summary of the indicative spend profile co-developed as part of the Gateway 4 submission. The proposal is for the allocation of occupier benefits to be reviewed at the Investment Zone mid-point. If further provision is necessary, this can be part of an Investment Zone wider review of intervention allocations looking at the evaluation of strengths of delivery and impact.

Figure 1 below sets out the range of outputs and impacts expected from the Investment Zone programme.

Feedback on the Gateway 4 is expected in June 2025. Any material changes that are required to the interventions set out in Table 1 will come back to the CJC for approval.

3.4. Updated Maps

There has been a review of the Tax Maps provided in support of Gateway 2. The revised maps, taking feedback and clarifications into account are included in **Appendix 1** for information. The locations are unchanged, with minor amendments to boundaries.

3.5. Overview of Gateway 5

The team are currently preparing Gateway 5 for submission. The key elements of Gateway 5 are:

- Investment Zone Milestones
- Investment Zone Programme, to be prepared and provided to a future CJC meeting
- Investment Zone Risk Register, to be prepared and provided to a future CJC meeting

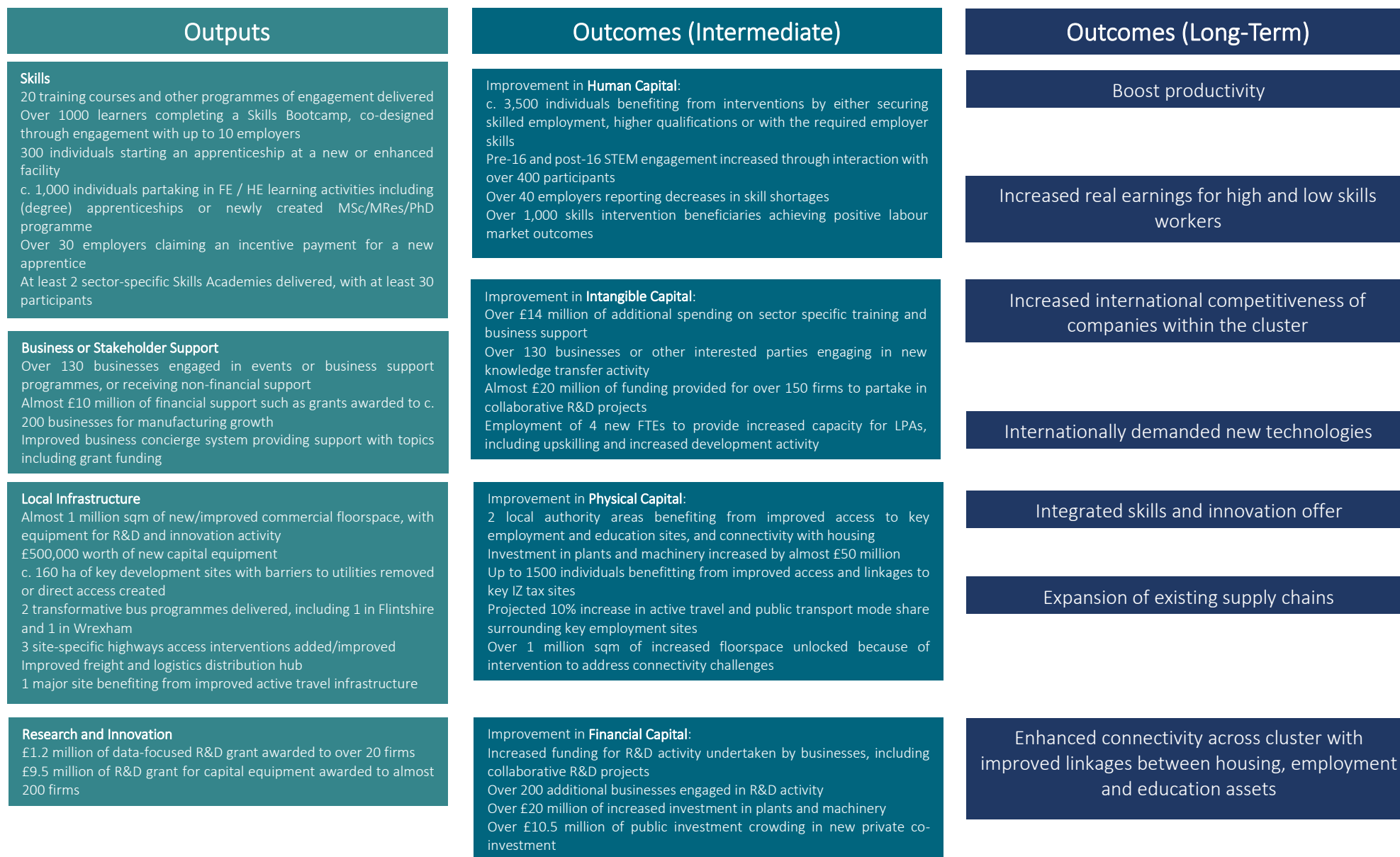
The high-level milestones for Year 1 are set out in Table 1 below.

Table 1 - Key Milestones	
Milestone	Indicative Date (by)
Agreement to Gateway 4	18 July 2025
Submission of Gateway 5	30 June 2025
Skills Plan Approved by the Regional Skills Partnership	30 June 2025
Interim Advisory Board Programme Established	30 June 2025
Agreement to Gateway 5	31 July 2025
Agreement to the MOU	31 August 2025
Submission of the Year 1 Delivery Plan, including Tax Site Delivery Plan	31 August 2025
Agreement to Year 1 Delivery Plan	30 September 2025
Year 1 Grant Offer Signed	30 October 2025
Investment Zone Tax Maps Published	15 November 2025
Retained Rates Investment Funds Agreed	20 December 2025
Year 2 Delivery Plan Agreed with Working Group	20 December 2025

Table 2 - Gateway 4 – Indicative Spend Profile											
	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	2033-34	2034-35	Total
Revenue											
Planning	£1,035,000	£990,000	£1,110,000	£1,020,000	£975,000	£850,000	£790,000	£760,000	£700,000	£670,000	£8,900,000
Skills	£1,091,700	£2,280,422	£2,018,422	£2,126,422	£2,126,422	£2,126,422	£2,126,422	£2,126,422	£2,126,422	£2,126,422	£20,275,500
Business or Stakeholder Support	£667,900	£517,900	£717,900	£717,900	£717,900	£730,400	£730,400	£730,400	£730,400	£717,900	£6,979,000
Local Infrastructure	£2,250,000	£2,250,000	£2,250,000	£2,250,000	£2,250,000	£2,250,000	£2,250,000	£2,250,000	£2,250,000	£2,250,000	£22,500,000
Research and Innovation	£534,550	£534,550	£534,550	£534,550	£534,550	£534,550	£534,550	£534,550	£534,550	£534,550	£5,345,500
											£64,000,000
Capital											
Skills	£2,804,500	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£2,804,500
Business or Stakeholder Support	£950,000	£1,200,000	£1,000,000	£1,000,000	£1,000,000	£1,012,500	£1,012,500	£1,012,500	£1,012,500	£1,000,000	£10,200,000
Local Infrastructure	£4,500,000	£21,000,000	£11,000,000	£10,000,000	£7,600,000	£6,000,000	£350,000	£5,000,000	£0	£2,000,000	£67,450,000
Research and Innovation	£534,550	£534,550	£534,550	£534,550	£534,550	£534,550	£534,550	£534,550	£534,550	£534,550	£5,345,500
Allocations for Occupier Benefits	£510,000	£1,020,000	£1,530,000	£2,040,000	£5,100,000	Subject to Mid Term Review of uptake in Years 1-5					£10,200,000
											£96,000,000
Spend Profile											
Total	£14,878,200	£30,327,422	£20,695,422	£20,223,422	£20,838,422	£14,038,422	£8,328,422	£12,948,422	£7,888,422	£9,833,422	£160,000,000
Adjusted Spend Profile	£16,000,000	£16,000,000	£16,000,000	£16,000,000	£16,000,000	£16,000,000	£16,000,000	£16,000,000	£16,000,000	£16,000,000	£160,000,000

The figure below, extracted from the updated Logic Model for the Flintshire and Wrexham Investment Zone summarises the projected outputs and outcomes projected to be unlocked by the interventions across the different flexible spend themes.

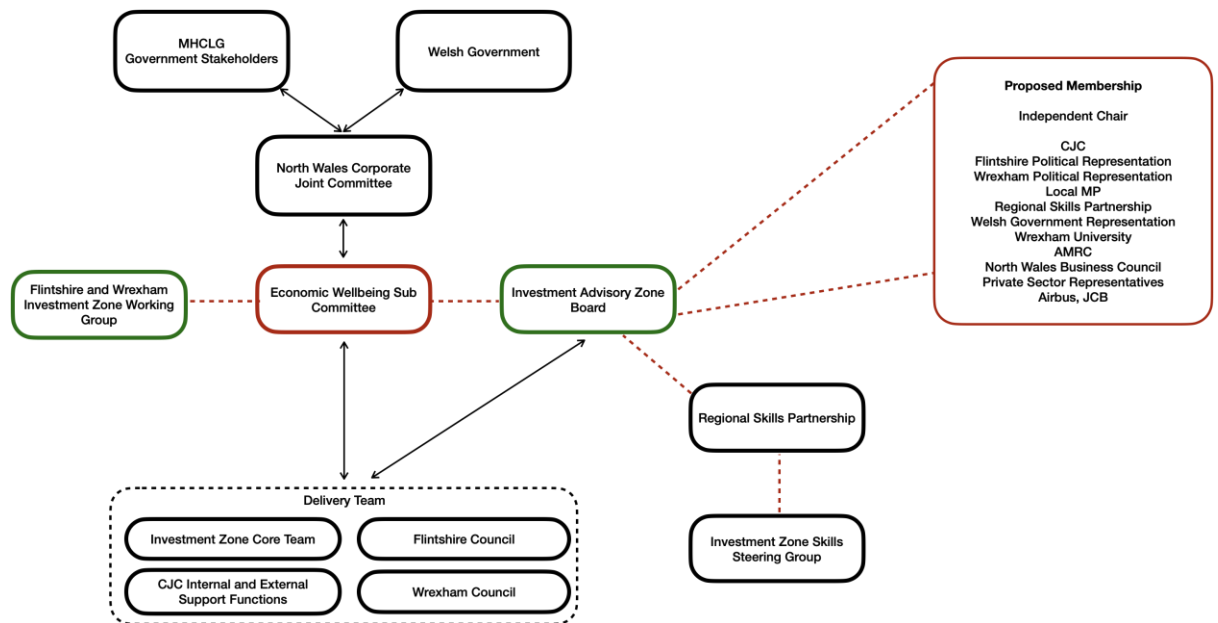
Figure 1 - Key Outputs and Outcomes arising from the Flintshire and Wrexham Investment Zone



3.6. Establishing the Advisory Board

As set out in Gateway 3, the Governance structure for the Investment Zone is set out in Figure 2 below. The diagram illustrates the role of the Regional Skills Partnership in advising the Advisory Board (and in turn the Economic Well-being Sub-Committee) on Skills delivery. It is supported by a Sub-Group focused on implementation of the Investment Zone Skills Plan and is made up of representatives from the RSP, Coleg Cambria, University of Wrexham and the host local authorities.

