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Meeting

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

Date and Time

**9.30 am, FRIDAY, 15TH MAY, 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**

Professor 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
Dave Penrith	Non-executive Adviser

### **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
Mark Watkins	Monitoring Officer
Helen Edwards	Deputy Monitoring Officer
Dewi Morgan	Chief Finance Officer
Hedd Vaughan-Evans	Portfolio Director
Nia Medi Williams	Senior Operations Officer

# AGENDA

## 1. APOLOGIES

To receive any apologies for absence.

## 2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

To receive any declaration of personal interest.

## 3. URGENT BUSINESS

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

## 4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING 5 - 12

The Chair shall propose that the minutes of the meeting held on 13 March 2026 be signed as a true record.

## 5. NORTH WALES GROWTH DEAL - QUARTER 4 PERFORMANCE AND RISK REPORT 13 - 41

Hedd Vaughan-Evans, Portfolio Director to present report.

## 6. 2025/26 REVENUE AND CAPITAL OUT-TURN POSITION 42 - 54

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

## 7. NORTH WALES GROWTH DEAL - COST INFLATION RESERVE 55 - 58

Hedd Vaughan-Evans, Portfolio Director to present report.

## 8. FLINTSHIRE AND WREXHAM INVESTMENT ZONE: INITIAL INNOVATION PROGRAMME PROJECTS 59 - 65

Iain Taylor (Investment Zone Programme Manager) to present report.

Appendices 1-3 are exempt, for the attention of Committee Members only, in accordance with 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).

## 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).

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

**10. VENUE CYMRU FUTURES CHANGE REQUEST AND UPDATED OUTLINE BUSINESS CASE MARCH 2026**

Elliw Hughes, Growth Deal Programme Manager to present report.

**11. GLYNLLIFON RURAL ECONOMY HUB SUSTAINABLE DAIRY DEVELOPMENT BUSINESS JUSTIFICATION CASE - UPDATE**

Elliw Hughes, Growth Deal Programme Manager to present report.

**12. REQUEST TO EXTEND VALIDITY PERIOD FOR THREE LAND AND PROPERTY PROGRAMME PROJECTS**

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

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## NORTH WALES CJC ECONOMIC WELL-BEING SUB-COMMITTEE 06/02/2026

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### Present:

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

Richard Jones (Flintshire County Council), Nia Jeffreys (Cyngor Gwynedd) and Gary Pritchard (Isle of Anglesey County Council).

**Co-opted Members:** Professor Paul Spencer (Bangor University), Professor Joe Yates (Wrexham University), Steve Jackson (Coleg Cambria), Aled Jones-Griffith (Grŵp Llandrillo Menai), 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:** Dylan Williams (Isle of Anglesey County Council), Dafydd Gibbard (Cyngor Gwynedd), Sarah Ecob (Conwy County Borough Council), Helen White (Denbighshire County Council), Neal Cockerton (Flintshire County Council) and Alwyn Jones (Wrexham County Borough Council).

**Other officers present:** Alwen Williams (Chief Executive of the CJC), Hedd Vaughan-Evans (Head of Operations), Sian Pugh (Assistant Head of Finance), Sara Jane Jones (Senior Accountant), Mark Watkins (Monitoring Officer), Sian Lloyd Roberts (Regional Skills Manager), Colin David Mathews (Land and Property Programme Manager), Eiliw Alaw Hughes (Growth Deal Programme Manager), Meghan Davies (Energy and Net Zero Manager), Iain Taylor (IMT Consulting), Nia Medi Williams (Resources and Operations Manager), Rees Brown (Skills Portal Project Manager), and Rhodri Jones (Democracy Services Officer).

**Observers:** Dewi Williams and Bryn Richards (Welsh Government) and Gareth Ashman (UK Government)

### 1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from: -

- Councillor Dave Hughes (Flintshire County Council) with Councillor Richard Jones deputising.
- Councillor Julie Fallon (Conwy County Borough Council)
- Professor Edmund Burke (Bangor University) with Professor Paul Spencer deputising.
- Yana Williams (Coleg Cambria) with Steve Jackson deputising.
- Rhun ap Gareth (Conwy County Borough Council) with Sarah Ecob deputising.
- Wendy Boddington (Welsh Government Observer), with Dewi Williams deputising.
- Dewi Morgan (Cyngor Gwynedd) with Sian Pugh deputising.

### 2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

Declarations of personal interest were received from Steve Jackson (Coleg Cambria) and Professor Joe Yates (University of Wrexham) for Item 5 as the organisations were involved with the project. They did not withdraw from the meeting during the discussion.

Declarations of personal interest were received from Councillor Mark Pritchard (Wrexham County Borough Council) and Joe Yates (Wrexham University) for Item 7. They did not withdraw from the meeting during the discussion on this matter.

No declarations of personal interest were received for Item 8, acknowledging that there was no need for Councillor Nia Jeffreys, Councillor Edgar Wyn Owen or Dafydd Gibbard (Cyngor Gwynedd) to declare an interest on this item.

A declaration of personal interest was received from Professor Paul Spencer (Bangor University) for Item 9, as the organisation was involved in the project. He noted that it was a prejudicial interest and he left the meeting for the item.

A declaration of personal interest was received from Councillor Gary Pritchard (Isle of Anglesey County Council) for Item 9. It was noted that it was not a prejudicial interest and he did not leave the meeting for the discussion.

