

Meeting

**NORTH WALES CJC ECONOMIC WELL-BEING SUB-COMMITTEE**

Date and Time

**9.30 am, FRIDAY, 3RD OCTOBER, 2025**

Location

**Virtual Meeting – Zoom**

*For public access to the meeting, please contact us*

Contact Point

**Jasmine Jones**

**01286 679667**

**[jasminejones@gwynedd.llyw.cymru](mailto:jasminejones@gwynedd.llyw.cymru)**

(DISTRIBUTED Date Not Specified)

## **NORTH WALES CJC ECONOMIC WELL-BEING SUB-COMMITTEE**

### **Voting Members**

#### **Councillors**

Gary Pritchard	Isle of Anglesey County Council
Nia Jeffreys	Cyngor Gwynedd
Charlie McCoubrey	Conwy County Borough Council
Jason McLellan	Denbighshire County Council
Dave Hughes	Flintshire County Council
Mark Pritchard	Wrexham County Borough Council

### **Co-optee Members – Non Voting**

Edmund Burke	Bangor University
Professor Joe Yates	Wrexham University
Yana Williams	Coleg Cambria
Aled Jones-Griffith	Grŵp Llandrillo Menai
David Roberts	Chair of the Regional Skills Partnership
Edgar Wyn Owen	Eryri National Park

### **Constituent Council Chief Executives**

Dylan Williams	Isle of Anglesey County Council
Dafydd Gibbard	Cyngor Gwynedd
Rhun ap Iared	Conwy County Borough Council
Graham Boase	Denbighshire County Council
Neal Cockerton	Flintshire County Council
Alwyn Jones	Wrexham County Borough Council

### **Officers in Attendance**

Alwen Williams	CJC Chief Executive / Portfolio Director
Iwan Evans	Monitoring Officer
Claire Incledon	Deputy Monitoring Officer
Dewi Morgan	Chief Finance Officer
Hedd Vaughan-Evans	Head of Operations
Nia Medi Williams	Senior Operations Officer

# **A G E N D A**

## **1. APOLOGIES**

To receive any apologies for absence.

## **2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST**

To receive any declaration of personal interest.

## **3. URGENT BUSINESS**

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

## **4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING** 5 - 13

The Chair shall propose that the minutes of the meeting held on 11 July 2025 be signed as a true record.

## **5. 2025/26 REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET REVIEW** 14 - 20

Dewi Morgan and Sian Pugh to present the report.

## **6. Q1 2025/26 PERFORMANCE AND RISK REPORT** 21 - 50

Hedd Vaughan-Evans to present the report.

## **7. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

The Chair shall propose that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the discussions on the following items due to the likely disclosure of exempt information defined in Paragraph 14 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972: Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

There is an acknowledged public interest in openness in relation to 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 deals specifically with financial and business matter and related discussions. Publication of such commercially sensitive information could adversely affect the interests of the bodies and the Councils and undermine the confidence of other Growth Deal participants in sharing sensitive information for consideration. This would be contrary to the wider public interest of securing the best overall outcome. For those reasons the matter should be exempt in the public interest.

**8. APPOINTMENT OF NON-EXECUTIVE ADVISORS**

Alwen Williams (Chief Executive) to present the report.

**9. FORMER NORTH WALES HOSPITAL – CHANGE REQUEST**

David Mathews to present the report.

**10. PROJECT PRINCE – OUTLINE BUSINESS CASE**

Elliw Hughes to present the report.

**11. SOCIETY 5.0 MANUFACTURING AND BUSINESS CAPABILITY PROJECT – BUSINESS JUSTIFICATION CASE PLUS (BJC+)**

Elliw Hughes to present the report.

**12. NORTH ANGLESEY SITES AND PREMISES PROJECT - BUSINESS JUSTIFICATION CASE+**

David Mathews to present the report.

**13. FREEPORT GATEWAY PROJECT - BUSINESS JUSTIFICATION CASE+**

David Mathews to present the report.

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## NORTH WALES CJC ECONOMIC WELL-BEING SUB-COMMITTEE 11/07/2025

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### **Present:**

**Voting Members** – Councillors:- Carwyn Elias Jones (Isle of Anglesey County Council), Menna Trenholme (Cyngor Gwynedd), Charlie McCoubrey (Conwy County Borough Council), Dave Hughes (Flintshire County Council), Jason McLellan (Denbighshire County Council) and Mark Pritchard (Wrexham County Borough Council).

**Co-opted Members (Non-voting)** – Paul Spencer (Bangor University), David Roberts (Regional Skills Partnership), Councillor Edgar Wyn Owen (Eryri National Park) and Gwenllian Roberts (Grŵp Llandrillo Menai).

**Chief Officers** – Sioned Williams (Cyngor Gwynedd), Rhun ap Iarheit (Conwy County Borough Council), Neal Cockerton (Flintshire County Council), Graham Boase (Denbighshire County Council) and Alwyn Jones (Wrexham County Borough Council).

**Host Authority** – Iwan Evans (Monitoring Officer), Dewi Morgan (Statutory Finance Officer), Sian Pugh (Assistant Head of Finance – Sustainability and Development), Sara Jane Jones (Senior Accountant) and Rhodri Jones (Democracy Services Officer).

**Ambition North Wales** – Alwen Williams (Chief Executive of the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee), Hedd Vaughan-Evans (Head of Operations), David Hole (Operational Programme Manager), Elliw Hughes (Growth Deal Programme Manager), Stuart Whitfield (Digital Programme Manager), David Mathews (Land and Property Programme Manager) and Nia Medi Williams (Resources and Operations Manager).

**Observers** – Dewi Williams and Bryn Richards (Welsh Government) and John Hawkins (UK Government)

### **Others present:**

Item 14 Andrew Hudson (Director, Zip World) and Lucy Dean (QUAD Consultancy)

### **1. ELECTION OF CHAIR**

**It was resolved to elect Councillor Mark Pritchard as Chair for 2025/26.**

### **2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR**

**It was resolved to elect Councillor Charlie McCoubrey as Vice-Chair for 2025/26.**

### **3. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from:-

- Councillor Gary Pritchard (Isle of Anglesey County Council) with Councillor Carwyn Elias Jones deputising
- Councillor Nia Jeffreys (Cyngor Gwynedd) with Councillor Menna Trenholme deputising

- Edmund Burke (Bangor University) with Paul Spencer deputising
- Yana Williams (Coleg Cambria).
- Aled Jones-Griffith (Grŵp Llandrillo Menai) with Gwenllian Roberts deputising.
- Dylan Williams (Isle of Anglesey County Council)
- Dafydd Gibbard (Cyngor Gwynedd) with Sioned Williams deputising
- Wendy Boddington (Observer, Welsh Government) with Dewi Williams and Bryn Richards deputising.
- Gareth Ashman (UK Government Observer) with John Hawkins deputising.

#### **4. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST**

Declarations of personal interest were received from Councillor Carwyn Elias Jones and Gwenllian Roberts for Item 11 as they were employed by Grŵp Llandrillo Menai. It was noted that it was a prejudicial interest and they withdrew from the meeting during the discussion.

#### **5. URGENT ITEMS**

No urgent matters were raised.

#### **6. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Chair signed the minutes of the previous meeting held on 16 May 2025 as a true record.

#### **7. TRANSPORT PROJECTS IN THE GROWTH DEAL**

The report was presented by the Chief Executive and Head of Operations.

#### **DECISION**

- 1. To agree on the recommendation and preferred way forward – Revised Land and Property Programme (Option 2) stating that it will be a matter for the Sub-Committee to determine the projects to be prioritised and the approval of funding from the Growth Deal.**
- 2. To request that the Portfolio Director begins the transition process to formally include these elements in the Land and Property Programme.**

#### **REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

In March 2025, North Wales Ambition launched an 'Expression of Interest' process to select projects for the new Reserve List that would be able to bring forward business cases for funding in the future. One of the criteria set was that projects needed to be within the scope of the five existing Growth Deal programmes – Digital Connectivity, Low Carbon Energy, Land and Property, Innovation in High Value Manufacturing and Agri-Food and Tourism.

Of the 27 Expressions of Interest submitted, four were considered to be outside the scope of the Growth Deal. One of these was a revenue-based project and the other three were primarily transportation projects. It was noted that two had been submitted by the Welsh Government and one by Cyngor Gwynedd. Only one of the projects, 'Padeswood', met the scoring threshold to be considered for inclusion on the reserve list; however, the report to the sub-committee made clear that this would be subject to a separate decision on the inclusion of transport projects within the Growth Deal.

At the Economic Well-being Sub-Committee in May, it was agreed that:

- a) the Sub-Committee agrees to initiate a process to assess and review the scope and case for extending the current Growth Deal to include transport projects.
- b) the Sub-Committee commissions the Portfolio Director to prepare a detailed options report in consultation with the Welsh and UK Governments and officers of the Constituent Councils and Education Partners.
- c) the options report be submitted to the Sub-committee with the intention of determining whether the formal change process should be commenced to ensure agreement for the extended Growth Deal to include Transport projects.

## DISCUSSION

The members were reminded that this report was being submitted following a request from the board following the last meeting in order to be able to decide whether or not it was necessary to consider initiating a formal change process to extend the Growth Deal to accommodate projects with Transport elements.

It was explained that if the 'Padeswood' project were to be approved on the Reserve List, this would enable the possibility of adding more schemes to the reserve list in the future, provided they met the requirements of the Growth Deal. It was noted that this was the only scheme that met the scoring thresholds following an Expression of Interest process to be on the Reserve List, carried out by North Wales Ambition in March 2025.

The background and relevant considerations that had been achieved prior to submitting this report were detailed, noting that a wider scope of programmes had originally been considered when conceptualising the Growth Deal, before deciding on the five programmes that were already in place (Digital Connectivity, Low Carbon Energy, Land and Property, Innovation in High Value Manufacturing and Agri-Food and Tourism). It was explained that only one project comprising Transport aspects was considered at the time of discussing the Growth Deal's Heads of Terms agreement in 2019, and that project had been implemented within the Low Carbon Energy programme thus removing the need to establish a Strategic Transport Programme within the Growth Deal. However, it was emphasised that Transport as well as skills development and employability remained key areas.

It was highlighted that the Economic Well-being Sub-Committee had requested during their meeting in May 2025 that there be a thorough assessment of different options available in order to be able to deliver projects with Transport aspects within the Growth Deal. It was noted that three options had been considered by the Portfolio Management Office (PMO), and they were expanded upon as follows:

- **Option 1: New Transport Programme** – It was noted that this meant introducing a new Programme as part of the Growth Deal. It was explained that this option had been discounted because it required significant funds to be realised and would not be feasible to implement within the available budgets.
- **Option 2: Revised Land and Property Programme** – Consideration was given to amending the wording of this programme to highlight that it may include projects that have transport infrastructure aspects both on project sites and off-site when linked to developments. It was noted that revising the Programme to include this clarity was sensible and achievable.
- **Option 3: No change** – It was explained that this was the option that would have had the least impact, and it was confirmed that this option had been discounted as it would

have meant that the Joint Corporate Committee had lost an opportunity to fund projects that could contribute to the Growth Deal's targets.

It was confirmed that two options had been discounted and that a recommendation was being made to members that they adopt Option 2 – Revised Land and Property Programme. It was reported that introducing this amendment in accordance with option 2 was within the remit of this Sub-Committee as it provided wider clarity on the work that can be delivered within the Programme.

Support for this amendment to the Revised Land and Property Program was expressed, and members were pleased that it provided flexibility for transportation matters that were beneficial to the region. However, it was emphasised that it will be the decision of the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee to confirm which projects can be taken forward through this amendment.

## **8. NON-EXECUTIVE ADVISORS**

The report was presented by the Chief Executive.

