

Meeting

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

Date and Time

**9.30 am, FRIDAY, 5TH DECEMBER, 2025**

Location

**Virtual Meeting**

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

Contact Point

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Mae'r ddogfen hon hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg.

This document is also available in Welsh.

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

### **Voting Members**

#### **Councillors**

Gary Pritchard	Isle of Anglesey County Council
Nia Jeffreys	Cyngor Gwynedd
Julie Fallon	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 MEETINGS**

5 - 17

The Chair shall propose that the minutes of the meeting held on 03 October 2025 and 07 November 2025 be signed as a true record.

## **5. PORTFOLIO BUSINESS CASE UPDATE 2025 AND OVERARCHING BUSINESS PLAN**

18 - 55

Hedd Vaughan-Evans, Head of Operations, to present the report.

Appendix 2 is separate for Sub-committee Members only. The Appendix is exempt under 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 Schedule 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.

## **6. 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 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 CJC 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.

**7. PORT OF MOSTYN UPGRADE PROGRAMME, BUSINESS JUSTIFICATION CASE+**

David Mathews, Land and Property Programme Manager, to present the report.

**8. ALBERT GUBAY BUSINESS SCHOOL, BANGOR UNIVERSITY, OUTLINE BUSINESS CASE**

Stuart Whitfield, Digital Programme Manager, to present the report.

**9. PADESWOOD RAIL ENHANCEMENT PROJECT - OUTLINE BUSINESS CASE**

David Mathews, Land and Property Programme Manager, to present the report.

**10. RESPONSIBLE ADVENTURE CHANGE REQUEST**

Elliw Hughes, Growth Deal Programme Manager, to present the report.

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## NORTH WALES CJC ECONOMIC WELL-BEING SUB-COMMITTEE 03/10/2025

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### **Present:**

**Voting Members** - Councillors:- Gary Pritchard (Isle of Anglesey County Council), Nia Jeffreys (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)** - Professor Paul Spencer (Bangor University) and Professor Joe Yates (Wrexham University).

**Chief Officers** - Sioned Williams (Cyngor Gwynedd), Sarah Ecob (Conwy County Borough Council), Neal Cockerton (Flintshire County Council), Graham Boase (Denbighshire County Council), Dylan Williams (Isle of Anglesey County Council) and Ian Jones (Wrexham County Borough Council).

**Host Authority** – Iwan Evans (Monitoring Officer), Sian Pugh (Assistant Head of Finance – Sustainability and Development), Sara Jane Jones (Senior Accountant), Jasmine Jones and Sera Whitley (Democracy Services Officers).

**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), Meghan Davies (Energy and Net Zero Programme Manager) and David Mathews (Land and Property Programme Manager).

**Observers** - Wendy Boddington (Welsh Government), Gareth Ashman and Alexandra McDonald (UK Government)

### **1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from:-

- Councillor Edgar Wyn Owen (Eryri National Park).
- Professor Edmund Burke (Bangor University) with Professor Paul Spencer deputising.
- Yana Williams (Coleg Cambria).
- Professor Aled Jones-Griffith (Grŵp Llandrillo Menai).
- David Roberts (Regional Skills Partnership).
- Rhun ap Gareth (Conwy County) with Sarah Ecob deputising.
- Dafydd Gibbard (Cyngor Gwynedd) with Sioned Williams deputising.
- Alwyn Jones (Wrexham County Borough Council) with Ian Jones deputising.
- Dewi Morgan (Cyngor Gwynedd) with Sian Pugh deputising.

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

A declaration of personal interest was received from Councillor Jason McLellan for item 8 and item 9. The member did not consider them to be prejudicial interests, and they did not leave the meeting during the discussion.

Declarations of personal interest were received from Professor Joe Yates for item 11 as they were employed by Wrexham University. It was noted that it was a prejudicial interest and they withdrew from the meeting during the discussion.

Declarations of personal interest were received from Councillor Gary Pritchard for item 12, the member did not believe that they were a prejudicial interest, and they did not leave the meeting during the discussion.

### **3. URGENT ITEMS**

Councillor Charlie McCoubrey was thanked for his work on the Sub-committee over the past year, and he was wished well for the future.

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

The Chair signed the minutes of the previous meeting held on 11 July 2025 as a true record.

### **5. 2025/26 REVENUE POSITION – END OF JULY 2025 REVIEW**

The report was presented by Sian Pugh.

#### **DECISION**

- 1. To note the end of July 2025 revenue review, including the one-off virement in the budget relating to grant income and expenditure.**
- 2. To note the reserves position.**

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

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

#### **DISCUSSION**

An estimate review of the 2025/26 revenue position was presented following a review undertaken at the end of July.

It was noted that the capital programme profile of the Growth Deal was currently being reviewed following the withdrawal of some schemes and the addition of new schemes from the reserve list. This work would be reported as part of the Portfolio Business Case in December and then as part of the quarter three financial review.

An overview of the Growth Deal's revenue position and the situation for the Shared Prosperity Fund and the Energy grant plans were presented. An estimated underspend of £280k was noted for 2025/26. It was noted that this was mainly due to underspend in employee expenditure, additional government jobs and the support services of the accountable body. Attention was drawn to the success with their Shared Prosperity Fund bid which had further contributed to the underspend in employee expenditure.

It was elaborated that a £177k grant from the Welsh Government for the Energy Scheme and £444k from the Shared Prosperity Fund had been included in the budget under the 'One-off virements' column.

An estimate of the funds' balances on 31 March 2026 was reported. It was elaborated that they anticipated that a loan would be required during the next financial year in order to fund the Growth Deal, and therefore these costs would be financed from the interest fund.

It was explained that this had already been reported at the Corporate Joint Committee at its meeting on 19 September.

The members expressed their thanks for the report.

## **6. QUARTER 1 2025/26 PERFORMANCE AND RISK REPORT**

The report was presented by Hedd Vaughan-Evans, Head of Operations.

### **RESOLVED**

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

### **REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

Quarterly reporting on progress against the North Wales Growth Deal is one of the requirements of the Final Growth Deal Agreement.

### **DISCUSSION**

The quarter 1 performance report was presented, covering the period between April and June of this year. It was noted that several important milestones had been reached during the period, including the transfer of the Growth Deal work to the CJC. It was reported that a review of the portfolio had been undertaken, with key decisions made on individual projects, and that a new reserves list, as well as the approval and assurance arrangements, had been streamlined and successfully implemented.

Reference was made to the approval of two full business cases during the quarter, namely 4G+ and the Smart Local Energy project. In addition, it was noted that the loan agreement for the Cydnerth project had been completed, the business case for Theatr Clwyd had been approved, and that the main building at Plas Coch, as part of the EEOC project, had been completed with a soft launch, whilst the laboratory facilities at Plas Henfaes had been fully refurbished.

Members were reminded that four projects continued to report a red status currently, and it was noted that they would be part of the second round of the next portfolio review, with proposals and recommendations to be resubmitted to the Board in November. It was noted that many business cases were on this meeting's agenda and that approving them would put the Board in a more positive position in terms of performance.

In terms of benefits, it was noted that the number of jobs created by the end of quarter 1 stood at 38. It was accepted that this figure was not currently significant, but that this reflected the number of projects in the current delivery stage. A significant increase was expected in the coming years as more projects moved to the delivery stage. It was noted that work was underway with the other growth schemes to standardise the process of gathering data on construction posts and ring-fenced posts, in order to be able to provide a more comprehensive picture to the Board and the Government of the impact of the projects.

It was noted that the investment of the Growth Deal by the end of quarter 1 stood slightly over £22.6 million, with the total investment over £24 million. It was further noted that the report also included information about the wider benefits that were emerging, such as additional income secured, students completing qualifications and steps to strengthen supply chains. It was noted that this element would be further developed in future reports as more projects moved to the delivery stage and more data was received about their impact.

In terms of risk, it was noted that the situation was quite consistent with quarter 4 2024/25. It was noted that the residual risk on delay had fallen slightly, as a result of implementing the reserves list. However, it was noted that the residual risk in terms of planning had increased, as some fundamental risks remained in the system and needed to be closely monitored.

It was noted that it was pleasing to see the colours of the risk register improving, however, concern was noted regarding taking this fact out of its context, as the figure of 38 new jobs did not fully reflect the work achieved to date. It was noted that a number of projects were underway showing that the Council was moving towards its targets, and that a mature and robust approach was needed in moving forward with this work.

Concern was expressed regarding the figure of the new posts, namely 38. It was further noted that it was important to explain what these posts were and build this explanation into the dashboard. It was asked whether these were high-quality, full-time posts. It was noted that it was important to aim to create high-value posts to keep people within their communities. In response, it was noted that the 38 posts were full-time equivalent posts and derived from the Bangor University DSP project, Wrexham University EEOC project and full-time posts within the portfolio management office. It was emphasised that more detail would be available in the future regarding the posts created.

Concern was expressed regarding projects without planning permission. It was asked whether it was possible to get an update on the reserves list, especially the Trawsfynydd project. In response, it was noted that planning was a complex process that relied on the decisions of the local authority. It was noted that the reserves list was moving along well, with four of those projects on this meeting's agenda. It was noted, specifically about Trawsfynydd, that the project was proceeding positively, with positive updates received from the team regarding the budget and the governance framework. It was further noted that a workshop would be held at the end of the month for stakeholders involved in the Trawsfynydd project.

The importance of including stronger narratives regarding the posts created over the lifetime of these projects in the long-term was noted, especially in construction. It was further noted that many of these posts would not become operational until the projects had been completed and moved into the implementation phase, causing a delay in the posts' statistics.

The need to re-frame the narrative regarding the posts was emphasised, placing an emphasis on the indirect posts created within local communities and in the supply chains as a result of the Growth Deal. It was agreed that the officers would circulate more information about the posts, especially in terms of the quality of the posts created. It was noted that, unless sufficient information was available, it would be appropriate to revisit the data collection framework in the future to ensure that the relevant information was gathered.

