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Meeting

NORTH WALES CJC ECONOMIC WELL-BEING SUB-COMMITTEE

Date and Time

9.30 am, FRIDAY, 6TH FEBRUARY, 2026

Location

Virtual Meeting

For public access to the meeting, please contact us

Contact Point

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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 Gareth	Conwy County Borough Council
Helen White	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 - 10

The Chair shall propose that the minutes of the meeting held on 05 December 2025 be signed as a true record.

5. NORTH WALES GROWTH DEAL - QUARTER 3 PERFORMANCE AND RISK REPORT 11 - 40

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

6. 2026/27 BUDGET

41 - 47

Dewi Morgan, Head of Finance, and Sian Pugh, Assistant Head of Finance, to present the report.

7. 2025/26 REVENUE AND CAPITAL POSITION - END OF DECEMBER 2025 REVIEW 48 - 56

Dewi Morgan, Head of Finance, and Sian Pugh, Assistant Head of Finance, to present the report.

8. FLINTSHIRE AND WREXHAM INVESTMENT ZONE - YEAR 2 ANNUAL DELIVERY PLAN 57 - 63

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

9. 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 5 - 17 18 - 55 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.

10. PADESWOOD - CHANGE REQUEST

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

11. WREXHAM BUSINESS GATEWAY OUTLINE BUSINESS CASE

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

NORTH WALES CJC ECONOMIC WELL-BEING SUB-COMMITTEE 05/12/2025

Present:

Voting Members – Councillors:- Robin Williams (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 – Sioned Williams (Cyngor Gwynedd), Rhun ap Gareth (Conwy County Borough 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 Incledon (Interim Deputy Monitoring Officer) and Annes Sion (Democracy Team Leader).

Ambition North Wales – Alwen Williams (Chief Executive), Hedd Vaughan-Evans (Head of Operations), Nia Medi Williams (Operations and Resources Manager), Elli 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), Sian Lloyd Roberts (Regional Skills Manager) and David Hole (CJC Operational Programme Manager).

Observers – Wendy Boddington (Welsh Government) and Gareth Ashman (UK Government)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:-

- Councillor Gary Pritchard (Isle of Anglesey County Council) with Councillor Robin Williams deputising.
- Professor Edmund Burke, Bangor University, with Professor Paul Spencer deputising on his behalf.
- Yana Williams from Cambrian University
- The following Chief Officers: Graham Boase of Denbighshire Council, Neal Cockerton of Flintshire County Council, Dafydd Gibbard of Cyngor Gwynedd and Dylan Williams of Isle of Anglesey Council.

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

A declaration of personal interest was received from Aled Jones-Griffith (Grŵp Llandrillo Menai) and Professor Paul Spencer (Bangor University) regarding item 8 – the Albert Gubay Business School, Bangor University, Outline Business Case. It was a prejudicial interest and they withdrew from the meeting during the discussion.

3. URGENT ITEMS

None to note.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Chair signed the minutes of the meetings held on 3 October 2025 and 7 November 2025 as a true record.

5. PORTFOLIO BUSINESS CASE UPDATE 2025 AND OVERARCHING BUSINESS PLAN

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

RESOLVED

To approve the 2025 update of the Portfolio Business Case and submit it to the Welsh Government and UK Government as part of the annual award of funding process.

To request that the Portfolio Director submits all required documentation and the change request form to the Welsh and UK Governments as part of the annual award of funding process and to delegate authority to the Portfolio Director, in consultation with the Chair, the Vice-chair, the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer, to negotiate with the Welsh Government and UK Government on the timing of the award of funding and to make any minor amendments as requested by either government.

To approve the updated Overarching Business Plan 2026-2030, which sets out the arrangements for delivering the North Wales Growth Deal.

To note the verbal update given on the 2025 Portfolio Assurance Review and ask the Portfolio Director to develop an action plan to address the recommendations

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

It is a requirement of the Final Deal Agreement that the Portfolio Business Case is updated on an annual basis and submitted to the Welsh Government and UK Government as part of the annual award of funding process.

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.

DISCUSSION

The report was presented stating that the report was an annual update to the portfolio business case and the overarching business plan. It was clarified that it was a requirement to update the Business Case annually as part of the annual process of awarding funding.

The amendments made to the Business Plan were highlighted, which included minor updates to the Strategic Case, larger changes to the Economic Case to reflect Business Cases that had been approved and revised over the last 12 months, as well as the procedure for creating the Reserve Schemes List.

It was reported that there were now 6 schemes delivering, 9 Full Business Cases approved but not operational, 4 Outline Business Cases approved and working towards a Full

Business Case, 1 developing towards an Outline Business Plan, 1 project at risk and reporting red and 18 projects on the reserve list. It was highlighted that this represented significant progress from October 2024, with expenditure having increased by over £20m along with an additional 23 jobs for the region.

It was highlighted that the Portfolio Business Case had looked at the expenditure and the remaining funding that was available for the period of the Growth Deal, highlighting the best, medium and worst-case scenario for jobs and expenditure.

It was confirmed that a review had been carried out which had provided assurance that progress on the Growth Deal had moved this year from red to amber. It was explained that this was a very positive reflection of the work that had been undertaken over the 12 months, which was a significant step change, but the risks were also highlighted. It was explained that the full assessment would be sent to the members over the coming weeks.

The members thanked the officer for the report and also thanked the staff for undertaking the assessment and for their work over the year. It was noted that work had been carried out to move plans forward and that they had progressed from the red level to the amber level. It was highlighted that the steps that had been taken were also acceptable by the Government.

Members emphasised the need to continue to move the work forward and not to take our foot off the pedal. All staff were congratulated for their work in progressing the plans.

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 7-10 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 relates specifically to 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. PORT OF MOSTYN UPGRADE PROGRAMME, BUSINESS JUSTIFICATION CASE+

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

RESOLVED

To approve the Business Justification Case (BUSINESS JUSTIFICATION CASE+) for the Port of Mostyn Upgrade Programme, subject to the Welsh Government and UK Government's approval of the assurance process undertaken.

To delegate the right to the Portfolio Director in consultation with the Chair, the Vice-chair, the Section 151 Officer and the Monitoring Officer to confirm the final post-procurement costs and benefits, in accordance with the approved business case and enter into a funding agreement with Port of Mostyn Ltd for the delivery of the project, subject to the Port addressing the outstanding issues in section 7 of the report and securing all necessary internal approvals for the project.

To confirm 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-submit the business case to the Sub-committee for approval.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

It was noted that the Sub-committee's approval was required for the Business Justification Case+ for the Port of Mostyn Upgrade project.

It was explained that the BUSINESS JUSTIFICATION CASE+ was being submitted to the Sub-committee on 5 December prior to completing the procurement due to a commercial requirement to appoint contractors to move in January 2026 and start Phases 1 and 2 of the work in February.

DISCUSSION

The Report was discussed.

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

The report was presented by Hedd Vaughan-Evans, Growth Deal Programme Manager.

RESOLVED

To approve the Outline Business Case (OBC) for the Albert Gubay Business School, subject to the Welsh Government and UK Government's approval of the assurance process and that Bangor University address the issues set out in the report, as described in Section 7, and request that a Full Business Case be prepared for the Sub-committee to consider.

To authorise the Portfolio Director in consultation with the Chair, the Vice-chair, the Section 151 Officer and the Monitoring Officer to agree on draft terms in accordance with this report as a basis for the final funding arrangements for the project to be committed subject to Full Business Case approval.

To confirm that the Sub-committee's approval is valid for a period of six months, and should the project not proceed to an approved Full Business Case during this time, it will be required to return and represent 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 Albert Gubay Business School.

DISCUSSION

The Report was discussed.

9. PADESWOOD RAIL ENHANCEMENT PROJECT – OUTLINE BUSINESS CASE

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

RESOLVED

To approve the Outline Business Case for Padeswood subject to the Welsh Government and UK Government's approval of the assurance process undertaken, and the Transport for Wales Council addressing the matters noted during the discussion, and request that a Full Business Case be prepared for the Sub-committee to consider.

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.

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 OBC for the Padeswood Rail Enhancement Project.

It was noted that the Outline Business Case was being submitted to the Sub-committee on 5 December so that Transport for Wales can secure the funding for the Project.

DISCUSSION

The Report was discussed.

10. RESPONSIBLE ADVENTURE CHANGE REQUEST

The report was presented by Hedd Vaughan-Evans, Growth Deal Programme Manager.

RESOLVED

To agree the change request for the Responsible Adventures project, including the proposed element in Betws-y-coed instead of the eBus.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

Requests for changes to projects by Project Sponsors are matters for the Sub-committee to decide.

DISCUSSION

The Report was discussed.

The meeting commenced at 9:30am and concluded at 11:05am.

Chair



ECONOMIC WELL-BEING SUB-COMMITTEE

6th February, 2026

TITLE: North Wales Growth Deal – Quarter 3 Performance and Risk Report

AUTHOR: Hedd Vaughan-Evans, Head of Operations

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1. The purpose of the report is to present the Quarter 3 (October to December) Growth Deal report and updated Portfolio Risk Register.
- 1.2. Quarterly reporting on progress against the North Wales Growth Deal is a requirement of the Final Deal Agreement. Following consideration by the Economic Well-being Sub-Committee, the reports will be shared with Welsh Government, UK Government and the local authority scrutiny committees.

2. DECISION SOUGHT

- 2.1. That the Sub-Committee consider and note the Quarter 3 Performance Report and updated Portfolio Risk Register.
- 2.2. That the Sub-Committee approves the submission of the Quarter 3 Performance Report to Welsh Government and UK Government, as well as the local authority scrutiny committees.

3. REASON FOR THE DECISION

- 3.1. As stated in the report.

4. BACKGROUND AND RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1. In December 2020, Ambition North Wales and the Welsh and UK Governments agreed the Final Deal Agreement for the North Wales Growth Deal.
- 4.2. Regular reporting on progress against the North Wales Growth Deal is a requirement of the Final Deal Agreement.
- 4.3. This report includes two appendices:
 - North Wales Growth Deal – Quarter 3 Performance Report
 - Portfolio Risk Register – December 2025
- 4.4. North Wales Growth Deal – Quarter 3 Performance Report
 - 4.4.1. The Quarter 3 performance report provides an overview of progress on the Growth Deal programmes and projects.

- 4.4.2. During the quarter, the Economic Well-being Sub-Committee approved the business cases for five reserve list projects, formally approving them to be part of the Growth Deal. This included Business Justification Cases for Society 5.0 Manufacturing Capability, Gogledd Môn Sites and Premises, and Freeport Gateway projects; and Outline Business Cases for Project Prince and Venue Cymru Futures.
- 4.4.3. The second Portfolio Review was completed, considering the projects reporting red. The Economic Well-being Sub-Committee made decisions to: move the Holyhead Gateway and Western Gateway projects to the reserve list; transfer the Warren Hall project to the Investment Zone; and retain Holyhead Hydrogen Hub for a further six months. This released a further £58m of funding to be reinvested by the Sub-Committee.
- 4.4.4. Two change requests were approved. For Former North Wales Hospital it was approved to release funding for Phase 1 demolition and ecological works. For Responsible Adventure it was approved to include the Betws y Coed Forest Masterplan with two additional elements the enabling works and Hero nets product.
- 4.4.5. The Grant Funding Agreement for Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub was completed in November, and local company OBR Construction was appointed for the construction of Sheep Milk Wales.
- 4.4.6. During the quarter we had two project launch events. Wrexham University officially opened the CanfodAu building on 7th November as part of its Enterprise Engineering Optics Centre project. Grŵp Llandrillo Menai's Academi Croeso (formerly the Tourism Talent Network project) launched at Theatr Clwyd on the 13th of November.
- 4.4.7. We appointed two Non-Executive Advisors, Dave Penrith and Nick Bennet. They will play leading roles as Chair and Vice-Chair in the formation of a new Business Advisory Board.
- 4.4.8. The Quarter 3 performance report includes information on projects reporting against the portfolio delivery profile. One projects is reporting as red at the end of the quarter and are currently under review:
 - Holyhead Hydrogen Hub – Project under review whilst key outstanding matters and risks are discussed/resolved.
- 4.4.9. On approval of the Clean Engy Fund Full Business Case in May 2025, the Economic Well-being Sub-Committee requested an update report on project progress within 6 months. Appendix 3 provides a summary of the progress made since Full Business Case approval.

4.5. Portfolio Risk Register – December 2025

- 4.5.1. The Portfolio Risk Register is updated on a regular basis by the Portfolio Management Office and reviewed by the Portfolio Board and the Economic Well-being Sub-Committee (previously the North Wales Economic Ambition Board) on a quarterly basis.
- 4.5.2. The risk register has been fully reviewed by the Portfolio Management Office, with changes recorded in the documents, including mitigating actions and the comments updated.
- 4.5.3. There were no changes to the residual risks this quarter.

4.5.4. While the risk profile has remained stable overall during the past quarter, the risk profile does remain high with a number of red residual risks including private sector investment, spending objectives, planning and statutory consents, and the economic context.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1. There are no financial implications arising directly from approving the decision sought in this report.

5.2. The revised delivery and expenditure profile approved by the Sub-Committee is included in the quarterly report.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1. There are no direct legal implications arising from the report.

6.2. Regular reporting on Growth Deal performance is part of the agreed governance framework and a key requirement of the Final Deal agreement.

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1	North Wales Growth Deal – Quarter 3 Performance Report
Appendix 2	Portfolio Risk Register – December 2025
Appendix 3	Clean Energy Fund Interim Project Update

STATUTORY OFFICERS RESPONSE:

i. Monitoring Officer:

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

ii. Statutory Finance Officer:

“I am satisfied that the report is a fair reflection of the financial situation of Ambition North Wales during quarter 3. Implementing the decision sought will not create a new spending commitment. I will continue to assist the Portfolio Management Office in managing the relevant risks.”



Uchelgais Gogledd Cymru
Ambition North Wales

North Wales Growth Deal Quarterly Performance Report

2025-26 Quarter 3 (October - December 2025)



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01 PORTFOLIO DIRECTOR SUMMARY

During this quarter the Economic Well-being Sub-Committee approved five projects from the Reserve List to join the Growth Deal:

- Project Prince Outline Business Case
- Society 5.0 Manufacturing Capability Business Justification Case
- Gogledd Môn Sites and Premises Business Justification Case
- Freeport Gateway Business Justification Case
- Venue Cymru Futures Outline Business Case

During October a second Portfolio Review was completed, considering the projects reporting red. The Sub-Committee made decisions 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 for a further six months

This released a further £58m of funding to be reinvested by the Sub-Committee.