### **RESOLVED**

**To agree the process for the recruitment and appointment of Non-Executive Advisors in accordance with the requirements of the Procurement Act 2023 and related regulations.**

- a) In addition to the adopted Job and Personal specifications adopted, a procurement package will be prepared with relevant award criteria.
- b) Advertisement – The Non-Executive Advisor roles will be advertised on the Ambition North Wales website and social media channels (July 2025) and as required by the Act
- c) Applications – Interested candidates will be asked to submit their CV and cover letter setting out why they want the role (July 2025)
- d) Assessment and Shortlisting – Cover letters and CVs will be assessed against the role descriptions by the SRO and Chief Executive and a representative from the Portfolio Management Office, and a short-list will be agreed to be invited to interview (date in August TBC)
- e) Interviews – Short-listed candidates will then be interviewed by a panel consisting of the Chair, Vice-Chair, SRO, Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer along with a third Elected member of the Sub-Committee (to be confirmed) who will make recommendations for appointment to the Economic Well-being Sub-Committee (on a date to be confirmed in September) based on the final scores following the interview.
- f) Appointments – final appointments to be made by the Economic Well-being Sub-Committee (3 October 2025)

### **REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

In March 2025, the Corporate Joint Committee approved the Terms of Reference and the appointment process for a new Business Advisory Board following the transfer of the Growth Deal as well as approving the role descriptions for two new Non-Executive Advisors.

The Corporate Joint Committee authorised the interim Chief Executive to take all necessary steps to procure candidates to be recommended for appointment to the CJC's Economic Well-being Sub-Committee.



## DISCUSSION

It was explained that this report updated Members on discussions that had taken place with the Welsh Government and the UK Government regarding the recruitment of Non-Executive Advisors and explained the process of appointing those individuals.

The members were reminded that the decision to appoint two Non-Executive Advisors had been made at the March 2025 meeting of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board. It was explained that the Advisors would work to support the Growth Deal as they were individuals who would have significant experience within the private and commercial sector. It was elaborated this would enable them to make decisions effectively.

It was detailed that the Non-Executive Advisors would support the officers of the Portfolio Management Office and would also be appointed Chair and Vice-Chair of the Business Advisory Board which was in the process of being set up. It was added that they would attend the committees of the Corporate Joint Committee in an advisory role.

It was reported that budgets and role descriptions had already been approved by the Economic Ambition Board and the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee, confirming that discussions had taken place with the Welsh Government to confirm the budgets as well as the appointment process. It was specified that the budget allowed for pay of up to £30,000 annually for each Non-Executive Advisor, with an additional £10,000 for the Chair and an additional £5,000 for the Vice-Chair. These figures were confirmed to be within the maximum of £50,000 per Advisor as approved within previous discussions.

It was explained that the Non-Executive Advisors would be appointed through an open competitive procedure, stressing that specific requirements were being followed in order to ensure compliance with the Procurement Act 2023 and any related Regulations. The recruitment process was detailed, stating that an advertisement will be released on the Joint Committee's website until the end of July, with interviews taking place in September before confirming the appointments at the 03 October 2025 meeting of this Sub-Committee.

It was confirmed that Ambition North Wales had received legal advice to ensure that the Advisors were appropriately appointed within the governance arrangement.

The appointment of Non-Executive Advisors was welcomed by the Members who stated that they would add great benefit to the processes of the Corporate Joint Committee.

In response to an enquiry, the Chief Executive confirmed that the role descriptions of the Non-Executive Advisors required them to oversee the work and projects of the Corporate Joint Committee as a whole, stating that elements of Strategic Transport and Planning will be part of the function. However, they wanted to target the focus towards the Growth Deal as a starting point before extending it wider.

In response to an enquiry, the Chief Executive confirmed that it was essential that the Non-Executive Advisors were involved in the setting up of the Business Advisory Board within their role as Chair and Vice-chair. It was confirmed that the timeline for developing the Board would begin after confirming the appointments of the Non-Executive Advisors. It was elaborated that an additional report would be submitted to this Sub-committee in due course to explain the timetable and stages of establishing the Business Advisory Board.

In response to enquiries regarding the Non-Executive Advisors' terms of employment, the Monitoring Officer confirmed that they were not allowed to be Co-opted Members of any meeting as they were employed officers. It was confirmed that the intention was to employ advisors through a procurement agreement following legal advice, and this did not lead to

aspects such as contributing to pensions as part of the employment. The Chief Executive elaborated that the Advisors' contract would be effective for a two-year term.

Following an enquiry about the interviews, it was proposed and seconded for another member of the Sub-Committee to be present as part of the Interview Panel. It was noted that the Panel already included the Chair, Vice-Chair, Chief Executive, and the Senior Responsible Officer (SRO) and it was considered that it would be useful for another member of the Sub-Committee to be present to gain experience and be involved in the decision. The members were invited to express an interest if they wished to be part of the Panel which would be held in September, beyond this meeting.

## **9. ANNUAL REPORT 2024/25**

The report was presented by the Head of Operations

### **RESOLVED**

- 1. To consider and note the Annual Report for 2024/25.**
- 2. To approve the submission of the Annual Report for 2024/25 to the Welsh Government and the UK Government, and also to the local authorities' scrutiny committees.**

### **REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

Quarterly and annual reporting on progress against the North Wales Growth Deal is one of the requirements of the Final Growth Deal Agreement. Following consideration by the North Wales CJC's Economic Well-being Sub-Committee, the reports will be shared with the Welsh Government, UK Government and the local authorities' scrutiny committees.

### **DISCUSSION**

The officer reported on the work that had been achieved over the year, celebrating the success of the developments seen despite it being a challenging year.

She was pleased to note that the number of business cases approved had increased and that developments were visible within projects such as the Enterprise, Engineering and Optics Centre and the Centre for Environmental Biotechnology+.

It was confirmed that the report detailed the fourth year of the Growth Deal, acknowledging that outside observations had been received that not enough had been achieved at present. The Chief Executive stressed that much had been achieved so far, considering that there has been a global Pandemic during the delivery period so far. It was elaborated that the duration of the Plan was 15 years with complex projects being developed. It was considered that the nature of the projects as well as the innovative mindset would future-proof the Region while also developing the economy. She expressed confidence that more projects would be approved in the coming year and subsequent years as there were robust procedures in place.

In response to these comments, it was agreed to include updates within the Quarterly Reports detailing key targets such as the number of business cases that have been approved, the number of jobs that have been created and other performance indicators in order to be able to see if the Plan is progressing on time and to be able to compare the work with past and future years. In response, the Chief Executive confirmed that work would be undertaken in an effort to highlight this data in future reports as it would be useful to consider the information before submitting the Annual Reports.

## **10. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** to exclude the press and public from the meeting during the discussion on Item 11-14 as it is likely that exempt information as defined in Paragraph 14 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 - Information relating to the financial or business transactions of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) will be disclosed.

There is an acknowledged public interest in openness in relation to the use of public resources and related financial issues. However, it is acknowledged that there are occasions, in order to protect financial and commercial interests that matters related to such information need to be discussed without being publicised. The report relates specifically to financial and business matters and associated discussions. The publication of such commercially sensitive information could adversely affect the interests of the bodies and the Councils and undermine the confidence of other Growth Deal participants in sharing sensitive information for consideration. This would be contrary to the wider public interest of securing the best overall outcome.

## **11. GLYNLLIFON RURAL ECONOMY HUB – WELSH SHEEP MILK BUSINESS JUSTIFICATION CASE**

The report was presented by the Growth Deal Programme Manager.

### **RESOLVED**

- 1. To approve the draft Business Justification Case for the Welsh Sheep Milk component of the Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub project and authorise the Portfolio Director, in consultation with the Chair, Vice-Chair, Section 151 Officer and the Monitoring Officer to agree the final version after procurement and enter into a funding agreement with Grŵp Llandrillo Menai for the delivery of the project, subject to Grŵp Llandrillo Menai addressing the outstanding issues and securing all necessary internal approvals for the project.**
- 2. To note that there will be two further Business Case approvals to deliver the remaining elements of the Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub project which will be submitted to the Sub-Committee for consideration in the future.**

### **REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

To seek the Sub-Committee's approval of the Business Justification Case for the Welsh Sheep Milk component of the Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub project.

The draft Business Justification Case would be submitted to the Sub-Committee in July to enable a timely decision that would avoid delaying the delivery of the project. Procurement for the project was currently live and a decision was expected on 06/08/2025. The next meeting of the Sub-Committee was not until October 2025 and would result in a delay in delivering the project if the draft Business Justification Case and delegated authority were not approved.

### **DISCUSSION**

The Report was discussed.

## **12. ADVANCED WIRELESS (CONNECTED CAMPUSES) FULL BUSINESS CASE**

The report was presented by the Digital Programme Manager.

### **RESOLVED**

- 1. To approve the Full Business Case for the Advanced Wireless (Connected Campus) project stating that the initial phase of grant scheme design following approval of the Full Business Case will require a final subsidy management assessment of the proposed Subsidy Scheme.**
- 2. To delegate the right to the Portfolio Director, in consultation with the Chair, the Vice-Chair, the Section 151 Officer and the Monitoring Officer to agree the final design of the grant scheme.**
- 3. To delegate delivery of the project to the Portfolio Director including subsequent individual grant awards in line with the final grant scheme of up to £500,000, with individual grant awards between £500,000 and £1 million being made in consultation with the Chair, Vice-Chair, Section 151 Officer and the Monitoring Officer.**

### **REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

To seek the Sub-committee's approval of the Full Business Case for the Advanced Wireless (Connected Campuses) Project.

The Economic Ambition Board had approved the Outline Business Case for the project on 20 September 2024. The project subsequently received approval of the assurance process from the Welsh Government. This enabled the Portfolio Management Office to move forward with the development of the Full Business Case.

North Wales Ambition had now completed market engagement prior to project approval and had submitted a Full Business Case to the Board for a final investment decision.

### **DISCUSSION**

The Report was discussed.

## **13. ENTERPRISE, ENGINEERING & OPTICS CENTRE CHANGE REQUEST**

The report was presented by the Growth Deal Programme Manager.

### **RESOLVED**

- 1. To approve the request for change for the Enterprise, Engineering and Optics Centre project, making the following changes:**
- 2. That approval be given for an additional Growth Deal investment of £446,041 to enable the project to progress to the delivery phase, subject to the funding being fully spent within the 2025-26 financial year. This investment will generate a number of additional benefits, including confirmed match funding of £250,898 from Wrexham University and the creation of six full-time equivalent jobs for the region.**

### **REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

To seek the Sub-committee's approval to the request for change for the Enterprise, Engineering and Optics Center for additional Growth Deal investment.

## **DISCUSSION**

The Report was discussed.

### **14. RESPONSIBLE ADVENTURE REQUEST FOR CHANGE**

#### **RESOLVED**

- 1. To agree the request for change for the Responsible Adventures project, making the following changes:**
  - a. To approve the removal of the eBus element from the project scope**
  - b. To approve the process of developing and delivering a business case**
  - c. To confirm that the two remaining conditions imposed during approval of the Outline Business Case have been adequately met and that the project can proceed to submit business cases for funding approval in accordance with the phased delivery proposal in the change request.**
  - d. To request further detailed information on the proposed change request to replace the eBus element of the project with the development of a Forest Masterplan at Betws y Coed, to be submitted to the next Sub-Committee in October for consideration.**

#### **REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

Requests for changes to projects by Project Funders are matters for the Sub-Committee to decide.

## **DISCUSSION**

The Report was discussed.

The meeting commenced at 09:30 and concluded at 12:05.

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Chair

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**ECONOMIC WELL-BEING SUB-COMMITTEE**

**3 October 2025**

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**TITLE:** 2025/26 Revenue Position – End of July 2025 Review.

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

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**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1. This report intends to provide the Economic Well-being Sub-committee its projected full year out-turn against its annual budget.
- 1.2. In order to operate effectively, the Sub-committee needs to be aware of the projected expenditure position against the approved annual budget.
- 1.3. The review was presented and approved by the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee (CJC) in its meeting on 19 September 2025.

**2. DECISIONS SOUGHT**

- 2.1. To note the revenue end of July 2025 review, including the virement in the budget relating to grant income and expenditure (Appendix 1).
- 2.2. To note the reserves position (Appendix 2).

**3. REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

- 3.1. To note a forecasted underspend of £280,562 against the revenue budget for 2025/26.