Figure 2 - Investment Zone Governance Structure



3.7. Flintshire and Wrexham Investment Zone Advisory Board

The Interim Chair of the Advisory Board is Joanna Knight. The appointment will be ratified by the Economic Well-being Sub-Committee at the first meeting where the Investment Zone is part of the agenda.

The following Role Profile will be considered by the CJC (this report) and Flintshire and Wrexham Councils before being finalised.

Draft Role Profile – Chair, Flintshire and Wrexham Investment Zone Advisory Board

- Convene and Chair the Investment Zone Advisory Board, ensuring active and consistent engagement from members.
- Act as a visible champion for the Investment Zone, promoting its vision and ambitions across the private sector.
- Foster collaboration across stakeholders, building trust and alignment between business, local partners, and government.
- Maintain energy, focus, and momentum around Investment Zone interventions, ensuring private sector voice and interest is sustained.

- Communicate progress clearly and regularly to stakeholders, ensuring awareness of key developments and opportunities.
- Celebrate milestones and successes, highlighting impact and reinforcing commitment to delivery.
- Provide constructive challenge and support to delivery partners to help drive outcomes and unlock barriers.
- Represent the Investment Zone at events and forums, acting as a credible and enthusiastic advocate.
- Advise on key issues and opportunities impacting the Advanced Manufacturing Sector
- Ensure that the advice and views of the Board are communicated to decision making forums in a fair and balanced way.

The Chair role will be supported by the Investment Zone Programme Manager and Chief Executive of the CJC. The Chair may co-opt Private Sector Representatives as members of the Advisory Board.

Advisory Board Meetings are expected to be online but may be held in person once per year and consist of maximum of four 2-hour meetings per year. Minutes and actions will be recorded by a CJC officer.

Advisory Board Members

The organisations identified below will be invited to appoint representatives at a suitable seniority to the Advisory Board. Airbus and JCB have confirmed representatives. The CJC Board member should be a member of the Economic Well-being Sub-Committee drawn other than from Flintshire and Wrexham and will be appointed by the Economic Well-being Sub-Committee.

- CJC Board Member
- Flintshire Political Representation
- Wrexham Political Representation
- Local MPs
- Local MSs
- Regional Skills Partnership
- Welsh Government / UK Government Officers as observers
- Wrexham University
- AMRC
- North Wales Business Council
- Private Sector Representatives

3.8. Skills Plan Update

Having presented the emerging Skills Plan to the Regional Skills Partnership Board in May, stakeholders have now been provided with an opportunity to provide any feedback and comments on the contents of the emerging report. AMION, in close consultation with the Regional Skills Partnership, are now working through the feedback received to ensure the finalised Skills Plan adequately reflects the views of local stakeholders. Measures have also been taken to ensure that the governance and delivery recommendations integrated within

the Plan remain broadly aligned with the emerging structures across the rest of the Investment Zone programme.

Shaped by a robust and inclusive process of stakeholder engagement and data analysis, the Plan has identified a number of core intervention themes and areas to ensure that workforce development keeps pace with – and actively supports – the region’s ambitions for economic transformation, with a particular focus on Advanced Manufacturing. The table below summarises these main intervention themes, which together will contribute to the establishment of a well-functioning skills system marked by the effective alignment of supply and demand.

It is envisaged that AMION will present the final Skills Plan at the Regional Skills Partnership’s June Board meeting, which will then be used as a targeted framework for skills-related investment over the course of the Investment Zone programme.

Table 3 - Proposed Skills Programme Overview		
Intervention Themes	Intervention Areas	Indicative Allocation (%)
Increased engagement with pre-16 and Schools	Co-ordinated careers support and resource to increase pre-16 engagement with STEM and awareness of local career opportunities	20-25%
	Delivery of a programme targeted at improving the diversity of the manufacturing workforce and talent pipeline, including the addressing of longstanding gender imbalances	
	Integration of Investment Zone opportunities into school curriculum and developed for to support the 'work-readiness' of young people	
Support for learners aged 16 to 18	Use of incentives for employers to expand delivery of apprenticeships aligned to Investment Zone priorities to expand pathways in the key sector	35-40%
	Use of incentives to expand opportunities for young people to build work-ready skills through internships and work placements	
	Infrastructure improvements to accommodate enhanced capacity (e.g. collaborative spaces)	
	Improve transport links to enhance accessibility of education and training	
	Establishment of a mentorship and reverse mentorship scheme to drive bi-directional knowledge transfer and mutual learning	
Enhanced pathways for those aged 18+	Support for the recruitment and retention of apprentices in Advanced Manufacturing, as well as the creation of new degree apprenticeships alongside new MSc, PhD and MRes programmes	20-25%
	Co-designed education and training with employers such as skills bootcamps or sector-based work academy type models targeted at those furthest away from the labour market	
	Development of micro-credentials and short courses to grow higher-level, and technical skills	
	Expansion of Skills Portal to include Investment Zone specific careers, pathways, opportunities and events	
Upskilling and reskilling of the existing workforce	Retraining initiatives to allow for career transitions into Investment Zone sector through targeted programmes	15-20%
	Integrate entrepreneurial and innovation-focused content into provision	
	Establishment of a skills charter, and exploration of procurement mechanisms to enhance skills and careers engagement for suppliers	

3.9. Key Projects Identified

The 2024 Call for Projects identified a wide range of potential investment projects and significant demand for a business support programme backed with the ability to provide grant funding to unlock business investment. The process also identified investment opportunity to invest in the infrastructure necessary to unlock the largest development sites. The intention is to progress at pace with the consideration of two projects in particular to accelerate the immediate delivery of new tax site development land and new manufacturing operations.

A business case has been received for Project Prince from Knauf Insulation and an Outline Project Plan has been received from Pochin/Goodman for their land at Airfields, Deeside. Airbus are actively developing the case for the Advanced Manufacturing Centre adjacent to their Deeside campus.

Alongside these projects, discussions are ongoing with several local and new to region businesses seeking to attract Investment Zone support. The message to businesses seeking investment from the IZ is:

- complete an Expression of Interest Form so we can register the project; and
- the door is open, funding will be available once the Investment Zone is approved.

3.10. Delegations and Decisions

A workshop between the CJC and Flintshire and Wrexham Council's is planned for the 24th June to work through the details concerned with how decisions are made and how the programme will operate under delegations from the CJC.

The key principles proposed are:

- The CJC delegates implementation of the Accountable Body responsibility to the Economic Well-being Sub Committee.
- The CJC establishes the IZ Programme Budget, establishes the basis for the governance structure (including Terms of Reference and delegation of decisions to the Economic Well-being Sub-Committee, manages the Scheme of Delegation, enters into the MOU with Government and the two partner Councils and is responsible for staff, Pay Policy and general delegation. Appoints the Economic Well-being Sub-Committee and approves co-option arrangements.
- The Economic Well-being Sub-Committee is responsible for:
 - Manages Implementation of the Accountable Body role
 - Approves the Monitoring and Performance reports to Government
 - Approves the annual claim to Government
 - Delegation within its Terms of Reference and Constitution
 - Approve Grant Funding Agreements and Assurance Milestones
 - Risk Management
 - Approving Governance structures and reviews within its terms of reference
 - Agreeing Membership and receiving reports and advice from the IZ Advisory Board
- The Economic Well-being Sub-Committee advises the CJC on allocation of resource to support delivery

- The Economic Well-being Sub-Committee considers, manages the assurance process and take decision on all projects above £5m grant request.
- The Economic Well-being Sub-Committee considers, manages the assurance process and takes decision on all Skills projects in consultation with the Regional Skills Partnership.
- The Economic Well-being Sub-Committee considers, manages the assurance process and takes decision on all projects referred by Flintshire and Wrexham Councils.
- Flintshire and Wrexham Councils, manages the assurance process and takes decision on all projects under £5m (excluding Skills projects).
- The Flintshire and Wrexham Working Group will consider and take decision on the Annual Delivery Plan and meet in December of each year to approve the plan for the following year, which is then to be presented to EWSBC in Q1 for final approval.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1. The Financial Implications relate to the administration of £160m of Flexible Grant Funding and allocations for Tax Reliefs, in particular Business Rate Relief. The detailed financial arrangements as set out in the Grant Funding Letter, MOU with Welsh and UK Government and the Local MOU between the CJC and Flintshire and Wrexham Councils will be considered by the CJC once prepared.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. The expectation is for the CJC to enter into an MOU with UK and Welsh Governments. The CJC will also employ or enter into a local MOU with local authority partners. In delivering the programme, the CJC will oversee the management of a project assurance process and enter into Grant Funding Agreements with university, skills, local authorities and local businesses. The intention is to develop these principles into detailed governance and constitutional arrangements which will facilitate the delivery and a management of the Investment Zone. It will also ensure that there is a robust and effective system of approvals and assurance around delivery and the use of public funding.
- 5.2. Subsidy Control considerations need further evaluation but are expected to be covered by a programme wide Subsidy Control Scheme.

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1: Tax Site Maps

STATUTORY OFFICERS RESPONSE:

i. Monitoring Officer:

“I have been involved in advising on the proposed model and the contents of the report. It highlights the complexity of the process in developing the Investment Zone proposal. From a governance perspective it gives the CJC an opportunity to start to

consider the detail around the structure and give initial views. This will enable the technical discussion around these matters to be developed collaboratively with the two Councils and facilitate an agreed approach. The importance of this work cannot be over emphasised as it will not only facilitate delivery but also consensus and effective communication across the partners. As with any such model it will be subject to constant review and its adoption will run in parallel with the overall approval process for the IZ.”

ii. Statutory Finance Officer:

“Officers from the Finance service will be available to provide support in administering the grant, as well as advising and maintaining an overview as required in relation to the Business Rate Relief, Grant Funding Letter and the Memorandum of Understanding.