There was a question regarding the timetable for the four projects on the reserves list and due to be presented to this committee in November - officers were asked to confirm that

they were on the right track to do so, as a decision was required regarding whether they should be funded or not. In response, it was confirmed that these four projects were on the right track to be presented to the committee in November.

Everyone was thanked for the discussion and the scrutiny work on the subject. It was emphasised that such scrutiny and challenge was healthy and welcomed.

## **7. 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.

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

The report was presented by Alwen Williams, Chief Executive of the CJC.

### **RESOLVED**

**To agree on the recommendations noted in section 4.6 to appoint two advisors to the Non-executive Advisors role.**

### **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 find candidates to be recommended for appointment to the CJC's Economic Well-being Sub-committee.

### **DISCUSSION**

The Report was discussed.

## **9. FORMER NORTH WALES HOSPITAL - CHANGE REQUEST**

The report was presented by David Matthews, Land and Property Programme Manager.

### **RESOLVED**

- 1. To agree to the change request to split the delivery of the Former North Wales Hospital project into two phases with Denbighshire County Council acting as the Project Sponsor**

for Phase 1 Essential Demolition and Remediation Works and Ecological Mitigation Measures and Jones Bros remaining as the Project Sponsor for Phase 2. (The remaining demolition and remediation works, construction of commercial units and conversion of the Main Range Listed Building into apartments and enabling the development of 300 homes).

2. To agree the release of an initial £2m in funding for Phase 1 to Denbighshire County Council with the option of providing a further £1m delegated to the Portfolio Director in consultation with the Chair, Vice-Chair, Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer having regard in particular to the matters in Section 4.3 of the report.
3. To note that the completion of Phase 1 will enable the project to have full visibility of costs associated with Phase 2 and that this could result in a request for further funding but this would be subject to a separate decision in the future if required.
4. To authorise the Portfolio Director in consultation with the Chair, Vice Chair, Section 151 and Monitoring Officer to agree and enter into a funding agreement with Denbighshire County Council for Phase 1 subject to completion of the Subsidy Control assessment.

## **REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

1. There was a need to progress Phase 1 works imminently in order to provide cost certainty on Phase 2 and to address urgent health and safety matters on site as a result of the deteriorating state of the buildings that needed to be demolished anyway regardless of health and safety matters.
2. By bringing the demolition of these buildings forward, safe access could be achieved to the Main Range Listed Building (MRLB) allowing:
  - i. them to be inspected to obtain up-to-date assessments of conversion costs, viability of the overall project etc.
  - ii. Any urgent works can be carried out to the MRLB to limit any further deterioration in its structural integrity
  - iii. momentum/confidence to be built in the project in terms of the other milestones that needed to be achieved.
3. All parties have agreed that the clearance of the buildings to be demolished should be the priority. Whilst these works were ongoing, negotiations regarding the content of the S106 relating to giving planning permission would continue.

## **DISCUSSION**

The Report was discussed.

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

The report was presented by Elliw Hughes, Growth Deal Programme Manager.

## **RESOLVED**

1. To approve the Outline Business Case (OBC) for Project Prince subject to Welsh Government and UK Government approval of the assurance process undertaken, and Knauf Insulation Limited addressing the matters set out in the report, as described in Section 7, and request that a Full Business Case is prepared for the Sub-committee to consider.
2. To authorise the Portfolio Director in consultation with the Chair, Vice-chair, Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer to agree draft terms in accordance with this report as a basis for the final funding arrangements for the project to be entered into subject to Full Business Case approval.



3. That the approval from the Sub-committee is valid for a period of twelve months and should the project not proceed to an approved FBC during this time, it will be required to return and re-present the business case to the Sub-committee for approval.
4. To note the intention to split the funding between the Growth Deal and Investment Zone (once approved) and that this position will be confirmed at Full Business Case stage.

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

1. To seek the Sub-committee's approval of the Outline Business Case for Project Prince by Knauf Insulation Limited.
2. A decision to approve the Outline Business Case by the Economic Well-being Sub-committee would enable Knauf to progress to the next stage of their internal approvals.

#### **DISCUSSION**

The Report was discussed.

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

The report was presented by Elliw Hughes, Growth Deal Programme Manager.

#### **RESOLVED**

1. To approve the Business Justification Case (BJC+) for the Society 5.0 Manufacturing and Business Capability Project, subject to Welsh Government and UK Government approval of the assurance process undertaken.
2. To delegate to the Portfolio Director in consultation with the Chair, Vice-chair, Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer to confirm the final costs and benefits post procurement are in line with the approved business case and enter into a funding agreement with Wrexham University for the delivery of the project, subject to Wrexham University addressing the outstanding issues set out in section 7 of the report and securing all necessary internal approvals for the project.
3. To ensure that approval from the Sub-committee is valid for a period of six months and should the project not proceed to a signed funding agreement during this time, it will be required to return and re-present the business case to the Sub-committee for approval.

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

To seek the Sub-committee's approval of the Business Justification Case for the Society 5.0 Manufacturing and Business Capability Project.

#### **DISCUSSION**

The Report was discussed.

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

The report was presented by David Matthews, Land and Property Programme Manager.

## **RESOLVED**

1. To approve the Business Justification Case (BJC+) for the North Anglesey Sites and Premises project, subject to Welsh Government and UK Government approval of the assurance process undertaken.
2. To delegate to the Portfolio Director in consultation with the Chair, Vice-chair, Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer to confirm the final costs and benefits post procurement were in line with the approved business case and enter into a funding agreement with Isle of Anglesey County Council (IoACC) for the delivery of the project, subject to Isle of Anglesey County Council addressing the outstanding issues set out in section 7 of the report and securing all necessary internal approvals for the project.
3. To ensure that approval from the Sub-committee is valid for a period of six months and should the project not proceed to a signed funding agreement during this time, it will be required to return and re-present the business case to the Sub-committee for approval.

## **REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

To seek the Sub-committee's approval of the BJC+ for the North Anglesey Sites and Premises project.

The draft BJC+ is being presented to the Sub-committee in October to enable the Council to enter into a Joint Venture Agreement with Welsh Government prior to instigating formal procurement to appoint a Main Contractor for both sites included in the project. Procurement for the project is currently due to commence in Q4 2025 with a Preferred bidder selection confirmed for the Marine Terminal Building and the new business units in Q1 2026.

## **DISCUSSION**

The Report was discussed.

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

The report was presented by David Matthews, Land and Property Programme Manager.

## **RESOLVED**

1. To approve the Business Justification Case (BJC+) for the Freeport Gateway project, subject to Welsh Government and UK Government approval of the assurance process undertaken.
2. To delegate to the Portfolio Director in consultation with the Chair, Vice-chair, Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer to confirm the final costs and benefits post procurement were in line with the approved business case and enter into a funding agreement with Isle of Anglesey County Council (IoACC) for the delivery of the project, subject to Isle of Anglesey County Council addressing the outstanding issues set out in section 7 of the report and securing all necessary internal approvals for the project.
3. That the approval from the Sub-committee is valid for a period of six months and should the project not proceed to a signed funding agreement during this time, it

**will be required to return and re-present the business case to the Sub-committee for approval.**

## **REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

To seek the Sub-Committee's approval of the BJC+ for the Freeport Gateway project.

The draft BJC+ is being presented to the Sub-Committee in October in order for IoACC to complete the purchase of the freehold interest of the site from Eastman. As the site has substantial liabilities, IoACC wish to have certainty that they will have sufficient funding to address the demolition, remediation and other site clearance works as well as providing for an adoptable highway for accessing the site. As part of the wider Freeport Gateway project, IoACC wish to construct additional employment units on the adjacent Tregarnedd Industrial Park and to bring forward a development plot for sale on the open market.

## **DISCUSSION**

The Report was discussed.

The meeting started at 09:30 and ended at 12:00.

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Chair

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

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**Present:**

**Voting Members** - Councillors:- Gary Pritchard (Isle of Anglesey County Council), Nia Jeffreys (Cyngor Gwynedd), Julie Fallon (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)** - Professor Paul Spencer (Bangor University), Professor Joe Yates (Wrexham University), Aled Jones-Griffith (Grŵp Llandrillo Menai), David Roberts (Chair of the Regional Skills Partnership), Edgar Owen (Eryri National Park) and Jonathan Cawley (Eryri National Park).

**Chief Officers of Constituent Councils** - Dylan Williams (Isle of Anglesey County Council), Sioned Williams (Cyngor Gwynedd), Rhun ap Iarhai (Conwy County Borough Council), Neal Cockerton (Flintshire County Council), Graham Boase (Denbighshire County Council), Dylan Williams (Isle of Anglesey County Council) and Alwyn Jones (Wrexham County Borough Council).

**Host Authority** - Iwan Evans (Monitoring Officer), Dewi Morgan (Statutory Finance Officer), Sara Jane Jones (Senior Accountant), Claire and Rhodri Jones and Sera Whitley (Democracy Services Officer).

**Ambition North Wales** - Hedd Vaughan-Evans (Head of Operations), Nia Medi Williams (Resources and Operations Manager), Eili Hughes (Growth Deal Programme Manager), David Mathews (Land and Property Programme Manager), Meghan Davies (Energy and Net Zero Programme Manager), Stuart Whitfield (Digital Programme Manager) and David Hole (CJC Operational Programme Manager).

**Observers** - Wendy Boddington (Welsh Government) and Gareth Ashman (UK Government)

**1. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR**

Councillor Charlie McCoubrey was thanked for his work and support to the Ambition Board and the Corporate Joint Committee over the year, and he was wished well for the future.

**It was resolved to elect Councillor Jason McLellan as Vice-chair for 2025/26.**

**2. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from:-

- Alwen Williams (Chief Executive)
- Professor Edmund Burke (Bangor University) with Professor Paul Spencer deputising
- Dafydd Gibbard (Cyngor Gwynedd) with Sioned Williams deputising
- Sian Pugh (Cyngor Gwynedd)
- Yana Williams (Coleg Cambria)

**3. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST**

A declaration of personal interest was received from Councillor Gary Pritchard (Isle of Anglesey County Council) for item 7 as he was an observer on the Menter Môn board, which had a connection to the project discussed in the item. It was noted that it was not a prejudicial interest, and he did not leave the meeting for the discussion.