**4. BACKGROUND AND RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS**

- 4.1. The North Wales Economic Ambition Board approved the Economic Well-being Sub-committee's 2025/26 revenue and capital budget in its meeting on 14 February 2025.
- 4.2. The budget will continue to be monitored and reviewed throughout the 2025/26 financial year, and the third quarter review will be presented to the Sub-committee in February 2026.
- 4.3. The Growth Deal capital programme is currently under review following the projects reserve list, with the Portfolio Business Case to be approved in December, therefore an updated capital profile will be presented with the third quarter review.

## 5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. Appendix 1 provides a detailed analysis of the Economic Well-being Sub-committee's actual expenditure and income per heading up to the end of July 2025, together with a projected full year out-turn against its annual budget.
- 5.2. It is estimated that the net out-turn position at the end of the 2025/26 financial year will be an underspend of £280,562. This is mainly due to underspends in employee expenditure, additional government roles and accountable body support services. Ambition North Wales was also successful in its Shared Prosperity Fund application which has further contributed to the underspend in employee expenditure.

### Portfolio Management Office

- 5.3. There's a £229,801 underspend on the Portfolio Management Office (PMO) and the main underspend is shown on the employee expenditure and additional government roles heading.
- 5.4. Funding received from the Local Area Energy Planning grant and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund for 2025/26 has been used to fund the costs of two officers and a proportion of the costs for other staff. The secondment of three officers and the previous Portfolio Director to the CJC for one/ two days a week has also led to an underspend in employee expenditure.
- 5.5. Part of this underspend has been used to fund the costs of a temporary External Advisor to support the Energy Programme beyond the Local Area Energy Planning grant. Also included within External Advisor costs is the CJC's Implementation Programme Manager costs associated with supporting the Growth Deal.
- 5.6. The recruitment of additional roles that are included within the budget such as projects staff and government roles has taken place during the financial year, therefore also contributing to the underspend. However, additional recruitment, including the recruitment of Portfolio Director, is expected to lead to an overspend in advertising and assessment of candidates' costs.
- 5.7. The insurance heading is showing an overspend of £11,800 as the majority of the cost has been apportioned between the CJC and the Economic Well-being Sub-committee based on employee budget costs.

### Accountable Body Support Services

- 5.8. The estimated underspend on this heading is £26,190 due to the recruitment of Cyngor Gwynedd staff supporting the CJC taking place during the financial year. This recruitment will take place after the Service Level Agreement has been finalised.

### Joint Committee

- 5.9. The Joint Committee heading shows a net underspend of £2,553 due to the forecasted underspend in audit fees offsetting the increase in external legal support costs.

## Projects

- 5.10. The expected net overspend on this heading is £6,689. There is an overspend in external legal support costs on numerous projects in the capital programme, however there is an expected underspend on assurance costs.

## Grant Schemes

- 5.11. The expenditure under this heading includes grant funded Local Area Energy and Shared Prosperity Fund projects where funding has been received until March 2026.
- 5.12. Income awarded of £621,320 from these grants has been included in the Virements column, with the budgeted expenditure shown against the relevant line in the grant schemes heading.

## Funding Contributions

- 5.13. The main income streams for 2025/26 include partner contributions, the North Wales Growth Deal grant (revenue allocation and the funding of project staff costs), Welsh Government energy grant, UK Shared Prosperity Fund, the earmarked reserve and the resources reserve.
- 5.14. The forecasted use of the Growth Deal grant for projects staff is £205,382 compared to the budget of £116,675. This is due to the grant funding 50% of the costs of staff that were previously 100% funded by the Welsh Government energy grant in previous years, as well as an increase in the number of staff expected to be recruited for energy and digital projects.

## Reserves

- 5.15. Appendix 2 shows the estimated reserves balances at 31 March 2026.
- 5.16. The total earmarked reserve balance at 31 March 2025 was £210,977, and £60,990 of this reserve has been allocated to the 2025/26 budget to give an estimated balance of £149,987 at 31 March 2026.
- 5.17. The projects reserve balance at 31 March 2025 was £29,167. In 2024/25, costs of £123,133 relating to the Clean Local Energy Project were met from the projects reserve as the Full Business Case was yet to be approved by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025. The Full Business Case has subsequently been approved therefore £123,133 of the Growth Deal grant will be transferred to the projects reserve.
- 5.18. The interest reserve is ringfenced to fund the cost of borrowing in future years. Its estimated balance at 31 March 2026 is £4,841,863 and this includes the partner interest contributions of £108,380 that will be received during the year.
- 5.19. The resources reserve is used to fund the additional government requirements and project development costs, as well as to retain the Portfolio Management Office's capacity. £412,085 of this reserve has been allocated to the 2025/26 budget to give an estimated balance of £2,388,146 at 31 March 2026. The interest received on the Growth Deal grant in 2025/26 will also be transferred to the resources reserve at the end of the financial year.



## **6. CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN**

- 6.1. The appendices of this report were presented to the Portfolio Board on 12 September 2025 and were approved by the CJC on 19 September 2025.

## **7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1. Senior Officers of Ambition North Wales as well as the Monitoring Officer have contributed to this review.

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### **APPENDICES:**

**Appendix 1**      2025/26 Economic Well-being Sub-committee's Revenue Budget – End of July 2025 Review

**Appendix 2**      Economic Well-being Sub-committee's reserves position

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### **STATUTORY OFFICERS RESPONSE:**

i.      **Monitoring Officer:**

No observations to add in relation to propriety.

ii.     **Statutory Finance Officer:**

Report author.

## Economic Well-being Sub-committee's Financial Position (July 2025)

Appendix 1

	Base Budget	One-off virements	Total Budget	July 2025	July 2025 Commitments	Estimated Final Position	Overspend / (Underspend)
Expenditure	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)		(£)
<b>Portfolio Management Office</b>							
Employee Expenditure (Pay, N.I. & Superannuation)	1,558,280	0	1,558,280	420,533	0	1,332,413	(225,867)
Additional Government Roles	206,320	0	206,320	0	0	97,903	(108,417)
External Advisor	0	0	0	3,912	671	84,183	84,183
Advertising and Assessment of Candidates	2,500	0	2,500	592	2,699	15,000	12,500
Travel and Subsistence	10,000	0	10,000	115	882	6,000	(4,000)
Training	18,000	0	18,000	849	0	18,000	0
Engagement and Meetings	10,000	0	10,000	735	1,785	10,000	0
Communications and Public Relations	25,000	0	25,000	8,931	411	25,000	0
Supplies and Services	15,000	0	15,000	4,497	1,154	15,000	0
Premises	36,000	0	36,000	0	0	36,000	0
Portfolio and Programme Development	30,000	0	30,000	0	0	30,000	0
Insurance	4,130	0	4,130	0	0	15,930	11,800
Systems	9,540	0	9,540	7,500	599	9,540	0
<b>Total Portfolio Management Office</b>	<b>1,924,770</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,924,770</b>	<b>447,664</b>	<b>8,201</b>	<b>1,694,969</b>	<b>(229,801)</b>
<b>Accountable Body Support Services</b>							
Finance Services Support	113,330	0	113,330	0	0	94,670	(18,660)
Legal (includes Monitoring Officer)	44,980	0	44,980	0	0	44,980	0
Democratic Support	28,430	0	28,430	0	0	20,900	(7,530)
Corporate Services	48,350	0	48,350	0	0	48,350	0
Information Technology	28,440	0	28,440	0	0	28,440	0
<b>Total Accountable Body Support Services</b>	<b>263,530</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>263,530</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>237,340</b>	<b>(26,190)</b>
<b>Joint Committee</b>							
External Legal Support	18,000	0	18,000	26,797	0	26,797	8,797
External Financial Fees	10,000	0	10,000	1,445	0	10,000	0
External Audit Fee	28,350	0	28,350	0	0	17,000	(11,350)
Business Delivery Board	15,000	0	15,000	0	0	15,000	0
<b>Total Joint Committee</b>	<b>71,350</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>71,350</b>	<b>28,242</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>68,797</b>	<b>(2,553)</b>
<b>Projects</b>							
Project Business Case Development	150,000	0	150,000	23,780	0	150,000	0
External Legal Support	150,000	0	150,000	31,709	0	181,689	31,689
External Finance Support	50,000	0	50,000	0	0	50,000	0
External Procurement Support	50,000	0	50,000	0	0	50,000	0
Assurance	50,000	0	50,000	0	0	25,000	(25,000)
<b>Total Projects</b>	<b>450,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>450,000</b>	<b>55,489</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>456,689</b>	<b>6,689</b>
<b>Grant schemes</b>							
Employee Expenditure - Local Area Energy Project	0	80,040	80,040	33,120	0	80,040	0
Other related costs - Local Area Energy Project	0	10,310	10,310	874	174	10,310	0
External Advisor - Local Area Energy Project	0	79,920	79,920	27,690	9,270	79,920	0
Local Area Energy Plans	0	6,800	6,800	6,800	0	6,800	0
Employee Expenditure- Shared Prosperity Fund	0	196,870	196,870	62,035	0	196,870	0
Other related costs - Shared Prosperity Fund	0	16,865	16,865	4,937	0	16,865	0
Shared Prosperity Plans	0	230,515	230,515	0	0	230,515	0
<b>Grant schemes Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>621,320</b>	<b>621,320</b>	<b>135,456</b>	<b>9,444</b>	<b>621,320</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Transfers to reserves</b>							
Partner interest contributions	108,380	0	108,380	0	0	108,380	0
<b>Total Transfers to reserves</b>	<b>108,380</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>108,380</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>108,380</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>2,818,030</b>	<b>621,320</b>	<b>3,439,350</b>	<b>666,851</b>	<b>17,645</b>	<b>3,187,495</b>	<b>(251,855)</b>

Economic Well-being Sub-committee's Financial Position (July 2025)

Appendix 1

	Base Budget	One-off virements	Total Budget	July 2025	July 2025 Commitments	Estimated Final Position	Overspend / (Underspend)
Income	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)		(£)
<b>Funding Contributions</b>							
<b>Partner Contributions</b>							
Conwy County Borough Council	(58,730)	0	(58,730)	0	0	(58,730)	0
Denbighshire County Council	(58,730)	0	(58,730)	0	0	(58,730)	0
Flintshire County Council	(58,730)	0	(58,730)	0	0	(58,730)	0
Cyngor Gwynedd	(58,730)	0	(58,730)	0	0	(58,730)	0
Isle of Anglesey County Council	(58,730)	0	(58,730)	0	0	(58,730)	0
Wrexham County Borough Council	(58,730)	0	(58,730)	0	0	(58,730)	0
Bangor University	(29,380)	0	(29,380)	0	0	(29,380)	0
Wrexham University	(29,380)	0	(29,380)	0	0	(29,380)	0
Coleg Cambria	(29,380)	0	(29,380)	0	0	(29,380)	0
Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	(29,380)	0	(29,380)	0	0	(29,380)	0
<b>Local Authorities' Supplementary Contributions</b>							
Conwy County Borough Council	(40,000)	0	(40,000)	0	0	(40,000)	0
Denbighshire County Council	(40,000)	0	(40,000)	0	0	(40,000)	0
Flintshire County Council	(40,000)	0	(40,000)	0	0	(40,000)	0
Cyngor Gwynedd	(40,000)	0	(40,000)	0	0	(40,000)	0
Isle of Anglesey County Council	(40,000)	0	(40,000)	0	0	(40,000)	0
Wrexham County Borough Council	(40,000)	0	(40,000)	0	0	(40,000)	0
<b>Partner Interest Contributions</b>							
Conwy County Borough Council	(13,420)	0	(13,420)	0	0	(13,420)	0
Denbighshire County Council	(11,870)	0	(11,870)	0	0	(11,870)	0
Flintshire County Council	(18,710)	0	(18,710)	0	0	(18,710)	0
Cyngor Gwynedd	(13,730)	0	(13,730)	0	0	(13,730)	0
Isle of Anglesey County Council	(8,290)	0	(8,290)	0	0	(8,290)	0
Wrexham County Borough Council	(23,210)	0	(23,210)	0	0	(23,210)	0
Wrexham University	(10,070)	0	(10,070)	0	0	(10,070)	0
Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	(9,080)	0	(9,080)	0	0	(9,080)	0
<b>Other</b>							
North Wales Growth Deal grant	(1,350,000)	0	(1,350,000)	0	0	(1,350,000)	0
North Wales Growth Deal grant (Projects staff)	(116,675)	0	(116,675)	0	0	(205,382)	(88,707)
Capitalisation of Salary Costs	(60,000)	0	(60,000)	0	0	0	60,000
Welsh Government Energy Grant	0	(177,070)	(177,070)	(53,269)	0	(177,070)	0
UK Shared Prosperity Fund	0	(444,250)	(444,250)	0	0	(444,250)	0
Earmarked Reserve	(60,990)	0	(60,990)	0	0	(60,990)	0
Resources Reserve	(412,085)	0	(412,085)	0	0	(412,085)	0
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>(2,818,030)</b>	<b>(621,320)</b>	<b>(3,439,350)</b>	<b>(53,269)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(3,468,057)</b>	<b>(28,707)</b>
<b>Net Overspend / (Underspend)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>613,582</b>	<b>17,645</b>	<b>(280,562)</b>	<b>(280,562)</b>

	£
<b>Total earmarked reserve at 31 March 2025</b>	<b>(210,977)</b>
2025/26 budget allocation	60,990
<b>Total earmarked reserve at 31 March 2026</b>	<b>(149,987)</b>

	£
<b>Total projects reserve at 31 March 2025</b>	<b>(29,167)</b>
Transfer in 2025/26	(123,133)
<b>Total projects reserve at 31 March 2026</b>	<b>(152,300)</b>

	£
<b>Total interest reserve at 31 March 2025</b>	<b>(4,733,483)</b>
2025/26 contributions	(108,380)
<b>Total interest reserve at 31 March 2026</b>	<b>(4,841,863)</b>

	£
<b>Total resources reserve at 31 March 2025</b>	<b>(2,800,231)</b>
Usage in 2025/26	412,085
<b>Total resources reserve at 31 March 2026</b>	<b>(2,388,146) *</b>

\* Interest on Growth Deal balances will be added at the end of the financial year.



