

**NORTH WALES CJC'S ECONOMIC WELL-BEING SUB-COMMITTEE
DECISION NOTICE**

**(Rule 20(3) of the Corporate Joint Committees (General) (No.2) (Wales) Regulations
2021)**

15 May 2026 - Virtual Meeting

Present:

Councillors: Councillor Mark Pritchard (Wrexham County Borough Council) (Chair)
Councillor Jason McLellan (Denbighshire County Council) (Vice-chair).

Dave Hughes (Flintshire County Council), Nia Jeffreys (Cyngor Gwynedd), Julie Fallon (Conwy County Borough Council) and Gary Pritchard (Isle of Anglesey County Council).

Co-opted Members: Professor Paul Spencer (Bangor University), David Roberts (Chair of the Regional Skills Partnership), Edgar Wyn Owen (Eryri National Park) and Dave Penrith (Non-Executive Adviser).

Chief Executives of Constituent Councils: Sioned Williams (Cyngor Gwynedd), Rhun ap Iareth (Conwy County Borough Council), David Fitzsimon (Flintshire County Council) and Alwyn Jones (Wrexham County Borough Council).

Other officers present: Hedd Vaughan Evans (Head of Operations), Sian Pugh (Assistant Head of Finance), Sara Jane Jones (Senior Accountant), Mark Watkins (Monitoring Officer), Eilw Alaw Hughes (Growth Deal Programme Manager), Iain Taylor (IMT Consulting), Ffion Williams (Senior Operations Officer) and Rhodri Jones (Democracy Services Officer).

Observers: Wendy Boddington (Welsh Government) and Gareth Ashman (UK Government).

Others invited:

Item 11: Martin James Jardine (Grŵp Llandrillo Menai)

Apologies:

Apologies were received from:

- Professor Edmund Burke (Bangor University) with Professor Paul Spencer deputising.
- Professor Paul Spencer (Wrexham University).
- Yana Williams (Coleg Cambria) with Steve Jackson deputising.
- Neal Cockerton (Flintshire County Council) with David Fitzsimon deputising.
- Dylan Williams (Isle of Anglesey County Council).
- Dafydd Gibbard (Cyngor Gwynedd) with Sioned Williams deputising.
- Helen White (Denbighshire County Council)
- Dewi Morgan (Cyngor Gwynedd).
- Alwen Williams (Chief Executive of North Wales CJC)
- Nia Medi Williams (Operations and Resources Manager)
- David Mathews (Land and Property Programme Manager).



**Cyd-Bwyllgor Corfforedig
Gogledd Cymru
North Wales
Corporate Joint Committee**

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

DATE OF DECISION

15 May 2026

SUBJECT

Item 5: NORTH WALES GROWTH DEAL - QUARTER 4 PERFORMANCE AND RISK REPORT

DECISION

1. To note the Q4 performance report and the updated Portfolio Risk Register.
 2. To approve the submission of the Quarter 4 Performance Report to the Welsh and UK Governments, along with local authority scrutiny committees.
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REASONS FOR THE DECISION

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

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST

Declarations of personal interest were received from Councillor Gary Pritchard (Isle of Anglesey County Council) as he was a member of the 'Menter Môn' Board in his role as Council Leader, and that the Holyhead Hydrogen Hub project was being discussed within the report. It was noted that it was not a prejudicial interest and he did not leave the meeting for the discussion.

ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION

The Statutory Officers were consulted to seek their views, which have been included in the report.



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SUBJECT

Item 6: REVENUE OUT-TURN AND CAPITAL POSITION FOR 2025/26

DECISION

- To note the Growth Deal's out-turn position for 2025/26 noting that, due to the underspend, £60,990 of the earmarked reserve would not be used, and that a smaller amount of £867,731 would be used from the North Wales Growth Deal grant, to show a neutral position for the year.
 - To note the Growth Deal's reserves position.
 - To note the Growth Deal's capital end of year review as of 31 March 2026.
 - To note the Investment Zone's out-turn position for 2025/26.
 - To note the Regional Skills Partnership's out-turn position for 2025/26.
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REASONS FOR THE DECISION

To inform the Economic Well-being Sub-committee of the Growth Deal (including the Shared Prosperity Fund and Local Area Energy Plan), Investment Zone and Regional Skills Partnership's financial positions for both revenue and capital in 2025/26.