A change request for the Former North Wales Hospital project was approved to release funding for Phase 1 the demolition and ecological works. A change request for the Responsible Adventure was also approved to include the Betws y Coed Forest masterplan with two additional elements the enabling works and Hero nets product.

The Grant Funding Agreement for Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub was completed in November, with local company OBR Construction appointed for the construction work for Sheep Milk Wales.

It was great this quarter to bring together key stakeholders from across North Wales to two project launch events. Wrexham University officially opened the CanfodAu building on 7th November as part of its Enterprise Engineering Optics Centre project. More than 100 delegates attended the event, which included tours of the world-class hub for advanced, high-value manufacturing, showcasing how the facility drives innovation and sustainability through close collaboration between academia and industry.

Grŵp Llandrillo Menai's Academi Croeso (formerly the Tourism Talent Network project) launched at Theatr Clwyd on the 13th of November. This was a major milestone for tourism and skills and a fantastic networking opportunity.

The second drawdown for the Cydnerth project was completed in October, and construction work is underway. The Clean Energy Fund received expressions of interest across all three sub-funds.

We convened the first meeting of a regional telecommunications forum with representatives from local authorities and industry.

We appointed Dave Penrith and Nick Bennett as our Non-Executive Advisors. Together, they bring extensive industry expertise in capital projects, governance, engineering, digital transformation, and economic development to help promote sustainable growth and attract investment to the region. They will play leading roles as Chair and Vice-Chair in the formation of a new Business Advisory Board, which will represent businesses and employers across North Wales. Once established, the Board's primary purpose will be to provide independent advice and constructive challenge to Ambition North Wales.

With our Digital projects moving into delivery, we welcomed two new Engagement Managers to the team Dave Evans and Elinor Emsley. Along with Elen Wyn Owen as Corporate Support Officer. Recruitment is ongoing to the remaining roles within the team.



Alwen Williams
Chief Executive
Ambition North Wales

02 PROJECT DELIVERY DASHBOARD

Prosiectau Gweithredol (cylid wedi neilltuo)	Wedi cymeradwyo ddil eto yn weithredol (cylid wedi neilltuo)	Datblygu Achosion Busnes (cylid wedi neilltuo)	O dan adolygiad (cylid wedi glustnodi)	Rhestr wrth gefn (dim cylid wedi glustnodi)
Projects in Delivery (funding committed)	Approved not yet in delivery (funding committed)	Developing business cases (funding ringfenced)	Under Review (funding ringfenced)	Reserve List (unallocated funding)
Nifer prosiectau Number of Projects	6	10	7	1
Dyraniad Cylid Cynllun Twf Growth Deal Funding Allocation (£234.85*)	£55.84m	£67.50m	£45.83m	£3.80m
Cyfanswm Buddsoddiad Total Investment	£127.46m	£205.56m	£294.19m	£28.77m
Swyddi Jobs	723	918	1,537	20
				£344.02**
				802**

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

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

02 BENEFITS DASHBOARD

Swyddi Grewyd (Target 4,000 o swyddi newydd)
Job Creation (Target 4,000 new jobs)



Swyddi Newydd
New Jobs

49



Swyddi Adeiladwaith
Construction Jobs

49



Swyddi Ddiogelwyd
Safeguarded Jobs

0

Buddsoddiad (Target: £1bn Cyfanswm Buddsoddiad)
Investment (Target: £1bn Total Investment)



Budsoddiad Cynllun Twf
Growth Deal Investment

£26,859,319



Cyfanswm Buddsoddiad
Total Investment

£29,189,938



Refeniw Ddiogelwyd
Revenue Secured

£5,128,193

Buddion ehangach
Wider Benefits

Incwm Cyfalaaf wedi'i Drosoleddu
Capital Income Leveraged

£81,016.80

Gofod Llawr wedi'i Ddatblygu
Floorspace Developed

2,349m²

Unigolion wedi ymgysylltu
Individuals engaged

3,383

Camau gweithredu i gryfhau cadwyni cyflenwi
Actions to strengthen local supply chains

19

Myfyrwyr yn cwblhau cymhwysterau
Students completing qualifications

51

Unigolion sy'n cwblhau cyrsiau hyfforddi CPD
Individuals completing CPD training courses

286

03 DIGITAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Programme Aim

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



RAG Status	Programme Manager Commentary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Recruitment for the Connected Campuses project manager is complete, and the new officer is due to start in the role in January.The first 4G small cells to be deployed using local authority owned infrastructure using open access agreements are now commissioned and providing service in Flintshire. Four agreements have been signed so far across the region with more expected in Q4. Further small cell deployments are in planning and due to be commissioned in early 2026.The first meeting of the regional telecommunications forum was held this quarter with representation from local authorities and industrySixteen farms are now receiving support to pilot LoRaWAN technology through the SPF project with installation of networks scheduled to be completed in January.



Cllr. Nia Jeffreys
Lead Member



Ian Jones
Senior Responsible
Owner



Stuart Whitfield
Programme
Manager



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



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



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

03 DIGITAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Project (Project Sponsor)		Project Stage	Key Milestones (this quarter)	Key Milestones (next quarter)	RAG Status	RAG Rationale
Digital Signal Processing Centre Bangor University		● Project in Delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 50% of expenditure for the final phase of equipment is complete with remaining items due by March 2026. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivery of further equipment. Launch of structured regional business engagement. 	Yellow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final phase of purchasing underway. Project is behind target on additional grant capture.
Connected Key Sites and Corridors Ambition North Wales	4G+	● Approved not yet in delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruitment of second Engagement Manager role. Completion of Grant Scheme design and scheme launch. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of Grant Scheme design and scheme launch. Second small cell deployment to be commissioned Second telecoms forum meeting to be held 	Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First installation of small cell infrastructure has completed and commissioned with a second deployment now being planned for installation by end of Q4
Connected Campuses Ambition North Wales	Advanced Wireless	● Approved not yet in delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruitment of Project Manager and Engagement Manager. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalisation of Grant Scheme design and scheme launch. 	Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruitment completed
	LPWAN	● Approved not yet in delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial purchases and installation of gateways. Further LoRaWAN deployment plans to be submitted. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further purchases of gateways by participating councils Promotional activity to begin 	Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LPWAN deployments have started with further deployment plans to be approved in Q4 followed by more installations.

04 LOW CARBON ENERGY PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Programme Aim

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



RAG Status	Programme Manager Commentary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cydherth - The second drawn completed in October and construction works underway.• Smart Local Energy (Clean Energy Fund) - Expressions of interest received across all 3 sub funds



Cllr Gary Pritchard
Lead Member



Dylan Williams
Senior Responsible
Owner



Meghan Davies
Programme
Manager



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



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



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

04 LOW CARBON ENERGY PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Project (Project Sponsor)	Project Stage	Key Milestones (this quarter)	Key Milestones (next quarter)	RAG Status	RAG Rationale
Cydnerth (Morlais) Menter Môn	Project in delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Second loan drawdown completed in October Construction work underway Benefits monitoring underway 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Third loan drawdown of funding planned for January 2026. 	Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project has moved into delivery and is progressing well.
Egni Bangor University	Developing the Full Business Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion and presentation of RIBA stage 4 design work Continued development of Full Business Case 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submission of Full Business Case 	Amber	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project is amber due to delay while waiting for a decision on Freeport UK Government funding. Work is now progressing on the Full Business Case.
Smart Local Energy Ambition North Wales	Project in delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fund launched and open for Expressions of Interest across all 3 sub funds Full applications received for voluntary sub fund Promotional events and engagement, including podcast broadcast 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotional events and engagement Progression of applications through to award. 	Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project is green as Full Business Case has been approved and the fund launched.
Holyhead Hydrogen Hub Menter Môn	Project under review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project reviewed and remains within the programme for further 6 months Ongoing discussion between Ambition North Wales, Welsh Government and Department for Energy Security and Net Zero moving closer to an outcome on securing and transferring £4.8m Department for Energy Security and Net Zero funds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Menter Môn continued engagement to attract offtakers Potential confirmation from DESNZ re. £4.8m Preparation of Outline Business Case 	Red	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RAG status remains red while key outstanding matters assist resolution: Department for Transport, Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation; Department for Energy Security and Net Zero £4.8m.

05 LAND AND PROPERTY PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Programme Aim

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



RAG Status	Programme Manager Commentary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Parc Bryn Cegin, Bangor - The invitation to tender for the main contractor completed at the end of October and Welsh Government appointed Read Construction Ltd in December.Former North Wales Hospital, Denbigh - The Sub Committee approved the release of £2m with the option to release a further £1m to the Council to deliver package of demolition and remediation works. A new package of enabling works linked into the main demolition and remediation works package commenced in November. The package of ecological mitigation works has continued and is on programme for completion in March 2026.Programme - The Project mix within the Programme changed substantially within the Quarter with five new projects being approved (Freeport Gateway, North Anglesey Sites and Premises, Port of Mostyn Expansion Project, Albert Gubay Business School and Padeswood Rail Enhancement Project) and three projects moved to the reserve list (Western Gateway, Wrexham and Holyhead Gateway) or the Wrexham and Flintshire Investment Zone (Warren Hall).



Cllr Jason McLellan
Lead Member



David Fitzsimon
Senior Responsible
Owner



David Mathews
Programme
Manager



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



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



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

05 LAND AND PROPERTY PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Project (Project Sponsor)	Project Stage	Key Milestones (this quarter)	Key Milestones (next quarter)	RAG Status	RAG Rationale
Former North Wales Hospital, Denbighshire Jones Bros (Ruthin) Limited / Denbighshire County Council	Approved not yet in delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ecological Mitigation Works contract continues to make good progress. Enabling Works to allow access for the commencement of Site Clearance Works commenced on the 24th of November. ANW have reviewed the Grant Funding Agreement for Phase 1 works with DCC DCC's cabinet approved the award of a contract to carry out the first phase of demolition, asbestos removal and site clearance enabling works to local civil engineering company Jones Bros during this week's cabinet meeting held on 18 November. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enabling Works will have been completed. Site clearance Works Contract to commence. Grant Funding Agreement for Phase 1 works to be completed and signed. 	Yellow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk rating remains amber due to the health and safety issues on site due to the condition of the buildings. There is still uncertainty over costs due to the challenging work environment and the difficulty of accurately assessing cost and scope of works.
Parc Bryn Cegin, Bangor Welsh Government / Ambition North Wales	Approved not yet in delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following the Procurement process in October to appoint a Main Contractor, Welsh Government have a preferred bidder who will be formally appointed in December. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contractor appointed and pre commencement planning conditions and final design approved. 	Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RAG status is assessed as green, project on track for delivery commencing on site in April 2026.
Wrexham Gateway Wrexham County Borough Council	Developing the Outline Business Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outline Planning Application submitted and a solution to the Phosphates issue is expected in 2026. Discussions ongoing with landowners re land assembly. Terms letter issued to potential major occupier of proposed office building. Draft OUTLINE BUSINESS CASE received in December for PMO review. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outline planning consent. Outline Business Case approval. Heads of Terms for pre-lets to public and private sector occupiers. Carbon and bio-diversity approach agreed. Land Owner Agreements. 	Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk rating as green given project is progressing to Outline Business Case/Outline Planning application stage.
Gogledd Môn Sites and Premises Isle of Anglesey County Council (IoACC)	Approved not yet in delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BJC approved by Sub-Committee in October. Heads of Terms for funding shared with IoACC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subsidy Control Assessment Completion of Procurement and appointment of Main Contractor. Completion of Joint Venture with Welsh Government. Completion of Transforming Towns documentation for the Marine Terminal Building. 	Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risks all deemed within acceptable parameters with planning and land ownership resolved.

05 LAND AND PROPERTY PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Freeport Gateway Isle of Anglesey County Council	Approved not yet in delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BJC approved by Sub-Committee in October. Heads of Terms for funding shared with IoACC. IoACC approved acquisition of Peboc site in September. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subsidy Control Assessment Completion of Procurement and appointment of Main Contractor. Completion of the purchase of the Peboc Site. Completion of the MoU with UK and Welsh Government for Freeport seed capital funding. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risks all deemed within acceptable parameters, planning and land ownership resolved subject to completion of the transfer of land title.
Padeswood Transport for Wales (TfW)	Developing the Full Business Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OBC approved by Sub-Committee in December. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MoU between Network Rail and Heidelberg Materials. Agreed approach with TfW to move towards Full Business Case and transfer of project to Network Rail. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risks all deemed within acceptable parameters Planning to be confirmed, no land ownership concerns.
Albert Gubay Business School Bangor University	Developing the Full Business Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OBC approved by Sub-Committee in December. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full planning consent expected in February 2026. Full Business Case approval expected in March 2026. Project commencement due in March 2026. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major project risks are all assessed as acceptable at present. Project rating is green subject to completion of planning and Full Business Case approval. Commencement scheduled in Spring 2026.
Port of Mostyn Port of Mostyn	Approved not yet in delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BJC approved by Sub-Committee in December. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procurement due to complete by the end of February. Agreed bespoke approach to carbon and biodiversity. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major project risks are all assessed as acceptable at present. Project rating is green subject to completion of procurement and bespoke approach for carbon assessment.