A declaration of personal interest was received from Councillor Julie Fallon and Rhun ap Iarthur (Constituent Council Chief Executive) for Item 8 as Conwy County Borough Council led on this project. It was noted that it was not a prejudicial interest, and they did not leave the meeting for the discussion.

A declaration of personal interest was received from Dewi Morgan (Chief Finance Officer) for Item 8 due to a personal contact to him having been involved in the project. It was noted that it was a prejudicial interest, and he withdrew from the meeting for the discussion.

#### **4. URGENT ITEMS**

None to note.

#### **5. NORTH WALES GROWTH DEAL - QUARTER 2 PERFORMANCE AND RISK REPORT**

The report was presented by the Head of Operations.

#### **DECISION**

- 1. To note the Quarter 2 Performance Report and updated Portfolio Risk Register**
- 2. To approve the submission of the Quarter 2 Performance Report to Welsh Government and UK Government as well as the local authority scrutiny committees.**

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

Quarterly reporting on progress against the North Wales Growth Deal is one of the requirements of the Final Growth Deal Agreement.

#### **DISCUSSION**

Members were guided through the main highlights of the last quarter such as the approval of the Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub - Welsh Sheep Milk Business Justification Case and the Advanced Wireless Full Business Case. Reference was also made to the Launch of the Clean Energy Fund on 10 July and that a process had been implemented to appoint two Non-executive Advisers.

It was reported that 6 Projects were currently in operation, with six other projects approved but not in operation to date, with three further business cases underway.

It was confirmed that investment from the Growth Deal to its projects was £23,164,812.52 by the end of the second quarter of the current financial year. It was elaborated that a total of £25,040,328.17 had been earmarked to the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee to invest in projects, confirming that these figures continued to gradually increase, with many exciting projects underway. It was acknowledged that the number of jobs created was low, explaining that 49 new jobs and 49 construction jobs had been created to date.

Details were given on the Portfolio's Risk Register, reporting that it continued to be consistent with the developments made during the first quarter of the current financial year.

However, it was confirmed that some high risks continued on the register in relation to the investment of the private sector, as well as general investment targets, following delays. It was elaborated that the residual risk on the 'Affordability' title had been reduced due to a larger proportion of projects being approved, providing assurance that they were affordable.

During the discussion, the following observations were made:

In response to observations that noted that the number of jobs created was currently low, the Head of Operations explained that it was not possible for these figures to increase until more projects were in operation, acknowledging that there was a natural delay between funding the projects and ensuring that they were being constructed. However, it was reported that there was an expectation for these figures to significantly increase very soon as more projects became operational recently, confirming that a further update would be presented at the next meeting of this Sub-committee. In response to further observations, the Head of Operations confirmed that Members would receive a detailed summary of all the jobs created, the nature of the employment and their locations across the north Wales region as members could be reassured that the jobs were bringing a financial benefit to individuals from the region.

Observations were presented by Members that many projects had been approved during the current financial year and their value would be visible to the region in the future, and all the officers were thanked for their work.

The members expressed their thanks for the report.

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

A vote was taken on the proposal to exclude the press and public and Councillor Nia Jeffreys abstained her vote on this item.

**RESOLVED to exclude the press and public from the meeting during the discussion on Items 7 and 8 due to the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 14 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972: Information about the financial or business transactions of any specific person (including the authority that retains that information).**

There is an acknowledged public interest in being open about 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 is specifically regarding financial and business matters together with associated discussions. The publication of such commercially sensitive information could adversely affect the interests of the bodies and the CJC 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.

## **7. PORTFOLIO REVIEW 2**

The report was presented by the Head of Operations

**RESOLVED**

**To agree on the recommendations specific to the projects and the next steps of the assessment, following completing the second portfolio review.**

## **REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

The decision sought responded to the recommendations approved by the Economic Well-being Sub-committee in April 2025 as part of the first portfolio review, to retain four projects in the Growth Deal and conduct another review in six months.

## **DISCUSSION**

The Report was discussed.

### **8. VENUE CYMRU FUTURES - CONWY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

The report was presented by the Growth Deal Programme Manager.

## **RESOLVED**

- 1. To approve the Outline Business Case for Venue Cymru subject to the Welsh Government and UK Government's approval of the assurance process undertaken, and Conwy County Borough Council addressing the recommendations noted during the discussion, and request that a Full Business Case is prepared for the Sub-committee to consider.**
- 2. To authorise the Portfolio Director in consultation with the Chair, the Vice-chair, Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer to agree on draft terms in accordance with this report as a basis for the final funding arrangements for the project subject to Full Business Case approval.**
- 3. To confirm that the approval from the Sub-committee is valid for a period of six months and should the project not secure planning permission and proceed to an approved Full Business Case during this period, it will be required to return and re-submit the business case to the Sub-committee for approval.**

## **REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

To seek the Sub-committee's approval of the Outline Business Case for the Venue Cymru Futures Project by Conwy County Borough Council.

A decision to approve the Outline Business Case by the Economic Well-being Sub-committee will enable Conwy County Borough Council to progress to the next stage of their Internal approvals process.

## **DISCUSSION**

The Report was discussed.

The meeting commenced at 10:00 and concluded at 11:30.

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Chair



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**ECONOMIC WELL-BEING SUB-COMMITTEE**

**5<sup>th</sup> December, 2025**

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**TITLE:** Portfolio Business Case Update 2025 and Overarching Business Plan

**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 2025 update of the Portfolio Business Case, the 2026-2030 Overarching Business Plan and the outcome of the 2025 Portfolio Assurance Review for the North Wales Growth Deal.
- 1.2. It is a requirement of the Final Deal Agreement that the Portfolio Business Case is updated on an annual basis and submitted to Welsh Government and UK Government as part of the annual award of funding process.
- 1.3. It is a requirement set out in the Delivery and Funding Agreement (previously Governance Agreement 2) for the partners of the North Wales Growth Deal to update the Overarching Business Plan every five years.

**2. DECISION SOUGHT**

- 2.1. That the Sub-Committee approve the 2025 update of the Portfolio Business Case and its submission to Welsh Government and UK Government as part of the annual award of funding process.
- 2.2. That the Sub-Committee request that the Portfolio Director submit all required documentation and change request form to Welsh and UK Government as part of the annual award of funding process and delegate to the Portfolio Director, in consultation with the Chair, Vice Chair, the Monitoring Officer and the S151 Officer, authority to negotiate with Welsh Government and UK Government on the timing of the award of funding and to make any minor amendments as requested by either government.
- 2.3. That the Sub-Committee approve the updated Overarching Business Plan 2026-2030 that sets out the arrangements for delivering the North Wales Growth Deal.
- 2.4. That the Sub-Committee notes the verbal update on the 2025 Portfolio Assurance Review and requests that the Portfolio Director develop an action plan to address the recommendations.

**3. REASON FOR THE DECISION**

- 3.1. As stated in the report.



#### 4. BACKGROUND AND RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

##### 4.1. Portfolio Business Case

- 4.2. In December 2020, Ambition North Wales and the Welsh and UK Governments agreed the Final Deal Agreement for the North Wales Growth Deal.
- 4.3. The annual update of the Portfolio Business Case is a requirement of the Final Deal Agreement. The 2025 update is based on a streamlined format agreed with Welsh Government and UK Government to capture key changes since the last iteration.
- 4.4. The business case and appendices have been fully reviewed with the key changes outlined in the tables below:

Case	Summary of key changes
Strategic Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Details of new (since 2024 update) policies and strategic initiatives relevant to the portfolio were added. See table 1.1</li><li>• Details of changes to the macro-economic context were added. See table 1.2</li><li>• Updated major risks table 1.4</li><li>• A summary of further minor changes to the portfolio strategic case has been provided. See table 1.5</li></ul>
Economic Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Eight projects received FBC approval;<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Parc Bryn Cegin (Land and Property Programme) OBC was approved in December 2024, closely followed by the FBC in February 2025.</li><li>○ Cydnerth project (Low Carbon Energy Programme) was approved in February 2025.</li><li>○ 4G+ (Digital Connectivity programme) was approved in April 2025.</li><li>○ Smart Local Energy FBC Approved in May 2025.</li><li>○ Advanced Wireless (Digital Connectivity programme) was approved in July 2025.</li><li>○ Freeport Gateway (Land and Property Programme) BJC+ approved in October 2025.</li><li>○ Gogledd Môn Sites and Premises (Land and Property Programme) BJC+ approved in October 2025.</li><li>○ Society 5.0 (Innovation in High Value Manufacturing Programme) BJC+ approved in October 2025.</li></ul></li><li>• Three OBCs received approval:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Responsible Adventure project (Agri-food and Tourism programme) was approved in February 2025.</li><li>○ Project Prince (Innovation in High Value Manufacturing Programme) approved in October 2025.</li></ul></li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Venue Cymru (Agri-food and Tourism programme) OBC was approved in November 2025.</li> <li>• The results of the approved BJC for the Sheep Milk Wales part of the Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub (Agri-food and Tourism programme) have also been used to inform the updates to the Economic Case.</li> <li>• The Economic Case has been updated to take account of projects withdrawn from the Growth Deal or moved to the Reserve List as well as Best/Medium/Worst Case scenarios for the reallocation of unallocated funding to Reserve List projects.</li> <li>• Other projects have seen delays affect the profile of costs and benefits.</li> </ul>
<b>Commercial Case</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There has been minimal change to the commercial case of the portfolio.</li> <li>• Eight project procurements have taken place in the last 12 months, which include: Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub, Centre for Environmental Biotechnology+, Cydnerth, Clean Energy Fund, Egni, LPWAN, 4G+ and the Digital Signal Processing Centre.</li> <li>• Procurement has also taken place for Shared Prosperity Funded workstreams including Clean Energy Feasibility (Low Carbon Energy Programme), Mobile Network Survey Equipment (Digital Connectivity Programme), Smart Agriculture IoT trials (Digital Connectivity Programme). These procurements add value and inform projects within the Low Carbon Energy programme and Digital Connectivity programme.</li> </ul>
<b>Financial Case</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The financial case has been updated with charts and tables, to account for the approved OBCs, BJs and FBCs.</li> <li>• The Financial Case has been updated to take account of projects withdrawn from the Growth Deal or moved to the Reserve List as well as Best/Medium/Worst Case scenarios for the reallocation of unallocated funding to Reserve List projects.</li> </ul>
<b>Management Case</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provided updates to the Growth Deal Delivery Structure, following the establishment of the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee, including the transfer of the Portfolio Management Office, the Growth Deal and all its funding into the North Wales CJC.</li> <li>• Provided updates to the Gateway review summary table. 2 projects have gone through assurance and alignment with expectations since the prior portfolio.</li> <li>• A Streamlined Approvals process has been approved and introduced.</li> </ul>

#### 4.5. **Spending Objective 1 – Net Jobs**

The net new jobs created are projected to fall largely within the range set out in Spending Objective 1 (to create between 3,400 and 4,200 net new jobs in North Wales through the Growth Deal by 2036). The current forecasted range is between 3,540 and 4,170 net new jobs created and this includes Best/Medium/Worst case scenarios on net new jobs created by the reallocation of unallocated funding to Reserve List projects.