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST

No declarations of personal interest were received.

ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION

The Statutory Officers were consulted to seek their views, which have been included in the report.



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Item 7: NORTH WALES GROWTH DEAL - COST INFLATION RESERVE

DECISION

To agree to establish a Cost Inflation Reserve for 2026/27 and provide an initial £3.96m of Growth Deal funding to this reserve.

To approve the criteria set out for the Cost Inflation Reserve and the delegated decision matrix.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

To propose the establishment of a Cost Inflation Reserve to support approved projects (Business Justification Case or Full Business Case approval) with increased costs that cannot be mitigated to ensure that projects move into delivery during 2026-27. £3.96m would be initially allocated to the Cost Inflation Reserve (to be reviewed in six months) leaving £28m of unallocated funding available to Reserve List projects.

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST

No declarations of personal interest were received.

ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION

The Statutory Officers were consulted for their views which are included in the report



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SUBJECT

Item 8: FLINTSHIRE AND WREXHAM INVESTMENT ZONE: INITIAL INNOVATION PROGRAMME PROJECTS

DECISION

1. To note progress on establishing and implementing the Investment Zone Innovation programme in close partnership with Wrexham University, AMRC, Bangor University and Net Zero Industry Wales.
 2. To note the process for developing the projects contained in this report and that they have been agreed as suitable Innovation projects for the Investment Zone to support by the North Wales Innovation Board.
 3. To approve the project proposal submitted by Wrexham University to a value of £3,645,364 and delegate authority to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Monitoring Officer, Section 151 Officer, the Chair and Vice Chair to agree and enter into a Grant Funding Agreement between the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee and Wrexham University.
 4. To approve the project proposal submitted by Bangor University to a value of £1,300,000 and delegate authority to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Monitoring Officer, Section 151 Officer, the Chair and Vice Chair to agree and enter into a Grant Funding Agreement between the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee and Bangor University which specifically reflects an agreement to implement any recommendations arising from the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee Project Review of the Growth Deal Digital Signal Processing Centre
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(DSP) Project.

- 5. To approve the project proposal submitted by Net Zero Industry Wales £260,000 and delegate authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Monitoring Officer, Section 151 Officer, Chair and Vice-chair to agree and enter into a Grant Funding Agreement between the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee and Net Zero Industry Wales on behalf of the local Industrial Decarbonisation Partnership (including CHANGE and the Deeside Decarbonisation Forum).**

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

To seek the Economic-Wellbeing Sub-committee's approval for the first three projects within the Flintshire and Wrexham Zone Innovation Programme. These projects are aligned with the emerging Investment Zone supported innovation projects currently underway with AMRC and BIC Innovation to create an Investment Zone Innovation Programme and explore the feasibility of a National Manufacturing Institute for Wales in North-east Wales.

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST

No declarations of personal interest were received.

ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION

The Statutory Officers were consulted to seek their views, which have been included in the report.



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Item 9: EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

DECISION

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

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The Chair shall propose to exclude the press and public from the meeting during the discussion on the following items due to the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 14, 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).

While there is a public interest in transparency and accountability, this is currently outweighed by the need to protect commercially sensitive information given that disclosure would likely prejudice ongoing negotiations and the authority's ability to secure the best value and protect the appropriate use of public funds.

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST

No declarations of personal interest were received.

ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION

The Statutory Officers were consulted to seek their views, which have been included in the report.