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**ECONOMIC WELL-BEING SUB-COMMITTEE**

**3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2025**

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**TITLE:** North Wales Growth Deal – Quarter 1 Performance and Risk Report

**AUTHOR:** Hedd Vaughan-Evans, Head of Operations

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**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1. The purpose of the report is to present the Quarter 1 (April to June) Growth Deal report and updated Portfolio Risk Register.
- 1.2. Quarterly reporting on progress against the North Wales Growth Deal is a requirement of the Final Deal Agreement. Following consideration by the Economic Well-being Sub-Committee, the reports will be shared with Welsh Government, UK Government and the local authority scrutiny committees.

**2. DECISION SOUGHT**

- 2.1. That the Sub-Committee consider and note the Quarter 1 Performance Report and updated Portfolio Risk Register.
- 2.2. That the Sub-Committee approves the submission of the Quarter 1 Performance Report to Welsh Government and UK Government, as well as the local authority scrutiny committees.

**3. REASON FOR THE DECISION**

- 3.1. As stated in the report.

**4. BACKGROUND AND RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS**

- 4.1. In December 2020, Ambition North Wales and the Welsh and UK Governments agreed the Final Deal Agreement for the North Wales Growth Deal.
- 4.2. Regular reporting on progress against the North Wales Growth Deal is a requirement of the Final Deal Agreement.
- 4.3. This report includes two appendices:
  - North Wales Growth Deal – Quarter 1 Performance Report
  - Portfolio Risk Register – June 2025
- 4.4. North Wales Growth Deal – Quarter 1 Performance Report
  - 4.4.1. The Quarter 1 performance report provides an overview of progress on the Growth Deal programmes and projects.

- 4.4.2. At the beginning of the quarter, the Portfolio Management Office Team, the Growth Deal and its funding transferred into the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee under the brand name Ambition North Wales. The Growth Deal is now overseen by the Economic Well-being Sub-Committee within the wider Corporate Joint Committee governance structure.
- 4.4.3. During the quarter, the Economic Well-being Sub-Committee approved two Full Business Cases, for the 4G+ Project and the Smart Local Energy project (now named the Clean Energy Fund). Approval was also given for the Theatr Clwyd Business Justification Case – part of the Tourism Talent Network project.
- 4.4.4. The loan agreement for the Cydnerth project was officially completed and signed between Ambition North Wales and Menter Môn, and the first drawdown of funding was processed.
- 4.4.5. A number of key decisions were taken by the Economic Well-being Sub-Committee to progress the delivery of the Growth Deal at pace. The Portfolio Management Office carried out a Portfolio Review focussing on five projects that had been reporting red, as well as four projects reporting amber. The Economic Well-being Sub-Committee approved a decision to:
- Withdraw two projects from the Growth Deal, namely the Last Few % project and the Full Fibre projects.
  - Withdraw the Trawsfynydd project from the Growth Deal, and add an alternative scheme for Trawsfynydd onto the Reserve List.
  - Move the Kimmel Studios and New-H2 projects to the reserve list.
- 4.4.6. In May, the Economic Well-being Sub-Committee agreed to invite 17 projects to join the Growth Deal Reserve List following the completion of an Expression of Interest process.
- 4.4.7. A Streamlined Assurance and Approval process was agreed by the Sub-Committee and both Governments, with a more risk-based approach that mirrors the approach by Government.
- 4.4.8. The Quarter1 performance report includes information on projects reporting against the portfolio delivery profile. Four projects are reporting as red at the end of the quarter and are currently under review. The projects reporting red currently are:
- Holyhead Hydrogen Hub – Project under review whilst key outstanding matters and risks are discussed/resolved.
  - Western Gateway – Project under review, pending the assessment of the WELTaG Lite report.
  - Warren Hall – Project under review, pending the airfield safety case being fully assessed and agreed.
  - Holyhead Gateway – Project under review, pending the outcome of Stena Line's commercial negotiations with end user of new port areas.
- 4.4.9. On approval of the Cydnerth Full Business Case in February 2025, the Economic Ambition Board requested an update report on the Cydnerth project progress within 6 months. Appendix 3 provides a summary of the progress made since Full Business Case approval.
- 4.5. Portfolio Risk Register – June 2025
- 4.5.1. The Portfolio Risk Register is updated on a regular basis by the Portfolio Management Office and reviewed by the Portfolio Board and the Economic Well-being Sub-Committee (previously the North Wales Economic Ambition Board) on a quarterly basis.

- 4.5.2. The risk register has been fully reviewed by the Portfolio Management Office, with changes recorded in the documents, including mitigating actions and the comments updated.
- 4.5.3. There were two changes to the residual risks this quarter. The residual risk for 'Delay' decreased following the Portfolio Review and the withdrawal of projects and moving projects that were reporting red to the reserve list. The residual risk on 'Planning and Statutory Consents' increased as the process to upgrade water treatment works to mitigate phosphates from their discharges is taking longer and this is now impacting planning applications, no Growth Deal projects are currently affected by this.
- 4.5.4. While the risk profile has remained stable overall during the past quarter, the risk profile does remain high with a number of red residual risks including affordability, planning and statutory consents, private sector investment and spending objectives.

## **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1. There are no financial implications arising directly from approving the decision sought in this report.
- 5.2. The revised delivery and expenditure profile approved by the Board is included in the quarterly report.

## **6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1. There are no direct legal implications arising from the report.
- 6.2. Regular reporting on Growth Deal performance is part of the agreed governance framework and a key requirement of the Final Deal agreement.

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### **APPENDICES:**

<b>Appendix 1</b>	<b>North Wales Growth Deal – Quarter 1 Performance Report</b>
<b>Appendix 2</b>	<b>Portfolio Risk Register – June 2025</b>
<b>Appendix 3</b>	<b>Cydnherth Interim Project Update</b>

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### **STATUTORY OFFICERS RESPONSE:**

**i. Monitoring Officer:**

“It is one of the key tasks of the Economic Well-being Sub-Committee to monitor progress and risks. The Sub-Committee needs to consider the register and satisfy itself that it constitutes an accurate reflection of the risk status and that mitigation actions are being addressed.”

**ii. Statutory Finance Officer:**

“I am satisfied that the report is a fair reflection of the financial situation of Ambition North Wales during quarter 1. Implementing the decision sought will not create a new spending commitment. I will continue to assist the Portfolio Management Office in managing the relevant risks.”



# North Wales Growth Deal Quarterly Performance Report

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## 2025-26 Quarter 1 (April - June 2025)



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# 01 PORTFOLIO DIRECTOR SUMMARY

On the first of April our Portfolio Management Team the Growth Deal and its funding transferred into the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee, under the brand name Ambition North Wales. The Growth Deal is now overseen by the Economic Wellbeing Sub-Committee, replicating the role of the Economic Ambition Board but sat within the wider Corporate Joint Committee Governance structure.

This quarter a number of decisions were taken to progress delivery of the Growth Deal at pace. The Portfolio Management Office carried out a Portfolio Review focussing on five projects that had been reporting red, as well as four projects reporting amber. The Economic Well-being Sub-Committee approved a decision to:

- Withdraw two projects from the Growth Deal, namely the Last Few % project and the Full Fibre projects.
- Withdraw the Trawsfynydd project from the Growth Deal, and add an alternative scheme for Trawsfynydd onto the Reserve List.
- Move the Kinmel Studios and New-H2 projects to the reserve list.

Following an expression of interest process with partners, in May's Economic Well-being Sub-Committee it was agreed to invite 17 projects to join the Reserve List. Work has commenced with the reserve project leads and business cases will be presented for approval and allocation of funding by the Economic Well-being Sub-Committee.

A Streamlined Assurance and Approval Process was agreed by the Sub Committee and both Governments, with a more risk-based approach that mirrors the approach by government. This means assurance reviews can be targeted at the highest risk projects which is where they can make the greatest impact.

The Economic Well-being Sub-Committee approved two Full Business Cases, for the 4G+ project and the Smart Local Energy project (now named the Clean Energy Fund). Approval was also given for the Theatr Clwyd Business Justification Case - part of the Tourism Talent Network Project.

The loan agreement for the Cydnerth project was officially completed and signed between Ambition North Wales and Menter Môn, and the first loan draw down was processed.

Cllr Mark Pritchard was elected Chair, with Cllr Charlie McCoubrey elected as the Vice Chair for both the Corporate Joint Committee and the Economic Well-being Sub-Committee.

There were two key appointments during the quarter. Firstly Dylan Williams, Chief Executive of Anglesey Council to the role of Growth Deal SRO and I was appointed as the full time Chief Executive for the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee.

I feel privileged and excited to be working with talented and committed politicians, colleagues and partners to focus on creating a vibrant and thriving economy for North Wales.



**Alwen Williams**  
Chief Executive  
Ambition North Wales

# 02 PROJECT DELIVERY DASHBOARD

	Projects in Delivery (funding committed)	Approved not yet in delivery (funding committed)	Developing business cases (funding ringfenced)	Under Review (funding ringfenced)	Reserve List (unallocated funding)
Number of Projects	5	5	5	4	21
Growth Deal Funding Allocation (£234.85*)	£30.7m	£44.78m	£46.26m	£62m	£51.11m
Total Investment	£57.34m	£173.54m	£89.4m	£312.59m	£367.13**
Jobs	608	366	781	1,472	733**

\* Growth Deal funding shown here does not include £5.15m allocated towards Portfolio Management Office costs

\*\* Figures represent the balance of the target to be met by Reserve List projects

# 02 BENEFITS DASHBOARD





# 03 DIGITAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

## Programme Aim

Deliver the step change in digital connectivity needed to ensure North Wales is able to satisfy user demand, maintain pace with the rest of the UK, unlock the potential of priority sectors and sites and underpin a flourishing innovation ecosystem.