#### 4.6. **Spending Objective 3 – Investment**

The latest total investment forecast that the projects will bring in a total investment of between £820m and £970m. This forecast includes Best/Medium/Worst case scenarios on investment created by the reallocation of unallocated funding to Reserve List projects. This demonstrated the potential of the portfolio to achieve near the original target of £1bn in a best-case scenario while highlighting the level of risk associated with the worst-case scenario. The range highlights the challenges in replacing some of the bigger projects removed from the Growth Deal in the last 12 months. A capital expenditure profile over the term of the Growth Deal is included in Appendix Kb.

#### 4.7. **GVA**

The Growth Deal programmes are expected to generate a total of £1.5 to £1.7 billion in net additional GVAUK and Welsh Government confirmed in November 2023 that “there is no longer a government requirement to directly track and associate GVA with the growth deal portfolio”. However, for consistency, it is still being profiled within this document.

- 4.8. In summary, the Portfolio Business Case 2025 demonstrates how the North Wales Growth Deal can still deliver on the net jobs and investment targets agreed in the Final Deal, while the range presented for each target reflects the level of risk associated with meeting the original ambitious targets. The Best/Medium/Worst Case Scenarios are presented to provide the Sub-Committee and UK and Welsh Government with an honest assessment of potential deliver, the impact of the significant changes made by the Growth Deal in the last 12 months and the scale of the challenges ahead.

#### 4.9. **Overarching Business Plan**

- 4.10. The first Overarching Business Plan 2020-2025 was the basis on which partners entered into the North Wales Growth Deal. It provided an overview of the deal including the programmes and projects to be delivered, it set out what the Growth Deal will deliver in terms of outputs and benefits for the region, the financial contributions of each partner and the governance and performance management arrangements to ensure the Growth Deal is delivered.

- 4.11. The Overarching Business Plan for 2026-2030 provides an overview of progress over the past 5 years, a forward look for the next five years, along with information on the partnership, the Growth Deal, its funding and governance.

- 4.11. A copy of the Overarching Business Plan is available in Appendix 3.

#### 4.12 **Portfolio Assurance Review 2025**

- 4.13 The 2025 Portfolio Review was undertaken from 24-27 November 2025. The final report is expected to be available on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December and a verbal update will be provided at the meeting.

## **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1. Approving the 2025 update of the Portfolio Business Case will enable the Portfolio Management Office to submit the business case as part of the annual award of funding process.
- 5.2. As the current expenditure forecast to the end of 2025-26 is less than has already been received in grants payments for Welsh Government and UK Government, the Portfolio Director will enter into negotiation with both government regarding the next drawdown of funding. The PMO are still waiting for confirmation of the status of the deferred Growth Deal grant drawdown from 2024/25.
- 5.3. The updated business case does not impact on the agreed partner contributions for 2025-26 which have been agreed by Ambition North Wales. Due to the changes in the project timescales and spend profiles and interest rate rises, and the likely changes in the level of the Non-Domestic Rates grant, the interest requirement and all partners' contribution levels from 2025-26 onwards will be recalculated in the coming months.
- 5.4. The updated Portfolio Business Case set out a Best/Medium/Worst Case scenario in terms of securing investment through the reallocation of unallocated funding to Reserve List projects. This is a prudent approach to demonstrating the range that can be achieved from future decisions taken by the Sub-Committee in relation to funding reallocation.

## **6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1. It is a requirement of the Final Deal Agreement for the Portfolio Business Case to be updated on an annual basis.
- 6.2. It is a requirement of the Delivery and Funding Agreement (previously Governance Agreement 2) that the Overarching Business Plan is updated and approved by partners every 5 years. It is a key document in relation to the delivery of the Growth Deal. The content of the Plan serves to create a legitimate expectation that the Growth Deal will be progressed as set out in the Plan. Accordingly, it is important that each Partner is content with the content of the Overarching Business Plan.

## **7. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS**

- 7.1. Ambition North Wales through its programmes and projects along with the processes put in place will ensure the Growth Deal will achieve a positive impact against all of the 7 well-being goals.
- 7.2. The Growth Deal will have a neutral impact on equalities against the 11 protected characteristics. All programmes and projects are being co-produced through partnerships involving the public and private sector, research bodies and the regional skills partnership, with a focus on engagement to positively impact those disadvantaged by gender, disability, ethnicity or age.

- 7.3. Delivery of the Growth Deal programmes and projects will have a positive impact on the Welsh Language, proactively seeking opportunities to promote and facilitate the use of the Welsh language across the region.
- 7.4. An Individual Impact Assessment is completed for all projects as part of the Business Case development.
- 

#### APPENDICES:

- Appendix 1** Executive Summary of the Portfolio Business Case 2025
- Appendix 2** Portfolio Business Case 2025 – Key Appendices
- Appendix 3** Overarching Business Plan 2026-2030

\*Please note the remaining appendices referenced within the Portfolio Business Case are available on request to the Portfolio Management Office.

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#### BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS *(available on request)*

- Portfolio Business Case 2025 – Appendices
- 

#### STATUTORY OFFICERS RESPONSE:

**i. Monitoring Officer:**

“There’s a number of key decisions for the Sub-Committee in relation to both the Portfolio Business Case but also the Overarching Business Plan. As part of the Transfer and Financing Agreement the CJC is empowered to update the OBC from time to time. The proposed changes incorporate information about changes and developments since adoption and are within the powers of the CJC.

**ii. Statutory Finance Officer:**

“I am satisfied that this report is a fair and accurate reflection of the activities of Ambition North Wales and of its current situation. I can confirm the accuracy of the financial information contained in this cover report and in the Annex, and they explain the financial considerations for the forthcoming period.”



# PORTFOLIO BUSINESS CASE

## ANNEX

### NOVEMBER 2025



# Executive Overview

The purpose of the strategic portfolio business case is to demonstrate the optimal choice of programmes and projects for the delivery of the North Wales Growth Deal. The portfolio business case was the basis on which the Final Deal Agreement was signed between Ambition North Wales, Welsh Government and UK Government in a virtual ceremony on 17th December 2020. The 2022 Portfolio Business Case is the main document which provides a baseline for Ambition North Wales. As part of the annual update process agreed with the Welsh and UK Governments an annex to the business case is prepared to capture any relevant changes over the past year. **This Annex displays the changes made to the strategic portfolio business case from October 2024 onward. This Annex should be read in conjunction with the main document and any past update Annex.**

## The Strategic Case

### *November 2025 Update – Summary of key changes to the Strategic Case*

- Details of new (since 2024 update) policies and strategic initiatives relevant to the portfolio were added. See table 1.1
- Details of changes to the macro-economic context were added. See table 1.2
- Updated major risks table 1.4
- A summary of further minor changes to the portfolio strategic case has been provided. See table 1.5

## The Economic Case

### *November 2025 Update – Summary of key changes to Economic Case*

- Eight projects received FBC approval; The Parc Bryn Cegin (Land and Property Programme) OBC was approved in December 2024, closely followed by the FBC in February 2025. The Cydnerth project (Low Carbon Energy Programme) was approved in February 2025; The 4G+ (Digital Connectivity programme) was approved in April 2025; The Smart Local Energy FBC Approved in May 2025. The Advanced Wireless (Digital Connectivity programme) was approved in July 2025. In October 2025 three of the reserve list projects received approval of their BJCs, the Freeport Gateway (Land and Property Programme), Gogledd Môn Sites and Premises (Land and Property Programme) and Society 5.0 (Innovation in High Value Manufacturing Programme).
- Three OBCs received approval. The Responsible Adventure project (Agri-food and Tourism programme) was approved in February 2025. With the Project Prince (Innovation in High Value Manufacturing Programme) approved in October 2025. The Venue Cymru Futures OBC was approved in November 2025.
- The results of the approved BJC for the Sheep Milk Wales part of the Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub (Agri-food and Tourism programme) have also been used to inform the updates to the Economic Case.
- The Economic Case has been updated to take account of projects withdrawn from the Growth Deal or moved to the Reserve List as well as Best/Medium/Worst Case scenarios for the reallocation of unallocated funding to Reserve List projects.