A declaration of personal interest was received from Councillor Nia Jeffreys and Dafydd Gibbard (Cyngor Gwynedd) for Item 10, as the Council was one of the project sponsors. It was noted that it was not a prejudicial interest and there was no need to leave the meeting for the discussion.

A declaration of interest was received from Councillor Edgar Wyn Owen (Eryri National Park) for Item 10. It was noted that it was not a prejudicial interest and he did not leave the meeting for the discussion.

A declaration of personal interest was received from Aled Jones-Griffith (Grŵp Llandrillo Menai) for Item 11, as the organisation was involved in the project. It was noted that it was a prejudicial interest and he withdrew from the meeting for the discussion.

A declaration of personal interest was received from Aled Jones-Griffith (Grŵp Llandrillo Menai) for Item 12, as the organisation was involved in the project. It was noted that it was a prejudicial interest and he withdrew from the meeting for the discussion.

### **3. URGENT MATTERS**

None to note.

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

The Chair signed the minutes of the meetings held on 5 December 2025 as a true record.

### **5. FLINTSHIRE AND WREXHAM INVESTMENT ZONE SKILLS PROGRAMME**

The report was presented by the Regional Skills Manager and Chair of the Regional Skills Partnership.

### **DECISION**

- **To note the progress on implementing the Investment Zone programme in close partnership with the Local Education Authorities, Coleg Cambria, Wrexham University and the Regional Skills Partnership.**
- **To note the process for developing the projects contained in the documentation for this item, that they had been agreed as suitable skills projects for the Investment**

**Zone to support the Regional Skills Partnership and that they were in line with the objectives of the Investment Zone Skills Plan.**

- **To approve the project proposals submitted by Coleg Cambria worth up to £8,183,000 and to delegate to the Chief Executive of Ambition North Wales, the Monitoring Officer, and the Section 151 Officer in consultation with the Chair and Vice-chair to agree and enter into a Grant Funding Agreement between the North Wales Joint Corporate Committee and Coleg Cambria.**
- **To approve the project proposals submitted by Wrexham University to a value of £4,247,014 and delegate to the Chief Executive of Ambition North Wales, the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer in consultation with the Chair and Vice-chair to agree and enter into a Grant Funding Agreement between the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee and Wrexham University.**

## **REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

To seek the Economic Well-being Sub-committee's approval for the Flintshire and Wrexham Zone Skills Programme. This will enable the start of the Investment Zone skills programme at the time the Investment Zone is agreed between Flintshire County Council, Wrexham County Borough Council, the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee, Welsh Government and UK Government.

## **DISCUSSION**

It was explained that the report presented the Flintshire and Wrexham Investment Zone Skills Programme and sought the approval of the Sub-Committee for the initial round of projects to support the Investment Zone.

It was confirmed that the Programme has been developed in collaboration with Flintshire County Council, Wrexham County Borough Council, Coleg Cambria, Wrexham University, Careers Wales and the Regional Skills Partnership.

Members were reminded of the need to provide skills for new employees, as the workforce in general was ageing, and there was a need to prepare to deal with new technologies. It was highlighted that the aim of the Programme was to respond to those needs by ensuring that the education and skills provided met the expectations of employers. It was noted that it was intended to ensure that local residents benefited through employment because of the skills they were developing within the Investment Zone.

Members were guided through the initial projects and explained that they focused on 'Pre-16 Interventions', '16-18 Interventions', 'Pathways for 18+' and 'Re-skilling and Upskilling'. It was detailed that several further projects were underway to address these key aspects, and that they had been developed by Coleg Cambria and Wrexham University.

It was noted that Coleg Cambria was developing training on Advanced Manufacturing, digital skills and Industry Technologies 4.4. It was elaborated that the College wished to expand apprenticeships and strengthen engagement with employers, particularly small and medium enterprises (SMEs). It was emphasised that it was a complete package for 16-18 and 18+ interventions.

It was noted that Wrexham University was focusing on pathways for 18+ as well as reskilling and upskilling employees. Reference was made to some of these schemes such as Graduate Apprenticeships in Advanced Manufacturing, Graduate Internships to develop

and retain talent in the region, Master's Research and PhD which are aligned with industry priorities and higher education courses that have been co-created with employers.

These projects were all considered to strengthen the skills pathway across both Local Authorities, the wider region and assure businesses participating in the Investment Zone that there were qualified workers available to help grow their business and innovate in future.

It was emphasised that a robust, clear and structured Assurance Process had been completed. It was confirmed that all projects had been developed through the Investment Zone Skills Sub-Group using evidence based on skills needs and using the Investment Zone Skills Strategy as a core source of data and research.

It was confirmed that these projects had been refined in two stages and submitted in application forms prior to being considered. It was elaborated that these refinement steps included an Assurance Review by Medr, the regulator of post-16 education funding in Wales. It was noted that carrying out these refinement steps with the support of Medr ensured that the projects added value to the area and the region. It was elaborated that the projects within this report had recently been submitted to the Skills Partnership.

It was explained that work would be done to monitor these schemes and projects, requesting that annual delivery plans and evaluation frameworks be completed.

During the discussion, the following observations were made:-

It was felt that it was important to ensure that companies recruiting in the region confirmed what key skills young people needed to get jobs, highlighting the need for schools to work collaboratively with the Investment Zone to ensure that the right skills were developed for young people of all ages. In response to the comments, the Regional Skills Manager confirmed that teaching skills to individuals younger than 16 years old was essential as it encouraged individuals to take advantage of the projects available to 16-18 and 18+ year-olds. It was emphasised that the education authorities of Wrexham and Flintshire were leading on these projects along with their partners confirming that they went into the detail of the curriculum to ensure that the essential skills were being taught.