I have no objection to the decision sought.”

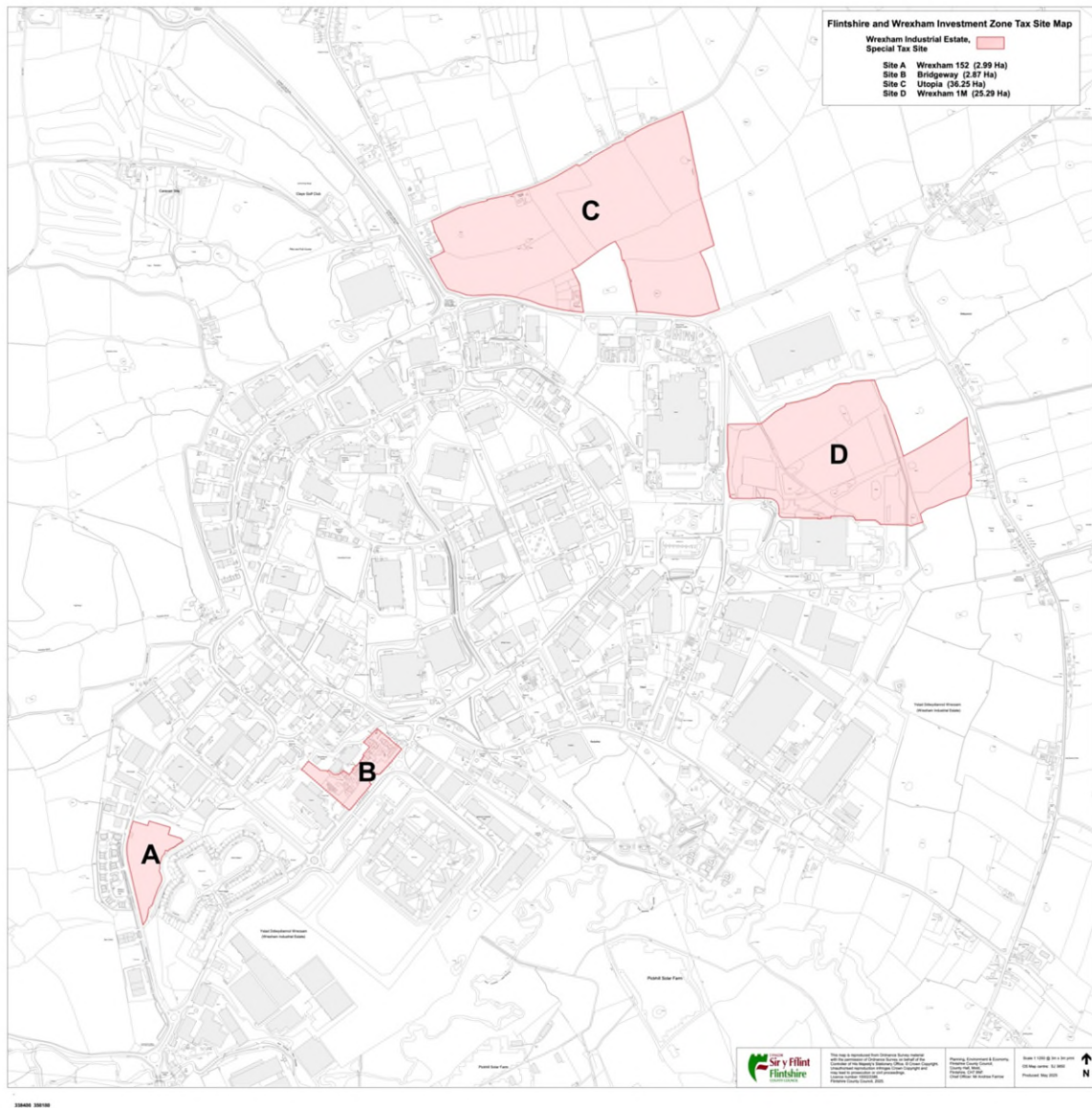
Deeside Gateway



Warren Hall



Wrexham Industrial Estate



NORTH WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

13 June 2025

TITLE: NWEAB's Revenue and Capital out-turn position for 2024/25

AUTHOR: Dewi A. Morgan, Head of Finance (CJC's Statutory Finance Officer)
Sian Pugh, Assistant Head of Finance

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1. This report intends to provide the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee (CJC) with the final position of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board (NWEAB) for both revenue and capital in 2024/25.

2. DECISIONS SOUGHT

- 2.1. To note and accept the NWEAB's out-turn report for 2024/25 (Appendix 1), which includes using £714,395 from the North Wales Growth Deal grant to show a neutral position for the year.
- 2.2. To note and accept the NWEAB's reserves position (Appendix 2).
- 2.3. To note and accept the NWEAB's capital end of year review as of 31 March 2025 (Appendix 4).

3. REASONS FOR THE DECISION

- 3.1. To inform the CJC of the NWEAB's financial position for both revenue and capital in 2024/25.
- 3.2. The NWEAB's role and functions were transferred to the CJC on 1st April 2025, which included staff, resources, financial liabilities and assets, including the Growth Deal and funding.

4. BACKGROUND AND RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1. The NWEAB is considered a "larger relevant body" pursuant to the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 (as amended). This means that an annual Statement of Accounts in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom will be produced in 2024/25 and presented to the CJC in due course.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Revenue

- 5.1. Appendix 1 provides a detailed analysis of the actual expenditure and income per heading against its 2024/25 budget.
- 5.2. The final net out-turn position for 2024/25 was an underspend of £385,605, and this has increased from the £205,405 underspend that was forecasted in the end of December 2024 review mainly due to a reduction in expenditure on several of the budget headings. In order to leave a neutral position for the year, the CJC will be asked to approve for a reduced amount of £714,395 (compared to the original budget of £1,100,000) of the Growth Deal grant to be used to fund the revenue expenditure in 2024/25.

Portfolio Management Office

- 5.3. There's a £75,140 underspend on the Portfolio Management Office (PMO) and the main underspend is shown on the Employee Expenditure heading. This is mainly due to the actual pay inflation for 2024/25 being around 3% compared to the budgeted amount of 6%. Funding from the Shared Prosperity Fund was also extended to March 2025 therefore the underspend in the Shared Prosperity plans heading was used to fund the costs of three officers which had previously been budgeted as part of the core budget.
- 5.4. Part of the underspend on the Employee Expenditure heading was used to fund temporary consultancy staff to cover a Programme Manager role.

Accountable Body Support Services

- 5.5. The final underspend on this heading is £41,730 which is the result of the reduced net expenditure on the Accountable Body (Host Authority) support services.

Joint Committee

- 5.6. The final underspend on this heading is £48,935, which is due to an underspend on the External Legal Support, External Financial Fees, External Audit Fees and the Business Delivery Board.

Projects

- 5.7. The final underspend on this heading is £65,034 and this is mainly due to costs that were previously considered within the Project Business Case Development costs being capitalised. However, there was a high demand for external legal support for the projects during the year.

Grant Schemes

- 5.8. The expenditure under this heading mainly includes grant funded Local Area Energy and Shared Prosperity Fund projects and an extension was received on both projects until March 2025 therefore leading to a net overspend of £96,820 against the annual budget.
- 5.9. The overspend on the Local Area Energy project is funded by the surplus grant shown in the income section whilst the underspend on the Shared Prosperity plans was used to fund the overspend on the Shared Prosperity Fund employee costs as well as contribute towards the overhead costs of the Portfolio Management Office.

Transfers to Reserves

- 5.10. At the NWEAB meeting on 14 February 2025, a request from the PMO to transfer the interest received in 2024/25 and 2025/26 on the North Wales Growth Deal grant balances to a specific reserve to fund additional government requirements and project development costs from 2025/26 and the retention of PMO's capacity for an additional two years beyond March 2026 was approved. The transfers to reserves section shows the interest received of £2,800,231 transferred to this reserve (resources reserve).

Funding Contributions

- 5.11. The main income streams for 2024/25 include partner contributions, the revenue allocation for the North Wales Growth Deal grant, Welsh Government energy grant, UK Shared Prosperity Fund, the CJC's contribution for staff secondment and the earmarked reserve.
- 5.12. The original North Wales Growth Deal grant allocation was £1,100,000, but due to the net underspend position of £385,605 for 2024/25, a reduced amount of £714,395 is needed in order to leave a neutral position for the year. Although the North Wales Growth Deal grant is a capital grant, the same flexibility as local authorities have been used in the way that they manage their capital funding, with Cyngor Gwynedd allocating the Growth Deal grant against its capital projects and releasing the equivalent value of revenue funding to the NWEAB to fund its revenue expenditure.

NWEAB Reserves

- 5.13. Appendix 2 shows the movement in reserves during the year and the balances at 31 March 2025.
- 5.14. The total earmarked reserve balance at 31 March 2025 was £210,977. The NWEAB at its meeting on 14 February 2025 approved the use of £60,990 of this reserve as part of the 2025/26 budget.
- 5.15. The projects reserve balance at 31 March 2025 was £29,167. In the December 2024 review, it was noted that the reserve would be used to finance the Smart Local Energy project costs included within the Project Business Case Development heading. These costs have been subsequently capitalised but as the Full Business Case is yet to be approved, these costs have been met from the projects reserve. The costs for the year were £123,133.
- 5.16. The interest reserve balance at 31 March 2025 was £4,733,483.
- 5.17. The resources reserve balance at 31 March 2025 was £2,800,231 due to the transfer of the interest received in 2024/25 on the North Wales Growth Deal grant balance.

Revenue position (2020/21 – 2024/25)

- 5.18. Appendix 3 shows the revenue position over the last five years and includes the expenditure, income sources, out-turn position as well as the movement in reserve balances. In 2020/21 and 2021/22 the underspend was transferred to the reserves while in 2022/23 to 2024/25 the underspend was used to reduce the Growth Deal Grant allocation for the year. The Growth

Deal Grant allocation is then re-profiled with any underspend used in the annual budget for the following financial year.

Capital

- 5.19. Appendix 4 shows the NWEAB's capital programme end of year review for 2024/25.
- 5.20. The total expenditure up to 31 March 2025 is £15.31m.
- 5.21. There is a net reduction of £13.3m in the expenditure in 2024/25 and this is due to slippage on four projects (Digital Signal Processing Centre, Smart Local Energy, Holyhead Gateway and Former North Wales Hospital) and the withdrawal of the Deeside Anaerobic Digestion Plant project. However, the commencement of the Centre of Environmental Biotechnology, Enterprise Engineering & Optics Centre and the Tourism Talent Network projects during the year has brought forward some their profiled spend.
- 5.22. The 2.15% budget for revenue funding in 2024/25 has also reduced to £0.71m to reflect the final revenue out-turn position.

6. CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN

- 6.1. The appendices of this report were presented to the Portfolio Board on 2 May 2025 and the Economic Well-being Sub-committee on 16 May 2025.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. Section 12 of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 states that a joint committee of two or more (local) authorities is a local government body, and Section 13 of the Act requires such bodies to maintain accounts subject to audit by an external auditor approved by the Auditor General for Wales.
- 7.2. The Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations require all Joint Committees to prepare year-end accounts. Where the annual income or expenditure are over £2.5m, the joint committee is deemed to be a "larger relevant body" and an annual Statement of Accounts in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom must be prepared.

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1	North Wales Economic Ambition Board's Revenue out-turn position 2024/25
Appendix 2	North Wales Economic Ambition Board's Reserves
Appendix 3	Revenue Position 2020/21 – 2024/25
Appendix 4	North Wales Economic Ambition Board's Capital position 2024/25

STATUTORY OFFICERS RESPONSE:

i. Monitoring Officer:

No observations to add in relation to propriety.

ii. Statutory Finance Officer:

Report author.

North Wales Economic Ambition Board's Financial Position (March 2025)

Appendix 1

	Budget	2024/25 Final Position	Overspend / (Underspend)
Expenditure	(£)	(£)	(£)
Portfolio Management Office			
Employee Expenditure (Pay, N.I. & Superannuation)	1,395,940	1,304,273	(91,667)
Consultancy Staff	0	24,570	24,570
Advertising and Assessment of Candidates	3,000	3,122	122
Travel and Subsistence	11,000	3,886	(7,114)
Training	11,000	8,758	(2,242)
Engagement, Events and Meetings	10,000	1,382	(8,618)
Communications and Public Relations	25,000	15,614	(9,386)
Supplies and Services	11,000	23,216	12,216
Premises	36,000	35,679	(321)
Portfolio and Programme Development	30,000	37,300	7,300
Portfolio Management Office Total	1,532,940	1,457,800	(75,140)
Accountable Body Support Services			
Finance Services Support	110,860	63,319	(47,541)
Legal (includes Monitoring Officer)	29,690	29,090	(600)
Corporate Services	45,700	47,656	1,956
Information Technology	21,920	26,039	4,119
Insurance	4,130	4,466	336
Accountable Body Support Services Total	212,300	170,570	(41,730)
Joint Committee			
External Legal Support	18,000	4,400	(13,600)
External Financial Fees	10,000	4,100	(5,900)
External Audit Fee	27,520	13,085	(14,435)
Business Delivery Board	15,000	0	(15,000)
Joint Committee Total	70,520	21,585	(48,935)
Projects			
Project Business Case Development	200,000	70,046	(129,954)
External Legal Support	100,000	212,920	112,920
External Financial Support	0	2,250	2,250
External Procurement Support	35,000	0	(35,000)
Assurance	40,000	24,750	(15,250)
Projects Total	375,000	309,966	(65,034)
Grant schemes			
Employee Expenditure - Local Area Energy Project	99,420	141,407	41,987
Local Area Energy Plans	0	34,230	34,230
Employee Spending - Shared Prosperity Fund	122,640	160,416	37,776
Shared Prosperity Plans	550,500	527,544	(22,956)
Agri-food Status Research	0	5,783	5,783
Grant schemes Total	772,560	869,380	96,820
Transfers to reserves			
Interest on balances	0	2,800,231	2,800,231
Transfers to reserves Total	0	2,800,231	2,800,231
Total Expenditure	2,963,320	5,629,532	2,666,212

North Wales Economic Ambition Board's Financial Position (March 2025)

	Total Budget	2024/25 Final Position	Overspend / (Underspend)
Income	(£)	(£)	(£)
Funding Contributions			
Partner Contributions			
Conwy County Borough Council	(57,880)	(57,880)	0
Denbighshire County Council	(57,880)	(57,880)	0
Flintshire County Council	(57,880)	(57,880)	0
Cyngor Gwynedd	(57,880)	(57,880)	0
Isle of Anglesey County Council	(57,880)	(57,880)	0
Wrexham County Borough Council	(57,880)	(57,880)	0
Bangor University	(28,950)	(28,950)	0
Wrexham University	(28,950)	(28,950)	0
Coleg Cambria	(28,950)	(28,950)	0
Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	(28,950)	(28,950)	0
Local Authorities' Supplementary Contributions			
Conwy County Borough Council	(40,000)	(40,000)	0
Denbighshire County Council	(40,000)	(40,000)	0
Flintshire County Council	(40,000)	(40,000)	0
Cyngor Gwynedd	(40,000)	(40,000)	0
Isle of Anglesey County Council	(40,000)	(40,000)	0
Wrexham County Borough Council	(40,000)	(40,000)	0
Other			
North Wales Growth Deal Grant	(1,100,000)	(1,100,000)	0
Welsh Government Energy Grant	(106,180)	(186,054)	(79,874)
The North Wales Corporate Joint Committee	0	(84,008)	(84,008)
UK Shared Prosperity Fund	(973,600)	(1,059,095)	(85,495)
Welsh Government Grant - Student Placement	(13,510)	(8,651)	4,859
Agri-food Status Research Contributions	0	(5,783)	(5,783)
Betsi Cadwaladr Health Board and Social Care Wales	0	(1,285)	(1,285)
Project Reserve	0	0	0
Earmarked Reserve	(66,950)	(66,950)	0
Interest	0	(2,800,231)	(2,800,231)
Total Income	(2,963,320)	(6,015,137)	(3,051,817)
Net Overspend / (Underspend)	0	(385,605)	(385,605)

	£
Total earmarked reserve at 31 March 2024	(277,927)
2024/25 budget allocation	66,950
Total earmarked reserve at 31 March 2025	(210,977)

	£
Total projects reserve at 31 March 2024	(152,300)
Usage in 2024/25	123,133
Total projects reserve at 31 March 2025	(29,167)

	£
Total interest reserve at 31 March 2024	(4,733,483)
2024/25 contributions	0
Total interest reserve at 31 March 2025	(4,733,483)

	£
Total resources reserve at 31 March 2024	0
Interest on 2024/25 balances	(2,800,231)
Total resources reserve at 31 March 2025	(2,800,231)

Revenue Position 2020/21 - 2024/25

Appendix 3

	2020/21 £	2021/22 £	2022/23 £	2023/24 £	2024/25 £
Expenditure					
Portfolio Management Office	827,449	1,383,698	1,503,487	1,380,839	1,457,800
Accountable Body Support Services	126,955	141,456	142,779	161,779	170,570
Joint Committee	42,424	13,257	20,309	45,335	21,585
Projctcs	116,817	225,652	493,210	455,909	309,966
Grant schemes	0	650,879	449,008	608,520	869,380
Total Expenditure	1,113,645	2,414,942	2,608,793	2,652,382	2,829,301
Income					
Partner Contributions	(400,000)	(400,000)	(416,000)	(442,820)	(463,080)
Local Authorities' Supplementary Contributions	(240,000)	(240,000)	(240,000)	(240,000)	(240,000)
North Wales Growth Deal Grant	0	(218,773)	(286,052)	(561,454)	(714,395)
Welsh Government Energy Grant	(24,954)	0	(201,729)	(599,683)	(186,054)
Corporate Joint Committee	0	0	(70,345)	(70,239)	(84,008)
UK Shared Prosperity Fund	0	0	(14,619)	(181,837)	(1,059,095)
European Social Fund	(561,195)	(808,304)	(987,196)	(232,829)	0
Community Renewal Fund	0	(135,895)	(241,339)	0	0
Student placement Grant	0	0	0	(15,349)	(8,651)
Mobile phone coverage survey Grant	0	(14,694)	(14,694)	0	0
Decarbonisation Grant	(67,300)	(500,290)	0	0	0
Regional Economic Framework Grant	0	(195,000)	0	0	0
Public Transport (Wales) Bill Grant	(19,318)	0	0	0	0
Covid-19 Economic Impact Grant	(7,332)	0	0	0	0
Contributions	0	0	(854)	(22,379)	(7,068)
Engagement Team repayment	(27,107)	0	0	0	0
Earmarked Reserve	0	(96,672)	(127,700)	(274,100)	(66,950)
Interest	(7,462)	(314)	(8,265)	(11,692)	0
Total Income	(1,354,668)	(2,609,942)	(2,608,793)	(2,652,382)	(2,829,301)
Transfer to reserves	241,023	195,000	0	0	0
Neutral Net Position	0	0	0	0	0
Over /(Underspend) before adjustment to create a neutral position	(241,023)	(318,328)	(463,948)	(460,546)	(385,605)
Earmarked reserve opening balance	(497,529)	(738,552)	(637,027)	(552,027)	(277,927)
Transfer to reserve	(241,023)	(318,328)	0	0	0
Transfer from reserve	0	415,000	85,000	274,100	66,950
Transfer to interest reserve	0	4,853	0	0	0
Earmarked reserve closing balance	(738,552)	(637,027)	(552,027)	(277,927)	(210,977)
Projects reserve opening balance	0	0	(195,000)	(152,300)	(152,300)
Transfer to reserves	0	(195,000)	0	0	0
Transfer from reserve	0	0	42,700	0	123,133
Projects reserve closing balance	0	(195,000)	(152,300)	(152,300)	(29,167)
Interest reserve opening balance	0	0	(699,145)	(1,667,882)	(4,733,483)
Transfer from earmarked reserve	0	(4,853)	0	0	0
Partner Interest Contributions	0	(678,020)	(216,370)	(251,040)	0
Interest on balances	0	(16,272)	(752,367)	(2,814,561)	0
Interest reserve closing balance	0	(699,145)	(1,667,882)	(4,733,483)	(4,733,483)
Resources reserve opening balance	0	0	0	0	0
Interest on balances	0	0	0	0	(2,800,231)
Resources reserve closing balance	0	0	0	0	(2,800,231)