06 AGRI-FOOD AND TOURISM PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Programme Aim

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



RAG Status	Programme Manager Commentary
Yellow	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Responsible Adventure - The project presented a change request to the board to consider following removal of the e-bus. The request was approved by the Sub-committee to include the Betws Y Coed Forest masterplan which will see two additional elements to the project 1. Enabling works 2. Hero Nets product. Planning Consent was given to the Swing at the Penrhyn site.• Academi Croeso previously known as Tourism Talent Network, the official launch of the new brand for the project was held as a celebratory event at Theatr Clwyd in November, where critical stakeholders came together to discuss and support the launch of the new project. Portmeirion build is at final construction stages.• Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub - The signing of the Grant Funding Agreement was made in November between Ambition North Wales and Grŵp Llandrillo Menai. The appointment of the construction work for the Sheep Milk Wales element was confirmed to a local company, OBR Construction.• Venue Cymru Futures - The Outline Business Case of a new project led by Conwy County Borough Council was presented and was fully endorsed by the Sub - Committee members in October. The Project will see upgraded facilities and a new Cultural Hub at Venue Cymru in Llandudno,



Vacant
Lead Member



Sioned Williams
Senior Responsible
Owner

Elli Hughes
Programme Manager



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



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



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

06 AGRI-FOOD AND TOURISM PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Project (Project Sponsor)	Project Stage	Key Milestones (this quarter)	Key Milestones (next quarter)	RAG Status	RAG Rationale
Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	Approved not yet in delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grant Funding Agreement (GFA) signed and sealed. Contract awarded to OBR construction for the Sheep Milk Wales (SMW) element. Public Planning Consultation took place for the new Rural Hub. Dairy Development draft Business Justification Case. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remaining Procurement work for Sheep Milk Wales element Procurement process for Sustainable Dairy element. Present Sustainable Dairy Development Business Justification Case to boards. Planning for Hub to be submitted. Full Business Case for the whole project. First Claim to be submitted. Spade in the Ground event for Sheep Milk Wales 	Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grant Funding Agreement signed Feedback on planning results in low level risk Healthy contingency pot for any unexpected costs. OBR construction appointed. Procurement process delays Financial implications of rising costs
Tourism Talent Network Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	Project in delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Claims continued to be processed. Builds nearing completion at Portmeirion Final spoke discussions progressing Academi Croeso official launch held at Theatr Clwyd 13.11.25 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signing of Memorandum of Understanding with National Trust Signing of back-to-back Funding Agreement with Zip World Completion of the build at Portmeirion Celebratory event at Portmeirion - date TBC. Progression on the Replacement Spoke for the project. 	Amber	Amber rating due to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pending Back-to-back agreement sealant with Zip World. Delayed progression with the potential replacement spoke. Possible re-profile of budget will need to be completed.
Responsible Adventure Zip World	Developing BJC/Full Business Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Swing planning consent given Approval of the Change request to include Betws y Coed Masterplan Continued stakeholder engagement Substantial negotiations and optioneering following procurement of the design for the swing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submission of Planning app for slate explorer Procurement for Betws-y-Coed masterplan Decision on design for the Swing at Penrhyn. Business Justification Case for Betws-y-Coed Masterplan Business Justification Case for the Slate Explorer. Further stakeholder engagement 	Amber	Amber rating due to the following risks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning consent challenges Specialised project - vulnerability to market. Timescales delays
Venue Cymru Futures Conwy County Borough Council	Developing the Full Business Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outline Business Case approval by Sub-Committee Start Procurement process (outside Growth Deal funds) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obtain Planning Consent Finalise drawings Present Full Business Case 	Amber	Amber rating due to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning consent - low risk Funding model is all public funds Procurement process

07 INNOVATION IN HIGH VALUE MANUFACTURING PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Programme Aim

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



RAG Status	Programme Manager Commentary
Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The Enterprise Engineering and Optics Centre project is nearing completion. The celebratory official opening of the CanfodAU building was held in November. Completion of procurement process for the CanfodAU equipment.The Centre for Environmental Biotechnology project identified an underspend and submitted a change request which was approved, the budget will see upgrading of a building for collaboration work with businesses and training facilities along side additionality of research and development facilities.Society 5.0 project Business Justification Case was presented and approved by Sub-Committee member, this new project will see further investment in specialist equipment to expand on the offering of the CanfodAU R&D offering.Knauf, Project Prince is a new project that will see a £180m Investment for a Rock Wool Insulation Manufacturing facility in Shotton, it will create nearly 270 jobs for the region. The project presented an Outline Business Case to the subcommittee and full support was given by the members.



Cllr David Hughes
Lead Member



Tony Ward
Senior Responsible
Owner



Elliw Hughes
Programme Manager



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



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



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

07 INNOVATION IN HIGH VALUE MANUFACTURING PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Project (Project Sponsor)	Project Stage	Key Milestones (this quarter)	Key Milestones (next quarter)	RAG Status	RAG Rationale
Enterprise Engineering and Optics Centre Wrexham University	Project in delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Official opening ceremony of CanfodAU. Completion of procurement activity for CanfodAU equipment Draft BJC submitted to Portfolio Management Office. Start of the Optic Centre refurb Hydrogen Lab planning consent granted Design optioneering for hydrogen lab 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval of Business Justification Case for Plas Coch equipment. Hydrogen lab procurement process Procurement for hydrogen lab Procurement for optic equipment. Start of Optic refurbishment. 	Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project in delivery and on track No significant issue within project, project progressing well. Slight delay to project due to procurement/contract finalisation
Centre for Environmental Biotechnology Bangor University	Project in delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change request approved by Programme SRO and Portfolio Management Office due to scale and nature. Process Claim – on profile. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procurement activity for underspend Claim 	Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project nearing completion of delivery stage. Underspend identified within project, management process in place of underspend. Claims on profile.
Society 5.0 Wrexham University	Approved not yet in delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Business Justification Case was approved for the project. Procurement Process completed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business Justification Case delegated approval completion Grant Funding Agreement signed. Procurement for remaining equipment Claim full expenditure of project. 	Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equipment only project Ample testing of market conducted for remaining equipment. Short project life span from start to completion of delivery.
Project Prince Knauf	Developing the Full Business Case.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Outline Business Case was fully supported and approved by Sub Committee members Stakeholder engagement and support provided by Ambition North Wales and Flintshire County Council with Planning issues. Knauf match investment of £166m confirmed by company. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full Business Case development Submission of Planning Applications Continued work with planning stakeholders. 	Amber	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complex Planning and Environmental process to obtain consent, but ample stakeholder engagement being made to mitigate as much risk.

08 PROJECT PROGRESS TRACKER

Project		Consenting Stage				Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4	Stage 5	Stage 6	Stage 7	Stage 8
		Pre-application stage	Outline planning / Consent	Full planning / Consent	Conditions discharged	Determine the Project context	Preparing the Strategic Outline Case	Preparing the Outline Business Case	Approval of the Outline Business Case	Preparing the Full Business Case	Approval of the Full Business Case	Project implementation and monitoring	Project Evaluation
Digital Signal Processing Centre		No planning required				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Connected Key Sites and Corridors	4G+	Consenting requirements TBC				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	⌚	
Connected Campuses	LPWAN	No consenting requirements				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	⌚	
	Advanced	No consenting at grant scheme level				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	⌚	
Cydnarth (Morlais)		✓	✓	✓	⌚	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Egni		✓	✓	⌚		✓	✓	✓	✓	⌚			
Smart Local Energy		No consenting required at fund level				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Holyhead Hydrogen Hub		✓	✓	⌚		Project under review							
Former North Wales Hospital		✓	✓	✓	⌚	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Parc Bryn Cegin, Bangor		✓	✓	✓	⌚	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Wrexham Gateway		✓	⌚			✓	✓	⌚					
Gogledd Môn Sites and Premises		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Freeport Gateway		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Padeswood		No consenting requirements (TBC)				✓	✓	✓	✓	⌚			
Albert Gubay Business School		✓	✓	⌚		✓	✓	✓	✓	⌚			
Port of Mostyn		No planning consent required.				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub		✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	⌚	
Tourism Talent Network		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Responsible Adventure		✓	⌚			✓	✓	✓	✓	⌚			
Venue Cymru Futures		⌚				✓	✓	✓	✓	⌚			
Centre for Environmental Biotechnology		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Enterprise Engineering and Optics		✓	✓	✓	⌚	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Society 5.0		No planning required				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	⌚	
Project Prince		⌚				✓	✓	✓	✓	⌚			

10 OBJECTIVE TRACKER - OVERVIEW OF DELIVERY

			Portfolio Business Case 2025 Targets		Approved Project Business Case Targets			Actual	
			Jobs Created (net)	(£M) Total Investment*	OB ^{**} / FULL BUSINESS CASE ^{***}	Jobs Created (net)	(£M) Total Investment*	Jobs Created (net)	(£M) Total Investment*
Digital	Digital Signal Processing Centre (DSP)		40	3.08	FBC	40	2.96	25	2.76
	Connected Key Sites and Corridors 4G+		38	8.19	FBC	29	10.15	0	0.05
	Connected Campuses	LPWAN	20	1.14	BJC	20	1.14	0	0
		Advanced Wireless	173	30.31	FBC	200	37.6	0	0
Low Carbon Energy	Cydnerth (Morlais)		253	15.99	FBC	230	13.8	5	6.94
	Egni		60	10.01	OBC	49	3.94	n/a	n/a
	Smart Local Energy		186	102.50	FBC	193	70	2	0.18
	Holyhead Hydrogen Hub		20	16.22	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Former North Wales Hospital, Denbigh		70	85.85	FBC	70	74.34	0	0
	Parc Bryn Cegin, Bangor		54	7.11	FBC	54	17.91	0	0
	Wrexham Gateway		697	27.00	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Gogledd Môn Sites and Premises		95	10.44	BJC	95	10.44	0	0
	Freeport Gateway		223	19.09	BJC	223	19.09	0	0
	Albert Gubay Business School		90	20.45	OBC	90	20.45	n/a	n/a
	Padeswood		64	42	OBC	64	42	n/a	n/a
	Port of Mostyn		299	14.7	BJC	300	14.7	0	0
Agrifood and Tourism	Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub		106	19.29	BJC (partial)	106	19.29	0	0
	Tourism Talent Network		68	19.28	FBC	68	19.03	0	3.85
	Responsible Adventure		291	16.66	OBC	290	16.7	n/a	n/a
	Venue Cymru Futures		59	19.78	OBC	59	19.78	0	0
Innovation in High Value Manufacturing	Enterprise Engineering and Optics Centre		109	18.82	FBC	90	18.12	2	10.74
	Centre for Environmental Biotechnology		67	3.46	BJC	180	3.46	8	2.22
	Society 5.0		19	3.0	BJC	19	3.0	0	0
	Project Prince		268	180.20	OBC	269	180	n/a	n/a
RESERVE LIST (Medium Case)			738	216.00					
Portfolio Management Office Costs				5.15			5.15	7	2.44
Growth Deal Portfolio Total			Targets		6 OBC 16 FBC	Approved		Delivered	
			4,114	915.73		2,738	623.05	49	29.18

Total investment shown here includes Portfolio Management Office costs but not the reserve list project

**OBC - Outline Business Case, FULL BUSINESS CASE - Full Business Case

***Data includes OBC and FULL BUSINESS CASE approved information.

09 GROWTH DEAL GRANT EXPENDITURE PROFILE

Programme	Project	Project Sponsor	Profile 25/26 (£m)	Actual YTD (£m)	Variance (£m)*	Rationale
Digital	Digital Signal Processing Centre	Bangor University	0.65	0.43	-0.22	Claim received for DSP received and awaiting payment. 4G+ have started spend on the project.
	4G+ - Connected Key Sites and Corridors	Ambition North Wales	0.29	0.05	-0.24	
	LPWAN	Ambition North Wales	0.15	0.00	-0.15	
Low Carbon Energy	Cydnerth (Morlais)	Menter Môn	8.87	6.94	-1.93	Two loan drawdowns on Cydnerth received, and the final expected before the end of the financial year. The Smart Local Energy project launched in July and started claiming.
	Smart Local Energy	Ambition North Wales	1.83	0.18	-1.65	
Land and Property	Former North Wales Hospital, Denbigh	Ambition North Wales	0.50	0.00	-0.5	The Former North Wales Hospital and Parc Bryn Cegin projects are moving into delivery and will start claiming in 2025/26.
	Parc Bryn Cegin, Bangor	Ambition North Wales	0.15	0.00	-0.15	
Agri-food and Tourism	Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub	Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	1.00	0.00	-1.00	The Sheep Milk Wales BJC has been approved. The Tourism Talent Network have started
	Tourism Talent Network	Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	2.00	1.20	-0.80	
Innovation in High Value Manufacturing	Enterprise Engineering and Optics Centre	Wrexham University	2.18	0.93	-1.25	Claims submitted for the EEOC and CEB project.
	Centre for Environmental Biotechnology	Bangor University	1.68	1.14	-0.54	
	Society 5.0	Wrexham University	1.5	0.00	-1.5	
Portfolio Management Office Costs				1.35	0.67	-0.68
Total			22.15	11.54	-10.61	

*Profile 2025/26 – Approved by the Economic Well-being Sub-Committee

**Only includes project profiled or expected to spend during the financial year

APPENDIX A - PROJECTS SUMMARY

Growth Deal Projects Summary

	Project	Sponsor	Summary
Digital	Digital Signal Processing Centre (DSP)	Bangor University	The project will allow the DSP Centre to expand its presence and remit, integrating fully with the National Strategy Project (NSP) and enable the scaling of key assets including a 5G testbed, research capacity and state-of-the-art equipment.
	Connected Key Sites and Corridors	Ambition North Wales	This project aims to enhance the reliability and quality of mobile services on the main roads and rail routes in North Wales, enabling full-fibre services to key commercial sites across the region. Focussing on developing fibreoptic networks, which are essential for delivering 4G, 5G and gigabit capable broadband.
	Connected Campuses	Ambition North Wales	The project will accelerate the development of a range of digital connectivity options with a current focus at 18 key regional economic sites.
Low Carbon Energy	Cydneth (Morlais)	Menter Môn	Investing in infrastructure to connect to the National Grid network and monitor marine environmental effects. This will enable an increase in the deployment of turbines by tidal developers and the generation of renewable energy.
	Egni (Low Carbon Energy Centre of Excellence)	Bangor University	Investing in the development of facilities at Bangor University and Menai Science Park, enhancing the North Wales and UK capabilities for innovation in low carbon energy and related areas, helping to create the conditions for new inward investment and business growth in the low carbon energy supply chain in North Wales.
	Smart Local Energy	Ambition North Wales	To help achieve renewable energy, decarbonisation and local ownership targets, the project will support innovative enabling projects and demonstrators that overcome market failures and unlock private and community sector investments in smart local energy solutions.
	Holyhead Hydrogen Hub	Menter Môn	This project will build a green hydrogen production facility at Parc Cybi, Holyhead, producing around 2000+kg/day of green hydrogen, supplying road, maritime and rail transport customers across North Wales.
Land and Property	North Anglesey Sites and Premises	Isle of Anglesey County Council	Delivering 2,200sqm of business space in North Anglesey creating at least 59 jobs, and leveraging the Freeport and low-carbon energy growth.
	Freeport Gateway	Isle of Anglesey County Council	Unlocking 6,750sqm of business space in Llangefni, creating at least 186 jobs and maximising benefits of the Anglesey Freeport.
	Port of Mostyn	Port of Mostyn	Upgrading berth and regeneration of former industrial site.
	Albert Gubay Business School	Bangor University	Construction of the Albert Gubay Business School at Bangor University.
	Padeswood	Transport for Wales	Rail line enhancements to remove constraints and address access/egress for rail freight into the Padeswood Cement Works
	Parc Bryn Cegin, Bangor	Ambition North Wales	Provide industrial floor space to meet known demand for units.
	Former North Wales Hospital, Denbigh	Ambition North Wales	The Growth Deal funding will assist in the delivery of a cleared and remediated site with primary services to bring forward a mixed-use commercial and residential development
Agri-food and Tourism	Wrexham Gateway	Wrexham County Borough Council	This project is a sustainable development of a vibrant regenerated area, creating a focal point to support business investment and a multi-modal transportation hub with links to active travel.
	Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub	Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	The vision is to create a distinctive, world-class Rural Economy Hub at Glynllifon, offering a range of facilities and services to strengthen and enhance the regional economy, specifically through growing the food and drink sector.
	Tourism Talent Network	Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	Future-proofing the pipeline of skills provision and increase commercial benefits from one of the most established sectors in the region. The talent network will stimulate public-private collaboration to coordinate action on skills and product development to transform and accelerate the growth of the tourism and hospitality sector in the region.
	Responsible Adventure	Zip World	A multi-element project as part of a sustainable and eco-tourism package including a new sustainable Cable Car, Slate Explorer including visitor viewing platform, Swing and an eBus Network.
	Venue Cymru Futures	Conwy County Borough Council	A project that will expand facilities at Venue Cymru, boost jobs, cut carbon, and attract major shows, conferences, and cultural investment.
Innovation in High Value Manufacturing	Centre for Environmental Biotechnology (CEB)	Bangor University	The Centre for Engineering Biotechnology will be a world-leading centre in the discovery and characterisation of novel extremophilic enzymes of industrial relevance. The Centre for Engineering Biotechnology will provide a strong foundation for attracting world-leading researchers, significant public and commercial research funding, and inward investment to Wales.
	Enterprise Engineering & Optics Centre	Wrexham University	The Enterprise Engineering & Optics Centre will provide facilities targeted to boost high-level skills development for the region and enable Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME's) and large businesses to work in partnership with Wrexham Glyndwr University on commercially driven research and development in optics, composites and hydrogen fuel cells.
	Society 5.0 Manufacturing & Capability Project	Wrexham University	Enhance the Enterprise Engineering and Optics Centre to enable industry to access further world-class high precision engineering resources.
	Project Prince	Knauf	Construction of 110kt rock mineral wool plant with submerged arc furnace (SAF) primarily to serve the UK and Ireland markets.