- A number of projects have seen delays affect the profile of costs and benefits.
- The Growth Deal programmes are expected to generate a total of £1.5 to £1.7 billion in net additional GVA, and 3,540 to 4,170 net additional FTE jobs. It is therefore forecast that the Growth Deal will not reach Spending Objective 2 (To support a net additional - undiscounted - GVA uplift of between £2.0 billion and £2.4 billion for the North Wales Economy through the Growth Deal by 2036). This is primarily due to delays in portfolio projects shifting the timeline for projected GVA growth outside of the original economic appraisal period (15 years from 2020/21). It should be noted that although GVA reductions from projects being delayed from the portfolio are partially mitigated by, projects moving to the OBC stage, the delays cause a net decrease in cumulative GVA by 2036.
- UK and Welsh Government confirmed in November 2023 that “there is no longer a government requirement (UKG or WG) to directly track and associate GVA with the growth deal portfolio”. However, for consistency, it is still being profiled within this document.
- Notably, projected net jobs fall within the range set out in Spending Objective 1 (To create between 3,400 and 4,200 net new jobs in North Wales through the Growth Deal by 2036). This is because delayed projects typically still create jobs prior to 2036.
- The latest forecast shows the projects bringing total investment of between £0.82 and £0.97 – somewhat short of the target of £1 billion in Spending Objective 3.
- The 2025 BCR against Growth Deal costs stands at 3.9-4.4:1. This is a 1.3-2.0 decrease since the 2024 update.

## The Commercial Case

### *November 2025 Update – Summary of key changes*

- There has been minimal change to the commercial case of the portfolio.
- Eight project procurements have taken place in the last 12 months, which include: Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub, Centre for Environmental Biotechnology+, Cydnerth, Clean Energy Fund, Egri, LPWAN, 4G+ and the Digital Signal Processing Centre.
- Procurement has also taken place for Shared Prosperity Funded workstreams including Clean Energy Feasibility (Low Carbon Energy Programme), Mobile Network Survey Equipment (Digital Connectivity Programme), Smart Agriculture IoT trials (Digital Connectivity Programme). These procurements add value and inform projects within the Low Carbon Energy programme and Digital Connectivity programme.

## The Financial Case

### *November 2025 Update – Summary of key changes*

- The financial case has been updated with charts and tables, to account for the approved OBCs, BJC and FBCs).
- The Financial Case has been updated to take account of projects withdrawn from the Growth Deal or moved to the Reserve List as well as Best/Medium/Worst Case scenarios for the reallocation of unallocated funding to Reserve List projects.

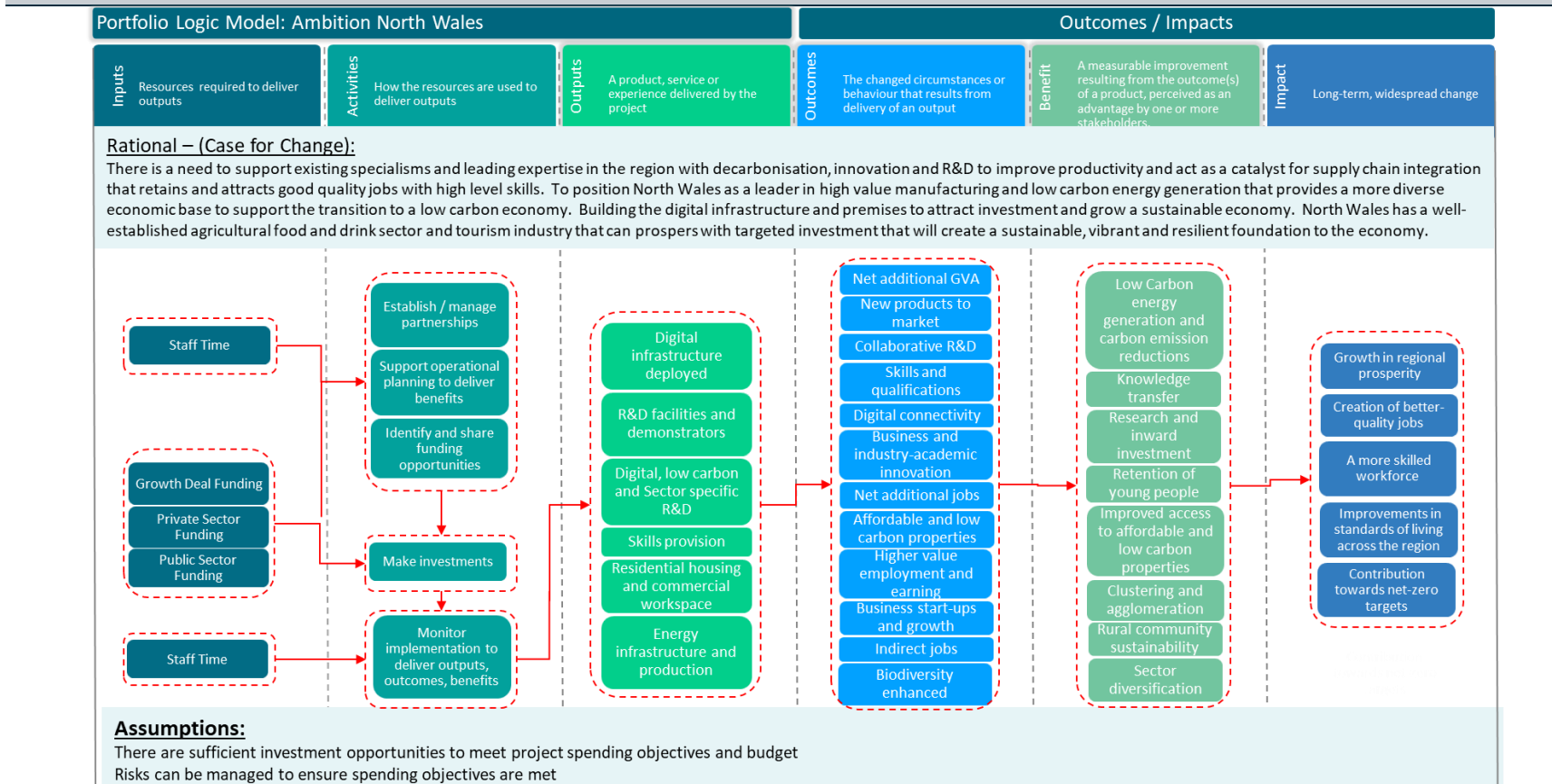


## The Management Case

### *November 2025 Update – Summary of key changes*

- Provided updates to the Growth Deal Delivery Structure, following the establishment of the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee, including the transfer of the Portfolio Management Office, the Growth Deal and all its funding into the North Wales CJC.
- Provided updates to the Gateway review summary table. 2 projects have gone through assurance and alignment with expectations since the prior portfolio.
- A Streamlined Approvals process has been approved and introduced.

## Portfolio Logic Model



Source: Hatch; Ambition North Wales. A Note on Market Failure: **Positive externalities:** third party economic/social/environmental benefits to the wider economy/ society. These cannot be captured in entirely by commercial organisations and so public investment is required.

**Information failure:** businesses do not have full information on technologies/developments that could secure growth. Public investment is required to bridge these information gaps. **Co-ordination failure:** no one organisation may have the incentive to invest in a venture that secures benefits for wider partners. Public investment is required to initiate a partnership investment.





Uchelgais  
Gogledd Cymru  
Ambition  
North Wales

# North Wales Growth Deal: Overarching Business Plan 2026 - 2030





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# Foreward

Over the past five years, Ambition North Wales has undergone a period of significant transformation. The partnership, originally established as the North Wales Economic Ambition Board, has evolved in both structure and ambition. In April 2025, responsibility for delivering the Growth Deal transferred to the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee, marking a new chapter in our collaborative approach to regional economic development. This change brings together the six local authorities and the Eryri National Park Authority, alongside our valued partners in higher and further education, under a unified vision for North Wales.

Reflecting on our journey since the launch of the first Overarching Business Plan in 2020, we have faced considerable challenges—global events, economic uncertainty, and the need to adapt our portfolio to changing circumstances. Despite these hurdles, our partnership has delivered tangible progress. We've seen over £28 million invested in transformative projects, created new jobs, and laid the foundations for sustainable growth. Projects such as the Digital Signal Processing Centre at Bangor University, the Enterprise Engineering and Optics Centre, and the Tourism Talent Network have moved from concept to delivery, demonstrating our capacity to turn ambition into action.

As we look ahead to the next five years, our commitment remains. The transfer to the Corporate Joint Committee provides a strong platform for delivery, governance, and accountability. By 2030, we will have all Growth Deal projects in delivery, maximising the impact of our investments and creating the conditions for a vibrant, resilient, and inclusive economy. Our focus will be on driving new job creation, attracting further investment, and ensuring that the benefits of growth are felt across every community in North Wales.

Together, we move forward with confidence, united in our ambition to build a prosperous future for North Wales.



**Cllr Mark Pritchard**

Chair of the North Wales  
Corporate Joint Committee



**Cllr Jason McLellan**

Vice-Chair of the North Wales  
Corporate Joint Committee

# Executive Summary

Since its inception five years ago, Ambition North Wales has not only grown in scale, but in capability and cohesion too, strengthening our collective commitment to building a more vibrant, sustainable, and inclusive economy for North Wales. Thanks to the partnership's unwavering commitment, we have achieved tangible and meaningful progress.

The Growth Deal is bold in its ambition designed to tackle chronic market failures—barriers that, without public funding, would continue to limit private sector investment and regional prosperity. To date, spend has been dominated by public sector intervention, targeting these market failures that would otherwise remain significant obstacles to growth.

In recent years, Ambition North Wales has navigated significant challenges, from global events to economic uncertainty, while adapting our portfolio to meet changing needs. Despite these obstacles, we are proud to have delivered over £28 million in transformational projects, with £25 million funded directly through the North Wales Growth Deal. While the number of projects, expenditure, and jobs created to date are lower than initial forecasts, the last 12 months have seen major changes to the Growth Deal and processes to accelerate delivery, resulting in an increased number of projects in delivery and business cases approved - providing a strong platform for the next five years.

Looking ahead, our future success depends on building and strengthening collaboration with partners, sponsors and across industry and sectors. By working collaboratively to enhance infrastructure and create the conditions for sustained private sector investment, we are laying the groundwork for a thriving North Wales economy. The next five years are pivotal, as we accelerate delivery, maximise the impact of our investments, and ensure that the benefits of growth reach every community across North Wales.