The officers and their partners were congratulated on their work. There was a desire to ensure that lessons were learned in the development of the Economic Well-being Sub-Committee's projects to ensure that the skills necessary for those developments were incorporated within the future Skills Programme. In response to the comments, the Chief Executive of North Wales CJC confirmed the need to maximise essential skills for those places with the most investment from those projects, allowing young people to stay in north Wales for long-term careers across the region.

The report was appreciated.

## **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.

**The Chair proposed 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.

## **7. WREXHAM GATEWAY OUTLINE BUSINESS CASE**

The report was presented by the Land and Property Programme Manager.

### **RESOLVED**

To approve the Outline Business Case for the Wrexham Gateway Project, subject to approval from the Welsh Government and UK Government of the assurance process held, and that the Council addresses the matters noted in the report, as described in Section 7, and asks for a Full Business Case to be prepared for the Sub-committee's consideration.

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 note that the approval from the Sub-committee is valid for a period of twelve months and should the project not proceed to an approved Full Business Case during this period, it will be required to return and re-submit the business case to the Sub-committee for approval.

### **REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

To seek the Sub-committee's approval of the Outline Business Case for the Wrexham Gateway project by Wrexham County Borough Council.

### **DISCUSSION**

The Report was discussed.

## **8. REQUEST FOR CHANGE: PARC BRYN CEGIN, BANGOR**

The report was presented by the Head of Operations and Land and Property Programme Manager.

### **RESOLVED**

To agree to the request for change in the Parc Bryn Cegin project to allocate an additional £1.43m of Growth Deal funding to deliver Phase 2 of the Project to provide an additional 1,856 square metres (20,000 sq. ft) of high-quality modern employment units operating on a low carbon basis.

To delegate to the Portfolio Director, in consultation with the Chair, Vice-chair, Monitoring Officer and Section 151 Officer, to agree and approve the relevant changes to the Joint Venture Agreement with the Welsh Government for the delivery of the project.

To note that the Full Business Case for Parc Bryn Cegin would be updated following the signing of the contract for phase 2 to reflect the final costs and to delegate the approval of the Full Business Case to the Portfolio Director.

### **REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

To seek the Sub-committee's approval of the request for change for the Parc Bryn Cegin project, Bangor.

#### **DISCUSSION**

The Report was discussed.

### **9. Egni Full Business Case**

The report was presented by the Energy and Net Zero Manager.

#### **RESOLVED**

To approve the Full Business Case for the Egni Project.

To authorise the Portfolio Director, in consultation with the Chair, Vice-chair, Section 151 Officer and the Monitoring Officer, to agree and enter into a funding agreement with Bangor University for the delivery of the project, subject to Bangor University addressing the outstanding issues set out in Section 7 of this report.

It was noted that approval from the Sub-committee was valid for a period of six months and should the project not proceed to a signed funding agreement 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 for the Full Business Case for the Egni Project.

#### **DISCUSSION**

The Report was discussed.

### **10. TRAWSFYNYDD INNOVATION, BUSINESS AND SKILLS CENTRE OUTLINE BUSINESS CASE**

The report was presented by the Head of Operations and the Energy and Net Zero Manager.

#### **RESOLVED**

To approve the Outline Business Case for the Trawsfynydd Innovation, Business and Skills Centre Project, subject to approval from the Welsh Government and UK Government of the assurance process held, and that Cyngor Gwynedd addresses the matters noted and described in Section 7 of this report and asks for a Full Business Case to be prepared for the Sub-committee's consideration.

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.

It was noted that the approval from the Sub-committee was valid for a period of twelve months and should the project not proceed to an approved Full Business Case during this period, it will be required to return and re-submit the business case to the Sub-committee for approval.

## **REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

To seek the Sub-committee's approval of the Outline Business Case for the Trawsfynydd Innovation, Business and Skills Centre.

## **DISCUSSION**

The Report was discussed.

### **11. GLYNLLIFON RURAL ECONOMY HUB SUSTAINABLE DAIRY DEVELOPMENT BUSINESS JUSTIFICATION CASE**

The report was presented by the Growth Deal Programme Manager.

## **RESOLVED**

To approve the draft 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 noted and described in Section 7 of this report and secures all necessary internal approvals for the project.

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 and to note that if this is not completed in advance to the Sub-committee in May then the Business Justification Case would need to be resubmitted for consideration.

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.

To note that there will be one more Business Case approval to deliver the remaining elements of the Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub project and that these will be submitted to the Sub-committee for future consideration.

## **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.

## **DISCUSSION**

The Report was discussed.

### **12. ACADEMI CROESO PROJECT (PREVIOUSLY KNOWN AS TOURISM TALENT NETWORK PROJECT) REQUEST FOR CHANGE**

The report was presented by the Growth Deal Programme Manager.

## **RESOLVED**

To approve the request for change for the Academi Croeso project, granting a final extension of up to six months to introduce a new satellite in the form of a Business

Justification Case to reallocate the remaining £1m of Growth Deal funding already committed to the project.

### **REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

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

### **DISCUSSION**

The Report was discussed.

The meeting started at 09:30 and ended at 11:20.