APPENDIX B – RESERVE LIST PROJECTS SUMMARY

Project	Sponsor	Summary
Property Fund	Ambition North Wales	A Commercial Property Development Grant to close viability gaps for private sector developers of industrial and office property, with funding also available for similar public sector developments on a Joint Venture Agreement basis.
Business Gateway	Wrexham University	Serving as a bridge between Wrexham University and local industry, fostering collaboration, innovation, job creation and inclusive economic growth.
Parc Bryn Cegin Phase 2	WG/ANW	The delivery of a further 20,000 sq ft of employment units at Parc Bryn Cegin.
Innovation and Growth Fund	Ambition North Wales	To support North Wales businesses in agri-food, tourism, and high-value manufacturing to boost innovation, adopt new tech, and grow regional competitiveness.
Adventure Parc Snowdonia	Global Shred Ventures	Deliver a nationally significant new visitor experience on the site of the former Adventure Parc Snowdonia facility.
Queens Market Hotel Development	Denbighshire County Council	Provision of mid-range, mid size hotel - a key part of a wider masterplan that is currently being developed for the area.
Move on accommodation St Asaph Business Park	Denbighshire County Council	Development of high-tech industrial units on St. Asaph Business Park.
Bangor Health Hub	Cyngor Gwynedd	To develop an integrated Health and Wellbeing Hub in a vacant former shopping centre in the heart of Bangor city centre.
Quarry Battery	Quarry Battery Co.	A £300m Pumped Storage Hydro / BESS Hybrid scheme in North Wales.
Wrexham Gateway	Wrexham County Borough Council	To address viability and support delivery of the evolving Wrexham Gateway project.
Trawsfynydd	Cwmni Egino / Cyngor Gwynedd	A scheme which will include a building to include office spaces, laboratory spaces (exact specification to be confirmed) and ancillary facilities (meeting space, café/canteen etc), to support the nuclear and low carbon energy industry together with the scientific community, located on Trawsfynydd Site.
New-H2	Wales and West Utilities	This project will help kick-start the hydrogen economy in North Wales by supporting and delivering a hydrogen hub to include the supply and use of hydrogen.
Kimmel Studios	Roger Morris	A project to support the film industry in North Wales.
Western Gateway, Wrexham	Ambition North Wales	Delivery of primary services to enable the site to be brought to the market for sale and development.
Holyhead Gateway	Stena Line	Future proof the Holyhead Port by providing new deep-water heavy loading and cruise facilities, improved vehicular access, guaranteeing the future of the breakwater and providing for the demands of regional energy projects.
Flintshire and Wrexham Investment Zone		
Warren Hall, Broughton	Ambition North Wales	Delivery of primary services to enable the 65-hectare mixed use site to be bought to the market for sale and then development by the private sector.

NORTH WALES GROWTH DEAL PORTFOLIO RISK REGISTER

Risk ID	Date Raised	Risk Category	Risk Name	Risk Owner	Description of the Risk	Current Gross Risk Rating			Trend	Mitigating Actions	Action Due Dates	Action owner	Residual Risk Rating			Trend	Status (Open / Closed)	Commentary	Date of last update
						P	I	Score					P	I	Score				
R003	21/10/2020	Financial	Affordability	Portfolio Management Office	If projects increase in cost, there is a risk they may not go ahead or project scope may need to be scaled down	5	5	25	↔	Project Business Cases will set out detailed project level financial, commercial and risk management measures to manage costs. Robust performance, risk and financial reporting arrangements will be established for all projects. Once Project Business Cases are approved, any additional costs incurred will be the responsibility of the Project Sponsor and alternative funding options will be considered.	N/A	PMO, Project Sponsor	3	4	12	↔	Open	Risk reviewed. No changes to gross or residual risk scores. The residual risk rating remains high as costs have increased significantly since the Growth Deal was agreed in December 2020. While costs have stabilised at the moment, the Growth Deal funding from government is fixed at the amount agreed in 2020 therefore affordability remains a challenge for project. This is being managed on a project by project basis with some projects able to look at design changes, changes to deliver models and others needing to secure additional funding from other sources.	16/12/2025
						PMO engaging with sponsors at project level to identify mitigation for cost increases	Monthly	PMO											
						Introduction of new projects introduces further potential for affordability risk, to be managed through business case development.	N/A	PMO											
R002	21/10/2020	Programme and Project Delivery	Delay	Portfolio Management Office	If there are delays to project delivery, there is a risk this could have an impact on the realisation of benefits or could result in projects not progressing.	5	5	25	↔	Routine reallocation of staff capacity to priority projects	Ongoing	PMO	3	4	12	↔	Open	Risk Reviewed. No change to residual risk however minimising delays remains a priority for the PMO. Mitigating capacity risk (R001) will contribute to mitigation however progress is still affected by sponsors	16/12/2025
						Monthly highlight reports to Programme Board with escalation routes to Economic Well Being Sub Committee	Monthly	PMO											
						Programme and project RAID logs in place to record risks and manage issues with mitigation managed at project level.	N/A	PMO											
						Project business cases and implementation plans to clearly set out risks to project delivery and mitigations. PMO working with sponsors to identify opportunities to minimise delay and where delay is unavoidable minimise impact	Quarterly	PMO, Project Sponsor											
						Quarterly reports to the Economic Wellbeing Sub-Committee and Portfolio Board with specific issues to escalate where necessary.	In place	PMO											
R009	21/10/2020	Regulatory	Planning and Statutory Consents	Portfolio Management Office	If projects do not receive the necessary statutory consents and planning approval, there is a risk that projects will not be delivered and the benefits would not be realised.	5	5	25	↔	Project business cases will set out the consenting requirements for each project and the risks to project delivery	N/A	PMO, Project SROs	5	5	25	↔	Open	Risk Reviewed. The process to upgrade water treatment works to mitigate phosphates from their discharges is taking longer and this is now impacting planning applications. No Growth Deal projects affected yet but the Wrexham Gateway has had an outline application submitted. There is an emerging risk associated with SUDS/SABs potentially affecting consenting. Consenting remains a high risk and is being managed at a programme and project level within the Growth Deal.	16/12/2025
						Lead Role in PMO assigned for planning	N/A	PMO											
						Continued engagement with project sponsors and consenting authorities to understand consenting process and risks with support provided where appropriate at project level	N/A	PMO											
						Lessons learnt review to be delivered following project-level consenting delays	In place	PMO, Project sponsors											
						Chair and/or Portfolio Director to write to consenting authorities highlighting the impact of delayed decisions when individual project risks are escalated.	As required	Portfolio Director											
R007	21/10/2020	Financial	Private Sector Investment	Portfolio Management Office	If the private sector investment is not secured, there is a risk that projects will not be delivered or delivered at reduced scale impacting on the benefits to the region.	4	5	20	↔	Development of robust project business cases and contractual agreements for Growth Deal funding	N/A	PMO, Project SROs	4	4	16	↔	Open	No change to residual risk. Securing the private sector investment for the Growth Deal remains a high risk however the position has improved with the creation of the reserve list and subsequent approved business cases. Risk also relates to R020 Subsidy Control.	16/12/2025
						New investment strategy in place to support PMO engage funders and secure private investment	In place	PMO											
R008	21/10/2020	Financial	Public Sector Investment	Portfolio Management Office	If the public sector investment is not secured, there is a risk that projects will not be delivered or delivered at reduced scale impacting on the benefits to the region.	4	4	16	↔	All Ambition North Wales partners have signed up to the Growth Deal and Governance Agreement.	Complete	NWEAB	3	4	12	↔	Open	Risk reviewed, no changes. A high number of approved FBCs led by public sector sponsors.	16/12/2025
						Development of robust project business cases and contractual agreements for Growth Deal funding	N/A	PMO, Project SROs											
						Support project sponsor applications for other public funding sources where appropriate	As required	PMO											

Risk ID	Date Raised	Risk Category	Risk Name	Risk Owner	Description of the Risk	Current Gross Risk Rating			Trend	Mitigating Actions	Action Due Dates	Action owner	Residual Risk Rating			Trend	Status (Open / Closed)	Commentary	Date of last update
						P	I	Score					P	I	Score				
R010	21/10/2020	Reputational and Social Impact	Spending Objectives	Portfolio Director	If projects fail to deliver against the portfolio spending objectives, there is a risk that the Growth Deal may not meet its targets in relation to job creation, GVA and investment.	5	4	20	↔	Robust business cases will be developed for each programme and project in line with 5 Case Business Model and will need to set out contribution to portfolio spending objective targets	N/A	PMO, Project SROs						No change to Gross and residual risk. While the creation of the Reserve List has mitigated the impact of projects withdrawn and provided momentum with recent business case approvals the risk remains high.	
										Grant Funding Agreements to contractually commit sponsors to delivery of spending objectives, with regular reporting and monitoring to ensure early intervention where required.	Ongoing	PMO						Risk to be reviewed following 2025 Portfolio Business Case update	16/12/2025
										Portfolio review and change control process in place.	N/A	PMO						Open	
										New project process was completed in early 2025 with a reserve list of projects established (total of 21 projects - 17 new projects, and a further 3 projects moved to reserve list).	Complete	PMO	4	4	16	↔			
										Investment strategy has been developed and approved by the Economic Ambition Board.	In place	PMO							
R015	22/10/2020	Reputational and Social Impact	Benefits Realisation	Portfolio Management Office	If project benefits are not realised, there is a risk that the overall Growth Deal could fail to deliver the benefits set out within business case.	4	4	16	↔	Each programme and project will be responsible for benefits management through a Benefits Realisation Plan.	N/A	PMO, Programme and Project SROs						Risk reviewed. No changes to gross or residual risk scores. A recent assurance review highlighted the work of the PMO on benefits realisation as good practice which will ensure the structures and systems are in place to help projects realise and report on benefits realisation.	
										Monthly highlight reports to Programme Board to monitor benefits realisation	Monthly	PMO						Open	
										Procurement Principles adopted with focus on community benefits and social value	Complete	PMO							16/12/2025
										Benefits Realisation guidance developed and being disseminated to project sponsors for use in project business cases	N/A	PMO	3	3	9	↔			
										Impact system launched and project teams trained.	N/A	PMO							
R001	21/10/2020	Programme and Project Delivery	Capacity	Portfolio Director	If sufficient resources are not in place at portfolio, programme and project level, there is a risk that this could impact on the successful delivery of the deal	4	5	20	↔	Ambition North Wales approved Revenue budget to extend fixed term contracts.	In place	PMO						Risk reviewed. No changes to gross or residual risk scores. Procurement of additional specialist support e.g. procurement, project management etc is underway following PAR recommendation, residual probability to be reduced once support appointed across these functions.	
										Additional procurement, finance, legal and technical capacity to be secured for projects and PMO as required. New consultancy framework to be established Q2 2025/26	Ongoing	PMO						Open	
										PMO engage partners to ensure capacity for delivery and promote recruitment activity	Reviewed monthly	PMO, Project Sponsors							16/12/2025
										Recruitment over Q3/Q4 for Portfolio Director, Project Managers, and other new CJC Roles to increase resources supporting the PMO.	In place	PMO	3	4	12	↔			
										Approval from both Governments to increase the top slice from to 2.15% and enabling PMO to draw down additional funding through Growth Deal budget and extend contracts as required	In place	PMO							
										PMO resources directed to priority projects to ensure FBC completion.	In place	PMO							
R006	21/10/2020	Environmental	Climate Change and Biodiversity	Portfolio Director	If projects do not take account of carbon emissions or biodiversity loss within project level assessments, there is a risk the portfolio could contribute towards the issues of climate change and biodiversity loss	4	3	12	↔	Position statement on Climate Change and Biodiversity adopted by the Economic Ambition Board.	N/A	NWEAB						Risk reviewed. No changes to gross or residual risk scores. Roll out of methodology and associated training continues	
										Project business cases to demonstrate delivery against the adopted the position.	N/A	PMO, Project SROs						Open	
										Methodology on how to take account of carbon emissions and biodiversity loss within project business cases now published and shared with all projects.	In place	PMO	3	3	9	↔			16/12/2025
										Streamlined methodology for smaller and low risk projects developed with WLGA to be adopted	In place	PMO							
R020	03/10/2022	Programme and Project Delivery	Economic Context	Portfolio Management Office	If there are significant changes to the UK economy (e.g. cost of living crisis and the energy security crisis), then the strategic and economic cases for programmes and projects may be adversely impacted	4	5	20	↔	Project business cases and implementation plans to clearly set out the case for projects and the risks to project delivery, including the impact of recent economic developments	N/A	PMO, Project Sponsors						Risk reviewed: No immediate changes however recent changes in global tariffs may present further risks.	
											3	5	15	↔			Open		16/12/2025
																	Increase in NI costs and minimum wage start in Q1 25/26 may impact supply chains across projects for construction and operation.		
																	Developing global issues affecting supply chains and energy market likely to affect costs in the short to medium term.		