With six projects in delivery and a strong pipeline of projects soon to follow, we are confident that by 2030 all Growth Deal projects will be in delivery, achieving their intended benefits and maximising impact within the region by 2036 and beyond. Our strengthened collective commitment is evident in the progress made and the resilience shown in overcoming challenges.

It is an honour to lead such a dedicated forward-thinking team. We are at the beginning of an exciting transition for North Wales, with the establishment of the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee and supported by the continued collaboration and commitment of our Committee, partners, and stakeholders. Together, we are driving real progress and creating a lasting impact for North Wales and its future generations to come.



**Alwen Williams**

Chief Executive

North Wales Corporate Joint Committee





# Purpose

The first Overarching Business Plan 2020-2025 was the basis on which partners entered into the North Wales Growth Deal. It provided an overview of the deal including the programmes and projects to be delivered, it set out what the Growth Deal will deliver in terms of outputs and benefits for the region, the financial contributions of each partner and the governance and performance management arrangements to ensure the Growth Deal is delivered.

This Overarching Business Plan 2026-2030 provides an overview of progress over the past 5 years, a forward look for the next five years, along with information on the partnership, the Growth Deal, it's funding and governance.



# The Ambition North Wales Partnership

The North Wales Economic Ambition Board partnership was established in 2012 to develop a regional approach to economic growth and to address the challenges and barriers facing the North Wales economy. The partnership covered the six local authority areas of North Wales comprising the councils of Gwynedd, Anglesey, Conwy, Denbighshire, Wrexham and Flintshire. The partnership also included Bangor University, Wrexham University, Coleg Cambria and Grŵp Llandrillo Menai.

In 2021 the Economic Ambition Board endorsed Ambition North Wales as the new brand for the Economic Ambition Board, the North Wales Growth Deal and the Portfolio Management Office.

On 1st April 2025, the responsibility for delivering the Growth Deal transferred from the Economic Ambition Board to the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee. The Corporate Joint Committee comprises of the six local authorities and the Eryri National Park Authority and has new responsibilities for regional transport and strategic planning as well as a responsibility to enhance and promote the economic well-being of North Wales.

The Corporate Joint Committee agreed to adopt the brand of Ambition North Wales.



# Background of the Growth Deal

## Our journey to get the deal

Growth Deals first emerged from the 2010-2015 coalition government in Westminster as part of its long-term plan to boost local economies. The purpose of City and Growth Deals is to support cities and regions to deliver responsive and flexible local strategies. They are designed to promote decentralisation and stimulate local economic growth by giving more power and flexibility to regions, to make the case for investment, to drive inclusive economic activity and growth.

In response to this policy, partners across North Wales established the Economic Ambition Board in 2012 to develop a regional approach to economic growth and to address the challenges and barriers facing the North Wales economy.

In 2016 the Economic Ambition Board's partners adopted a Growth Vision for the Economy of North Wales (the Growth Vision).

In the 2017 Autumn Budget the UK Government stated that it would begin negotiations to agree a Growth Deal for North Wales. Following this statement the Economic Ambition Board worked collaboratively with Welsh Government, UK Government and representatives of the public and private sector to develop the North Wales Growth Deal, which was outlined in the Proposition Document.

Based on the Growth Vision strategy, the Proposition Document was agreed by the Economic Ambition Board's partners in October 2018. This set out a proposed package of 24 transformational projects across 9 strategic programmes, seeking £334.5m in capital funding plus £8m in revenue funding from the Growth Deal. The programmes were defined as a group of related projects managed in a co-ordinated way to obtain benefits and to deliver the overall vision and aims.

In the Autumn Budget 2018, the then Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rt Hon Phillip Hammond MP, announced £120 million in capital funding for the North Wales Growth Deal. The Welsh Government confirmed that it would match the UK Government's financial contribution to the North Wales Growth Deal, securing commitment for £240m as a grant contribution in capital funding from governments.

# Continued....

Following this announcement and in response to the UK Government's desire to see a consolidated portfolio of ambitious projects, and because the funds committed were less than the proposition's original scope and capital funding only, the Economic Ambition Board developed and agreed a Draft Implementation Plan, setting out a streamlined package of 14 transformational projects, which was submitted to both governments in March 2019.

The Draft Implementation Plan became the basis for the Heads of Terms agreement signed by both governments in November 2019, and securing, in principle, £240m of capital funding for the North Wales Growth Deal. The Heads of Terms committed all parties to complete a Final Deal Agreement (FDA) within 12-15 months, which, once achieved would see funding released from governments to the region. This overarching business plan forms part of the agreed process to achieve the FDA.

The North Wales Growth Deal a tri-party agreement, signed in December 2020 between Ambition North Wales, UK Government and Welsh Government and has secured funding of £240million from Governments to invest in the North Wales economy as part of the £1bn deal.

The aim of the Growth Deal is to build a more vibrant, sustainable, and resilient economy in North Wales. Building on the region's strengths to boost productivity and tackling long term challenges and economic barriers to deliver inclusive growth. The approach is to promote growth in a scalable, inclusive, and sustainable way in line with Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.



# The Growth Deal

## Our Ambition

To be a confident and cohesive, focused on improving the region's economic, social and environmental well-being.

To see the region develop in a sustainable way, with opportunities for people to gain new skills, develop rewarding careers, for businesses to grow and communities to prosper.

To do this while championing the Welsh language, our culture and heritage, in line with the well-being goals for Wales.

## Investment



**£240M**

Growth Deal target investment



Total Target Investment:  
over **£1bn**

## Job Creation



Create up to  
**4,200**  
new jobs



# The Growth Deal

## Scope of Programmes



### Agri-food and Tourism

The programme aims to promote and support employment and training in the Agri-food and Tourism sectors, building on world-leading skills and expertise already established within the region.



### Digital Connectivity

Addressing connectivity challenges within the region, enhancing the capability to develop new technologies for the future ensuring that businesses and residents can benefit from fast, high-quality connectivity.



### Innovation in High Value Manufacturing

Promote innovation and commercialisation of technology in the manufacturing industry, building on the existing strength of the sector within our region.



### Land and Property

Addressing land and property challenges within the region, to unlock opportunities and build on our strengths. The programme will develop sites to provide residential and employment premises. It will also maximise capacity at key transport links.



### Low Carbon Energy

Unlocking the benefits of developing low carbon energy projects within the region, positioning North Wales as a leading location for the low carbon energy sector.

# Key Strategies and Principles

## Procurement and Social Value

Ambition North Wales has adopted robust procurement principles to underpin all activities across the partnership. The strategy is designed to ensure that procurement processes are effective, fair, and transparent, delivering both value for money and measurable social value.

This approach aims to maximise the regional benefits of Growth Deal investments by embedding social value into every stage of project delivery. It also encourages local, regional, and national companies—who are often best placed to deliver community benefits—to compete for contracts. This is fully aligned with the Well-being of Future Generations Act and the Social Partnership and Public Procurement Act, ensuring that economic growth is delivered alongside environmental and community benefits.

### Talent Tourism Network

A £2.9M contract has been awarded to a local North Wales supplier, supporting the delivery of two spokes within the programme. Both spokes have committed to using the same supplier, who will deliver a strong Social Value offer, including:

- Promoting the benefits of the circular economy to local businesses
- Investing in the promotion of green spaces and biodiversity within local education settings
- Contributing time and resources to support environmental education and community engagement
- Supporting STEM curriculum activities in local schools and colleges



### Enterprise Engineering and Optic Centre

A £10M+ contract has been awarded to a local North Wales supplier, recognised for delivering exceptional social value. The supplier's social value commitments are already making a tangible impact, including:

- Creating local apprenticeship opportunities
- Sustaining and generating local jobs
- Providing meaningful support to the local community

### Cydnerth

In January 2025 Menter Môn as the project sponsor (with input and support from the Portfolio Management Office) sought approval (which was granted) to award a contracts following an open tender process and evaluation of bids. The contracts equate to approximately £13,735,000 (excluding VAT). The largest contract for onshore civils has been awarded to a local North Wales supplier.

Social Value offering equates to £50,441.



# Key Strategies and Principles

## Commercial

Ambition North Wales is focused on maximising the impact of the North Wales Growth Deal by ensuring that all projects deliver economic and social benefits in line with strategic outcomes. The Growth Deal aims to attract and leverage private sector investment across its portfolio, with each project expected to explore commercial investment opportunities such as loans, investments, or profit-sharing arrangements, subject to state aid guidance.

There is significant potential to generate commercial returns, particularly within the Land and Property and Low Carbon Energy programmes, with the intention that these returns—pending government agreement—will be reinvested in the region.

Ambition North Wales has adopted a set of commercial principles to guide the delivery of the Growth Deal. These include a focus on sustainability and reinvestment, adherence to subsidy control requirements, and the reinvestment of financial surpluses or profits generated by not-for-profit project sponsors. Where projects face viability challenges, gap funding will be considered. Additionally, contractual arrangements are designed to protect the long-term interests of Ambition North Wales.

Ambition North Wales are delivering against these principles, with examples including:



### **Parc Bryn Cegin**

A Joint Venture between Ambition North Wales and Welsh Government on Parc Bryn Cegin providing an annual revenue return and a share of any future capital receipt for the site.



### **Cydnerth**

The funding model for the Cydnerth project is a 100% commercial loan to Menter Môn Morlais Limited providing a revenue return from the interest and the capital repaid to be re-invested in the region.



### **Clean Energy Fund**

Ambition North Wales have launched the Clean Energy Fund that is a private sector loan sub-fund which will provide a revenue return from the interest and the capital repaid to be re-invested in the region and a reserve sub-fund that can consider equity investments.