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Chair



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**ECONOMIC WELL-BEING SUB-COMMITTEE**

**15<sup>th</sup> May, 2026**

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**TITLE:** North Wales Growth Deal – Quarter 4 Performance and Risk Report

**AUTHOR:** Hedd Vaughan-Evans, Portfolio Director

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**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1. The purpose of the report is to present the Quarter 4 (January to March) 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 4 Performance Report and updated Portfolio Risk Register.
- 2.2. That the Sub-Committee approves the submission of the Quarter 4 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 4 Performance Report
  - Portfolio Risk Register – March 2026
- 4.4. North Wales Growth Deal – Quarter 4 Performance Report
  - 4.4.1. The Quarter 4 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 projects. This included the Outline Business Cases for Wrexham Business Gateway, Trawsfynydd Innovation, Business and Skills Centre, and Wrexham Gateway; the Full Business Case for the Egni project, and the Business Justification Case for the Sustainable Dairy Development of the Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub.

4.4.3.

Three change requests were approved. For the approval of an additional £12.1m (Growth Deal and Investment Zone) for the Padeswood project. Approval of an additional £1.43m for the Parc Bryn Cegin project which will enable Phase 2 of the project. As well as approval of a six month final extension for the Academi Croeso project to bring forward a Business Justification Case to reallocate the remaining £1m funding already committed to the project. ,

4.4.4. The Dairy Sheep Wales element of the Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub project marked the project moving into delivery with a spade in the ground event on site in February.

4.4.5. We have seen an increased interest in our Clean Energy Fund with expressions of interest and applications submitted, the first Investment Panel meeting was held approving it's first projects for the fund.

4.4.6. Progress has been made on the Cydnerth project with cables now pulled through the ducts to extend the Morlais infrastructure and connect to the National Grid.

4.4.7. The Quarter 4 performance report includes information on projects reporting against the portfolio delivery profile. One projects remains to be reporting as red at the end of the quarter and currently under review:

- Holyhead Hydrogen Hub – Project under review whilst key outstanding matters and risks are discussed/resolved.

4.5. Portfolio Risk Register – March 2026

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 changes to two risks with an increase to the residual risk score on Affordability and Political Change.

4.5.4. Overall the risk profile has remained stable during the past quarter, with the risk profile remaining high with a number of red residual risks including affordability, planning and statutory consents, and spending objectives.

## 5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

5.2. The revised delivery and expenditure profile approved by the 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.

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### **APPENDICES:**

**Appendix 1**  
**Appendix 2**

**North Wales Growth Deal – Quarter 4 Performance Report**  
**Portfolio Risk Register – March 2026**

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### **STATUTORY OFFICERS RESPONSE:**

**i. Monitoring Officer:**

“Regular reporting on Growth Deal performance forms part of the agreed governance framework for the North Wales Growth Deal. The recommendations are consistent with that framework and fall within the Sub-Committee’s role in considering performance and risk information and approving onward reporting to Government and scrutiny bodies.

Although there are no direct legal implications arising from the Report, the Sub-Committee should, however, continue to have regard to the legal and governance implications of the risks identified in the Portfolio Risk Register. Individual project approvals, change controls, funding arrangements, procurement matters and subsidy control issues should continue to be dealt with through the relevant assurance and decision-making processes.”

**ii. Statutory Finance Officer:**

“I am satisfied that the report is a fair reflection of the financial situation of Ambition North Wales during quarter 4. 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

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## 2025-26 Quarter 4 (January - March 2026)



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# 01 PORTFOLIO DIRECTOR SUMMARY

During this quarter, the Economic Well-being Sub-Committee met twice, with a number of project decisions approved. Outline Business Case approval was given for three projects: Wrexham Business Gateway, Trawsfynydd Innovation, Business and Skills Centre, and Wrexham Gateway. The Egni Full Business Case was approved, which will see a new building on the M-Sparc site in Gaerwen. The second Business Justification Case for the Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub was approved for their Sustainable Dairy Development. Three change requests were approved, the approval of an additional £12.1m for the Padeswood project (£6.1m from the Growth Deal and £6m from the Investment Zone); approval of an additional £1.43m for the Parc Bryn Cegin project which will enable Phase 2 of the project; approval was given for a six month final extension for the Academi Croeso project to bring forward a Business Justification to reallocate the remaining £1m funding already committed to the project.

Dairy Sheep Wales part of the Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub project marked the project moving into delivery with a spade in the ground event on site during February. We welcome seeing the project move into delivery, positioning North Wales as a global leader in sustainable milk production alongside creating high quality jobs within the rural community.

We are seeing increased interest in our Clean Energy Fund with expressions of interest and applications submitted, during this quarter we held our first Investment Panel meeting, and approved it's first projects for the fund.

Mobile connectivity in the region took a significant step forward with the region's first O2 4G and 5G small cell sites now live in Flintshire. This work enabled through the 4G+ project to help local authorities introduce 'Open Access Agreements' - making their infrastructure available to telecommunications companies. By providing guidance, developing best practice approaches, and engaging with industry, Ambition North Wales has supported councils to accelerate improvements in connectivity—a model increasingly used by local authorities across the UK.

There has been exciting progress on the Cydnerth project at Parc Cybi, Holyhead. Cables have now been pulled through ducts to extend the Morlais infrastructure and connect it to the National Grid.

During March we wrapped up our Shared Prosperity Fund activity, hosting a series of events. Along with Greener Edge the delivery partner we hosted two Clean Energy Feasibility Studies Knowledge Transfer events, both were well attended and positive to promote the successes of the project and share information on how these projects can progress with our Clean Energy Fund. As part of the LoRaWAN Far trials project, Derwydd Farm in Corwen welcomed farmers and rural professionals from across the region for an event showcasing how digital technology can support day-to-day operations.