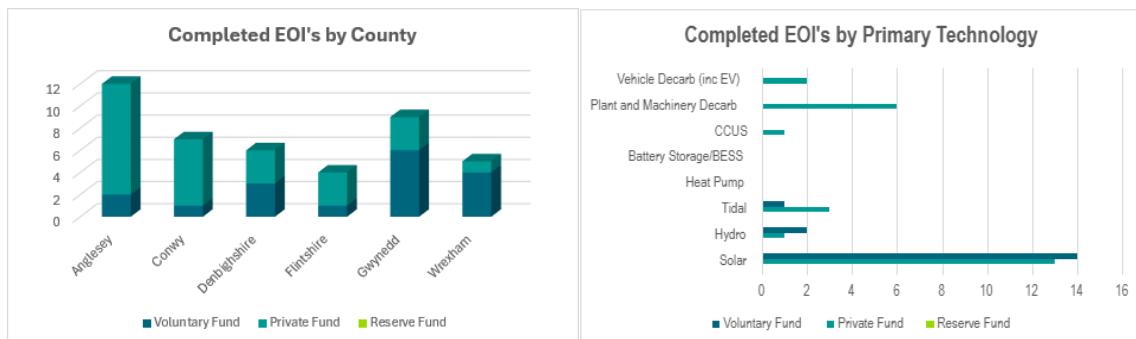
Risk ID	Date Raised	Risk Category	Risk Name	Risk Owner	Description of the Risk	Current Gross Risk Rating			Trend	Mitigating Actions	Action Due Dates	Action owner	Residual Risk Rating			Trend	Status (Open / Closed)	Commentary	Date of last update
						P	I	Score					P	I	Score				
R018	01/10/2020	Financial	Revenue Funding	Portfolio Management Office and Project Sponsors	If sufficient revenue funding is not in place to support the activities of the PMO and delivery of the Growth Deal, then project delivery and achievement of spending objectives and benefits may be impacted	4	5	20	↔	Economic Ambition Board approved Revenue budget to extend fixed term contracts. Longer term solutions continue to be investigated Partners and project sponsors responsible for sourcing revenue funding to support non-Ambition North Wales led projects PMO working to identify additional funding opportunities for Ambition North Wales led projects PMO capitalises salary costs associated with project delivery where appropriate and in line with guidance. Growth Deal top slice increased to 2.15%, allowing extension of Fixed term contracts SPF bid to 6 local authorities successful.	N/A	PMO			12	↔	Open	No changes to gross or residual risk scores. Budget for 2025/26 approved by the Economic Ambition Board in February 2025	16/12/2025
R019	01/10/2020	Programme and Project Delivery	Supply Chain & Skills Capacity	Portfolio Management Office	If the regional supply chain does not have the capacity to deliver projects, then projects' delivery could be impacted and regional benefits could be lower.	4	4	16	↔	Project business cases and implementation plans to clearly set out risks to project delivery and mitigations, including supply chain risks. RSP working with PMO to identify regional supply chain / skills challenges and identify mitigations Additional funding secured for skills activity Projects to conduct early market engagement where appropriate	N/A	PMO			12	↔	Open	No changes to gross or residual risk scores. Close collaboration between the PMO and the RSP on skills and supply chain is key to reducing the probability of this risk. This is an ongoing activity to ensure the capacity and skills are in the region to take advantage of the opportunities through the Growth Deal.	16/12/2025
R020	26/04/2024	Regulatory	Subsidy Control	Portfolio Management Office	Link to Public Sector investment risk R008: If subsidy control assessments cannot be confirmed the approval of funding for projects may be delayed or jeopardised.	3	4	12	↔	Review options for no subsidy investment, e.g. commercial loans Address details and assessment with sponsors at earliest stage (Terms sheet) Legal advice commissioned early on all Subsidy Control assessments Subsidy Control lead and support allocated within PMO	As per SOC-FBC stages	Programme Managers			9	↔	Open	Risk reviewed. No changes to gross or residual risk scores Challenges in completing 7 Principle assessments being supported by external specialist legal advice but these need to be addressed earlier in the assurance process, e.g. at Terms sheet stage pre OBC completion.	16/12/2025
R016	22/10/2020	Programme and Project Delivery	Assurance	Head of Operations	If agreed assurance processes are not followed, there is a risk that project approval could be impacted and could result in suspension/postponement of government grant payments.	3	5	15	↔	Integrated Assurance and Approval Plan (IAAP) agreed with Welsh and UK Government as part of Final Deal. Continued engagement with Welsh Government Assurance Hub to refine and update the Integrated Assurance and Approval Plan (IAAP) PMO assurance lead to coordinate delivery of assurance in accordance with the IAAP Streamlined approach to assurance introduced for new projects	Complete	PMO			8	↔	Open	Risk reviewed. No changes to gross or residual risk scores. An assurance review in October 2024 resulted in 4 recommendations to be undertaken by the PMO. An action plan will be put into place to address these.	16/12/2025
R017	22/10/2020	Financial	Financial Management	s151 Officer	If appropriate financial arrangements are not put in place, there could be a risk to the delivery of the deal, draw-down of the funding grant and allocation of funds.	3	4	12	↔	Ambition North Wales will utilise existing financial processes of Cyngor Gwynedd as the Host Authority. Project Business Cases will set out detailed project level financial, commercial and risk management measures to manage finances Robust monthly performance, risk and financial reporting arrangements will be established for all projects Robust financial claims process established for the drawdown of funding	N/A	PMO			6	↔	Open	No changes to gross or residual risk scores. Residual risk remains low due to the processes in place by Ambition North Wales and the funding agreements with project sponsors.	16/12/2025
R014	22/10/2020	Financial	Fraud	Portfolio Director	If appropriate processes are not put in place and managed, there is a risk that the portfolio could be subject to fraudulent claims resulting in misuse of public funds	4	4	16	↔	Projects to have robust financial monitoring processes in place including due diligence checks on project sponsors and funding recipients. PMO to review claims and applications submitted before passing them onto accountable body for payment Code of conduct and conflicts of interest policy incorporated as part of Governance Agreement 2 Conflict of Interest Register maintained for all programmes, projects and advisory groups.	N/A	PMO			8	↔	Open	No changes to gross or residual risk scores. Residual risk remains low due to the processes in place by Ambition North Wales. A further round of fraud training was held for the PMO and Business Delivery Board in May 2024. From 2025 projects in delivery will include grant/fund schemes will be managed according to PMO's approach to due diligence.	16/12/2025
R013	21/10/2020	Reputational and Social Impact	Political Change	Portfolio Director	If stakeholders are not managed effectively, there is a risk that political change could impact support for the portfolio, programme and projects.	4	4	16	↔	Frequent engagement with UK, Welsh Government and local government politicians and officials. GA2 and Final Deal agreement to confirm commitments of all parties. New members to be briefed on the Growth Deal Portfolio following change to the leadership. Engagement with new Government Ministers	Complete	Ambition North Wales, PMO			8	↔	Open	No changes to gross or residual risk scores. The risk remains low at present. Briefing with new UK ministers is ongoing. Senedd and local elections in 2026 and 2027 mean this risk may increase in the future.	16/12/2025

Risk ID	Date Raised	Risk Category	Risk Name	Risk Owner	Description of the Risk	Current Gross Risk Rating			Trend	Mitigating Actions	Action Due Dates	Action owner	Residual Risk Rating			Trend	Status (Open / Closed)	Commentary	Date of last update
						P	I	Score					P	I	Score				
R021	26/04/2024	Programme and Project Delivery	Transition to CJC	Portfolio Director	Transition of PMO to CJC. If staffing and process arrangements are not managed effectively there is a risk that PMO operations and project delivery may be delayed	3	4	12	↔	TUPE consultation with staff Impact on policies and processes to be reviewed before full transition	Complete	Portfolio Director	2	3	6	↔	Closed	Risk reviewed. Transition completed April 25 No changes to gross or residual risk scores. Work underway to review potential impacts and agreement of policies and processes for the new CJC subject to Economic Ambition Board approval	16/12/2025

Appendix 3 - The Clean Energy Fund Interim Project Update

On approval of the Clean Energy Fund Full Business case in May 2025, the Economic Ambition Board requested an update report on the Clean Energy Fund progress within 6 months. The report provides a summary of the progress to date since the fund was launched in July 2025.

- The Clean Energy Fund was officially launched on 10th July 2025, with a successful event with over 90 people in attendance.
- Since launch 44 expressions of interest have been submitted and 5 applications have been fully submitted and are under review with investment papers being prepared. One application was deemed ineligible due to not meeting the fund criteria. Chart 1 and 2 below show the expressions of interest and main technology type received to date. We have had multiple conversations regarding the reserve sub fund with ongoing discussions around Ambition North Wales taking an equity in a renewable energy generation project.
- Strong engagement has continued from Ambition North Wales, UMi & WCVA. Over 70 engagements have been undertaken and range from 1:1 meetings, conference attendance and presentations, county shows, finance events, local authority funding fairs. Existing networks have been leveraged including but not limited to CBI Wales, Business Chamber, Net Zero Industry Wales, Deeside Decarbonisation Forum, Offshore Energy Alliance and Business Wales. In addition, a podcast has been recorded and shared with supporting articles to support with social media engagement.
- There has been a positive start to the fund and we aim to release funding before financial year end. We have received feedback from businesses and brokers regarding the challenging economic environment and reluctance to risk taking on commercial debt at this time. We are engaging with businesses to support and educate on the offering and opportunities of taking funding to support their decarbonisation projects and operations.
- In line with the approved business case, we will continue to listen to the market and review our Investment Strategy to respond to market needs with the intention to complete a first full review at the end of the financial year.





ECONOMIC WELL-BEING SUB-COMMITTEE

6 February 2026

TITLE: 2026/27 Budget

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

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Growth Deal's revenue and capital budget for 2026/27.
- 1.2. The budget was presented to the Portfolio Board on 16 January 2026 and approved by the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee (CJC) in its meeting on 23 January 2026.

2. DECISION SOUGHT

- 2.1. To note the Growth Deal's revenue budget for 2026/27 as presented in Appendix 1.
- 2.2. To note the funding contributions to include the partner contributions, local authorities' supplementary contributions and partner interest contributions.
- 2.3. To note the Growth Deal's capital budget for 2026/27 as presented in Appendix 2.

3. REASON FOR THE DECISION

- 3.1. The Growth Deal requires an annual budget in order to operate effectively within the funding available.

4. BACKGROUND AND RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1. The Delivery and Funding Agreement sets out the funding arrangements for the Growth Deal. As per the Agreement, the budget for 2026/27 shall consist of the annual contributions from partner authorities, supplementary contributions from local authorities and contributions to finance the cost of borrowing of projects.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Revenue Budget

- 5.1. Appendix 1 sets out the proposed Growth Deal revenue budget per expenditure heading and the corresponding funding streams for the year.
- 5.2. The total expenditure budget for 2026/27 is £2,946,070, with £469,900 funded by partner contributions, £240,000 by local authorities' supplementary contributions, £154,090 by partner interest contributions, £660,000 from the 2.15% of the North Wales Growth Deal grant allocated to fund revenue expenditure, £435,350 from the top-slice of the projects' allocation of the North Wales Growth Deal grant to fund posts specific to these projects and £986,730 from the resources reserve.
- 5.3. In its meeting in February 2025, the North Wales Economic Ambition Board approved the transfer of the interest received on the Growth Deal grant balances in 2024/25 and 2025/26 to a specific reserve to fund the additional government roles, the retention of the Portfolio Management Office capacity for an additional two years as well as project development costs. The use of this reserve in 2026/27 will leave an estimated balance of around £2.9m at 31 March 2027.
- 5.4. The contributions from partners are summarised below:

	Partner Contributions	Local Authorities' Supplementary Contributions	Partner Interest Contributions	Total Contributions
	£	£	£	£
Conwy County Borough Council	(58,730)	(40,000)	(18,140)	(116,870)
Denbighshire County Council	(58,730)	(40,000)	(6,070)	(104,800)
Flintshire County Council	(58,730)	(40,000)	(9,140)	(107,870)
Cyngor Gwynedd	(58,730)	(40,000)	(6,780)	(105,510)
Isle of Anglesey County Council	(58,730)	(40,000)	(28,370)	(127,100)
Wrexham County Borough Council	(58,730)	(40,000)	(18,970)	(117,700)
Bangor University	(29,380)		(23,270)	(52,650)
Wrexham University	(29,380)		(24,250)	(53,630)
Coleg Cambria	(29,380)			(29,380)
Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	(29,380)		(19,100)	(48,480)
Total Contributions	(469,900)	(240,000)	(154,090)	(863,990)

- 5.5. Partner contributions will remain the same as 2025/26 due to the reduction of the employer pension contribution rate from 2026/27 offsetting the out-turn adjustment for 2025/26 and the estimated salary inflation for 2026/27.
- 5.6. The supplementary contributions were approved as part of the Delivery and Funding Agreement and are provided by each Council on an ongoing basis to partly fund the annual budget of the Growth Deal.

- 5.7. In 2020, Arlingclose (independent treasury advisory company) were commissioned to model the cost of borrowing and the corresponding annual partner contributions required to meet this cost, and contributions were included in the 2021/22 budget onwards. Although a lot of the variables that can affect these costs remain uncertain, these revised contributions for 2026/27 are based on the most up to date information available and level of contributions required for the remaining years will be reviewed again as more information becomes available during the year.
- 5.8. Changes in projects in the capital profile have led to an overall increase in the estimated cost of borrowing compared to the previous calculation undertaken for the 2025/26 budget and have also altered partners' share of the borrowing cost, which is reflected in the partner interest contributions levels. Some partners also lead their own Growth Deal projects, and the associated cost of borrowing has therefore been added to their interest contributions. Despite these changes, the interest contributions remain within the thresholds approved in the Delivery and Funding Agreement.

Capital Budget

- 5.9. The capital budget reflects the most recent expenditure profile for each project within the Growth Deal over the period 2021/22 to 2034/25, as well as the 2.15% top-slice to fund the revenue budget over the same period. It's based on the latest projects' timescale, and it will be reviewed during the year as the business cases are approved.
- 5.10. Following a portfolio review by Ambition North Wales, some Growth Deal projects were removed in 2025/26 and a Reserve List was established. This led to changes in the capital profile, where new projects that were on the Reserve List secured funding following the approval of their business cases, and some projects that were previously in the capital profile were moved to the Reserve List.
- 5.11. Although the £240m capital expenditure will be funded by the Growth Deal grant, 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 which has been set aside in a specific reserve.
- 5.12. The Portfolio Management Office will be working to agree a revised drawdown funding profile of the Growth Deal grant with Welsh Government and UK Government.
- 5.13. With capital projects, there is always a risk of overspending, and controls will be put in place to limit overspending costs on specific projects. For regional projects, the Portfolio Management Office will be responsible for controlling expenditure and ensuring that sufficient contingency budgets are included in the project business cases. Overspend would be a matter for the project sponsor to deal with in relation to their own projects.
- 5.14. Regular budget monitoring reports of the Growth Deal will be presented to Ambition North Wales staff during the year. A further detailed review will also be undertaken at the end of July 2026 and December 2026 and presented to Economic Well-being Sub-committee meetings, with any issues highlighted and appropriate steps taken.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1. Senior Officers of Ambition North Wales as well as the Monitoring Officer have contributed to this budget.