Programme / Project	Project Sponsor	2021/22 (£m)	2022/23 (£m)	2023/24 (£m)	2024/25 (£m)	2025/26 (£m)	2026/27 (£m)	2027/28 (£m)	2028/29 (£m)	2029/30 (£m)	2030/31 (£m)	2031/32 (£m)	2032/33 (£m)	2033/34 (£m)	2034/35 (£m)	Total (£m)
Digital																
Digital Signal Processing Centre (DSP)	Bangor University	0.12	1.66	0.37	0.00	0.81	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.96
Connected Key Sites and Corridors	NWEAB	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.98	3.27	3.27	0.94	0.41	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.87
Connected Campus	NWEAB	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.80	5.10	9.80	4.98	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.68
Connecting the last few percent	NWEAB	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.32	1.85	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.17
Low carbon energy																
Cydnorth (Morlais)	Menter Môn	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.43	4.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.87
Egni (Low Carbon Energy Centre of Excellence)	Bangor University	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.97	1.97	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.94
Trawsfynydd Power Station	Cwmni Eginio	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.50	2.50	5.00	5.70	5.00	0.00	19.70
New H2	NWEAB	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	2.30	2.30	3.10	1.53	0.00	0.00	11.23
Smart Local Energy	NWEAB	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.00	9.25	9.25	3.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	24.63
Project Withdrawn (Deeside AD Plant)	n/a	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.20	3.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.40
Holyhead Hydrogen Hub	Menter Môn	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.90	1.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.80
Land and property																
Holyhead Gateway	Stena Line	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11.49	11.49	11.49	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	34.47
Warren Hall Strategic Site	NWEAB	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.38	7.39	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	14.77
Former North Wales Hospital, Denbigh	NWEAB	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.47	3.47	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.94
Parc Bryn Cegin Strategic Site	NWEAB	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.93	1.98	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.91
Western Gateway, Wrexham	NWEAB	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.48	4.48	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.96
Kinnel Studios	Stage Fifty	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.40	3.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.80
Wrexham Gateway	Wrexham County Borough Council	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.79	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.79
Innovation in High Value Manufacturing																
Centre of Environmental Biotechnology (CEB)	Bangor University	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.58	2.38	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.96
Enterprise Engineering & Optics Centre	Wrexham University	0.00	0.00	0.75	9.06	1.74	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11.55
Agri-food and tourism																
Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub	Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.20	4.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11.82
Tourism Talent Network	Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	3.42	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.43
Responsible Adventure	Zip World	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.30	3.70	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.20
2.15% to fund the NWEAB's revenue budget		0.22	0.28	0.56	0.71	1.54	0.66	0.46	0.15	0.15	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.07	0.05	5.15
Programme Total		0.34	1.94	1.68	11.35	30.77	40.86	59.28	42.58	22.45	8.10	8.20	7.33	5.07	0.05	240.00
Approved budget (March 2024)		0.34	1.94	1.05	24.67	58.68	68.53	44.81	19.71	1.65	2.60	5.10	5.80	5.07	0.05	240.00
Variance		0.00	0.00	0.63	(13.32)	(27.91)	(27.67)	14.47	22.87	20.80	5.50	3.10	1.53	0.00	0.00	0.00
Cumulative expenditure		0.34	2.28	3.96	15.31	46.08	86.94	146.22	188.80	211.25	219.35	227.55	234.88	239.95	240.00	240.00

NORTH WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

13 June 2025

TITLE: North Wales Corporate Joint Committee Out-turn Report and Annual Return 2024/25

AUTHOR: Dewi A. Morgan, Head of Finance (CJC's Statutory Finance Officer)
Sian Pugh, Assistant Head of Finance

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Corporate Joint Committee (CJC) with the final out-turn position for 2024/25 and to obtain approval of the official Annual Return for 2024/25.

2. DECISION SOUGHT

- 2.1. To note and accept the CJC's annual expenditure and income for 2024/25 as submitted in Appendix 1.
- 2.2. To obtain the CJC's approval for the underspend in 2024/25 to be transferred to an earmarked reserve to fund future one-off costs.
- 2.3. To approve the CJC's Annual Return for 2024/25 (subject to External Audit), in line with the statutory deadline of 30 June 2025. It has been duly completed and certified by Cyngor Gwynedd's Head of Finance as the Statutory Financial Officer for the CJC (Appendix 2).

3. REASON FOR THE DECISION

- 3.1. To inform the CJC of its financial position for 2024/25 and to comply with the statutory requirements regarding completing the Annual Return.

4. BACKGROUND AND RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1. At its meeting on 26 January 2024, the CJC approved its budget for 2024/25.
- 4.2. The accounts and return will be subject to audit by Audit Wales, who have been appointed by the Auditor General for Wales. Should any amendments be necessary, then revised version will be presented to the CJC in due course.
- 4.3. After audit and following any required amendments, the Auditor General's representative will certify the return.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1. 2024/25 Expenditure per Heading

- 5.1.1. Appendix 1 provides a detailed breakdown of the expenditure and income per heading against its annual budget for 2024/25 and these correspond to the figures in the Annual Return as shown in Appendix 2.
- 5.1.2. The final net out-turn position for 2024/25 was an underspend of £401,598 and this has increased from the £270,550 underspend that was forecasted in the end of December 2024 review. Approval is sought to transfer this underspend to the earmarked reserve. The CJC has already approved for £564,740 of this reserve to be used as part of the 2025/26 budget at its meeting on 17 January 2025.

Employees

- 5.1.3. The final underspend on this heading is £333,674.
- 5.1.4. The expenditure on the Transport sub-heading includes the secondment costs of the Implementation Programme Manager from Welsh Government and costs for the Strategic Communication and Engagement Lead (1 day a week). The expenditure on the CJC sub-heading includes costs for the interim Chief Executive (2 days a week) together with the support of the Personal Assistant (1 day a week).
- 5.1.5. The budgeted allowance cost of the lay members relates to Governance and Audit Committee meetings; these meetings will be held from 2025/26.

Travelling

- 5.1.6. The travel allowance and staff subsistence budget has not been used in 2024/25 which leaves an underspend of £6,000 for the year.

Supplies and services

- 5.1.7. There was a net underspend of £129,140 against the supplies and services heading for 2024/25.
- 5.1.8. There was an overspend in the miscellaneous supplies heading of £7,502 due to training and printing costs associated with the Regional Transport Plan.
- 5.1.9. Audit Wales' fees are showing as negative for 2024/25 as the fees accounted for in previous years were higher than the actual amounts. In addition, an Annual Return is required for 2024/25 rather than a full set of accounts due to the turnover not exceeding the £2.5m threshold.
- 5.1.10. The expenditure on the external consultants heading for the year was £222,231 and £180,517 of this expenditure was funded from the Welsh Government Transport Grant. The external consultants' expenditure for Strategic Planning is expected to commence in 2025/26.
- 5.1.11. There is an underspend of £46,763 on the insurance costs and this is due to an interim insurance policy being in place for 2024/25, with the full insurance policy commencing in April 2025.

Support Services

5.1.12. The final underspend on the support services heading is £7,230.

5.1.13. The overspend on the corporate support heading is mainly due to translation costs. The underspend on the legal heading will be used to fund part of the overspend on the legal and democratic costs from external consultants shown under set-up costs.

Set-up costs

5.1.14. The net overspend on the set-up costs heading is £195,753.

5.1.15. Due to the delay in the transfer of the Growth Deal functions to the CJC to 1 April 2025, the legal and democratic and external consultants costs associated with the transfer was £262,686 compared to the budget of £50,000.

5.1.16. The £125,886 expenditure on legal and democratic costs includes the costs for an external law firm as well as a legal consultant and a democratic consultant who were commissioned to provide specialised advice and support on the establishment of the CJC.

5.1.17. The £136,800 on external consultants relates to project management costs associated with the CJC implementation.

Income

5.1.18. The CJC was successful in its bid to Welsh Government for funding towards the Regional Transport Plan, and £125k was awarded in 2023/24 and a further £100k in 2024/25. £180,517 of this grant income is shown in 2024/25, with £80,517 of the grant income funding external consultant costs that were commissioned in 2023/24 but the work not completed until April 2024.

5.1.19. Following confirmation in the October 2024 Budget that the Investment Zone programme would continue UK wide, the CJC have been working on the Gateway documents. There is an annual allocation of £640k to fund revenue costs, and one third of this budget will be allocated to the CJC. The first claim will include the £83k costs incurred in 2024/25, and although both Wrexham and Flintshire County Councils have between them underwritten £50,000 of this expenditure, the CJC reserve will be used to fund this expenditure in 2024/25 and will be repaid once the grant income is approved from Government.

5.1.20. The interest on balances for 2024/25 was £57,723.

5.2. Constituent Authority Contributions

5.2.1. The levy on the constituent authorities for 2024/25 was approved by the CJC in its meeting on 26 January 2024.

5.3. Reserve

5.3.1. On 1 April 2024, there was £892k in the reserve and £98k of this reserve was approved to be used for the 2024/25 budget and £100k to fund the Investment Zone expenditure until the grant income from Government is approved. Due to the underspend in 2024/25, the reserve balance at 31 March 2025 has increased to £1,113k.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. As defined in the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 (as amended), the Corporate Joint Committee, due to its turnover not exceeding £2.5m in 2024/25, is required to prepare an annual return and this must be prepared in accordance with proper practices as stipulated by legislation.

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1: North Wales Corporate Joint Committee 2024/25 Revenue Out-turn position

Appendix 2: Annual Return for the year ended 31 March 2025

STATUTORY OFFICERS RESPONSE:

i. Monitoring Officer:

No observations to add in relation to propriety.

ii. Statutory Finance Officer:

Report author.