Lastly, I'm pleased to share that I have been appointed as Portfolio Director for Ambition North Wales. I'm looking forward to working with partners and stakeholders across the region to maintain momentum on delivery, and lead the Growth Deal as we drive investment, realise benefits and deliver lasting impact for North Wales over the coming years.



**Hedd Vaughan-Evans**

**Portfolio Director  
Ambition North Wales**

# 02 PROJECT DELIVERY DASHBOARD

	Prosiectau Gweithredol (cyllid wedi neilltuo)  Projects in Delivery (funding committed)	Wedi cymeradwyo ddim eto yn weithredol (cyllid wedi neilltuo)  Approved not yet in delivery (funding committed)	Datblygu Achosion Busnes (cyllid wedi neilltuo)  Developing business cases (funding ringfenced)	O dan adolygiad (cyllid wedi glustnodi)  Under Review (funding ringfenced)	Rhestr wrth gefn (dim cyllid wedi glustnodi)  Reserve List (unallocated funding)
Nifer prosiectau Number of Projects	7	10	8	1	11
Dyranid Cyllid Cynllun Twf Growth Deal Funding Allocation (£234.85*)	£57.34m	£71.52m	£70.23m	£3.80m	£31.96
Cyfanswm Buddsoddiad Total Investment	£130.46m	£193.49m	£359.82m	£28.77m	£287.46**
Swyddi Jobs	742	991	1,464	20	783**

\* 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

# O2 BENEFITS DASHBOARD

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



Swyddi Newydd  
New Jobs

63



Swyddi Adeiladwaith  
Construction Jobs

58



Swyddi Ddiogelwyd  
Safeguarded Jobs

0

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



Buddsoddiad Cynllun Twf  
Growth Deal Investment

£30,652,413.01



Cyfanswm Buddsoddiad  
Total Investment

£34,208,618.52



Refeniw Ddiogelwyd  
Revenue Secured

£7,054,089

Buddion ehangach  
Wider Benefits

Incwm Cyfalaf wedi Drosoddedu  
Capital Income Leveraged

£81,016

Gofod Llawr wedi Ddatblygu  
Floorspace Developed

2,349m<sup>2</sup>

Unigolion wedi ymgysylltu  
Individuals engaged

5,212

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

66

Myfyrwyr yn cwblhau cymhwysterau  
Students completing qualifications

907\*

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

286

\*this is a gross figure subject to net baseline deductions

\*mae hwn yn ffigur gros sy'n destun dileadau llinell sylfaen net

# 03 DIGITAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

## Programme Aim

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



RAG Status	Programme Manager Commentary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The launch of both the 4G+ and Advanced Wireless Grant schemes has been deferred until after the 2026 election in May.</li> <li>• The final items of equipment for the DSP Centre project have been delayed due to supply chain issues but are expected to arrive from the next quarter.</li> <li>• A second small cell deployment using local authority owned infrastructure through use of open access agreements has been in development this quarter and is due to be completed next quarter. Five agreements have now been signed to date across the region with more expected in Q1 26/27. A wider group of public sector organisations has now been engaged and a model agreement which can be shared across the region has been developed.</li> <li>• The second meeting of the Regional Telecommunications Forum was held this quarter with representation from local authorities and industry, with a focus on the visitor economy and connectivity in the National Park.</li> </ul>



**Ian Jones**  
Senior Responsible  
Owner



**Stuart Whitfield**  
Programme  
Manager

**TBC**  
Lead Member



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



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



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

# 03 DIGITAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

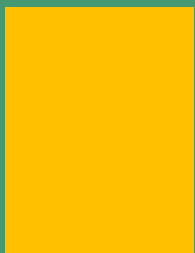
Project (Project Sponsor)		Project Stage	Key Milestones (this quarter)	Key Milestones (next quarter)	RAG Status	RAG Rationale
<b>Digital Signal Processing Centre</b> Bangor University		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project in Delivery</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5G Mobile Private Network installed at the Centre to demonstrate applications in health and social care, agri-tech, and advanced manufacturing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delivery of final items of equipment.</li> <li>Launch of structured regional business engagement.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Final items of equipment affected by supply chain delays.</li> <li>Project is behind target on additional grant capture.</li> <li>Regional business engagement delayed due to capacity issues.</li> </ul>
<b>Connected Key Sites and Corridors</b> Ambition North Wales	4G+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approved not yet in delivery</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Second telecoms forum meeting held.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grant scheme launch.</li> <li>Second small cell deployment to be commissioned.</li> <li>Third telecoms forum meeting to be held</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Second installation of small cell infrastructure is expected to be completed by May.</li> <li>Grant scheme launch deferred until after election.</li> </ul>
<b>Connected Campuses</b> Ambition North Wales	Advanced Wireless	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approved not yet in delivery</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Further engagement of prospective private and public sector applicants.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grant Scheme launch.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grant scheme launch deferred until after election.</li> </ul>
	LPWAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approved not yet in delivery</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initial purchases and installation of gateways.</li> <li>Further LoRaWAN deployment plans to be submitted.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Further purchases of gateways by participating local authorities.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LPWAN deployments have started with further deployment plans to be approved in Q1 followed by more installations.</li> </ul>

# 04 LOW CARBON ENERGY PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

## Programme Aim

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



RAG Status	Programme Manager Commentary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Cydnerth</b> - The third loan draw down was completed in March with construction work continuing.</li> <li>• <b>Clean Energy Fund (Smart Local Energy)</b> - First investment papers presented for approval to the Investment Panel. Expressions of interest and applications continue across all 3 sub funds.</li> <li>• <b>Trawsfynydd</b> - OBC approved by the Economic Well-being Sub-committee.</li> <li>• <b>Egni</b> - FBC approved by the Economic Well-being Sub-committee</li> </ul>