# Key Strategies and Principles

## Carbon and Biodiversity

Ambition North Wales has developed a detailed methodology for our projects, which includes guidance for considering emissions and biodiversity at every stage of project development. Each Growth Deal project will aim to deliver against the following aspirations:



To be net zero in operation



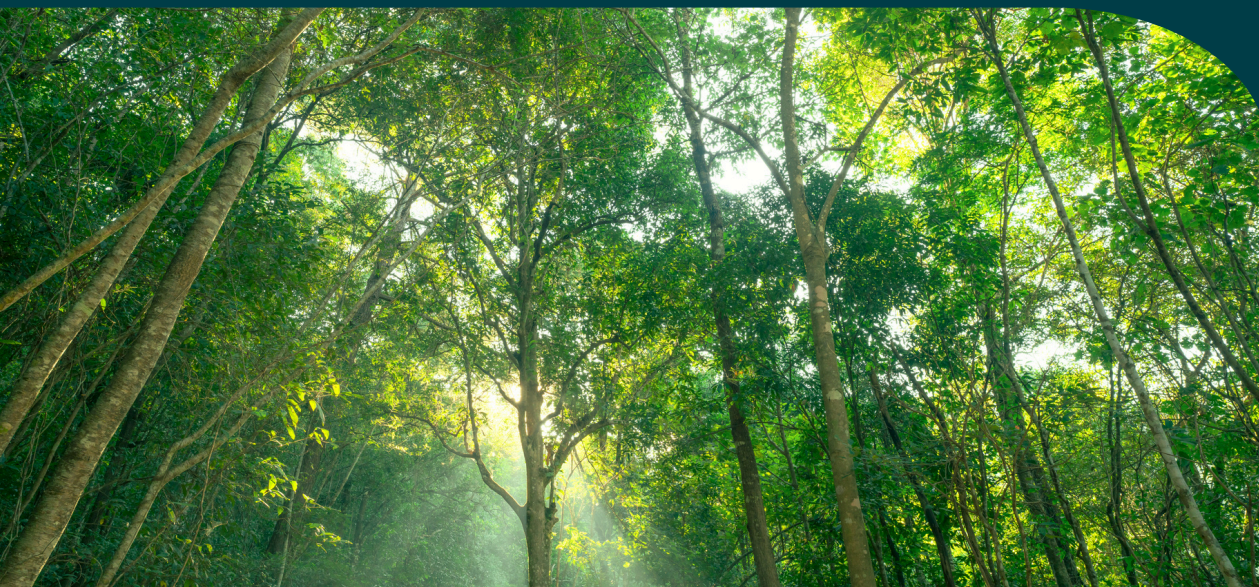
To reduce embodied carbon emissions by **40%** during construction



To drive a **10%** increase in biodiversity

Our objective is to stimulate positive economic change for North Wales but not at the expense of damaging our environment. While not all projects will be able to deliver against the three targets, the aim is to push projects to be as ambitious as possible and deliver as much as can be achieved with the funding available, ensuring that our developments are built sustainably and are ready for the future.

We have achieved recognition as a [Leadership Case Study](#) in the UK national carbon in infrastructure guidelines [PAS 2080](#)





# Looking back on the first 5 years

This section provides an overview of our progress over the past five years, outlining our progress in implementing the transformative North Wales Growth Deal along with the other complimentary activities undertaken.

Over the last five years, we have faced challenging economic and financial climate which has significantly affected the speed at which capital projects can be delivered.



Projects in delivery

6

Projects with Full Business Case approved and moving into delivery

9



New Jobs created (direct and indirect)

49



Construction Jobs

49



Growth Deal investment



Total investment



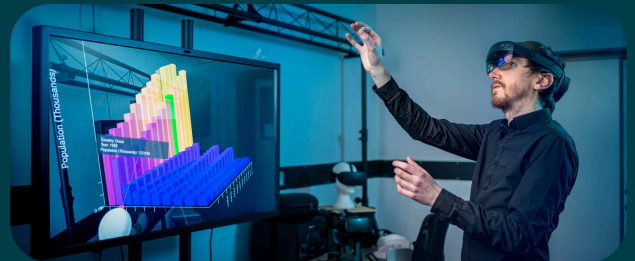
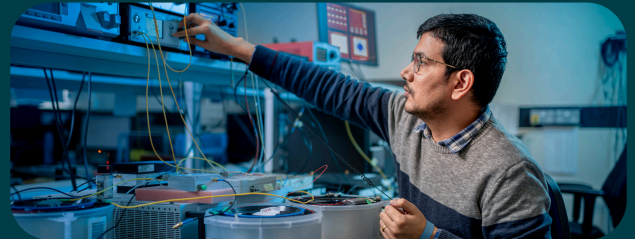
# Continued...

## Progress

The total investment up to the end of October 2025 stands at £28.58m with £25m of that funded directly through the Growth Deal based on 6 projects in delivery. The number of projects in delivery, expenditure to date and jobs created to date are low compared to the initial forecasts for the deal (see next section for details). However, progress over the last 12 months has been significant with major changes made to the Growth Deal and processes to speed up delivery resulting in an increased number of business cases approved or in-delivery and providing a strong platform for delivery over the next five years. This demonstrates both the continued scale of our ambition for the region and our capacity to achieve real, positive impact.

### Digital Signal Processing Centre

The first project to move into delivery was the Digital Signal Processing Centre at Bangor University, who are now in the fifth year of delivery. The current phase of the project involves increasing engagement to pursue commercial research with regional businesses and installation of a 5G private network to demonstrate the technology's benefits to businesses.



### Enterprise Engineering and Optics Centre

The Enterprise Engineering and Optics Centre was our first construction project into delivery and has completed the construction on the Plas Coch site, with the new building named CanfodAU officially open. The delivery of improved facilities at the Optic Centre in St. Asaph is expected to complete before the end of March 2026.





# Continued...



## Centre for Environmental Biotechnology Plus

The refurbishment at the Henfaes site of the Centre for Environmental Biotechnology Plus project is now complete. Creating new equipment and new scale-up facilities for use in exploring the use of biological processes as low carbon alternatives to products and industrial manufacturing processes

## Tourism Talent Network

The Tourism Talent Network project officially launched in 2024, with the aim of developing a resilient, skilled, and future-ready workforce for the region's tourism and hospitality sectors. Zip World and Portmeirion were confirmed as initial spoke partners. In June 2025, Theatr Clwyd was announced as the latest spoke partner, contributing a wide range of training opportunities across visitor experience, arts and cultural tourism, and hospitality. These include areas such as marketing and communications, duty management, sales, events coordination, and roles within Theatr Clwyd's new hospitality and catering provision.



## Clean Energy Fund

The £24.6m Clean Energy Fund launched on 10<sup>th</sup> of July 2025, the fund comprises of two sub-funds, with WCVA working in conjunction with Community Energy Wales on the voluntary sector sub-fund; and UMi leading the sub-fund targeting the private sector.



## Cydnerth

The Cydnerth project is in delivery and has secured two loan drawdowns. The Cydnerth project will futureproof the Morlais tidal energy scheme run by social enterprise, Menter Môn. By investing in its infrastructure, the Growth Deal will enable the scheme's 18MW grid capacity to increase over time to allow the full 240MW.



# Continued...

**We have another 9 projects with full business cases approved and will move into delivery once the necessary arrangements are in place.**

The 4G+ project has secured both Outline and Full Business Case approval. The aim of the project is to tackle long standing mobile coverage challenges across key locations and to maximise economic benefits for the region. Four interventions will address a range of opportunities including a regional telecoms forum, improving access to publicly owned infrastructure for operators and grant funding to directly enhance 4G network coverage and capacity.



The Former North Wales Hospital project has received Full Business Case approval. With a £107m capital investment to be delivered by Jones Bros, redeveloping the 53 acre site, including the restoration of the Grade 2\* listed building, new homes, green spaces, a training facility, and commercial space. A Phased approach was agreed by the Sub-Committee in October 2025 which will see the release of an initial £2m of Growth Deal funding towards phase 1 comprising of ecological mitigation works and site clearance and Demolition works to reduce health and safety risks on site.

The Advanced Wireless project secured Full Business Case approval in July 2025. The project is in the initial phase focusing on design before the capital funding is rolled out to eligible organisations. The project will deliver a grant scheme to support private and public sector users adopt advanced wireless technologies such as 5G, sharing a similar scope to the UK Wireless Infrastructure Strategy and the UK 5G Innovation Regions Programme.

Design and Consultancy Teams for the Parc Bryn Cegin project have been appointed by Welsh Government to obtain a project scheme and submit for planning and other consents. New employment units are set to be delivered in collaboration with Welsh Government, providing 1,730sqm of modern, energy-efficient business floor-space at Parc Bryn Cegin.





# Continued...

The LPWAN Business Justification Case was approved by the Economic Ambition Board on 19th July 2024. It will deliver accessible and cost effective low power wireless connectivity to support users adopt Internet of Things applications. Following approval, the procurement of the hardware has been prepared and participating councils have developed plans to host the network using council owned premises. A further project will now support farm businesses trial the use of the new network to achieve business benefits and promote the technology.

The Business Justification Case for the Sheep Milk Wales element of the Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub project has been approved. The project aims to support the growth of the Sheep milk sector in Wales to include a sheep shed and a sheep dairy parlour, to demonstrate and promote sheep milking as a commercially viable new business enterprise to Welsh sheep farmers.



Two Anglesey Sites and premises projects have now joined the Growth Deal and have Business Justification Case Agreement, moving into Delivery.

- The Gogledd Môn Sites and Premises will deliver a total of 2,200sqm of modern Business space across two sites in Amlwch.
- The Freeport Gateway project will acquire, demolish, decontaminate, create development plots and provide access and mains services to the former Peboc/Eastman Chemical Works on the Parc Bryn Cefni Industrial Estate. In addition, five light industrial units on Plot 2 of Tregarnedd Industrial Park and bring forward level Plot 3 for sale to the private sector for future development.

The Business Justification Case for the Society 5.0 project has gained approval. This project aims to enhance the EEOC project, giving industry greater access to world-class high-precision engineering resources.