North Wales Corporate Joint Committee's 2024/25 Revenue Out-turn Position

Appendix 1

	Original Budget					2024/25 Final Position					Overspend / (Underspend)
	Strategic Planning	Transport	Investment Zone	Corporate Joint Committee	Total Budget	Strategic Planning	Transport	Investment Zone	Corporate Joint Committee	Total Expenditure	
Expenditure	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)
Employees											
Employee expenditure	222,440	111,540	0	95,380	429,360	0	28,196	0	72,370	100,566	(328,794)
Lay members allowance	0	0	0	4,880	4,880	0	0	0	0	0	(4,880)
Employees Total	222,440	111,540	0	100,260	434,240	0	28,196	0	72,370	100,566	(333,674)
Travel											
Travel and subsistence	3,000	2,000	0	1,000	6,000	0	0	0	0	0	(6,000)
Travel Total	3,000	2,000	0	1,000	6,000	0	0	0	0	0	(6,000)
Supplies and services											
Tools and equipment	4,500	3,000	0	0	7,500	680	0	0	1,414	2,094	(5,406)
Miscellaneous supplies	1,000	1,000	0	1,000	3,000	21	4,690	0	5,791	10,502	7,502
Engagement and meetings	770	770	0	3,830	5,370	90	0	0	0	90	(5,280)
Audit Wales' fees	0	0	0	21,100	21,100	0	0	0	(5,154)	(5,154)	(26,254)
External consultants	132,500	132,670	0	10,000	275,170	0	222,231	0	0	222,231	(52,939)
Insurance	15,000	15,000	0	30,000	60,000	5,600	5,600	0	2,037	13,237	(46,763)
Supplies and services Total	153,770	152,440	0	65,930	372,140	6,391	232,521	0	4,088	243,000	(129,140)
Support Services											
Finance Services Support	0	0	0	28,210	28,210	0	0	0	26,211	26,211	(1,999)
Legal (includes Monitoring Officer)	7,500	7,500	0	15,000	30,000	0	0	0	18,116	18,116	(11,884)
Corporate Support	8,330	7,730	0	19,620	35,680	0	12,315	0	36,050	48,365	12,685
Information Technology	2,310	1,540	0	3,120	6,970	0	0	0	938	938	(6,032)
Support Services Total	18,140	16,770	0	65,950	100,860	0	12,315	0	81,315	93,630	(7,230)
Set-up costs											
Legal and Democratic	0	0	0	50,000	50,000	13,571	13,571	0	98,744	125,886	75,886
External consultants	0	0	0	0	0	13,680	54,720	0	68,400	136,800	136,800
Investment Zone	0	0	100,000	0	100,000	0	0	83,067	0	83,067	(16,933)
Set-up costs Total	0	0	100,000	50,000	150,000	27,251	68,291	83,067	167,144	345,753	195,753
Total Expenditure	397,350	282,750	100,000	283,140	1,063,240	33,642	341,323	83,067	324,917	782,949	(280,291)
Welsh Government Grant	0	(100,000)	0	0	(100,000)	0	(180,517)	0	0	(180,517)	(80,517)
Interest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(57,723)	(57,723)	(57,723)
Contribution from reserve	(26,100)	0	(100,000)	(72,320)	(198,420)	(26,100)	0	(83,067)	(72,320)	(181,487)	16,933
Total Net Expenditure	371,250	182,750	0	210,820	764,820	7,542	160,806	0	194,874	363,222	(401,598)

	Strategic Planning	Other functions	Total Levy
Income	(£)	(£)	(£)
Partners Contributions through a levy			
Conwy County Borough Council	(58,510)	(65,370)	(123,880)
Denbighshire County Council	(52,080)	(55,220)	(107,300)
Flintshire County Council	(83,780)	(88,830)	(172,610)
Cyngor Gwynedd	(53,870)	(67,260)	(121,130)
Isle of Anglesey County Council	(37,230)	(39,480)	(76,710)
Wrexham County Borough Council	(73,010)	(77,410)	(150,420)
Eryri National Park Authority	(12,770)		(12,770)
Total Income	(371,250)	(393,570)	(764,820)

	Strategic Planning	Other functions	Total Levy	Variance
	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)
Conwy County Borough Council	(58,510)	(65,370)	(123,880)	0
Denbighshire County Council	(52,080)	(55,220)	(107,300)	0
Flintshire County Council	(83,780)	(88,830)	(172,610)	0
Cyngor Gwynedd	(53,870)	(67,260)	(121,130)	0
Isle of Anglesey County Council	(37,230)	(39,480)	(76,710)	0
Wrexham County Borough Council	(73,010)	(77,410)	(150,420)	0
Eryri National Park Authority	(12,770)		(12,770)	0
Total Income	(371,250)	(393,570)	(764,820)	0

Total reserves at 31/03/24	892,560
2024/25 Budget	(98,420)
Investment Zone	(83,067)
2024/25 Underspend	401,598
Total reserves at 31/03/25	1,112,671

Minor Joint Committees in Wales

Annual Return for the Year Ended 31 March 2025

Accounting statements 2024-25 for:

Name of
Committee:

North Wales Corporate Joint Committee

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2024 (£)	31 March 2025 (£)	Please round all figures to nearest £. Do not leave any boxes blank and report £0 or nil balances. All figures must agree to the underlying financial records for the relevant year.
Statement of income and expenditure/receipts and payments			
1. Balances brought forward	238,098	892,560	Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Must agree to line 7 of the previous year.
2. (+) Income from local taxation/levy	764,820	764,820	Total amount of income received/receivable in the year from levy/contribution from principal bodies.
3. (+) Total other receipts	47,344	238,240	Total income or receipts recorded in the cashbook minus amounts included in line 2. Includes support, discretionary and revenue grants.
4. (-) Staff costs	-92,514	-100,566	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include salaries and wages, taxable allowances, PAYE and NI (employees and employers), pension contributions and termination costs. Exclude reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses.
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on external borrowing (if any).
6. (-) Total other payments	-65,188	-682,383	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook minus staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).
7. (=) Balances carried forward	892,560	1,112,671	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) – (4+5+6).
Statement of balances			
8. (+) Debtors	294,873	90,315	Income and expenditure accounts only: Enter the value of debts owed to the Committee at the year-end.
9. (+) Total cash and investments	852,363	1,434,437	All accounts: The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and investments held at 31 March. This must agree with the reconciled cashbook balance as per the bank reconciliation.
10. (-) Creditors	-254,676	-412,081	Income and expenditure accounts only: Enter the value of monies owed by the Committee (except borrowing) at the year-end.
11. (=) Balances carried forward	892,560	1,112,671	Total balances should equal line 7 above: Enter the total of (8+9-10).
12. Total fixed assets and long-term assets	0	0	The asset and investment register value of all fixed assets and any other long-term assets held as at 31 March.
13. Total borrowing	0	0	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).

Annual Governance Statement

We acknowledge as the members of the Committee, our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including the preparation of the accounting statements. We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, with respect to the accounting statements for the year ended 31 March 2025, that:

	Agreed?		'YES' means that the Committee:	PG Ref
	Yes	No*		
1. We have put in place arrangements for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> effective financial management during the year; and the preparation and approval of the accounting statements. 	Yes		Properly sets its budget and manages its money and prepares and approves its accounting statements as prescribed by law.	6, 12
2. We have maintained an adequate system of internal control, including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption, and reviewed its effectiveness.	Yes		Made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.	6, 7
3. We have taken all reasonable steps to assure ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and codes of practice that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of the Committee to conduct its business or on its finances.	Yes		Has only done things that it has the legal power to do and has conformed to codes of practice and standards in the way it has done so.	6
4. We have provided proper opportunity for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014.	Yes		Has given all persons interested the opportunity to inspect the committee's accounts as set out in the notice of audit.	6, 23
5. We have carried out an assessment of the risks facing the Committee and taken appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.	Yes		Considered the financial and other risks it faces in the operation of the Committee and has dealt with them properly.	6, 9
6. We have maintained an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems throughout the year and have received a report from the internal auditor.	Yes		Arranged for a competent person, independent of the financial controls and procedures, to give an objective view on whether these meet the needs of the Committee.	6, 8
7. We have considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on the Committee and, where appropriate, have included them on the accounting statements.	Yes		Disclosed everything it should have about its business during the year including events taking place after the year-end if relevant.	6
8. We have taken appropriate action on all matters raised in previous reports from internal and external audit.	Yes		Considered and taken appropriate action to address issues/weaknesses brought to its attention by both the internal and external auditors.	6, 8, 23

* Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each 'no' response given; and describe what action is being taken to address the weaknesses identified.


Additional disclosure notes*

The following information is provided to assist the reader to understand the accounting statement and/or the Annual Governance Statement	
1.	
2.	
3.	

* Include here any additional disclosures the Committee considers necessary to aid the reader’s understanding of the accounting statement and/or the annual governance statement.

Committee approval and certification

The Committee is responsible for the preparation of the accounting statements and the annual governance statement in accordance with the requirements of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 (the Act) and the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014.

Certification by the RFO I certify that the accounting statements contained in this Annual Return present fairly the financial position of the Committee, and its income and expenditure, or properly present receipts and payments, as the case may be, for the year ended 31 March 2025.		Approval by the Committee I confirm that these accounting statements and Annual Governance Statement were approved by the Committee under minute reference:	
RFO signature: 		Minute ref:	
Name: Dewi Aeron Morgan		Chair signature:	
Date: 04/06/2025		Name:	
		Date:	

Annual internal audit report to:

Name of
Committee:

North Wales Corporate Joint Committee

The Committee's internal audit, acting independently and on the basis of an assessment of risk, has included carrying out a selective assessment of compliance with relevant procedures and controls expected to be in operation during the financial year ending 31 March 2025.

The internal audit has been carried out in accordance with the Committee's needs and planned coverage. On the basis of the findings in the areas examined, the internal audit conclusions are summarised in this table. Set out below are the objectives of internal control and the internal audit conclusions on whether, in all significant respects, the following control objectives were being achieved throughout the financial year to a standard adequate to meet the needs of the Committee.

	Agreed?				Outline of work undertaken as part of the internal audit (NB not required if detailed internal audit report presented to the Committee)
	Yes	No*	N/A	Not covered**	
1. Appropriate books of account have been properly kept throughout the year.	✓				
2. Financial regulations have been met, payments were supported by invoices, expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	✓				
3. The Committee assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	✓				
4. The annual precept/levy/resource demand requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process, progress against the budget was regularly monitored, and reserves were appropriate.	✓				
5. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked, and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	✓				
6. Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.			✓		
7. Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with minuted approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied.	✓				
8. Asset and investment registers were complete, accurate, and properly maintained.			✓		

	Agreed?				Outline of work undertaken as part of the internal audit (NB not required if detailed internal audit report presented to Committee)
	Yes	No*	N/A	Not covered**	
9. Periodic and year-end bank account reconciliations were properly carried out.	✓				
10. Accounting statements prepared during the year were prepared on the correct accounting basis (receipts and payments/income and expenditure), agreed with the cashbook, were supported by an adequate audit trail from underlying records, and where appropriate, debtors and creditors were properly recorded.	✓				

For any risk areas identified by the Committee (list any other risk areas below or on separate sheets if needed) adequate controls existed:

	Agreed?				Outline of work undertaken as part of the internal audit (NB not required if detailed internal audit report presented to Committee)
	Yes	No*	N/A	Not covered**	
11.					
12.					
13.					

* If the response is 'no', please state the implications and action being taken to address any weakness in control identified (add separate sheets if needed).

** If the response is 'not covered', please state when the most recent internal audit work was done in this area and when it is next planned, or if coverage is not required, internal audit must explain why not.

My detailed findings and recommendations which I draw to the attention of the Committee are included in my detailed report to the Committee dated May 2025.