Cllr Gary Pritchard  
Lead Member



Dylan Williams  
Senior Responsible  
Owner



Meghan Davies  
Programme  
Manager



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



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



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

# 04 LOW CARBON ENERGY PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Project (Project Sponsor)	Project Stage	Key Milestones (this quarter)	Key Milestones (next quarter)	RAG Status	RAG Rationale
<b>Cydnherth (Morlais)</b> Menter Môn	Project in delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Third loan drawdown completed in March.</li> <li>Construction work underway.</li> <li>Benefits monitoring underway.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued tracking and monitoring of project and benefits.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project has moved into delivery and is progressing well.</li> </ul>
<b>Egni</b> Bangor University	Approved not yet in delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submission and approval of Full Business Case to Economic Well-being sub-committee.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Progression of Grant Funding Agreement.</li> <li>Start on site.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project is green as the Full Business Case has been approved.</li> <li>Confirmation of Freeport Funding.</li> </ul>
<b>Clean Energy Fund (Smart Local Energy)</b> Ambition North Wales	Project in delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued submission of Expressions of Interest across all 3 sub funds.</li> <li>Full applications received for voluntary and private sub fund.</li> <li>Promotional events and engagement.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promotional events and engagement</li> <li>Award of first funds from voluntary and private sector sub funds.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project is green as Full Business Case has been approved and the fund launched.</li> </ul>
<b>Holyhead Hydrogen Hub</b> Menter Môn	Project under review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project reviewed and remains within the programme for further 6 months Menter Môn are required to submit the Outline Business Case and secure planning within this timeframe.</li> <li>Transferring £4.8m Department for Energy Security and Net Zero funds underway.</li> <li>Preparation of Outline Business Case.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Menter Môn continued engagement to attract offtakers.</li> <li>Preparation of Outline Business Case.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RAG status remains red while key outstanding matters are addressed including submission of OBC by April 2026 and planning approval.</li> </ul>
<b>Trawsfynydd Innovation, Business and Skills Centre</b> Cyngor Gwynedd	Developing the Full Business Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outline Business case approved by Economic Well-being Sub-committee.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preparation of Full Business case.</li> <li>Addressing outstanding matters recommended by the PMO including planning and land lease agreements.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project is green as has submitted the Outline Business Case and it has been approved and now has 12 months to submit the Full Business Case.</li> </ul>

# 05 LAND AND PROPERTY PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

**Programme Aim**

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



RAG Status	Programme Manager Commentary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Parc Bryn Cegin, Bangor</b> - Change request for an additional £1.43m of Growth Deal Funding approved by Economic Well-being Sub-Committee for Phase 2 of the Project. Commencement on site works scheduled for w/c 7th April.</li> <li>• <b>Former North Wales Hospital, Denbigh</b> - Enabling Works and Ecological Mitigation Works contracts completed in March 2026.</li> <li>• <b>Freeport Gateway</b> - MoU for Freeport Seed Corn Funding with UK Government completed in March 2026.</li> <li>• <b>Padeswood</b> - Change request for additional £12.1m of Growth Deal Funding approved by the Sub-Committee in February 2026.</li> </ul>



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
<b>Former North Wales Hospital, Denbighshire</b> Jones Bros (Ruthin) Limited / Denbighshire County Council	Approved not yet in delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ecological Mitigation Works contract and Enabling works contract completed in March 2026.</li> <li>Draft Grant funding agreement agreed with Denbighshire County Council.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Site clearance Works Contract to commence Q1 26/27.</li> <li>Grant Funding Agreement for Phase 1 works to be completed and signed.</li> <li>Site Clearance Works contract for Phase 1 works due to be agreed in early April 2026.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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. The current Listed Building Application to demolish remaining structures other than the Main Range and the Chapel is subject to detailed discussions with CADW.</li> </ul>
<b>Parc Bryn Cegin, Bangor</b> Welsh Government / Ambition North Wales	Phase 1 of the Project in delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read Construction are coming to the end of Stage 4 Detailed Design phase.</li> <li>Change request for additional funding of £1.43m for Phase 2 of the project approved by the Economic Well-being Sub-Committee.</li> <li>Ministerial Approval for the allocation of additional £300k of capital funding for Phase 2 and the re-allocation of £1.2m obtained in March 2026.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commencement on site works scheduled for w/c 7th April. 2026</li> <li>Planning - consent obtained subject to conditions. Read Construction to discharge pre commencement conditions prior to site works commencing.</li> <li>Drainage consent.</li> <li>The construction works might not begin until late April/early May to allow for ecological works to be completed.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RAG status is assessed as green, project on track for delivery commencing on site in April 2026.</li> </ul>
<b>Wrexham Gateway</b> Wrexham County Borough Council	Developing the Full Business Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outline Planning Application submitted and waiting for ecological surveys.</li> <li>Council appointed a consultant to agree a solution for phosphates.</li> <li>Discussions ongoing with landowners for site assembly.</li> <li>OBC approved by Economic Well-being Sub-Committee in March 2026.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued progress on site assembly including resolving parking for the proposed new building for the Scouts and Guides existing building. Continued progress on site assembly including resolving parking for the proposed new building for the Scouts and Guides.</li> <li>Commence ecological surveys in May.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Risk rating as green given project is progressing to Full Business Case/Outline Planning application stage.</li> </ul>
<b>Gogledd Môn Sites and Premises</b> Isle of Anglesey County Council (IoACC)	Approved not yet in delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grant Funding Agreement (GFA) near completion.</li> <li>IoACC tender date closed and a proposed Main Contractor selected.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commencement of works on site.</li> <li>Completion of Joint Venture with Welsh Government.</li> <li>Completion of Grant Funding Agreement.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RAG status is assessed as green, project on track for delivery commencing on site in Q1FY26/27.</li> </ul>