# Key changes to the Portfolio since 2020

Since the first Overarching Business Plan was approved the North Wales Growth Deal has seen significant delays to the anticipated delivery profile. These delays can be attributed in the first instance to projects being too optimistic around their maturity and delivery timescales and ability to progress through the governance and assurance process effectively. This was compounded by global events including Covid-19 and the cost inflation crisis which has resulted in further delays and affordability challenges. There have also been specific planning challenges associated with a number of projects.

As a result there have been a number of changes to the Growth Deal portfolio over the first five years of delivery, notably:



The Bodelwyddan Key Strategic Site project was removed from the Growth Deal in September 2022. The decision was following Denbighshire County Council's review of the Local Development Plan, with the evidence confirming a decrease in the need for new houses in Denbighshire, resulting in much smaller project.

Followed by the removal of the Llysfasi project. Ambition North Wales and Coleg Cembria jointly decided that the Llysfasi Zero Net Farm project would no longer be funded by the North Wales Growth Deal. With the project going ahead funded by other sources including the Welsh Government's Sustainable Communities for Learning Fund, which aligned closely with the educational goals of the college. The project enables the agricultural industry to benefit from a new state-of-the-art teaching and learning space at Llysfasi, which supports them as they expand low carbon farming practices within their businesses and across the farming sector.

Following the removal of both projects, an open call launched for new projects to join the Growth Deal. This resulted in 5 new projects joining the portfolio:

- Deeside Anaerobic Digestion Plant
- Holyhead Hydrogen Hub
- Kinmel Studios
- Responsible Adventure
- Wrexham Gateway

# Continued...

There was a change in scope for the Egni project, with a decision to retain phase 1 of the project within the Growth Deal, but withdraw phase 2 of the project. Phase 1 focusses on the smaller development at MSParc.

Ambition North Wales formally accepted the withdrawal of the Deeside Anaerobic Digestion Plant project from the Growth Deal in November 2024. The project confirmed it was proceeding without the need for the allocated £6.4m of Growth Deal funding. The successful outcome was made possible due to the close collaboration between Ambition North Wales and The Circular Economy Developments Ltd, which enabled their investors to commit to the funding required for the plant. Work is progressing well on site.



In early 2025, the Portfolio Management Office carried out a Portfolio Review at the request of the Board and both Governments. Decisions were taken to:

- Withdraw the current Trawsfynydd project from the Growth Deal, and place the Trawsfynydd alternative scheme proposal on the reserve list.
- Withdraw the Last Few % project from the Growth Deal.
- Move the Kinmel Studios project to the reserve list.
- Move the New-H2 project to the reserve list.
- Withdraw the Full Fibre (Connected Key Sites and Corridors) project from the Growth Deal.

A Growth Deal project Reserve List was established which includes a strong pipeline of new projects. Projects on the reserve list are developing their business cases to be presented for a decision when the criteria around deliverability have been met. This new approach aims to de-risk delivery at the portfolio level and will increase the certainty on delivery once business cases are approved.

To date a total of five reserve list projects have formally joined the Growth Deal following business case approvals. Namely, Freeport Gateway, Gogledd Môn Sites and Premises, Project Prince, Society 5.0 and Venue Cymru Futures.

During October 2025 the Portfolio Management Office undertook a second Portfolio Review considering the projects reporting red. Decisions were taken to:

- Move the Holyhead Gateway project to the reserve list.
- Move the Western Gateway project to the reserve list
- Transfer the Warren Hall project to the Investment Zone.
- Retain the Holyhead Hydrogen Hub project for a further six months.

# Forward look to 2030

Over the next five years, our focus alongside our partners remains unchanged. We will drive our projects forward to deliver new jobs and attract the investment needed to secure North Wales' future prosperity. We are at the beginning of a significant change with the Portfolio Management Office team and the North Wales Growth Deal now transferred into the Corporate Joint Committee.

In terms of the Growth Deal portfolio, we always understood that our projects would take time to mature and deliver, which is reflected in the fifteen-year term of the Growth Deal. There have been some significant challenges to date, however progress is being made and we are now seeing a significant increase in the number of projects moving into delivery and the first jobs being created.

Our future depends on joint financial commitments across Governments and sectors to enhance the region's infrastructure and create the conditions for sustained private sector investment and a thriving economy.

We move into the next five years with confidence that this will be a significant period in delivering the deal, with an estimate of between £200m and £220m of Growth Deal funding being released to projects by 2030. We are committed to maintaining the momentum on delivery and spend. By 2030 all Growth Deal projects will be in delivery and will be delivering against our benefits, maximising the impact within the region.

	Current Position	Forecast position - end of March 2030	Forecast position - End of the Growth Deal (2036)
Projects in delivery	6	All	All
Growth Deal investment	£	£200m-£220m	£240m
Total investment	£	£600m-£700m	£800m-£1bn
Jobs	49	1,800-2,200	3,250-4,500



# Governance

Up until the 31st of March 2025, the North Wales Growth Deal was bound by the terms of Governance Agreement 2, with the Economic Ambition Board operating as a contractual Joint-Committee, and Cyngor Gwynedd acting as the Accountable Body.

From the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2025, having secured the transfer of the Growth Deal, it's funding and the Portfolio Management Office to the Corporate Joint Committee. Partners agreed to enter into a Delivery and Funding Agreement, which formally transferred the funding commitments and implementation of the North Wales Growth Deal to the Corporate Joint Committee.

The agreement, which is a legally binding document, defines the role and function of the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee and it's partners for the North Wales Growth Deal. The Delivery and Funding Agreement is a key document, providing a clear structure and foundation, for taking the implementation of the Growth Deal forward. Provision is made for the commitments of the partners to the projects and how these are managed and apportioned. The underlying arrangements providing for legal and compliance matters within the partnership and the governance of the Portfolio Management Office are also addressed.

The Delivery and Funding Agreement is intended to sit alongside the governance of the Corporate Joint Committee and the Growth Deal documents in order to achieve the continued implementation of the Growth Deal.

The Delivery and Funding agreement is the agreement between Ambition North Wales and our partners, which defines how we deliver against the Final Deal Agreement. The Final Deal Agreement is the agreement between the Ambition North Wales partners, Welsh Government and UK Government.

The North Wales Corporate Joint Committee is a corporate body in it's own right, able to directly employ staff, hold assets and manage funding.

The Corporate Joint Committee has appointed the Economic Well-being Sub-Committee to lead on the Economic Well-being functions of the Corporate Joint Committee. This includes overseeing and coordinating the planning and delivery of the Growth Deal. The Economic Well-being Committee is made up of the 6 constituent Council Members of the Corporate Joint Committee, and supported by the co-option of Bangor University, Wrexham University, Grŵp Llandrillo Menai and Coleg Cambria. A representative of the Business Advisory Board, Regional Skills Partnership and Eryri National Park Authority are also co-opted to the Sub-Committee.



# Continued...



The Economic Well-being Sub-Committee is responsible for making key decisions related to economic development initiatives within the region. It oversees the approval of Outline Business Cases (OBCs) and Full Business Cases (FBCs) for projects within the Growth Deal portfolio, ensuring that proposed initiatives meet the necessary criteria for funding. Additionally, the sub-committee holds the authority to approve funding agreements and variations to them when necessary.

Ambition North Wales has adopted a delivery model based on a best practice approach to portfolio, programme and project management delivery and has established a Portfolio Management Office to deliver the Growth Deal.

Programme and project performance is monitored on a monthly basis through the relevant programme and project boards with formal quarterly performance and risk reports submitted to the Economic Well-being Sub-committee, their partners, UK and Welsh Government.

Ambition North Wales prepare an Annual Report to report on progress, performance and impact. The Annual Report is approved by the Sub-Committee before it's presented to both Governments and partner Scrutiny Committees.



# Funding/Finance

## Portfolio and Programme level finance

In order to operate effectively within the funding available the Economic Well-being Sub-Committee (previously the Economic Ambition Board) approve an annual revenue and capital budget for the North Wales Growth Deal.

The annual Capital budget reflects the most recent expenditure profile for each project within the Growth Deal. The capital budget includes a 2.15% top-slice to fund the revenue budget annually.

Although the £240m expenditure will be funded from the Growth Deal, the timing of the grant receipt will mean that borrowing will be required in the short term. The cost of borrowing will be funded by partners and project sponsors, and partners have already been contributing an annual sum towards these costs of which has been set aside in a specific reserve.

Each project business case includes a Financial Case. Once the Full Business Case is approved, each project is required to enter into a Grant Funding Agreement, with a claims schedule agreed

## Growth Deal Cash-flow Financing Contributions

A total of £240m grant contribution to the North Wales Growth Deal is provided by the UK and Welsh Government over a 15-year period.

Due to the profile of the annual Growth Deal grant payments from government, there will be a medium-term temporary funding gap between the expected expenditure profile of the Growth Deal and the funding received.

The North Wales Corporate Joint Committee (Ambition North Wales) will be responsible for managing this negative cash flow. This will be met by the local authorities (proportional to population) for regional Growth Deal projects, and with project lead partners responsible for the cost in relation to their projects (which create assets).



# Continued...

## Annual Partner Contributions

No revenue funding is provided through the Growth Deal for the delivery of the projects or the operational running costs of the project once completed.

Revenue funding to support the Portfolio Management Office is provided through Ambition North Wales partner contributions (including supplementary local authority contributions). An amount equivalent to the ‘top slice’ of the annual government grant at 2.15% is also used to fund this. Any additional Portfolio Management Office costs directly attributable to the delivery of the projects will be accounted for within project business cases.

The annual partner contributions toward Portfolio Management Office costs are set out in the table below:



	Local Authority Contribution	HE/FE Annual Contributions	Total Annual Contribution
Annual Core Contributions*	£58,730 per LA	£29,380 PER partner	£400k
Annual Supplementary Contribution**	£40k per LA	0	£240k

\*these are the figures for 2025/26. The annual core contributions are subject to indexation at the start of each accounting period.

\*\* this contribution is a supplementary contribution agreed by the Local Authorities only

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**Uchelgais  
Gogledd Cymru  
Ambition  
North Wales**