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1: Growth Deal's 2026/27 Revenue Budget

Appendix 2: Growth Deal's 2026/27 Capital Budget

STATUTORY OFFICERS RESPONSE:

i. **Monitoring Officer:**

No observations to add in relation to propriety.

ii. **Statutory Finance Officer:**

Report author.

Expenditure	(£)
Portfolio Management Office	
Employee Expenditure (Pay, N.I. & Superannuation)	1,651,470
Additional Government Roles	213,540
Additional Monitoring Officer and Section 151 Officer Capacity	32,450
Advertising and Assessment of Candidates	5,000
Travel and Subsistence	10,000
Training	18,000
Engagement and Meetings	15,000
Communications and Public Relations	25,000
Supplies and Services	15,000
Premises	32,150
Portfolio and Programme Development	30,000
Insurance	15,720
Systems	9,870
Total Portfolio Management Office	2,073,200
Accountable Body Support Services	
Finance Services Support	116,870
Legal (includes Monitoring Officer)	50,740
Democratic Support	29,430
Corporate Services	42,970
Information Technology	42,420
Total Accountable Body Support Services	282,430
Joint Committee	
External Legal Support	18,000
External Financial Fees	10,000
External Audit Fee	28,350
Business Delivery Board	25,000
Total Joint Committee	81,350
Projects	
Project Business Case Development	100,000
External Legal Support	150,000
External Finance Support	30,000
External Procurement Support	50,000
Assurance	25,000
Total Projects	355,000
Transfers to reserves	
Partner interest contributions	154,090
Total Transfers to reserves	154,090
Total Expenditure	2,946,070

2026/27 Growth Deal Budget

Income	(£)
Funding Contributions	
Partner Contributions	
Conwy County Borough Council	(58,730)
Denbighshire County Council	(58,730)
Flintshire County Council	(58,730)
Cyngor Gwynedd	(58,730)
Isle of Anglesey County Council	(58,730)
Wrexham County Borough Council	(58,730)
Bangor University	(29,380)
Wrexham University	(29,380)
Coleg Cambria	(29,380)
Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	(29,380)
Local Authorities' Supplementary Contributions	
Conwy County Borough Council	(40,000)
Denbighshire County Council	(40,000)
Flintshire County Council	(40,000)
Cyngor Gwynedd	(40,000)
Isle of Anglesey County Council	(40,000)
Wrexham County Borough Council	(40,000)
Partner Interest Contributions	
Conwy County Borough Council	(18,140)
Denbighshire County Council	(6,070)
Flintshire County Council	(9,140)
Cyngor Gwynedd	(6,780)
Isle of Anglesey County Council	(28,370)
Wrexham County Borough Council	(18,970)
Bangor University	(23,270)
Wrexham University	(24,250)
Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	(19,100)
Other	
North Wales Growth Deal grant	(660,000)
North Wales Growth Deal grant (Projects staff)	(435,350)
Resources Reserve	(986,730)
Total Income	(2,946,070)
Net Budget	0

2026/27 North Wales Growth Deal Capital Budget

Appendix 2

Programme	Project	Project Sponsor	2021/22 (£m)	2022/23 (£m)	2023/24 (£m)	2024/25 (£m)	2025/26 (£m)	2026/27 (£m)	2027/28 (£m)	2028/29 (£m)	2029/30 (£m)	2030/31 (£m)	2031/32 (£m)	2032/33 (£m)	2033/34 (£m)	2034/35 (£m)	Total (£m)
Digital	Digital Signal Processing Centre (DSP)	Bangor University	0.12	1.66	0.37	0.00	0.65	0.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.96	
Digital	4G+ (Connected Key Sites and Corridors)	Ambition North Wales	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.29	2.82	2.36	0.57	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.17	
Digital	LPWAN (Connected Campuses)	Ambition North Wales	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.15	0.52	0.43	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00	1.14	
Digital	Advanced Wireless (Connected Campuses)	Ambition North Wales	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.09	6.76	8.56	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	19.54	
Low carbon energy	Cydnethr (Morlais)	Menter Môn	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.87	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.87	
Low carbon energy	Egni	Bangor University	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.94	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.94	
Low carbon energy	Clean Local Energy	Ambition North Wales	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.83	5.63	6.95	6.20	4.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	24.63	
Low carbon energy	Holyhead Hydrogen Hub	Menter Môn	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.80	
Land and property	Former North Wales Hospital, Denbigh	NWH Ltd (Jones Bros)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	1.50	4.94	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.94	
Land and property	Parc Bryn Cegin Strategic Site	Ambition North Wales	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.15	5.76	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.91	
Land and property	Wrexham Gateway	Wrexham County Borough Council	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.20	3.59	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.79	
Land and property	Gogledd Môn Sites and Premises	Isle of Anglesey County Council	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.32	1.68	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.00	
Land and property	Freeport Gateway	Isle of Anglesey County Council	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.70	0.78	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.48	
Land and property	Albert Gubay Business School	Bangor University	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.99	1.32	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.31	
Land and property	Padeswood	Transport for Wales / Network Rail	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.10	2.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.20	
Land and property	Port of Mostyn	Port of Mostyn	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.00	
Innovation in High Value Manufacturing	Centre of Environmental Biotechnology (CEB)	Bangor University	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.58	1.68	0.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.96	
Innovation in High Value Manufacturing	Enterprise Engineering & Optics Centre	Wrexham University	0.00	0.00	0.75	9.06	2.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11.99	
Innovation in High Value Manufacturing	Society 5.0	Wrexham University	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.50	
Innovation in High Value Manufacturing	Project Prince	Knauf	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.20	11.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	14.40	
Agri-food and tourism	Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub	Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	6.87	3.79	0.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11.82	
Agri-food and tourism	Tourism Talent Network	Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	2.00	1.35	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.43	
Agri-food and tourism	Responsible Adventure	Zip World	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.71	1.49	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.20	
Agri-food and tourism	Venue Cymru	Conwy County Borough Council	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.25	3.44	0.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.00	
Reserve List projects	n/a	n/a	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.81	19.69	20.00	12.37	0.00	0.00	0.00	61.87	
Projects Sub Total			0.12	1.66	1.12	10.64	20.80	66.41	58.33	39.08	24.28	12.37	0.02	0.02	0.00	234.85	
2.15% to fund the Growth Deal revenue budget			0.22	0.28	0.56	0.71	1.35	0.66	0.50	0.30	0.15	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.07	5.15	
Anticipated expenditure by 31/03			0.34	1.94	1.68	11.35	22.15	67.07	58.83	39.38	24.43	12.47	0.12	0.12	0.07	0.05	240.00



ECONOMIC WELL-BEING SUB-COMMITTEE

6 February 2026

TITLE: 2025/26 Revenue and Capital Position – End of December 2025 Review.

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

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Economic Well-being Sub-committee's (Growth Deal) projected full year out-turn income and expenditure against its annual budget.
- 1.2. In order to operate effectively, the Sub-committee needs to be aware of the projected expenditure position against the approved annual budget.
- 1.3. The review was presented to the Portfolio Board on 16 January 2026 and approved by the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee (CJC) in its meeting on 23 January 2026.

2. DECISIONS SOUGHT

- 2.1. To note the revenue end of December 2025 review, including the reserves position (Appendix 1 and 2).
- 2.2. To note and accept the Growth Deal's revised capital expenditure profile (Appendix 3).

3. REASONS FOR THE DECISION

- 3.1. An underspend of £618,025 is forecast against the Economic Well-being Sub-committee's revenue budget for 2025/26. The final underspend at the end of the financial year will be used to reduce the amount claimed from the North Wales Growth Deal grant and the resources reserve, and approval will be sought when the out-turn report is presented to the CJC.
- 3.2. To note a slippage on the capital programme, with an estimated expenditure of £22.15m in 2025/26 compared to an approved budget of £29.61m for the year.

4. BACKGROUND AND RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1. The North Wales Economic Ambition Board approved the Economic Well-being Sub-committee's 2025/26 revenue and capital budget in its meeting on 14 February 2025.
- 4.2. A further underspend is forecasted for the Economic Well-being sub-committee, where £618,025 of underspend is now expected compared to £280,562 that was estimated in the July

2025 review. This is due to further underspends in employee expenditure and additional government roles, accountable body support services and the projects heading.

- 4.3. An updated capital profile of the Growth Deal has also been provided following a portfolio review by Ambition North Wales.
- 4.4. The out-turn report for 2025/26 will be presented to the Sub-committee on 12th June 2026.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. Appendix 1 provides a detailed analysis of the actual expenditure and income per heading up to the end of December 2025, together with a projected full year out-turn against its annual budget.
- 5.2. It is estimated that the net out-turn position at the end of the 2025/26 financial year will be an underspend of £618,025. This is mainly due to underspends in employee expenditure and additional government roles, accountable body support services and the projects heading. Ambition North Wales was also successful in its Shared Prosperity Fund application which has further contributed to the underspend in employee expenditure.

Portfolio Management Office

- 5.3. There is a £436,732 underspend on the Portfolio Management Office and the main underspend is shown on the employee expenditure and additional government roles heading.
- 5.4. Posts that were in the budget were filled during the financial year or are expected to be filled at the end of the financial year or at the beginning of 2026/27, leading to an underspend in employee expenditure. Funding received from the Local Area Energy Plan grant and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund for 2025/26 has also been used to fund the costs of two officers and a proportion of the costs for other staff. The support of three officers and the previous Portfolio Director to the CJC for one to three days a week has also led to an underspend in employee expenditure.
- 5.5. Part of this underspend has been used to fund the costs of a temporary external advisor to support the Energy Programme beyond the Local Area Energy Plan grant.
- 5.6. The recruitment of additional government roles has taken place during the financial year, therefore also contributing to the underspend. However, additional recruitment, including the recruitment of Portfolio Director, is expected to lead to an overspend in advertising and assessment of candidates costs.
- 5.7. The portfolio and programme development heading is showing an overspend due to work undertaken on portfolio business cases reviews and carbon and emissions support. The underspend shown under the project business case development heading will be used to fund this overspend.
- 5.8. The insurance heading is showing an overspend of £11,800 as the majority of the cost has been apportioned between the CJC and the Economic Well-being Sub-committee based on employee budget costs. Whilst the systems budget was included to fund the costs of the Committee Management System (which is now not expected to be implemented until

2026/27), expenditure has been incurred on a platform and the development of a project management system.

Accountable Body Support Services

5.9. The estimated underspend on this heading is £44,230 due to the recruitment of Cyngor Gwynedd staff supporting the CJC to be taken place after the Service Level Agreement has been finalised.

Joint Committee

5.10. The Joint Committee heading shows a net overspend of £9,204 with the forecasted underspend in external financial fees and the Business Delivery Board offsetting the increase in external legal support costs.

Projects

5.11. The expected net underspend on this heading is £60,794 There is an overspend in external legal support costs on numerous projects in the capital programme, however there is an expected underspend on project business case development costs, external finance support, procurement support and assurance costs.

5.12. The project delivery heading relates to expenditure on Growth Deal projects lead by Ambition North Wales that are currently in delivery and are considered as revenue expenditure.

Grant Schemes

5.13. The expenditure under this heading includes grant funded Local Area Energy and Shared Prosperity Fund projects. The Local Area Energy Plan funding has been received until March 2026, whereas confirmation has recently been received that the funding for the Shared Prosperity Fund can be claimed up to September 2026. Following a reprofile of the Shared Prosperity Fund budget, it is expected that the expenditure up to 31 March 2026 will be £426,451, with the remaining £17,799 to be spent and claimed in 2026/27.

Funding Contributions

5.14. The main income streams for 2025/26 include partner contributions, the North Wales Growth Deal grant (revenue allocation and the funding of project staff costs and project delivery costs), Welsh Government energy grant, UK Shared Prosperity Fund, the earmarked reserve and the resources reserve.

5.15. The forecasted use of the Growth Deal grant for projects is £262,148 compared to the budget of £116,675. This is due to the grant funding 50% of the costs of staff that were previously 100% funded by the Welsh Government energy grant in previous years, an increase in the number of staff recruited for digital projects and expenditure incurred on Ambition North Wales's Growth Deal projects that are currently in delivery.

Reserves

5.16. Appendix 2 shows the estimated reserves balances at 31 March 2026.

- 5.17. The total earmarked reserve balance at 31 March 2025 was £210,977, and £60,990 of this reserve has been allocated to the 2025/26 budget to give an estimated balance of £149,987 at 31 March 2026.
- 5.18. The projects reserve balance at 31 March 2025 was £29,167. In 2024/25, costs of £123,133 relating to the Clean Local Energy Project were met from the projects reserve as the Full Business Case was yet to be approved by 31st March 2025. The Full Business Case has subsequently been approved therefore £123,133 of the Growth Deal grant will be transferred to the projects reserve.
- 5.19. The interest reserve is ringfenced to fund the cost of borrowing in future years. Its estimated balance at 31 March 2026 is £5,006,863 and this includes the partner interest contributions of £108,380 and an estimate of £165,000 of interest income on the reserve balance.
- 5.20. The resources reserve is used to fund the additional government requirements and project development costs, as well as to retain the Portfolio Management Office's capacity. £412,085 of this reserve has been allocated to the 2025/26 budget and interest of £1.5m on the Growth Deal grant balance is expected to give an estimated balance of £3,888,146 at 31 March 2026.

Capital

- 5.21. Appendix 3 shows the revised capital programme as at the end of December 2025.
- 5.22. There is a net reduction of £7.46m in the anticipated expenditure for 2025/26 and this is due to slippage on projects. However, the expenditure on the Cydnerth, Centre of Environmental Biotechnology and Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub projects has been brought forward therefore has reduced the slippage.
- 5.23. A portfolio review was conducted by Ambition North Wales, which lead to some Growth Deal projects being removed and a Reserve List established during the financial year. Some projects that were on the Reserve List have secured funding following the approval of their business cases and therefore expenditure is expected to increase in 2026/27 compared to the 2025/26 capital profile budget that was approved in February 2025. Society 5.0 is a new project following the Reserve List process, and it is expected that expenditure will be incurred in 2025/26.

6. CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN

- 6.1. The report and its appendices were presented to the Portfolio Board on 16 January 2026 and were approved by the CJC on 23 January 2026.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1	2025/26 Economic Well-being Sub-committee's Revenue Budget – End of December 2025 Review
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Appendix 2 Economic Well-being Sub-committee's reserves position

Appendix 3 Economic Well-being Sub-committee's capital profile – End of December 2025 Review

STATUTORY OFFICERS RESPONSE:

i. **Monitoring Officer:**

No observations to add in relation to propriety.

ii. **Statutory Finance Officer:**

Report author.

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

Appendix 1

	Base Budget	One-off Commitments	Total Budget	December 2025	December 2025 Commitments	Estimated Final Position	Overspend / (Underspend)
Expenditure	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)
Portfolio Management Office							
Employee Expenditure (Pay, N.I. & Superannuation)	1,558,280	0	1,558,280	911,230	0	1,170,263	(388,017)
Additional Government Roles	206,320	0	206,320	20,000	40,403	85,403	(120,917)
External Advisor	0	0	0	16,715	14,852	31,567	31,567
Advertising and Assessment of Candidates	2,500	0	2,500	7,521	0	15,000	12,500
Travel and Subsistence	10,000	0	10,000	2,677	385	5,000	(5,000)
Training	18,000	0	18,000	849	0	18,000	0
Engagement and Meetings	10,000	0	10,000	3,990	317	7,000	(3,000)
Communications and Public Relations	25,000	0	25,000	15,619	12,542	29,000	4,000
Supplies and Services	15,000	0	15,000	9,165	7,535	20,000	5,000
Premises	36,000	0	36,000	7,767	0	36,000	0
Portfolio and Programme Development	30,000	0	30,000	21,000	24,500	45,500	15,500
Insurance	4,130	0	4,130	15,930	0	15,930	11,800
Systems	9,540	0	9,540	9,375	0	9,375	(165)
Total Portfolio Management Office	1,924,770	0	1,924,770	1,041,838	100,534	1,488,038	(436,732)
Accountable Body Support Services							
Finance Services Support	113,330	0	113,330	0	0	80,040	(33,290)
Legal (includes Monitoring Officer)	44,980	0	44,980	0	0	36,650	(8,330)
Democratic Support	28,430	0	28,430	0	0	25,820	(2,610)
Corporate Services	48,350	0	48,350	12,164	0	48,350	0
Information Technology	28,440	0	28,440	0	0	28,440	0
Total Accountable Body Support Services	263,530	0	263,530	12,164	0	219,300	(44,230)
Joint Committee							
External Legal Support	18,000	0	18,000	37,332	0	49,776	31,776
External Financial Fees	10,000	0	10,000	1,445	0	2,428	(7,572)
External Audit Fee	28,350	0	28,350	0	0	28,350	0
Business Delivery Board	15,000	0	15,000	0	0	0	(15,000)
Total Joint Committee	71,350	0	71,350	38,777	0	80,554	9,204
Projects							
Project Business Case Development	150,000	0	150,000	70,095	8,333	120,000	(30,000)
External Legal Support	150,000	0	150,000	77,095	0	197,000	47,000
External Finance Support	50,000	0	50,000	0	0	5,000	(45,000)
External Procurement Support	50,000	0	50,000	0	0	20,000	(30,000)
Assurance	50,000	0	50,000	0	4,950	15,000	(35,000)
Project Delivery	0	0	0	50	0	32,206	32,206
Total Projects	450,000	0	450,000	147,240	13,283	389,206	(60,794)
Grant schemes							
Employee Expenditure - Local Area Energy Project	0	80,040	80,040	67,808	0	80,040	0
Other related costs - Local Area Energy Project	0	10,310	10,310	1,777	2,593	10,310	0
External Advisor - Local Area Energy Project	0	79,920	79,920	52,956	26,964	79,920	0
Local Area Energy Plans	0	6,800	6,800	6,800	0	6,800	0
Employee Expenditure- Shared Prosperity Fund	0	196,870	196,870	155,008	0	196,575	(295)
Other related costs - Shared Prosperity Fund	0	16,865	16,865	12,928	0	16,435	(430)
Shared Prosperity Plans	0	230,515	230,515	130,558	63,514	213,441	(17,074)
Grant schemes Total	0	621,320	621,320	427,835	93,071	603,521	(17,799)
Transfers to reserves							
Partner interest contributions	108,380	0	108,380	0	0	108,380	0
Total Transfers to reserves	108,380	0	108,380	0	0	108,380	0
Total Expenditure	2,818,030	621,320	3,439,350	1,667,854	206,888	2,888,999	(550,351)

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

Appendix 1

	Base Budget	One-off virements	Total Budget	December 2025	December 2025 Commitments	Estimated Final Position	Overspend / (Underspend)
Income	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)
Funding Contributions							
Partner Contributions							
Conwy County Borough Council	(58,730)	0	(58,730)	(58,730)	0	(58,730)	0
Denbighshire County Council	(58,730)	0	(58,730)	(58,730)	0	(58,730)	0
Flintshire County Council	(58,730)	0	(58,730)	(58,730)	0	(58,730)	0
Cyngor Gwynedd	(58,730)	0	(58,730)	(58,730)	0	(58,730)	0
Isle of Anglesey County Council	(58,730)	0	(58,730)	(58,730)	0	(58,730)	0
Wrexham County Borough Council	(58,730)	0	(58,730)	(58,730)	0	(58,730)	0
Bangor University	(29,380)	0	(29,380)	(29,380)	0	(29,380)	0
Wrexham University	(29,380)	0	(29,380)	(29,380)	0	(29,380)	0
Coleg Cambria	(29,380)	0	(29,380)	(29,380)	0	(29,380)	0
Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	(29,380)	0	(29,380)	(29,380)	0	(29,380)	0
Local Authorities' Supplementary Contributions							
Conwy County Borough Council	(40,000)	0	(40,000)	(40,000)	0	(40,000)	0
Denbighshire County Council	(40,000)	0	(40,000)	(40,000)	0	(40,000)	0
Flintshire County Council	(40,000)	0	(40,000)	(40,000)	0	(40,000)	0
Cyngor Gwynedd	(40,000)	0	(40,000)	(40,000)	0	(40,000)	0
Isle of Anglesey County Council	(40,000)	0	(40,000)	(40,000)	0	(40,000)	0
Wrexham County Borough Council	(40,000)	0	(40,000)	(40,000)	0	(40,000)	0
Partner Interest Contributions							
Conwy County Borough Council	(13,420)	0	(13,420)	(13,420)	0	(13,420)	0
Denbighshire County Council	(11,870)	0	(11,870)	(11,870)	0	(11,870)	0
Flintshire County Council	(18,710)	0	(18,710)	(18,710)	0	(18,710)	0
Cyngor Gwynedd	(13,730)	0	(13,730)	(13,730)	0	(13,730)	0
Isle of Anglesey County Council	(8,290)	0	(8,290)	(8,290)	0	(8,290)	0
Wrexham County Borough Council	(23,210)	0	(23,210)	(23,210)	0	(23,210)	0
Wrexham University	(10,070)	0	(10,070)	(10,070)	0	(10,070)	0
Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	(9,080)	0	(9,080)	(9,080)	0	(9,080)	0
Other							
North Wales Growth Deal grant	(1,350,000)	0	(1,350,000)	0	0	(1,350,000)	0
North Wales Growth Deal grant (Projects)	(116,675)	0	(116,675)	0	0	(262,148)	(145,473)
Capitalisation of Salary Costs	(60,000)	0	(60,000)	0	0	0	60,000
Welsh Government Energy Grant	0	(177,070)	(177,070)	(98,948)	0	(177,070)	0
UK Shared Prosperity Fund	0	(444,250)	(444,250)	(132,786)	0	(426,451)	17,799
Earmarked Reserve	(60,990)	0	(60,990)	0	0	(60,990)	0
Resources Reserve	(412,085)	0	(412,085)	0	0	(412,085)	0
Total Income	(2,818,030)	(621,320)	(3,439,350)	(1,050,014)	0	(3,507,024)	(67,674)
Net Overspend / (Underspend)	0	0	0	617,840	206,888	(618,025)	(618,025)

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

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

	£
Total interest reserve at 31 March 2025	(4,733,483)
2025/26 contributions	(108,380)
Estimate interest on balances 2025/26	(165,000)
Total interest reserve at 31 March 2026	(5,006,863)

	£
Total resources reserve at 31 March 2025	(2,800,231)
Usage in 2025/26	412,085
Estimate interest on balances 2025/26	(1,500,000)
Total resources reserve at 31 March 2026	(3,888,146)

2025/26 North Wales Growth Deal Capital Budget - End of December 2025 Review

Appendix 3

Programme	Project	Project Sponsor	2021/22 (£m)	2022/23 (£m)	2023/24 (£m)	2024/25 (£m)	2025/26 (£m)	2026/27 (£m)	2027/28 (£m)	2028/29 (£m)	2029/30 (£m)	2030/31 (£m)	2031/32 (£m)	2032/33 (£m)	2033/34 (£m)	2034/35 (£m)	Total (£m)
Digital	Digital Signal Processing Centre (DSP)	Bangor University	0.12	1.66	0.37	0.00	0.65	0.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.96
Digital	4G+ (Connected Key Sites and Corridors)	Ambition North Wales	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.29	2.82	2.36	0.57	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.17
Digital	LPWAN (Connected Campuses)	Ambition North Wales	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.15	0.52	0.43	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.14
Digital	Advanced Wireless (Connected Campuses)	Ambition North Wales	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.09	6.76	8.56	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	19.54
Low carbon energy	Cydnethr (Morlais)	Menter Môn	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.87	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.87
Low carbon energy	Egni	Bangor University	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.94	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.94
Low carbon energy	Clean Local Energy	Ambition North Wales	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.83	5.63	6.95	6.20	4.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	24.63
Low carbon energy	Holyhead Hydrogen Hub	Menter Môn	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.80
Land and property	Former North Wales Hospital, Denbigh	NWH Ltd (Jones Bros)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	1.50	4.94	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.94
Land and property	Parc Bryn Cegin Strategic Site	Ambition North Wales	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.15	5.76	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.91
Land and property	Wrexham Gateway	Wrexham County Borough Council	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.20	3.59	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.79
Land and property	Gogledd Môn Sites and Premises	Isle of Anglesey County Council	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.32	1.68	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.00
Land and property	Freeport Gateway	Isle of Anglesey County Council	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.70	0.78	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.48
Land and property	Albert Gubay Business School	Bangor University	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.99	1.32	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.31
Land and property	Padeswood	Transport for Wales / Network Rail	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.10	2.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.20
Land and property	Port of Mostyn	Port of Mostyn	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.00
Innovation in High Value Manufacturing	Centre of Environmental Biotechnology (CEB)	Bangor University	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.58	1.68	0.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.96
Innovation in High Value Manufacturing	Enterprise Engineering & Optics Centre	Wrexham University	0.00	0.00	0.75	9.06	2.18	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11.99
Innovation in High Value Manufacturing	Society 5.0	Wrexham University	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.50
Innovation in High Value Manufacturing	Project Prince	Knauf	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.20	11.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	14.40
Agri-food and tourism	Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub	Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	6.87	3.79	0.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11.82
Agri-food and tourism	Tourism Talent Network	Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.00	2.00	1.35	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.43
Agri-food and tourism	Responsible Adventure	Zip World	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.71	1.49	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.20
Agri-food and tourism	Venue Cymru	Conwy County Borough Council	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.25	3.44	0.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.00
Reserve List projects	n/a	n/a	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.81	19.69	20.00	12.37	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	61.87
Projects Sub Total			0.12	1.66	1.12	10.64	20.80	66.41	58.33	39.08	24.28	12.37	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00	234.85
2.15% to fund the Growth Deal revenue budget			0.22	0.28	0.56	0.71	1.35	0.66	0.50	0.30	0.15	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.07	0.05	5.15
Anticipated expenditure by 31/03			0.34	1.94	1.68	11.35	22.15	67.07	58.83	39.38	24.43	12.47	0.12	0.12	0.07	0.05	240.00
Approved budget (February 2025)			0.34	1.94	1.68	12.51	29.61	40.86	59.28	42.58	22.45	8.10	8.20	7.33	5.07	0.05	240.00
Variance			0.00	0.00	0.00	-1.16	-7.46	26.21	-0.45	-3.20	1.98	4.37	-8.08	-7.21	-5.00	0.00	0.00



ECONOMIC WELL-BEING SUB-COMMITTEE

6th February, 2026

TITLE: Flintshire and Wrexham Investment Zone
- Year 2 Annual Delivery Plan

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

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1. The focus of this report is on the Year 2 Annual Delivery Plan and setting out the intended programme for the Year 2026-27. It covers progress made to date in Year 1 and some of the key activities planned for Year 2. Allocations included in this report are to be included in the Year 2 Annual Delivery Plan submitted to UK Government and Welsh Government to claim the Year 2 funds (expected to be received in April 2026).

2. DECISION SOUGHT

2.1. The Economic Well-being Sub-Committee is asked to:

- Approve the investment allocations of the Annual Delivery Plan for Year 2 and note allocations in Year 1 that will be utilised as part of the Year 2 programme.
- Approve the Investment Zone Programmes as set out in Section 4 of this report inclusive of a £4m allocation to the Wrexham University Business Gateway project.
- Permit the CJC's s151 to sign and issue the ADP documents to UKG and WG and make any further non-material amendments necessary to agree the ADP with UKG and WG.

3. REASON FOR THE DECISION

3.1. As stated in the report.

4. BACKGROUND AND RELEVANT CONSIDERATION

4.1. Background

4.1.1. Investment Zones are required to agree Annual Delivery Plans with UK Government and Welsh Government in the final quarter of the financial year to secure the annual payment from Welsh Government in the April of each financial year. Funds are paid in advance in April for anticipated expenditure in the financial year. Expenditure is reported in each Annual Delivery Plan and any material changes to the Annual Delivery Plan.