# 05 LAND AND PROPERTY PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

<p><b>Freeport Gateway</b> Isle of Anglesey County Council</p>	<p>Approved not yet in delivery</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MoU completed with UK and Welsh Government for Freeport seed capital funding in March 2026.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completion of the Heads of Terms with loACC. and completion of the Grant Funding Agreement.</li> <li>loACC purchase of Peboc Site.</li> <li>Commencement of works on site scheduled for Q1 26/27.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RAG status is assessed as green, project on track for delivery commencing on site in Q1FY26/27</li> </ul>
<p><b>Padeswood</b> Transport for Wales (TfW)</p>	<p>Developing the Full Business Case</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approval for the Change Request for £12.1m additional capital funding from the Sub-Committee obtained in February 2026.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clarity on relationship between TfW and Network Rail and which organisation will take responsibility of developing the Full Business Case for the project.</li> <li>Provision of a firm timeframe for project delivery.</li> <li>Provision of contact details for Heidelberg.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Risks all deemed within acceptable parameters.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Albert Gubay Business School</b> Bangor University</p>	<p>Developing the Full Business Case</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FBC and appendices currently in an advanced form.</li> <li>Full planning application submitted.</li> <li>Contractor undertaking final cost plan.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete Head of Terms and Grant Funding Agreement.</li> <li>FBC approval and completion of all supporting documentation.</li> <li>Obtain full planning consent and completion of all planning conditions.</li> <li>Final project cost plan.</li> <li>Project Commencement during Q1 26/27</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project rating is green subject to completion of planning, costs and Full Business Case approval.</li> <li>Commencement scheduled in Spring 2026.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Port of Mostyn</b> Port of Mostyn</p>	<p>Approved not yet in delivery</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Procurement has completed for the appointment of Main Contractor for the proposed Cladding Works Package on the March Row Site.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Confirmation of security fencing, and heavy lift pad work packages tenders.</li> <li>Completion of the Grant Funding Agreement.</li> <li>Commencement of Subsidy Control registration on the database.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>

# 06 AGRI-FOOD AND TOURISM PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

## Programme Aim

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



RAG Status	Programme Manager Commentary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Responsible Adventure</b> - The project elements continue the journey towards presenting the required business cases, stakeholder engagement has been conducted to discuss various issues - planning, acquisition of land, value engineering, market research and optioneering.</li> <li>• <b>Academi Croeso</b> - change request approved for additional time to bring forward a Business Justification Case for replacement spoke. Work completed at Portmeirion.</li> <li>• <b>Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub</b> - A celebratory spade in the ground event was held at Glynllifon for the Sheep Milk Wales. The Business Justification Case was approved for the Sustainable Dairy Development element of the project, Procurement activity for Sustainable Dairy Development is being value engineered.</li> <li>• <b>Venue Cymru Futures</b> - Multiple procurement activities undertaken to progress with the delivery of the project. Change request submitted for consideration of additional time to bring forward the Full Business Case and phased delivery approach.</li> </ul>



Cllr. Julie Fallon  
Lead Member



Sioned Williams  
Senior Responsible  
Owner



Eilw Hughes  
Programme Manager



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



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



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

# 06 AGRI-FOOD AND TOURISM PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Project (Project Sponsor)	Project Stage	Key Milestones (this quarter)	Key Milestones (next quarter)	RAG Status	RAG Rationale
<b>Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub</b> Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	Sheep Milk Wales approved and in delivery  Sustainable Dairy approved not yet in delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Business Justification Case for Sustainable Dairy Development approved by Sub-Committee.</li> <li>Celebratory event to mark the spade in the ground for the Sheep Milk Wales element.</li> <li>Technical Meetings being held with National Resources Wales (NRW) and GLLM regarding planning to the Hub.</li> <li>Procurement for Sustainable Dairy Development completed, ongoing value engineering and optioneering.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remaining Procurement work for Sheep Milk Wales element.</li> <li>Complete procurement process for Sustainable Dairy element.</li> <li>Drafting of Full Business Case for the whole project.</li> <li>Planning for Hub to be submitted.</li> <li>First Claim to be submitted.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project moved into delivery.</li> <li>Feedback on planning results in low level risk</li> <li>Contingency plan for any unexpected costs.</li> </ul>
<b>Tourism Talent Network</b> Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	Project in delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Build Completion at Portmeirion.</li> <li>Final claim received for Portmeirion.</li> <li>Replacement Spoke Change request approved for additional time to bring forward a Business Justification Case.</li> <li>Commencement of the three-stage selection process for the replacement spoke.</li> <li>Procurement live for phase 2 of the Zip World construction.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outcome of the procurement activity for Zip World.</li> <li>Signing of back-to-back Funding Agreement with Zip World.</li> <li>Celebratory event at Portmeirion - date TBC.</li> <li>Complete selection process for the Replacement Spoke.</li> <li>Draft BJC for replacement spoke.</li> <li>First Claim submission for Zip World.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pending Back-to-back agreement sealing with Zip World.</li> <li>Delayed progression with the potential replacement spoke.</li> <li>Re-profile of budget will need to be completed.</li> </ul>
<b>Responsible Adventure</b> Zip World	Developing BJC/Full Business Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continuous discussions with Cadw and Cyngor Gwynedd for the slate explorer planning.</li> <li>Discussion undertaken with Conwy Council Highways for Betws-y-Coed Filter Lane.</li> <li>Continued stakeholder engagement.</li> <li>Substantial negotiations and optioneering following procurement of the design for the swing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submission of Planning application for slate explorer.</li> <li>Procurement for Betws-y-Coed masterplan.</li> <li>Decision on design for the Swing at Penrhyn.</li> <li>Business Justification Case for the Slate Explorer.</li> <li>Further stakeholder engagement.</li> <li>SPEN confirmation on additional power supply.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planning consent challenges.</li> <li>Specialised project - vulnerability to market.</li> <li>Timescales delays.</li> </ul>
<b>Venue Cymru Futures</b> Conwy County Borough Council	Developing the Full Business Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Procurement process undertaken for                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project Director</li> <li>Design team (appointed)</li> <li>Cost consultant</li> </ul> </li> <li>MoU signed with Uk Gov. for the £10m funding.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Begin planning surveys and engagement.</li> <li>Finalise seating plan design for the auditorium reconfiguration.</li> <li>Appointment of the Cost Consultant.</li> <li>Approval of Change request by sub-committee.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planning consent - low risk.</li> <li>Funding model is all public funds.</li> <li>Procurement process.</li> <li>Change request - time delay.</li> </ul>