RAG Status	Programme Manager Commentary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Full Business Case for the 4G+ project was approved by the Economic Wellbeing Sub Committee. Recruitment for the Engagement Manager roles will now start along with the procurement of the grant scheme design.</li><li>• The Full Business Case for the Advanced Wireless project has been reviewed by the PMO and will be submitted next quarter for consideration by the Economic Well-being Sub-Committee.</li><li>• Procurement for the LoRaWAN gateways required for the LPWAN project is prepared and will be undertaken next quarter. Draft deployment plans have been received from some councils with more to follow.</li></ul>



Cllr. Nia Jeffreys  
Lead Member



David Fitzsimon  
Senior Responsible  
Owner



Stuart Whitfield  
Programme  
Manager



Delivering to Plan with only minor issues to address  
(no action required)



Delivery behind schedule and /moderate issues to address  
(management action in place)



Delivery significantly behind schedule and/or significant issues  
to address (urgent action required)

# 03 DIGITAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Project (Project Sponsor)		Project Stage	Key Milestones (this quarter)	Key Milestones (next quarter)	RAG Status	RAG Rationale
<b>Digital Signal Processing Centre</b> Bangor University		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project in Delivery</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Purchasing of items associated with final phase of Growth deal funding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delivery of initial items approved in the final business justification case</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Final phase of purchasing underway</li> </ul>
<b>Connected Key Sites and Corridors</b> Ambition North Wales	4G+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project in Delivery</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Economic Well-being Sub-Committee approval of the 4G+ FBC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Procurement and start of grant scheme design</li> <li>Recruitment of Engagement Manager role</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4G+ FBC has been approved for consideration by the Economic Well-Being Sub-Committee.</li> </ul>
<b>Connected Campuses</b> Ambition North Wales	Advanced Wireless	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developing the Full Business Case</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PMO review of Advanced Wireless FBC.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Economic Well-being Sub-Committee review of the FBC</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FBC reviewed and PMO and prepared for Economic Well-being Sub-Committee next quarter</li> </ul>
	LPWAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project in Delivery</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draft LoRaWAN deployment plans to be submitted.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Procurement of LoRaWAN gateways.</li> <li>Final LoRaWAN deployment plans to be submitted.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LPWAN progressing with network design advanced and capital procurement being prepared.</li> </ul>

# 04 LOW CARBON ENERGY PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

## Programme Aim

To unlock the economic benefits of transformational low carbon energy projects and position North Wales as a leading UK location for low carbon energy generation, innovation and supply chain investment.



RAG Status	Programme Manager Commentary
Yellow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Cydnerth - Has moved into delivery following signing the funding agreement</li><li>Smart Local Energy (Clean Energy Fund) - The Full Business Case was approved by the Economic Well-being Sub-Committee and is now preparing for launch</li></ul>



Cllr Gary Pritchard  
Lead Member



Dylan Williams  
Senior Responsible  
Owner



Meghan Davies  
Programme  
Manager



Delivering to Plan with only minor issues to address  
(no action required)



Delivery behind schedule and /moderate issues to address  
(management action in place)



Delivery significantly behind schedule and/or significant issues  
to address (urgent action required)



# 04 LOW CARBON ENERGY PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Project (Project Sponsor)	Project Stage	Key Milestones (this quarter)	Key Milestones (next quarter)	RAG Status	RAG Rationale
<b>Cydnherth (Morlais)</b> Menter Môn	Project in delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finalised and signed the funding agreement</li> <li>Project has moved into delivery</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First drawdown of funding planned for July</li> <li>Benefits monitoring</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project has moved into delivery and is progressing well</li> </ul>
<b>Egni</b> Bangor University	Developing the Full Business Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bangor University have continued the development of the Full Business Case</li> <li>PCSA Contract now finalised and contractor signatures have been arranged.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue development of the Full Business Case.</li> <li>Progressing the RIBA stage 4 design work</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project is amber with some work progressing on the Full Business Case while waiting for a decision on Freeport UK Government funding.</li> </ul>
<b>Smart Local Energy</b> Ambition North Wales	Approved not yet in delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Full Business Case Approved</li> <li>Preparation for official fund launch on 10<sup>th</sup> July</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fund launched and open for expressions of interest.</li> <li>Promotional events and engagement</li> <li>Progression of applications through to award</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project is green as Full Business Case has been approved</li> </ul>
<b>Holyhead Hydrogen Hub</b> Menter Môn	Project under review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ambition North Wales and Menter Môn promoting the project at events to raise awareness and attract offtakers.</li> <li>Ongoing discussion between Ambition North Wales, Welsh Government and Department for Energy Security and Net Zero moving closer to an outcome on securing and transferring £4.8m Department for Energy Security and Net Zero funds.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential confirmation re. joint Ambition North Wales and EDF submission to Department for Transport, Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation subsidy consultation to unlock offtake agreement.</li> <li>Potential confirmation from DESNZ re. £4.8m</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RAG status remains red while key outstanding matters assist resolution: Department for Transport, Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation; Department for Energy Security and Net Zero £4.8m;</li> </ul>

# 05 LAND AND PROPERTY PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

## Programme Aim

To address the shortage of suitable land and properties for business growth and to bring forward sites for housing development. To deliver improvements that stimulate investment in sites and premises in the Port of Holyhead and the wider region. Enables other programmes by ensuring the right land and property infrastructure is available.



RAG Status	Programme Manager Commentary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Warren Hall, Broughton</b> – Welsh Government and their consultants are awaiting Airbus’s formal approval of the airfield safety compliance report for Warren Hall.</li><li>• <b>Western Gateway, Wrexham</b> – Delivery of the WeLTAG Lite report by WSP with a recommendation as to how the Western Gateway project highway connectivity can proceed.</li><li>• <b>Former North Wales Hospital, Denbigh</b> – Slow progress with the S106 Agreement, and time delays in documentation resulting in costs on site increasing.</li></ul>



Cllr Jason McLellan  
Lead Member



Andrew Farrow  
Senior Responsible  
Owner



David Mathews  
Programme  
Manager



Delivering to Plan with only minor issues to address  
(no action required)



Delivery behind schedule and /moderate issues to address  
(management action in place)



Delivery significantly behind schedule and/or significant issues  
to address (urgent action required)

# 05 LAND AND PROPERTY PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Project (Project Sponsor)	Project Stage	Key Milestones (this quarter)	Key Milestones (next quarter)	RAG Status	RAG Rationale
<b>Western Gateway, Wrexham</b> Wrexham County Borough Council	Project under review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The draft WELTaG Lite report has been issued by WSP for review</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delivery of the WeLTAG Lite report by WSP with a recommendation as to how the Western Gateway project highway connectivity can proceed.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The red rating reflects the position of the project being placed under review pending the assessment of the WELTaG Lite report and the decision of the Council and Welsh Government on the project proceeding.</li> </ul>
<b>Warren Hall, Broughton</b> Welsh Government / Ambition North Wales	Project under review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Final Airfield safety case report was shared in June 2025.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welsh Government consultant's report formally approved by Airbus UK.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project risk rating at red, pending the airfield safety case being fully assessed and agreed by Airbus UK. Rating also, reflecting current delivery timeline and the uncertainty regarding delivery of benefits.</li> </ul>
<b>Former North Wales Hospital, Denbighshire</b> Jones Bros (Ruthin) Limited / Denbighshire County Council	Approved not yet in delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weekly progress meetings in place between Ambition North Wales/Denbighshire County Council and Jones Bros to ensure progress with Ecological Mitigation Works and Site Clearance Works.</li> <li>Denbighshire County Council Ecologist has agreed the amended bat barn design and is waiting for NRW approval.. Contract for Ecological Mitigation Works expected to be completed in July.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NRW to approved the amended bat barn designs and contract for the Ecological Mitigation Works is expected in July 2025..</li> <li>Finalise the discussions for the Phase 1 Demolition and Remediation Works between the Council and their development partner.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Risk rating remains amber due to the slow progress with the S106 Agreement, resulting in costs on site increasing and increasing health and safety risks on site</li> </ul>

# 05 LAND AND PROPERTY PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Project (Project Sponsor)	Project Stage	Key Milestones (this quarter)	Key Milestones (next quarter)	RAG Status	RAG Rationale
<b>Parc Bryn Cegin, Bangor</b> Welsh Government / Ambition North Wales	Approved not yet in delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tender process delay due to awaiting subsidy control advice, dependent on this advice procurement can commence in September 2025.</li> <li>Discussions between Ambition North Wales and Welsh Government still ongoing and clarification of Subsidy Control awaited subject to independent legal opinion on the question of subsidy for the projects funding.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete notification of Subsidy Support referral.</li> <li>Complete Joint Venture Agreement</li> <li>Commence Invitation to Tender</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Green risk rating retained for the project as it is on programme for start on site for March 2026. Construction timeline is still expected to be 12 months.</li> </ul>
<b>Holyhead Gateway</b> Stena Line Ports Limited	Project under review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stena have asked to pause the project development pending the outcome of their commercial negotiations with the offshore energy sector.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On going engagement at Senior Management Level between Stena/ANW/loACC/WG and UK Gov to clarify Stena's intentions</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Risk rating remains as red as negotiations with end user of new port areas to be completed prior to the project proceeding.</li> </ul>
<b>Wrexham Gateway</b> Wrexham County Borough Council	Developing the Outline Business Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outline Planning Application being developed by Consultancy Team.</li> <li>Pre-app was planned to be submitted in May, 2025 but the heritage assessment of the station building required further detail. Pre app now expected to be submitted in July. Site assembly consultants providing advice to the Council.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of the Outline Business Case by the Council to commence with the appointment of consultant..</li> <li>Outline Planning application to be submitted.</li> <li>Further progress on site assembly anticipated.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Risk rating as green given project is progressing to Outline Business Case/Outline Planning application stage. Steady progress being maintained..</li> </ul>

# 06 AGRI-FOOD AND TOURISM PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

## Programme Aim

The Agri-food and Tourism Programme will optimise employment and training opportunities in North Wales by providing support facilities to ensure that the region has the skills needed to excel and become world leading. The Programme will also ensure prosperity through sustainably maximising our environment and landscape.



RAG Status	Programme Manager Commentary
Amber	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The <b>Responsible Adventure</b> project team have done significant work to address the three issues raised by the Economic Ambition Board at Outline Business Case approval. The project team have enhanced the engagement levels with local communities and stakeholders including sharing drafts of a new Local Benefits scheme. A change request will be presented in the next Sub-committee meeting in October 2025 .</li><li><b>Tourism Talent Network</b> Theatr Clwyd's Business Justification case was approved. Progress is being made at the Portmeirion site.. Finalised stage of the signing of a Memorandum of understanding with Snowdonia Hospitality and Leisure, and the National Trust..</li><li>The <b>Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub</b> has presented the Business Justification Case for the Sheep Milk Wales Element to the. Programme and Portfolio board, both of which endorsed.. Procurement is live on Sell2Wales for the Sheep Milk Wales element..</li></ul>



Cllr Charlie McCoubrey  
Lead Member



Sioned Williams  
Senior Responsible  
Owner



Elliw Hughes  
Programme Manager



Delivering to Plan with only minor issues to address  
(no action required)



Delivery behind schedule and /moderate issues to address  
(management action in place)

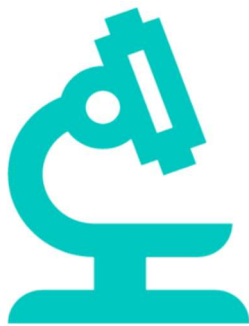


Delivery significantly behind schedule and/or significant issues  
to address (urgent action required)

# 06 AGRI-FOOD AND TOURISM PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Project (Project Sponsor)	Project Stage	Key Milestones (this quarter)	Key Milestones (next quarter)	RAG Status	RAG Rationale
<b>Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub</b> Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	Approved not yet in delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draft BJC for the Sheep Milk Wales element has been conditionally endorsed by the Programme and Portfolio Boards.</li> <li>Procurement for the Sheep Milk Wales element is live on Sell2Wales following approvals from PMO and sponsor.</li> <li>Economic Appraisal revisited for the Sheep Milk Wales BJC.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Economic Well-being sub-committee approval of the Sheep Milk Wales Business Justification Case</li> <li>Completion of Procurement for Sheep Milk Wales</li> <li>Sheep Milk Wales proceed into delivery</li> <li>Sustainable Dairy Development Business Justification Case.</li> <li>Submit planning application for the Hub</li> </ul>		<p>Amber rating due to project change request approval, main risks identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planning for the hub</li> <li>Procurement Process</li> <li>Financial implications of rising costs.</li> <li>Timescales</li> </ul>
<b>Tourism Talent Network</b> Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	Project in delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Theatr Clwyd Business Justification case approved site visit.</li> <li>Partnership Delivery meeting</li> <li>Submission and Approval of further financial claims for the project.</li> <li>Claims received and authorised.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Signing of back-to-back Grant Funding Agreements with Zipworld.</li> <li>Ongoing capital builds in progress</li> <li>Launch of the Academi Croeso brand</li> <li>Benefit reporting</li> </ul>		<p>Amber rating due to the following main risks identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Back-to-back agreement not signed with the other spoke.</li> <li>Slow progress with replacement spoke.</li> </ul>
<b>Responsible Adventure</b> Zip World	Developing the Full Business Case.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ample stakeholder engagement activity including workshops undertaken.</li> <li>Project team working on community benefits scheme.</li> <li>Project developing skills plan.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Full planning decision consent for Swing.</li> <li>Further community engagement.</li> <li>Project to present change request and progress on the OBC approval requirements to the Economic Well-being Sub-Committee.</li> <li>Change request will also include a request to remove the ebus network.</li> </ul>		<p>Amber due to the following risks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Change in project</li> <li>Obtaining Planning Consent</li> <li>Community concerns</li> </ul>

# 07 INNOVATION IN HIGH VALUE MANUFACTURING PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE



## Programme Aim

To consolidate North Wales position as a powerful and innovative high value manufacturing cluster, building on existing specialisms and leading expertise to create a higher value, more diverse economic base that supports the transition to a low carbon economy.