Internal audit confirmation

I/we confirm that as the Committee's internal auditor, I/we have not been involved in a management or administrative role within the Committee (including preparation of the accounts) or as a member of the Committee during the financial years 2023-24 and 2024-25. I also confirm that there are no conflicts of interest surrounding my appointment.

Name of person who carried out the internal audit: Bleddyn Rhys
Signature of person who carried out the internal audit: <i>Bleddyn Rhys</i>
Date: 04/06/2025

NORTH WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

13 June 2025

TITLE: Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2025/26

AUTHOR: Dewi A. Morgan, Head of Finance (CJC's Statutory Finance Officer)
Sian Pugh, Assistant Head of Finance

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Corporate Joint Committee's (CJC) Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2025/26.

2. DECISIONS SOUGHT

- 2.1. To accept and approve the Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2025/26.

3. REASONS FOR THE DECISION

Treasury management decisions are made daily by the Head of Finance and staff at Cyngor Gwynedd and they are required to act in accordance with the approved Treasury Management Strategy.

4. BACKGROUND AND RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1. Treasury management is concerned with keeping sufficient but not excessive cash available to meet the CJC's spending needs, while managing the risks involved.
- 4.2. On 1 April 2025, the North Wales Economic Ambition Board (NWEAB) transferred to the CJC and therefore the Treasury Management Strategy Statement includes both the CJC and the NWEAB's cash balances.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. The Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2025/26 is based on the CIPFA Code and the Welsh Government's Guidance on Local Authority Investments and therefore fulfils the legal responsibility of the CJC under the Local Government Act 2003.

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1 Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2025/26

STATUTORY OFFICERS RESPONSE:

i. Monitoring Officer:

No observations to add in relation to propriety.

ii. Statutory Finance Officer:

Report author.

NORTH WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE**Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2025/26****1. Introduction**

- 1.1** Treasury management is the management of the Corporate Joint Committee's cash flows, borrowing and investments, and the associated risks. The Corporate Joint Committee (CJC) will invest substantial sums of money and will therefore be exposed to financial risks including the loss of invested funds and the revenue effect of changing interest rates. The successful identification, monitoring and control of financial risk are therefore central to the Corporate Joint Committee's prudent financial management.
- 1.2** Treasury risk management at the CJC is conducted within the framework of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's *Treasury Management in the Public Services: Code of Practice 2021 Edition* (the CIPFA Code) which requires the CJC to approve a treasury management strategy. In addition, the Welsh Government (WG) issued revised Guidance on Local Authority Investments in November 2019 that requires the CJC to approve an investment strategy. This report fulfils the CJC's legal obligation under the Local Government Act 2003 to have regard to both the CIPFA Code and the WG Guidance.
- 1.3** In accordance with the WG Guidance, the CJC will be asked to approve a revised Treasury Management Strategy Statement should the assumptions on which this report is based change significantly. Such circumstances would include, for example, a large unexpected change in interest rates, or in the level of its investment balance.

2. External Context**2.1 Economic background**

The impact on the UK from the government's Autumn Budget, slower expected interest rate cuts, a short-term boost to but modestly weaker economic growth over the medium term, together with the impact from President-elect Trump's second term in office and uncertainties around US domestic and foreign policy, will be major influences on the CJC's treasury management strategy for 2025/26.

2.2 Interest rate forecast

The CJC's treasury management adviser, Arlingclose, expects the Bank of England's MPC will continue reducing Bank Rate through 2025, taking it to around 3.75% by the end of the 2025/26 financial year. The effect from the Autumn Budget on economic growth and inflation has reduced previous expectations in

terms of the pace of rate cuts as well as pushing up the rate at the end of the loosening cycle.

3. Treasury Investment Strategy

- 3.1** The CJC will hold significant invested funds, representing income received in advance of expenditure. The balance at 31st March 2025 was £55.4m and the levels expected for the forthcoming years can be seen in the table below.

Table 1: Treasury investment summary and forecast

	31.3.25 Actual £m	31.3.26 Forecast £m	31.3.27 Forecast £m	31.3.28 Forecast £m	31.3.29 Forecast £m
Treasury Investments	55.4	51.9	37.0	3.0	(12.0)

3.2 Objectives

Both the CIPFA Code and the WG Guidance require the Corporate Joint Committee to invest its treasury funds prudently, and to have regard to the security and liquidity of its investments before seeking the highest rate of return or yield. The CJC's objective when investing money is to strike an appropriate balance between risk and return, minimising the risk of incurring losses from defaults and the risk of receiving unsuitably low investment income. Where balances are expected to be invested for more than one year, the Joint Committee will aim to achieve a total return that is equal or higher than the prevailing rate of inflation, in order to maintain the spending power of the sum invested. The CJC aims to be a responsible investor and will consider environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues when investing.

3.3 Business models

Under the new IFRS 9 standard, the accounting for certain investments depends on the CJC's "business model" for managing them. The Joint Committee aims to achieve value from its internally managed treasury investments by a business model of collecting the contractual cash flows and therefore, where other criteria are also met, these investments will continue to be accounted for at amortised cost.

3.4 Approved counterparties

The Corporate Joint Committee may invest its surplus funds with any of the counterparty in table 2 below subject to the cash limits (by counterparty) and the time limits shown.

Table 2: Approved investment counterparties and limits

Sector	Time limit	Counterparty limit	Sector limit
The UK Government	50 years	Unlimited	n/a
Local authorities & other government entities	25 years	£5m	Unlimited
Secured investments *	25 years	£5m	Unlimited
Banks (unsecured) *	13 months	£3m	Unlimited
Building societies (unsecured) *	13 months	£3m	£6m
Registered providers (unsecured) *	5 years	£3m	£15m
Money market funds *	n/a	£5m	Unlimited

*This table must be read in conjunction with the notes below.

3.5 Minimum Credit rating

Treasury investments in the sectors marked with a * will only be made with entities whose lowest published long-term credit rating is no lower than A-. Where available, the credit rating relevant to the specific investment or class of investment is used, otherwise the counterparty credit rating is used. However, investment decisions are never made solely based on credit ratings, and all other relevant factors including external advice will be taken into account.

3.6 Government

Loans to, and bonds and bills issued or guaranteed by, national governments, regional and local authorities and multilateral development banks. These investments are not subject to bail-in, and there is generally a lower risk of insolvency, although they are not zero risk. Investments with the UK Government are deemed to be zero credit risk due to its ability to create additional currency and therefore may be made in unlimited amounts for up to 50 years.

3.7 Secured investments

Investments secured on the borrower's assets, which limits the potential losses in the event of insolvency. The amount and quality of the security will be a key factor in the investment decision. Covered bonds and reverse repurchase agreements with banks and building societies are exempt from bail-in. Where there is no investment specific credit rating, but the collateral upon which the investment is secured has a credit rating, the higher of the collateral credit rating and the counterparty credit rating will be used. The combined secured and unsecured investments with any one counterparty will not exceed the cash limit for secured investments.

3.8 Banks and Building Societies (unsecured)

Accounts, deposits, certificates of deposit and senior unsecured bonds with banks and building societies, other than multilateral development banks. These investments are subject to the risk of credit loss via a bail-in should the regulator determine that the bank is failing or likely to fail. See below for arrangements relating to operational bank accounts.

3.9 Registered providers (unsecured)

Loans to, and bonds issued or guaranteed by, registered providers of social housing and registered social landlords, formerly known as housing associations. These bodies are regulated by the Regulator of Social Housing (in England), the Scottish Housing Regulator, the Welsh Government and the Department for Communities (in Northern Ireland). As providers of public services, they retain the likelihood of receiving government support if needed.

3.10 Money Market Funds

Pooled funds that offer same-day or short notice liquidity and very low or no price volatility by investing in short-term money markets. They have the advantage over bank accounts of providing wide diversification of investment risks, coupled with the services of a professional fund manager in return for a small fee. Although no sector limit applies to money market funds, the Corporate Joint Committee will take care to diversify its liquid investments over a variety of providers to ensure access to cash at all times.

3.11 Operational bank accounts

The Corporate Joint Committee may incur operational exposures, for example through current accounts, collection accounts and merchant acquiring services, to any UK bank with credit ratings no lower than BBB- and with assets greater than £25 billion. These are not classed as investments, but are still subject to the risk of a bank bail-in, and balances will therefore be kept below £900,000 per bank. The Bank of England has stated that in the event of failure, banks with assets greater than £25 billion are more likely to be bailed-in than made insolvent, increasing the chance of the CJC maintaining operational continuity.

3.12 Risk assessment and credit ratings

Credit ratings are monitored by the CJC. Where an entity has its credit rating downgraded so that it fails to meet the approved investment criteria then:

- no new investments will be made,
- any existing investments that can be recalled or sold at no cost will be, and
- full consideration will be given to the recall or sale of all other existing investments with the affected counterparty.

Where a credit rating agency announces that a credit rating is on review for possible downgrade (also known as “rating watch negative” or “credit watch negative”) so that it may fall below the approved rating criteria, then only investments that can be withdrawn on the next working day will be made with that organisation until the outcome of the review is announced. This policy will not apply to negative outlooks, which indicate a long-term direction of travel rather than an imminent change of rating.

3.13 Reputational aspects

The Corporate Joint Committee is aware that investment with certain counterparties, while considered secure from a purely financial perspective, may leave it open to criticism, valid or otherwise, that may affect its public reputation, and this risk will therefore be taken into account when making investment decisions.

3.14 Other information on the security of investments

When deteriorating financial market conditions affect the creditworthiness of all organisations, as happened in 2008, 2020 and 2022, this is not generally reflected in credit ratings, but can be seen in other market measures. In these circumstances, the Corporate Joint Committee will restrict its investments to those organisations of higher credit quality and reduce the maximum duration of its investments to maintain the required level of security. The extent of these restrictions will be in line with prevailing financial market conditions. If these restrictions mean that insufficient commercial organisations of high credit quality are available to invest the CJC's cash balances, then the surplus will be deposited with the UK Government, or with other local authorities. This will cause investment returns to fall, but will protect the principal sum invested.

3.15 Investment limits

The maximum that will be lent to any one organisation (other than the UK Government) will be £5 million. A group of entities under the same ownership will be treated as a single organisation for limit purposes.

Credit risk exposures arising from non-treasury investments, financial derivatives and balances greater than £500,000 in operational bank accounts count against the relevant investment limits.

Limits are also placed on fund managers, investments in brokers' nominee accounts and foreign countries as below. Investments in pooled funds and multilateral development banks do not count against the limit for any single foreign country, since the risk is diversified over many countries.