Cyd-Bwyllgor Corfforedig Gogledd Cymru North Wales Corporate Joint Committee

NORTH WALES CJC ECONOMIC WELL-BEING SUB-COMMITTEE DECISION NOTICE

DATE OF DECISION

15 May 2026

SUBJECT

Item 10: VENUE CYMRU FUTURES - CHANGE REQUEST AND UPDATED OUTLINE BUSINESS CASE: MARCH 2026

DECISION

To approve the change request and the updated Outline Business Case for Venue Cymru, giving Conwy County Borough Council an additional six months to address the outstanding issues, and to submit a Full Business Case for consideration by the Sub-Committee.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

Change requests for projects by Project Funders are matters for the Sub-committee to decide.

Approval of the Change Request will enable the Venue Cymru Futures project to proceed with a realistic, achievable timescale, aligned with confirmed funding, operational constraints and best practice delivery advice, whilst safeguarding the long-term benefits.

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST

No declarations of personal interest were received.

ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION

The Statutory Officers were consulted to seek their views, which have been included in the report.



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Item 11: GLYNLLIFON RURAL ECONOMY HUB: SUSTAINABLE DAIRY DEVELOPMENT
BUSINESS JUSTIFICATION CASE - UPDATE

DECISION

1. To note the progress and outstanding matters since the approval of the Business Justification Case in March 2026.
 2. To reaffirm approval of the Business Justification Case for the Sustainable Dairy Development Element of the Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub project subject to the approval of the Welsh and UK Governments of the assurance process undertaken, and that Grŵp Llandrillo Menai addresses the matters identified in the report and secures all necessary internal approvals for the project.
 3. To delegate to the Portfolio Director, in consultation with the Chair, Vice-chair, Monitoring Officer and Section 151 Officer to agree and confirm the outstanding matters in the report before the funding is released. If there is an expectation to re-procure the project, then the Business Justification Case will be resubmitted for consideration.
 4. To note that a funding agreement has already been entered into with Grŵp Llandrillo Menai for the Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub project following the approval of the Sheep Milk Wales Business Justification Case, and that this agreement will include the delivery of this element of the wider project if this Business Justification Case is approved by the Sub-committee.
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5. To note that there will be one more Business Case approval to deliver the outstanding elements of the project

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

To seek the Sub-committee's approval of the Business Justification Case for the Sustainable Dairy Development Element of the Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub Project.

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST

No declarations of personal interest were received.

ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION

The Statutory Officers were consulted to seek their views, which have been included in the report.



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SUBJECT

Item 12: REQUEST TO EXTEND THE VALIDITY PERIOD FOR THREE LAND AND PROPERTY PROGRAMME PROJECTS

DECISION

To approve the request to extend the Validity Period to complete the Grant Funding Agreements by three months for the following Land and Property projects:

Project Name	Date of approval of Economic Well-being Sub-Committee	Review date 6 months	Revised review date
Business Justification Case + North Anglesey Sites and Buildings	3 October 2025	2 April 2026	1 July 2026
Business Justification Case + Freeport Gateway	3 October 2025	2 April 2026	1 July 2026
Business Justification Case + Port of Mostyn	5 December 2025	4 June 2026	3 September 2026

To note that if the relevant Grant Funding Agreements have not been completed by the revised review dates, the relevant business case will need to be resubmitted to the Sub-Committee for further consideration and approval.

To confirm that the Portfolio Director is authorised to take all necessary operational steps to proceed with and complete the Grant Funding Agreements within the extended Validity Periods, subject to customary legal, financial, procurement and governance requirements.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

To seek the approval of the Sub-committee to extend the review date for the Grant Funding Agreement by three months for the reasons set out in the report.

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST

A statement of personal interest was received from Councillor Gary Pritchard (Isle of Anglesey County Council) regarding a discussion on the Business Justification Case: North Anglesey Sites and Buildings. He did not leave the meeting for the discussion and did not vote on these decisions.

ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION

The Statutory Officers were consulted to seek their views, which have been included in the report.