RAG Status	Programme Manager Commentary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The Enterprise Engineering and Optics Centre project continues to progress well. The Plas Coch build has been completed and a soft launch celebratory event for delivery partners was organised. Significant Social Value can be reported for the project to date. Procurement of the remaining equipment items is ongoing, with some delays arising from contract issues. At OpTIC, additional funding is required to enable the next phase of work.</li><li>The <b>Centre for Environmental Biotechnology</b> project is progressing well, with laboratory facilities at Henfaes now fully refurbished, further equipment is still to arrive. A site visit has been planned to discuss the site and possible additionality to project.</li></ul>



Cllr David Hughes  
Lead Member



Tony Ward  
Senior Responsible  
Owner



Elliw Hughes  
Programme Manager



Delivering to Plan with only minor issues to address (no action required)



Delivery behind schedule and /moderate issues to address (management action in place)



Delivery significantly behind schedule and/or significant issues to address (urgent action required)



# 07 INNOVATION IN HIGH VALUE MANUFACTURING PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Project (Project Sponsor)	Project Stage	Key Milestones (this quarter)	Key Milestones (next quarter)	RAG Status	RAG Rationale
<b>Enterprise Engineering and Optics Centre</b> Wrexham University	Project in delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completion of Plas Coch Build – soft launch for delivery partners.</li> <li>• Communication activity to focus on the soft launch.</li> <li>• Waterjet cutter (now funded externally) has been ordered. Filament winder contract approval report near completion.</li> <li>• Claim authorised.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completion of the evaluation report for Plas Coch equipment.</li> <li>• Approval of Business Justification Case for Plas Coch equipment.</li> <li>• Demolition of building at Plas Coch site to obtain final building certification for the EEOC building.</li> <li>• OpTIC focused change request for additional funds endorsed.</li> <li>• Final design phase of the OpTIC refurbishment.</li> <li>• Hydrogen lab planning application submission and approval.</li> <li>• Panel discussion at Eisteddfod Genedlaethol for the project.</li> </ul>		Green Status <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project in delivery and on track</li> <li>• No significant issue within project, project progressing well. Slight delay to project due to procurement/contract finalisation</li> <li>• Change request needs to be approved to allow OpTIC to move into delivery phase in this Financial Year.</li> </ul>
<b>Centre for Environmental Biotechnology</b> Bangor University	Project in delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Laboratory facilities have been fully refurbished.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Procurement activity to conclude for items.</li> <li>• Change request for identified underspend.</li> <li>• Site visit</li> </ul>		Project has a Green RAG rating: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project nearing completion of delivery stage.</li> <li>• Underspend identified within project which could implicate claim profile, however any underspend will be spent within this FY.</li> </ul>



# 08 PROJECT PROGRESS TRACKER

Project		Consenting Stage				Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4	Stage 5	Stage 6	Stage 7	Stage 8
		Pre-application stage	Outline planning / Consent	Full planning / Consent	Conditions discharged	Determine the Project context	Preparing the Strategic Outline Case	Preparing the Outline Business Case	Approval of the Outline Business Case	Preparing the Full Business Case	Approval of the Full Business Case	Project implementation and monitoring	Project Evaluation
Digital Signal Processing Centre		No planning required				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Connected Key Sites and Corridors	4G+	Consenting requirements TBC				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	🕒	
Connected Campuses	LPWAN	No consenting requirements				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	🕒	
	Advanced Wireless	No consenting at grant scheme level				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	🕒		
Cydnherth (Morlais)		✓	✓	✓	🕒	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	🕒	
Egni		✓	✓	🕒		✓	✓	✓	✓	🕒			
Smart Local Energy		No consenting required at fund level				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	🕒	
Holyhead Hydrogen Hub		✓	✓	🕒		Project under review							
Holyhead Gateway		✓	✓	✓	🕒	Project under review							
Former North Wales Hospital		✓	✓	✓	🕒	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	🕒	
Western Gateway, Wrexham		🕒				Project under review							
Warren Hall, Broughton		🕒				Project under review							
Parc Bryn Cegin, Bangor		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	🕒	
Wrexham Gateway		🕒				✓	✓	🕒					
Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub		✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	🕒			
Tourism Talent Network		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Responsible Adventure		✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	🕒			
Centre for Environmental Biotechnology		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Enterprise Engineering and Optics		✓	✓	✓	🕒	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

# 09 GROWTH DEAL GRANT EXPENDITURE PROFILE

			Portfolio Business Case 2024 Targets		Approved Project Business Case Targets			Actual	
			Jobs Created (net)	(£M) Total Investment*	OBC/ FBC*	Jobs Created (net)	(£M) Total Investment*	Jobs Created (net)	(£M) Total Investment*
Digital	Digital Signal Processing Centre (DSP)		33	2.96	FBC	40	2.96	19	2.15
	Connected Key Sites and Corridors	4G+	82	10.04	FBC	29	£10.15	0	0
	Connected Campuses	LPWAN	20	39.04	BJC	20	1.14	0	0
		Advanced Wireless	165		OBC	200	37.6	n/a	n/a
Low Carbon Energy	Cydnerth (Morlais)		233	13.87	FBC	230	13.8	3	5.36
	Egni		49	3.94	OBC	49	3.94	n/a	n/a
	Smart Local Energy		177	102.00	FBC	193	70	0	0.00
	Holyhead Hydrogen Hub		20	28.77	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Land and Property	Western Gateway, Wrexham		360	43.36	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Warren Hall, Broughton		445	69.76	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Former North Wales Hospital, Denbigh		70	94.70	FBC	70	74.34	0	0
	Parc Bryn Cegin, Bangor		47	6.62	FBC	54	17.91	n/a	n/a
	Holyhead Gateway		647	170.70	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Wrexham Gateway		150	14.37	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Agrifood and Tourism	Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub		92	16.79	OBC	92	16.79	n/a	n/a
	Tourism Talent Network		68	19.03	FBC	68	19.03	0	2.3
	Responsible Adventure		175	12.40	OBC	290	16.7	n/a	n/a
Innovation in High Value Manufacturing	Enterprise Engineering and Optics Centre		78	18.12	FBC	90	18.12	2	10.74
	Centre for Environmental Biotechnology		65	3.46	BJC	180	3.46	7	1.48
Portfolio Management Office Costs				5.15			5.15	7	1.98
Growth Deal Portfolio Total			Targets		4 OBC 10 FBC	Approved		Delivered	
			3,576	1,123		1,605	302.09	38	24.01

\*Total investment shown here includes Portfolio Management Office costs but not the reserve list project  
OBC – Outline Business Case, FBC – Full Business Case  
Data includes OBC and FBC approved information.

# 10 GROWTH DEAL PROJECTS: CAPITAL FUNDING ALLOCATION PROFILE

Programme	Project	Project Sponsor	Profile 25/26 (£m)	Actual YTD (£m)	Variance (£m)*	Rationale
Digital	Digital Signal Processing Centre	Bangor University	0.00	0.00	0.00	Awaiting on the final claim for the DSP project, Connected Key sites and Corridors and Connected Campuses have the business cases approved, and will start
	Connected Key Sites and Corridors	Ambition North Wales	0.98	0.00	-0.98	
	Connected Campuses	Ambition North Wales	0.80	0.00	0.00	
Low Carbon Energy	Cydnerth (Morlais)	Menter Môn	4.43	5.36	0.93	The first loan drawdown for the Cydnerth project has been processed. The Smart Local Energy project will be launched in July and will start claiming in 2025/26.
	Egni	Bangor University	1.97	0.00	-1.97	
	Smart Local Energy	Ambition North Wales	3.00	0.00	-3.00	
Land and Property	Former North Wales Hospital, Denbigh	Ambition North Wales	3.47	0.00	-3.47	The Former North Wales Hospital and Parc Bryn Cegin projects are moving into delivery and will start claiming in 2025/26.
	Parc Bryn Cegin, Bangor	Ambition North Wales	3.93	0.00	-3.93	
Agri-food and Tourism	Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub	Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	0.00	0.00	0.00	The Sheep Milk Wales BJC has been approved. The Tourism Talent Network have started claiming.
	Tourism Talent Network	Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	2.85	0.43	-2.42	
	Responsible Adventure	Zip World	2.30	0.00	-2.30	
Innovation in High Value Manufacturing	Enterprise Engineering and Optics Centre	Glyndwr University	4.28	0.93	-3.35	Claims submitted for the EEOC and CEB project.
	Centre for Environmental Biotechnology	Bangor University	0.25	0.39	0.14	
Portfolio Management Office Costs			1.35	0.21	-1.14	
Total			29.61	7.32	-22.29	

\*Profile 2025/26 – Approved by the Economic Ambition Board  
\*Only includes project profiled or expected to spend during the financial year

# APPENDIX A - PROJECTS SUMMARY

## Growth Deal Projects Summary

	Project	Sponsor	Summary
Digital	Digital Signal Processing Centre (DSP)	Bangor University	The project will allow the DSP Centre to expand its presence and remit, integrating fully with the National Strategy Project (NSP) and enable the scaling of key assets including a 5G testbed, research capacity and state-of-the-art equipment.
	Connected Key Sites and Corridors	Ambition North Wales	This project aims to enhance the reliability and quality of mobile services on the main roads and rail routes in North Wales, enabling full-fibre services to key commercial sites across the region. Focussing on developing fibreoptic networks, which are essential for delivering 4G, 5G and gigabit capable broadband.
	Connected Campuses	Ambition North Wales	The project will accelerate the development of a range of digital connectivity options with a current focus at 18 key regional economic sites.
Low Carbon Energy	Cydnorth (Morlais)	Menter Môn	Investing in infrastructure to connect to the National Grid network and monitor marine environmental effects. This will enable an increase in the deployment of turbines by tidal developers and the generation of renewable energy.
	Egni (Low Carbon Energy Centre of Excellence)	Bangor University	Investing in the development of facilities at Bangor University and Menai Science Park, enhancing the North Wales and UK capabilities for innovation in low carbon energy and related areas, helping to create the conditions for new inward investment and business growth in the low carbon energy supply chain in North Wales.
	Smart Local Energy	Ambition North Wales	To help achieve renewable energy, decarbonisation and local ownership targets, the project will support innovative enabling projects and demonstrators that overcome market failures and unlock private and community sector investments in smart local energy solutions.
	Holyhead Hydrogen Hub	Menter Môn	This project will build a green hydrogen production facility at Parc Cybi, Holyhead, producing around 2000+kg/day of green hydrogen, supplying road, maritime and rail transport customers across North Wales.
Land and Property	Western Gateway, Wrexham	Ambition North Wales	Delivery of primary services to enable the site to be brought to the market for sale and development.
	Warren Hall, Broughton	Ambition North Wales	Delivery of primary services to enable the 65-hectare mixed use site to be bought to the market for sale and then development by the private sector.
	Parc Bryn Cegin, Bangor	Ambition North Wales	Provide industrial floor space to meet known demand for units.
	Former North Wales Hospital, Denbigh	Ambition North Wales	The Growth Deal funding will assist in the delivery of a cleared and remediated site with primary services to bring forward a mixed-use commercial and residential development
	Holyhead Gateway	Stena Line	Future proof the Holyhead Port by providing new deep-water heavy loading and cruise facilities, improved vehicular access, guaranteeing the future of the breakwater and providing for the demands of regional energy projects.
	Wrexham Gateway	Wrexham County Borough Council	This project is a sustainable development of a vibrant regenerated area, creating a focal point to support business investment and a multi-modal transportation hub with links to active travel.
Agri-food and Tourism	Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub	Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	The vision is to create a distinctive, world-class Rural Economy Hub at Glynllifon, offering a range of facilities and services to strengthen and enhance the regional economy, specifically through growing the food and drink sector.
	Tourism Talent Network	Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	Future-proofing the pipeline of skills provision and increase commercial benefits from one of the most established sectors in the region. The talent network will stimulate public-private collaboration to coordinate action on skills and product development to transform and accelerate the growth of the tourism and hospitality sector in the region.
	Responsible Adventure	Zip World	A multi-element project as part of a sustainable and eco-tourism package including a new sustainable Cable Car, Slate Explorer including visitor viewing platform, Swing and an eBus Network.
Innovation in High Value Manufacturing	Centre for Environmental Biotechnology (CEB)	Bangor University	The Centre for Engineering Biotechnology will be a world-leading centre in the discovery and characterisation of novel extremophilic enzymes of industrial relevance. The Centre for Engineering Biotechnology will provide a strong foundation for attracting world-leading researchers, significant public and commercial research funding, and inward investment to Wales.
	Enterprise Engineering & Optics Centre	Wrexham University	The Enterprise Engineering & Optics Centre will provide facilities targeted to boost high-level skills development for the region and enable Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME's) and large businesses to work in partnership with Wrexham Glyndwr University on commercially driven research and development in optics, composites and hydrogen fuel cells.