4.2. Key Updates

4.2.1 The Year 1 Annual Delivery Plan has been agreed with Government. The key updates in relation to Year 1 and planning for Year 2 are as follows:

- adjustments to skills allocations to allow £4m to support the Wrexham University Business Gateway project;
- continued engagement with Wrexham University and Coleg Cambria to determine the initial skills programmes. Proposals are expected to be considered by the Regional Skills Partnership before being considered by the CJC;
- Transport for Wales are finalising the Bus Transformation Business Case;
- The Bus Capital Project will prepare a Business Case in Spring/Summer 2026;
- Airbus have prepared a Strategic Outline Case for the Manufacturing Readiness Centre project and require a further £14m from Welsh Government. This is part of a wider proposition that includes a new Logistics Centre on site;
- Proposals for a Skills and Innovation Centre at Wrexham Industrial Estate are being prepared by AMRC, Wrexham Leadership Alliance, Wrexham Council and Wrexham University. Phase 1 is a feasibility study. £3m of this £5m allocation is allocated to the Business Gateway Project;
- Padeswood Sidings allocation in Year 1 may increase – further discussion and agreement with IZ partners and Ambition North Wales Growth Deal to agree a change to the current allocation;
- Pochin Goodman are preparing a business case for investment to unlock their site at Deeside Gateway;
- UtopiaCity is preparing a business case for investment to unlock their development. The proposal is that £5m is allocated to upgrade the offsite sewer infrastructure and a further £5m is requested from the Growth Deal;
- Business Support programmes have been developed by Flintshire and Wrexham Councils and are ready to launch once the funds are in place;
- Business support regarding investment opportunity across Flintshire;
- MOU and Grant Offer Letter expected imminently; and
- Ongoing development of local NDR Investment Strategies (subject to individual Council approvals).

4.3. Programme Overview

4.3.1 The following have been commenced in Year 1 of the Investment Zone programme.

a) **Planning and Programme**

- preparation and agreement to the requirements of WG and UKG for Gateways 1-5
- preparation and agreement to the MOU
- preparation and agreement to the Inter-Authority Agreement
- development and agreement to a Tax Site Implementation Plan
- development and Council agreement to a Wrexham NDR Investment Fund Commencement Plan
- development and Council agreement to a Flintshire NDR Investment Fund Commencement Plan

- SLA with Flintshire and Wrexham Planning Departments for an Investment Zone Planning Unit
- Recruitment of principle officers in Flintshire and Wrexham Councils
- Support and CJC approval to the Knauf Investment Business Case (a Growth Deal Project)
- Promote the Investment Zone to forums and engagement events
- Support for key partnerships, in particular (set out in more detail in section 3.3):
 - Innovation Partnership Programme
 - Investment Zone Decarbonisation Programme
 - Transport for Wales - Business Case for Bus Transformation
 - National Manufacturing Institute

b) Skills

- The RSP, Coleg Cambria and Wrexham University development of early stage projects, prepared for RSP consultation in March 2026
- Specific further development of a pre-16 programme, entrepreneurial network and Knowledge Transfer Partnership programme for business R&D
- Development and RSP approval to an Investment Zone Skills Plan
- Established an Investment Zone Skills Group as a sub-group to the RSP

c) Business or Stakeholder Support

- Establish relationships with key investment partners, landowners and developers
- Engage with businesses interested in growing and investing in Flintshire and Wrexham
- Design of small grants scheme ready to launch in Q1 2026
- Engagement with WU and CC on innovation support concepts for business

d) Infrastructure

- Preparation of an Innovation Centre Strategic Outline Business Case by Airbus and Coleg Cambria
- Outline proposal for infrastructure to unlock remaining development parcels at Deeside Gateway
- Ongoing engagement with landowners on Wrexham Industrial Estate regarding infrastructure requirements
- Concept development for an Innovation / SME facility at WIE
- Development of business case for bus transformation
- Establish workstream for Strategic Ecological Mitigation Delivery for WIE

4.4. Procured Programmes

4.4.1 The procurement of the Investment Zone Innovation Programme and the feasibility and demonstration of a National Manufacturing Institute for Wales are well advanced and expected to start in February 2026. Design of the Investment Zone decarbonisation programme is subject to further refinement with regional and national decarbonisation partners including Net Zero Industry Wales, NEWID and Deeside Decarbonisation Forum.

4.5. Year 1 and Year 2 Funding Allocations

The following tables set out the ADP funding allocations, organised by Theme and illustrate the capital (CDEL) and revenue (RDEL) allocations in the financial years 2025-26 (ending March 2026) and 2026-27 (ending March 2027).

4.5.1 Infrastructure

As outlined above, the key infrastructure projects in Years 1 and 2 are:

- to the establishment of a bus transformation programme, prepared by Transport for Wales and agreed by transport leads for Flintshire and Wrexham Councils;
- Capital investments to support the skills and innovation programmes;
- Capital investments in support of tax site growth at Deeside and Wrexham; and
- a capital contribution to the Padeswood Siding project (currently allocated at £2m but could be increased to up to £6m subject to the change request process between Welsh Government and ANW Growth Deal).

Description of the Intervention/project	Spatial Focus & Postcodes	IZ Funding Amount	Year 1 25/26 (Actual)			Year 2 26/27		
			CDEL	RDEL	Total	CDEL	RDEL	Total
Bus Transformation programme, supported as revenue spend	Flintshire and Wrexham	£20,000,000	£0	£0	£0	£0	£2,250,000	£2,250,000
Capital investment to support the bus transformation programme	Flintshire and Wrexham	£4,500,000	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Enterprise, Engineering and Optics Centre Project: Academic Support and R&D Output Wrexham Business Gateway (£1m) Wrexham University - Equipment at EOC	Wrexham	£3,350,000	£0	£0	£0	£1,000,000	£0	£1,000,000
Manufacturing Readiness Centre with Airbus + CC (Flintshire)	Flintshire	£17,600,000	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Industry Transformation Centre with AMRC (Wrexham) £2m Wrexham University Business Gateway (£3m)	Wrexham	£5,000,000	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Grant support to unlock key employment sites, focused on IZ Tax Sites Allocated to unlocking UtopiaCity or wider infrastructure on WIE	Wrexham	£5,000,000	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Padeswood Sidings - change in allocation subject to discussion and agreement	Flintshire	£2,000,000	£2,000,000	£0	£2,000,000	£0	£0	£0
Wrexham Gateway including Active Travel	Wrexham	£5,000,000	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Deeside Gateway (Pochin Goodman)	Flintshire	£3,500,000	£0	£0	£0	£3,500,000	£0	£3,500,000
Wrexham Industrial Estate Aligned to Sewer Upgrade Project	Wrexham	£5,000,000	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0

4.5.2 Research and Innovation

The two key research and development projects are a partnership with Bangor University to explore opportunities to enhance digital and data connectivity across Flintshire and Wrexham and capital allocations to R&D focused projects with local businesses.

Description of the Intervention/project	Spatial Focus & Postcodes	IZ Funding Amount	Year 1 25/26 (Actual)			Year 2 26/27		
			CDEL	RDEL	Total	CDEL	RDEL	Total
Bangor University Data Project	Flintshire and Wrexham North Wales	£1,017,995	£59,550	£59,550	£119,100	£59,550	£59,550	£119,100
Flintshire and Wrexham Council led business support grants	Flintshire and Wrexham	£7,909,550	£150,000	£0	£150,000	£950,000	£0	£950,000
Totals		£8,927,545	£209,550	£59,550	£269,100	£1,009,550	£59,550	£1,069,100

4.5.3 Business Support

The key elements of the business support programme are focused on supporting businesses with innovation vouchers, coordinated by Wrexham University, a capital grants programme (including micro grants) for business, dispersed and managed by the two Councils.

Description of the Intervention/project	Spatial Focus & Postcodes	IZ Funding Amount	Year 1 25/26 (Actual)			Year 2 26/27		
			CDEL	RDEL	Total	CDEL	RDEL	Total
Knowledge Transfer Partnerships, Vouchers, Mini-Full Projects, 130- Flintshire and Wrexham 140 vouchers per year	Flintshire and Wrexham	£4,675,300	£0	£667,900	£667,900	£200,000	£467,900	£667,900
Grants for Manufacturing Growth	Flintshire and Wrexham	£6,500,000	£6,500,000		£6,500,000			
Delivery of grants for manufacturing growth	Flintshire and Wrexham	£8,100,000	£950,000	£0	£950,000	£950,000	£0	£950,000
Co-ordination of existing business support arrangements and micro- grant support	Flintshire and Wrexham	£950,000	£0	£0	£0	£50,000	£50,000	£100,000
		£20,225,300	£7,450,000	£667,900	£8,117,900	£1,200,000	£517,900	£1,717,900

4.5.4 Skills

Detailed discussions are ongoing with the core skills partners (Coleg Cambria and Wrexham University) regarding the specific design of the initial skills programme. The intention is to deliver a range of business facing skills courses and employment initiatives that both address industry need and support the next wave of school leavers to engage with the roles created by growth and opportunity in the Investment Zone.

The allocations for Year 1 will be re-profiled once project confirmations have been secured (expected in March 2026).

Description of the Intervention/project	Spatial Focus & Postcodes	IZ Funding Amount	Year 1 25/26 (Actual)			Year 2 26/27		
			CDEL	RDEL	Total	CDEL	RDEL	Total
- Pre 16 STEM Engagement with Schools and Third Sector organisations - Internship Programme - Skills Academy	Flintshire and Wrexham	£7,851,555	£0	£262,000	£262,000	£2,200,000	£846,222	£3,046,222
- Capital Investment in Coleg Cambria's Deeside and Bersham sites for enhanced Apprenticeship facilities and school link provision - Capital Allocation for Skills Delivery (including pre-16)	Flintshire and Wrexham	£8,029,600	£0	£336,700	£336,700	£604,500	£941,200	£1,545,700
- Skills Bootcamps across themes of Advanced Manufacturing, Industry 4.0 and Digital, with sector-relevant content developed in partnership with industry - Co-creation of new and co-created development of current offerings to support sector-specific skill requirements*	Flintshire and Wrexham	£1,200,000	£0	£120,000	£120,000	£0	£120,000	£120,000
- Apprenticeship incentive scheme, supporting recruitment and retention of AM / Digital Apprenticeships, Higher Engineering Apprenticeships (L4) and Degree Apprenticeships (L5/L6) - Degree Apprenticeships including the co-creation of Engineering Management MSc programme and incentives to support and stimulate programme demand - PhDs and MRes	Flintshire and Wrexham	£4,486,000	£0	£373,000	£373,000	£0	£373,000	£373,000
		£21,567,155	£0	£1,091,700	£1,091,700	£2,804,500	£2,280,422	£5,084,922

4.5.5 Programme

There is £6.4m available to support the programme admin elements of the Investment Zone programme, £220,000 per annum to Flintshire, £220,000 per annum to Wrexham and £200,000 per annum to Ambition North Wales. In addition, there is £1m to support the Planning Unit in Flintshire and Wrexham and a further resource to support studies and projects in the Investment Zone. The first three of these projects is set out above.

Description of the Intervention/project	Spatial Focus & Postcodes	IZ Funding Amount	Year 1 25/26 (Actual)			Year 2 26/27		
			CDEL	RDEL	Total	CDEL	RDEL	Total
Flintshire Council	Flintshire	£2,200,000		£220,000	£220,000		£220,000	£220,000
Wrexham Council	Wrexham	£2,200,000		£220,000	£220,000		£220,000	£220,000
CJC	Flintshire and Wrexham	£2,000,000		£200,000	£200,000		£200,000	£200,000
Planning Unit	Flintshire and Wrexham	£1,000,000		£200,000	£200,000		£200,000	£200,000
Studies	Flintshire and Wrexham	£930,000		£195,000	£195,000		£150,000	£150,000
		£8,330,000		£1,035,000	£1,035,000		£990,000	£990,000

4.6. Communications

4.6.1 The ADP will set out the following key strategies:

Communications Strategy, to allocate the resource and set out the key communications opportunities in Year 1 and 2 of the Investment Zone. Initially focused on the announcements associated with the programme launch and later focused on project announcements and IZ developments. The Communications Strategy will be agreed with WG and UKG and managed by communications leads at the CJC with support from communications officers in both Councils.

Engagement Strategy, to set out a RACI for key organisations and stakeholders to the Investment Zone. The Engagement Strategy will be agreed with WG and UKG and managed by the programme leads at the CJC with support from IZ programme lead officers in both Councils.

Marketing Strategy, to develop the messaging, branding and marketing materials available to the Investment Zone and to set out how the IZ is promoted alongside key partners. The Marketing Strategy will be agreed with WG and UKG and managed by communications leads at the CJC with support from communications officers in both Councils.

4.7. Investment Zone Procurements

- 4.7.1 The expectation is that the CJC and two host Councils will follow their own procurement contract standing orders or Procurement Policy when spending Investment Zone resource on key expenditures. If the CJC requires its own procurement policy to be followed by any third party, it will set this out in the Grant Funding Agreement aligned to the investment concerned.
- 4.7.2 Businesses should follow the requirements of the Grant Funding Agreement and as a minimum follow the spirit of public sector procurement and in delivery of projects with IZ support set out how they are meeting the wider policy objectives of the Investment Zone in terms of social partnerships, with particular regard to the Fair Work Statement.
- 4.7.3 The expectation is that all expenditure above £2,500 is evidenced with three quotes and commissioned activity over £25,000 is advertised either via Sell2Wales or another appropriate platform or framework.

4.8. Annual Delivery Plan Sign Off

4.8.1 Approval of this report will enable the ADP document to be signed off by the Senior Finance Officer (s151) of the CJC. Approval to the ADP by both Governments will enable the final MOU and Grant Funding Offer Letter to be issued by UKG and WG. It may be necessary to make edits to the ADP as submitted. Any material changes will be reported to the Working Group.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1. As per the ADP Year 1 Report, the financial implications are set out in the budget tables above. We anticipate that the funds associated with Year 1 will be received by the CJC in February following completion of the Investment Zone MOU, Grant Offer Letter and Inter-Authority Agreement. The funds associated with this ADP are expected in April 2026. The interest earned on funds received will be estimated and agreed with the CJC s151 officer and allocations for this funding agreed between the IZ partners. The expectation is that resource requirements of the Investment Zone programme will require these additional funds. The IAA sets out the basis for revenue funds to be allocated to partners, and a simple claim process will be developed to provide an audit trail of payments.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1. This ADP Year 2 programme is subject to the completion of the MOU, Grant Offer Letter and IAA. Should the CJC be in receipt of the MOU and Grant Offer Letter week beginning February 2nd, the expectation is that the IAA, MOU and Grant Offer Letter could be completed within 2 weeks allowing for funds to be received for ADP Year 1 by the end of February and ADP Year 2 funds in April 2026.

APPENDICES:

None

STATUTORY OFFICERS RESPONSE:

i. Monitoring Officer:

“The Annual Delivery Plan will be one of the key platforms for delivery and performance. The CJC needs to consider the plan in this context and ensure that it is content with the proposed programme and outputs. It has been developed through the established governance arrangements of the Investment Zone.”

ii. Statutory Finance Officer:

“The approval of the Annual Delivery Plan is a key step in the governance of the Investment Zone programme. Government guidance requires the Annual Delivery Plan to be signed by Section 151 Officer and presented to UK Government and Welsh Government. I will continue to collaborate with colleagues to ensure that the Annual Delivery Plan is delivered as required and to provide the necessary support in the development of the Investment Zone.”