Table 3: Additional limits

	Cash limit
Any group of pooled funds under the same management	£15m per manager
Negotiable instruments held in a broker's nominee account	£15m per broker
Foreign countries	£5m per country

3.16 Liquidity management

The Corporate Joint Committee uses prudent cash flow forecasting techniques to determine the maximum period for which funds may prudently be committed. The forecast is compiled on the basis that short-term borrowing is used to cover its financial commitments if required. Limits on long-term investments are set by reference to the CJC's medium-term financial plan and cash flow forecast.

The CJC will spread its liquid cash over at least four providers (e.g. bank accounts and money market funds) to ensure that access to cash is maintained in the event of operational difficulties at any one provider.

NORTH WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

13 June, 2025

TITLE: Pay Policy Statement 2025/26

AUTHOR: Eurig Huw Williams, HR Service Manager

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:

1.1. Present a recommendation on a pay policy for 2025/26.

2. DECISION SOUGHT:

2.1. To adopt a Pay Policy Statement for North Wales Corporate Joint Committee in respect of 2025/26 (*Appendix 1*).

3. REASON FOR THE DECISION

3.1. In accordance with the content of the 2011 Localism Act, it is a statutory duty on all public authorities to adopt a pay Policy statement on an annual basis. This statutory requirement is relevant to the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee.

3.2. The Joint Committee adopted its initial pay policy in June 2022. Having reviewed that document, it has been concluded that there are no changes to the contents of the policy at this time. As a result, it is proposed that the attached pay policy statement is adopted for 2025/26.

3.3. The document reflects the fact that at the time of reviewing the policy, the process of recruiting a Chief Executive was ongoing.

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1 Pay Policy 2025/26

STATUTORY OFFICERS RESPONSE:

i. Monitoring Officer:

“As noted in the report it is a statutory requirement that the Corporate Joint Committee adopts its own Pay Policy Statement. It is also a statutory requirement that it adopts a Policy for each Financial Year.”

ii. **Statutory Finance Officer:**

“I am satisfied that the Pay Policy recommended for adoption by the CJC is consistent with the Budget for 2025/26 and meets the statutory requirements.”

Pay Policy – 2025 / 26

1. INTRODUCTION

Corporate Joint Committees are required, under Section 38(1) of the Localism Act 2011, to prepare a pay policy statement on an annual basis. The statement must articulate a Corporate Joint Committee's policies towards a range of issues relating to the pay of its workforce, particularly its senior staff (or 'chief officers') and its lowest paid employees. Pay policy statements must be prepared for each financial year and they must be approved by a full Corporate Joint Committee.

The North Wales Corporate Joint Committee recognises the importance of managing pay in a fair, consistent, and transparent manner, and the decisions taken in this regard are crucial to ensure equal pay and equality within the organisation.

2. PAY POLICY FOR THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

This policy will define the terms and conditions of employment for the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee's chief executive officer and all other staff employed and will be further updated with the adoption of a staffing structure in due course.

The North Wales Corporate Joint Committee will employ a chief executive officer under the Joint National Committees' (JNC) terms and conditions for Local Government Chief Executives, the details of which will be incorporated into a contract of employment. The JNC negotiates on national (UK) annual cost of living pay increases for this group of staff. Those employed under JNC terms and conditions are contractually entitled to any national JNC determined pay rises and the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee will therefore pay these as and when determined in accordance with contractual requirements. The role of the Chief Executive is on a grade between £115,928 up to a maximum of £125,000.

3. SALARIES

The North Wales Corporate Joint Committee will not pay any bonus payments or performance related pay to its chief executive. The Joint Committee's local terms and conditions of service will be relevant, as for all other staff, unless otherwise noted within individual policies.

The North Wales Corporate Joint Committee will publish the salaries as an appendix to this policy and on its website as a staffing structure is established.

4. POSTS BELOW CHIEF EXECUTIVE LEVEL

The North Wales Corporate Joint Committee's pay policy for its remaining staff is based on Cyngor Gwynedd's equal pay policy.

The North Wales Corporate Joint Committee has adopted the GLPC Job Evaluation Scheme criteria as the basis for setting salary grades for all posts employed under the Local Government Workers' Conditions of Service. The Joint Committee is committed to pay salaries in accordance with equal pay legislation and the "single status" agreement that was set between local government employers the recognised trade unions in 1997. The North Wales Corporate Joint Committee has decided to adopt Cyngor Gwynedd's pay systems as part of its pay policy for staff.

The North Wales Corporate Joint Committee does not pay any bonus payments nor pay which is based on workers' performance.

The relationship between the remunerations of its chief executive and its other employees is designed to secure the ability of the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee to be able to recruit and retain the best suitable candidates to its various posts, whilst maintaining the differentials as defined by the job's evaluation scheme.

5. SALARY ON COMMENCEMENT IN POST

The number of increments within each grade reflects the possible period of development in post that could be relevant to individuals on that grade. Members of staff will be appointed to the salary point within the grade which reflects the time required for development in order that they are able to undertake the full responsibilities and duties of the post.

Normally, each employee is appointed to the lowest pay point within the appropriate pay grade. If an employee is already being paid above the lowest pay point or if there is sufficient evidence to demonstrate that the employee is already fully competent to fulfil a number of aspects relating to the post, then it is possible to appoint on a higher pay point within the appropriate pay grade.

If there is a capacity within the job grade, all members of staff will receive an annual pay increment on the 1st of April, on condition that they have been appointed to their current post for more than six months prior to that date.

6. RELOCATION EXPENSES

In circumstances when it is essential for staff to relocate to undertake their role, the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee can in certain circumstances contribute to the cost of relocating. The scheme is relevant to staff appointed as a result of an advertisement or following an internal re-organisation where they have to move house.

The employee's present home must be more than 20 miles from his/her administrative centre to consider an application to reimburse costs.

In such circumstances, the cost of the removal of furniture and belongings will be reimbursed subject to accepting the lowest of three estimates as well as the full cost of storing furniture for up to three months. A contribution of up to £3,270 to cover legal expenses, estate agent fees, change of carpets and curtains and other incidental costs of removal will be paid subject to the receipt of supporting invoices.

7. MARKET SUPPLEMENT

The grading of posts is based on Cyngor Gwynedd's job evaluation scheme. The North Wales Corporate Joint Committee has adopted this scheme as a mechanism for deciding on pay grades for staff (apart from the chief executive and programme director). This ensures that the pay system is based on equality as defined in the Equal Pay Act 1970 and ensures consistency in pay decisions. For these reasons, any deviation from this system may create a risk that must be robustly regulated. There must be clear reasons to justify any deviation from this arrangement.

However, there may be occasions when market forces lead to recruitment and/or retention problems in relation to a specific post. The Joint Committee therefore may in exceptional circumstances, and to attract and/or retain an individual to a particular post, offer an additional temporary supplement to the substantive salary grade.

In this respect a market supplement will only be used when there is adequate documented evidence of a failure to attract and/or retain an employee to a post. A market supplement is not a permanent addition to the salary. Should circumstances related to the market rate of the post change, or where a member of staff is transferred by the Joint Committee to a different post that does not attract a market supplement, then their entitlement to the payment will cease and the supplement will be withdrawn in line with agreed notice.

8. HONORARIA (UNDERTAKING ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES)

An additional payment can be approved when an employee agrees to temporarily undertake some specific additional duties and responsibilities which are beyond the normal duties and responsibilities of their substantive post. The proportion of higher level of duties and responsibilities must be significant, evaluated at a higher salary level and over an extended period before temporary additional pay can be offered.

9. PROFESSIONAL FEES

One fee per annum will be reimbursed to officers in respect of membership of recognised bodies which are relevant to their professional function and where that membership is a job requirement.

10. CAR USERS

All staff are denoted as casual car users and reimbursements are paid for business travel on HMRC rates.

11. SUBSISTENCE PAYMENTS

Subsistence repayments will be made when travelling out of County for breakfast, dinner, tea, and supper, up to the maximum for subsistence allowances. For those individuals, whose normal work covers more than one County, e.g., Gwynedd and Môn, "Out of County" is defined as outside that normal area of work.

12. WORKING ADDITIONAL HOURS

Employees, in receipt of basic pay at or below point 22 who are required to work additional hours beyond the 37-hour working week are entitled to receive enhancements at the rate of basic pay at time and a half (alternative arrangements in place for those workers with work patterns where those hours worked are on a fortnightly/monthly or annual basis). Employees paid above point 22 who work beyond the 37-hour week will be paid at their basic rate of pay for those additional hours or will be entitled to time off in lieu, or if the chief executive has specifically given prior approval to planned work, then it is possible to pay at the rate of time and a half.

13. WORKING UNSOCIABLE HOURS

Salary is paid at the basic rate on weekends, for work is undertaken within the 37-hour standard week. Enhanced pay of basic pay and a third is paid to those employees who work between the hours of 10pm and 6am.

Salary is paid in accordance with the national agreement for work conducted on bank holidays and additional statutory days.

14. FIRST AID ALLOWANCE

An annual allowance is paid to employees who act as designated First Aiders.

15. SEVERANCE AND RETIREMENT

The North Wales Corporate Joint Committee's severance and retirement schemes are applied equally and fairly to all staff regardless of grade, age or gender and are implemented in accordance with the regulations of the relevant pension schemes. There are no exceptions for chief officers.

16. FINANCIAL DETRIMENT SCHEME

Financial detriment is defined as a loss due to a change in salary grade and contractual terms and conditions. The North Wales Corporate Joint Committee provides financial assistance to staff who face financial loss (due to re-structuring or re-designation of responsibilities) for a period of two years, based on one year on 100% protection and one year on 50% protection from the date that the change in the employment package becomes operational. That financial assistance will cease after two years unless the individual member of staff has in the meantime been appointed to another post where he/she is not facing financial detriment.

17. RE-EMPLOYMENT

The North Wales Corporate Joint Committee will consider each candidate on their own merit and will appoint with a view to achieving the best efficiency for the service and best value for its ratepayers. Such an appointment, if made, would be subject to any abatements stipulated in the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations. In accordance with tax law, managers must ensure that any proposed arrangement to pay an individual through a 'contract for services' will be assessed through the HMRC's online tool for confirming employment status. This assessment is to be taken objectively.

18. APPOINTMENT OF NEW CHIEF OFFICER (SALARY OF £100,000 AND ABOVE)

The full North Wales Corporate Joint Committee will approve any amendment to the salary package of any such post prior to its recruitment. Recruitment to any such post will be advertised externally.