# APPENDIX B – RESERVE LIST PROJECTS SUMMARY

Project	Sponsor	Summary
North Anglesey Sites and Premises	Isle of Anglesey County Council	Delivering 2,200sqm of business space in North Anglesey creating at least 59 jobs, and leveraging the Freeport and low-carbon energy growth.
Peboc Gateway	Isle of Anglesey County Council	Unlocking 6,750sqm of business space in Llangefni, creating at least 186 jobs and maximising benefits of the Anglesey Freeport.
Venue Cymru	Conwy County Borough Council	A project that will expand facilities at Venue Cymru, boost jobs, cut carbon, and attract major shows, conferences, and cultural investment.
Project Prince Knauf	Knauf	Construction of 110kt rock mineral wool plant with submerged arc furnace (SAF), primarily to serve the UK and Ireland markets.
Society 5.0 Manufacturing & Capability Project	Wrexham University	Enhance the Enterprise Engineering and Optics Centre to enable industry to access further world-class high precision engineering resources.
Port of Mostyn	Port of Mostyn	Upgrading berth and regeneration of former industrial site.
Property Fund	Ambition North Wales	A Commercial Property Development Grant to close viability gaps for private sector developers of industrial and office property, with funding also available for similar public sector developments on a Joint Venture Agreement basis.
Business Gateway	Wrexham University	Serving as a bridge between Wrexham University and local industry, fostering collaboration, innovation, job creation and inclusive economic growth.
Parc Bryn Cegin Phase 2	WG/ANW	The delivery of a further 20,000 sq ft of employment units at Parc Bryn Cegin.
Innovation and Growth Fund	Ambition North Wales	To support North Wales businesses in agri-food, tourism, and high-value manufacturing to boost innovation, adopt new tech, and grow regional competitiveness.
Albert Gubay Business School	Bangor University	Construction of the Albert Gubay Business School at Bangor University.
Padeswood	Welsh Government	
Adventure Parc Snowdonia	Global Shred Ventures	Deliver a nationally significant new visitor experience on the site of the former Adventure Parc Snowdonia facility.
Queens Market Hotel Development	Denbighshire County Council	Provision of mid-range, mid size hotel - a key part of a wider masterplan that is currently being developed for the area.
Move on accommodation St Asaph Business Park	Denbighshire County Council	Development of high-tech industrial units on St. Asaph Business Park.
Bangor Health Hub	Cyngor Gwynedd	To develop an integrated Health and Wellbeing Hub in a vacant former shopping centre in the heart of Bangor city centre.
Quarry Battery	Quarry Battery Co.	A £300m Pumped Storage Hydro / BESS Hybrid scheme in North Wales.
Wrexham Gateway	Wrexham County Borough Council	To address viability and support delivery of the evolving Wrexham Gateway project.
Trawsfynydd	Cwmni Eginio / Cyngor Gwynedd	A scheme which will include a building to include office spaces, laboratory spaces (exact specification to be confirmed) and ancillary facilities (meeting space, café/canteen etc), to support the nuclear and low carbon energy industry together with the scientific community, located on Trawsfynydd Site.
New-H2	Wales and West Utilities	This project will help kick-start the hydrogen economy in North Wales by supporting and delivering a hydrogen hub to include the supply and use of hydrogen.
Kimmel Studios	Roger Morris	A project to support the film industry in North Wales.



# NORTH WALES GROWTH DEAL PORTFOLIO RISK REGISTER

Risk ID	Date Raised	Risk Category	Risk Name	Risk Owner	Description of the Risk	Current Gross Risk Rating			Trend	Mitigating Actions	Action Due Dates	Action owner	Residual Risk Rating			Trend	Status (Open / Closed)	Commentary	Date of last update
						P	I	Score					P	I	Score				
R003	21/10/2020	Financial	Affordability	Portfolio Management Office	If projects increase in cost, there is a risk they may not go ahead or project scope may need to be scaled down	5	5	25	↔	<p>Project Business Cases will set out detailed project level financial, commercial and risk management measures to manage costs.</p> <p>Robust performance, risk and financial reporting arrangements will be established for all projects</p> <p>Once Project Business Cases are approved, any additional costs incurred will be the responsibility of the Project Sponsor and alternative funding options will be considered.</p> <p>PMO engaging with sponsors at project level to identify mitigation for cost increases</p> <p>Introduction of new projects introduces further potential for affordability risk, to be managed through business case develeopment.</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>Monthly</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>Monthly</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>PMO, Project Sponsor</p> <p>PMO</p> <p>PMO</p> <p>PMO</p> <p>PMO</p>	4	4	16	↔	Open	<p>Risk reviewed. No changes to gross or residual risk scores. The residual risk rating remains high as costs have increased significantly since the Growth Deal was agreed in December 2020. While costs have stabilised at the moment, the Growth Deal funding from government is fixed at the amount agreed in 2020 therefore affordability remains a challenge for project. This is being managed on a project by project basis with some projects able to look at design changes, changes to deliver models and others needing to secure additional funding from other sources.</p>	24/06/2025
R002	21/10/2020	Programme and Project Delivery	Delay	Portfolio Management Office	If there are delays to project delivery, there is a risk this could have an impact on the realisation of benefits or could result in projects not progressing.	5	5	25	↔	<p>Routine reallocation of staff capacity to priority projects</p> <p>Monthly highlight reports to Programme Board with escalation routes to Economic Well Being Sub Committee</p> <p>Programme and project RAID logs in place to record risks and manage issues with mitigation managed at project level.</p> <p>Project business cases and implementation plans to clearly set out risks to project delivery and mitigations. PMO working with sponsors to identify opportunities to minimise delay and where delay is unavoidable minimise impact</p> <p>Quarterly reports to the Economic Wellbeing Sub-Committee and Portfolio Board with specific issues to escalate where necessary.</p> <p>PMO working with sponsors at project-level to identify opportunities to minimise delay and where delay is unavoidable minimise impact</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Monthly</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>Quarterly</p> <p>In place</p> <p>In place</p>	<p>PMO</p> <p>PMO</p> <p>PMO</p> <p>PMO, Project Sponsor</p> <p>PMO</p> <p>PMO, Project Sponsors</p>	3	4	12	▼	Open	<p>No change to residual risk however minimising delays remains a priority for the PMO. Mitigating capacity risk (R001) will contribute to mitigation however progress is still affected by sponsors</p> <p>OBC and FBC approvals have addressed some delays. Use of PMO resources more flexibly has proven to be effective to accelerate business case development. Risk probability will reduce further if progress is sustained.</p> <p>A number of projects are experiencing delays which will impact on the timing of benefits realisation.</p> <p>Withdrawal of projects form the Portfolio which have experienced sustained delays reflects reduction in residual probability from 4 to 3.</p>	24/06/2025
R009	21/10/2020	Regulatory	Planning and Statutory Consents	Portfolio Management Office	If projects do not receive the necessary statutory consents and planning approval, there is a risk that projects will not be delivered and the benefits would not be realised.	4	5	20	↔	<p>Project business cases will set out the consenting requirements for each project and the risks to project delivery</p> <p>Lead Role in PMO assigned for planning</p> <p>Continued engagement with project sponsors and consenting authorities to understand consenting process and risks with support provided where appropriate at project level</p> <p>Lessons learnt review to be delivered following project-level consenting delays</p> <p>Chair and/or Portfolio Director to write to consenting authorities highlighting the impact of delayed decisions when individual project risks are escalated.</p> <p>Refer back to Programme SRO to review risk/issue of Phosphate consenting affecting multiple projects to propose appropriate mitigation.</p> <p>For reserve list projects criteria on planning has been set prior to business case submission ie. no commitment of funding until business case approval</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>In place</p> <p>As required</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>PMO, Project SROs</p> <p>PMO</p> <p>PMO</p> <p>PMO, Project sponsors</p> <p>Portfolio Director</p> <p>Programme SRO</p> <p>PMO</p>	5	5	25	▲	Open	<p>Risk Reviewed. The process to upgrade water treatment works to mitigate phosphates from their discharges is taking longer and this is now impacting planning applications. No Growth Deal projects affected yet but the Wrexham Gateway has had an outline application submitted. There is an emerging risk associated with SUDS/SABs potentially affecting consenting.Consenting remains a high risk and is being managed at a programme and project level within the Growth Deal.</p>	24/06/2025
R007	21/10/2020	Financial	Private Sector Investment	Portfolio Management Office	If the private sector investment is not secured, there is a risk that projects will not be delivered or delivered at reduced scale impacting on the benefits to the region.	4	5	20	↔	<p>Continued engagement with Project Sponsors and private sector partners and coordination of funder/investors</p> <p>Development of robust project business cases and contractual agreements for Growth Deal funding</p> <p>New investment strategy in place to support PMO engage funders and secure private investment</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>In place</p>	<p>PMO, Project SROs</p> <p>PMO, Project SROs</p> <p>PMO</p>	4	4	16	↔	Open	<p>No changes to gross or residual risk scores. Securing the private sector investment for the Growth Deal remains a high risk, however the position has improved with the selection of five new projects through the project replacement process. Risk also relates to R020 Subsidy Control.</p>	24/06/2025

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						P	I	Score					P	I	Score				
R008	21/10/2020	Financial	Public Sector Investment	Portfolio Management Office	If the public sector investment is not secured, there is a risk that projects will not be delivered or delivered at reduced scale impacting on the benefits to the region.	4	4	16	↔	All Ambition North Wales partners have signed up to the Growth Deal and Governance Agreement.  Development of robust project business cases and contractual agreements for Growth Deal funding  Support project sponsor applications for other public funding sources where appropriate	Complete  N/A  As required	NWEAB  PMO, Project SROs  PMO	3	4	12	↔	Open	Risk reviewed, no changes. A high number of approved FBCs led by public sector sponsors.  Risk also relates to R020 Subsidy Control	24/06/2025
R010	21/10/2020	Reputational and Social Impact	Spending Objectives	Portfolio Director	If projects fail to deliver against the portfolio spending objectives, there is a risk that the Growth Deal may not meet its targets in relation to job creation, GVA and investment.	5	4	20	↔	Robust business cases will be developed for each programme and project in line with 5 Case Business Model and will need to set out contribution to portfolio spending objective targets  Grant Funding Agreements to contractually commit sponsors to delivery of spending objectives, with regular reporting and monitoring to ensure early intervention where required.  Portfolio review and change control process in place.  New project process was completed in early 2025 with a reserve list of 20 projects established.  Investment strategy has been developed and approved by the Economic Ambition Board.	N/A  Ongoing  N/A  Complete  In place	PMO, Project SROs  PMO  PMO  EAB, PMO  PMO	4	4	16	↔	Open	No changes to gross or residual risk scores. The latest iteration of the Portfolio Business Case submitted to both governments in November 2024 demonstrates how the Growth Deal can still deliver on these targets, however the contingency has now reduced therefore the residual risk remains high. Risk set to remain high until project delivery gets underway.  Invitation for new projects to replace those withdrawn intended to mitigate impact. No change until business case approval / delivery.	24/06/2025
R015	22/10/2020	Reputational and Social Impact	Benefits Realisation	Portfolio Management Office	If project benefits are not realised, there is a risk that the overall Growth Deal could fail to deliver the benefits set out within business case.	4	4	16	↔	Each programme and project will be responsible for benefits management through a Benefits Realisation Plan.  Monthly highlight reports to Programme Board to monitor benefits realisation  Procurement Principles adopted with focus on community benefits and social value  Benefits Realisation guidance developed and being disseminated to project sponsors for use in project business cases  Impact system launched and project teams trained.	N/A  Monthly  Complete  N/A  N/A	PMO, Programme and Project SROs  PMO  PMO  PMO  PMO	3	3	9	↔	Open	Risk reviewed. No changes to gross or residual risk scores. A recent assurance review highlighted the work of the PMO on benefits realisation as good practice which will ensure the structures and systems are in place to help projects realise and report on benefits realisation.	24/06/2025
R001	21/10/2020	Programme and Project Delivery	Capacity	Portfolio Director	If sufficient resources are not in place at portfolio, programme and project level, there is a risk that this could impact on the successful delivery of the deal	4	5	20	↔	Economic Ambition Board approved Revenue budget to extend fixed term contracts.  Additional procurement, finance, legal and technical capacity to be secured for projects and PMO as required. New consultancy framework to be established Q2 2025/26  PMO engage partners to ensure capacity for delivery and promote recruitment activity  Recruitment over Q2/Q3 for Portfolio Director and other new CJC Roles to increase resources supporting the PMO.  Approval from both Governments to increase the top slice from to 2.15% and enabling PMO to draw down additional funding through Growth Deal budget and extend contracts as required  PMO resources directed to priority projects to ensure FBC completion.	In place  Ongoing  Reviewed monthly  In place  In place  In place	PMO  PMO  PMO, Project Sponsors  PMO  PMO  PMO	3	4	12	↔	Open	Risk reviewed. No changes to gross or residual risk scores. Procurement of additional specialist support e.g. procurement, project management etc is underway following PAR recommendation, residual probability to be reduced once support appointed across these functions.	24/06/2025
R006	21/10/2020	Environmental	Climate Change and Biodiversity	Portfolio Director	If projects do not take account of carbon emissions or biodiversity loss within project level assessments, there is a risk the portfolio could contribute towards the issues of climate change and biodiversity loss	4	3	12	↔	Position statement on Climate Change and Biodiversity adopted by the Economic Ambition Board.  Project business cases to demonstrate delivery against the adopted the position.  Methodology on how to take account of carbon emissions and biodiversity loss within project business cases now published and shared with all projects.  Streamlined methodology for smaller and low risk projects being developed with WLGA to be adopted	N/A  N/A  In place  In place	NWEAB  PMO, Project SROs  PMO  PMO	3	3	9	↔	Open	Risk reviewed. No changes to gross or residual risk scores. Roll out of methodology and associated training continues	24/06/2025

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						P	I	Score					P	I	Score				
R020	03/10/2022	Programme and Project Delivery	Economic Context	Portfolio Management Office	If there are significant changes to the UK economy (e.g. cost of living crisis and the energy security crisis), then the strategic and economic cases for programmes and projects may be adversely impacted	4	5	20	↔	Project business cases and implementation plans to clearly set out the case for projects and the risks to project delivery, including the impact of recent economic developments	N/A	PMO, Project Sponsors	3	5	15	↔	Open	Risk reviewed: No immediate changes however recent changes in global tariffs may present further risks.  Increase in NI costs and minimum wage start in Q1 25/26 may impact supply chains across projects for construction and operation.  Developing global issues affecting supply chains and energy market likely to affect costs in the short to medium term.	24/06/2025
R018	01/10/2020	Financial	Revenue Funding	Portfolio Management Office and Project Sponsors	If sufficient revenue funding is not in place to support the activities of the NWEAB and delivery of the Growth Deal, then project delivery and achievement of spending objectives and benefits may be impacted	4	5	20	↔	Economic Ambition Board approved Revenue budget to extend fixed term contracts. Longer term solutions continue to be investigated  Partners and project sponsors responsible for sourcing revenue funding to support non-Ambition North Wales led projects  PMO working to identify additional funding opportunities for Ambition North Wales led projects  PMO capitalises salary costs associated with project delivery where appropriate and in line with guidance.  Growth Deal top slice increased to 2.15%, allowing extension of Fixed term contracts  SPF bid to 6 local authorities successful.	N/A N/A N/A N/A Complete N/A	PMO PMO, Project SRO PMO, Project SRO PMO PMO PMO	3   3	4   4	12	↔	Open	No changes to gross or residual risk scores.  Budget for 2025/26 approved by the Economic Ambition Board in February 2025	24/06/2025
R019	01/10/2020	Programme and Project Delivery	Supply Chain & Skills Capacity	Portfolio Management Office	If the regional supply chain does not have the capacity to deliver projects, then projects' delivery could be impacted and regional benefits could be lower.	4	4	16	↔	Project business cases and implementation plans to clearly set out risks to project delivery and mitigations, including supply chain risks.  RSP working with PMO to identify regional supply chain / skills challenges and identify mitigations  Additional funding secured for skills activity  Projects to conduct early market engagement where appropriate	N/A N/A In place N/A	PMO PMO PMO Project Sponsors	3  3	4  4	12	↔	Open	No changes to gross or residual risk scores. Close collaboration between the PMO and the RSP on skills and supply chain is key to reducing the probability of this risk. This is an ongoing activity to ensure the capacity and skills are in the region to take advantage of the opportunities through the Growth Deal.	24/06/2025
R020	26/04/2024	Regulatory	Subsidy Control	Portfolio Management Office	Link to Public Sector investment risk R008: If subsidy control assessments cannot be confirmed the approval of funding for projects may be delayed or jeopardised.	3	4	12	↔	Review options for no subsidy investment, e.g. commercial loans  Address details and assessment with sponsors at earliest stage (Terms sheet)  Legal advice commissioned early on all SC assessments  Subsidy Control lead and support allocated within PMO	As per SOC-FBC stages	Programme Managers	3	3	9	↔	Open	Risk reviewed. No changes to gross or residual risk scores Challenges in completing 7 Principle assessments being supported by external specialist legal advice but these need to be addressed earlier in the assurance process, e.g. at Terms sheet stage pre OBC completion.	24/06/2025
R016	22/10/2020	Programme and Project Delivery	Assurance	Head of Operations	If agreed assurance processes are not followed, there is a risk that project approval could be impacted and could result in suspension/postponement of government grant payments.	3	5	15	↔	Integrated Assurance and Approval Plan (IAAP) agreed with Welsh and UK Government as part of Final Deal.  Continued engagement with Welsh Government Assurance Hub to refine and update the Integrated Assurance and Approval Plan (IAAP)  PMO assurance lead to coordinate delivery of assurance in accordance with the IAAP	Complete Quarterly N/A	PMO PMO PMO	2   2	4   3	8	↔	Open	Risk reviewed. No changes to gross or residual risk scores. An assurance review in October 2024 resulted in 4 recommendations to be undertaken by the PMO. An action plan will be put into place to address these.	24/06/2025
R017	22/10/2020	Financial	Financial Management	s151 Officer	If appropriate financial arrangements are not put in place, there could be a risk to the delivery of the deal, draw-down of the funding grant and allocation of funds.	3	4	12	↔	Ambition North Wales will utilise existing financial processes of Cyngor Gwynedd as the Host Authority.  Project Business Cases will set out detailed project level financial, commercial and risk management measures to manage finances  Robust monthly performance, risk and financial reporting arrangements will be established for all projects  Robust financial claims process established for the drawdown of funding	N/A N/A Monthly N/A	PMO PMO, Project SRO PMO, Project SRO PMO	  2	  3	6	↔	Open	No changes to gross or residual risk scores. Residual risk remains low due to the processes in place by Ambition North Wales and the funding agreements with project sponsors.	24/06/2025
R014	22/10/2020	Financial	Fraud	Portfolio Director	If appropriate processes are not put in place and managed, there is a risk that the portfolio could be subject to fraudulent claims resulting in misuse of public funds	4	4	16	↔	Projects to have robust financial monitoring processes in place including due diligence checks on project sponsors and funding recipients.  PMO to review claims and applications submitted before passing them onto accountable body for payment  Code of conduct and conflicts of interest policy incorporated as part of Governance Agreement 2  Conflict of Interest Register maintained for all programmes, projects and advisory groups.	N/A N/A Complete N/A	PMO PMO Monitoring Officer PMO	2  2	4  4	8	↔	Open	No changes to gross or residual risk scores. Residual risk remains low due to the processes in place by Ambition North Wales. A further round of fraud training was held for the PMO and Business Delivery Board in May 2024.  From 2025 projects in delivery will include grant/fund schemes will be managed according to PMO's approach to due diligence.	24/06/2025



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						P	I	Score					P	I	Score				
R013	21/10/2020	Reputational and Social Impact	Political Change	Portfolio Director	If stakeholders are not managed effectively, there is a risk that political change could impact support for the portfolio, programme and projects.	4	4	16	↔	Frequent engagement with UK, Welsh Government and local government politicians and officials.  GA2 and Final Deal agreement to confirm commitments of all parties.  New members to be briefed on the Growth Deal Portfolio following change to the leadership. .  Engagement with new UK Government Ministers	N/A  Complete  Complete  Ongoing	Economic Ambition Board, PMO  Ambition North Wales  PMO  PMO	2	4	8	↔	Open	No changes to gross or residual risk scores. The risk remains low at present. Briefing with new UK ministers is ongoing. Senedd and local elections in 2026 mean this risk may increase in the future.	24/06/2025
R021	26/04/2024	Programme and Project Delivery	Transition to CJC	Portfolio Director	Transition of PMO to CJC. If staffing and process arrangements are not managed effectively there is a risk that PMO operations and project delivery may be delayed	3	4	12	↔	TUPE consultation with staff  Impact on policies and processes to be reviewed before full transition	Complete	Portfolio Director	2	3	6	↔	Closed	Risk reviewed. Transition completed April 25  No changes to gross or residual risk scores. Work underway to review potential impacts and agreement of policies and processes for the new CJC subject to Economic Ambition Board approval	24/06/2025

## Cydnerth Interim Project Update

On approval of the Cydnerth Full Business Case in February 2025, the Economic Ambition Board requested an update report on the Cydnerth project progress within 6 months. This report provides a summary of the progress made since Full Business Case approval.

### Project Progress

- Construction for the Cydnerth project is now progressing with onshore drilling.
- The final contract with Jones Bros was signed and publicised by Menter Môn in August 2025 following completion of the loan agreement.
- An issue has arisen regarding gaining final approval to drill underneath the A55, and uncertainty within Government departments regarding who gives final approval. Menter Môn are prioritising resolution of this situation and communicating with all relevant agencies. The situation is expected to be resolved soon and not cause any significant delay to the project overall.

### Benefits

- Three direct jobs with Mentor Mon have been created so far, including an Assistant Electrical Engineer, Energy Grants Manager and Tenant Relationship Manager.
- 5 events targeting strengthening and developing the supply chain have been undertaken, including 1:1 supplier introduction to Morlais sessions (online and in person)
- 5 enterprises have been supported which has exceed they target by 3. These included direct supplier engagement and focused events.

### Funding

- The first loan drawdown of £5.358m completed successfully on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2025.
- Further drawdowns of £1.584m and £1.923m are scheduled for October 2025 and January 2026 respectively, subject to compliance with all loan evidence and reporting.