# 07 INNOVATION IN HIGH VALUE MANUFACTURING PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New phased delivery plan presented to Ambition North Wales - change request and updated OBC review.</li> <li>• Essential surveys commissioned.</li> </ul>	
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## Programme Aim

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



RAG Status	Programme Manager Commentary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>Enterprise Engineering and Optics Centre</b> project continues with the refurbishment of the OpTIC center in St Asaph, optioneering continues for the hydrogen lab. Majority of the equipment has been procured for the CafodAU building.</li> <li>• The <b>Centre for Environmental Biotechnology</b> undertaking ample market research and procurement activity agreed with Ambition North Wales for the reallocation of the underspend.</li> <li>• <b>Society 5.0</b> project Business Justification Case received delegated final approval. Grant Funding Agreement sealed.</li> <li>• <b>Project Prince Knaut</b> - Complexity of obtaining planning consent lies prominently around Environmental Permits, ample stakeholder engagement, support and optioneering process taking place.</li> <li>• <b>Wrexham University Business Gateway</b> - Outline Business Case approved by subcommittee, stakeholder engagement progression to align services.</li> </ul>



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



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



Cllr David Hughes  
Lead Member

Tony Ward  
Senior Responsible  
Owner

Elliw Hughes  
Programme Manager

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

Project (Project Sponsor)	Project Stage	Key Milestones (this quarter)	Key Milestones (next quarter)	RAG Status	RAG Rationale
<b>Enterprise Engineering and Optics Centre</b> Wrexham University	Project in delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Procurement activity for CanfodAU equipment</li> <li>2<sup>nd</sup> draft BJC Ambition North Wales review shared with Wrexham University.</li> <li>Start of the OpTIC Centre refurbishment.</li> <li>Award Chiller contract for OpTIC.</li> <li>Design optioneering for hydrogen lab.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approval of Business Justification Case for Plas Coch equipment.</li> <li>Procurement for hydrogen lab.</li> <li>Completion of the OpTIC renovation.</li> <li>Draft BJC for Hydrogen lab.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project in delivery and on track.</li> <li>No significant issue within project, project progressing well. Slight delay to project due to procurement/contract finalisation.</li> <li>Benefits being realised.</li> </ul>
<b>Centre for Environmental Biotechnology</b> Bangor University	Project in delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Procurement activity optioneering and market research for the underspend allocation.</li> <li>Process Claim - on profile.</li> <li>Main bioreactor delivered to Henfaes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Procurement activity completed for underspend additional works.</li> <li>Soft comes on the bioreactor installation ahead of formal project launch.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project nearing completion of delivery stage.</li> <li>Benefits being realised</li> <li>Low risk project.</li> </ul>
<b>Society 5.0</b> Wrexham University	Project in delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Further procurement activity.</li> <li>Business Justification Case delegated approval completion.</li> <li>Grant Funding Agreement signed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Claim full expenditure of project.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Equipment only project.</li> <li>Ample testing of market conducted for remaining equipment.</li> <li>Short project life span from start to completion of delivery.</li> <li>Slight delay in claiming.</li> </ul>
<b>Project Prince</b> Knauf	Developing the Full Business Case.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued stakeholder engagement and support provided by Ambition North Wales and Flintshire County Council with Planning issues.</li> <li>Planning Consultations conducted.</li> <li>Planning Application submitted for remediation &amp; Site preparation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submit planning application for main build (w/c 13th April).</li> <li>Award contract for main build subject to planning permission.</li> <li>Finalise sale and purchase agreement with Tata.</li> <li>Start on site with remediation.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complex Planning and Environmental process to obtain consent, but ample stakeholder engagement being made to mitigate as much risk.</li> </ul>
<b>Business Gateway</b> Wrexham University	Developing the Full Business Case.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OBC approved by Sub-committee.</li> <li>Communication on the approval.</li> <li>Procurement live for QS and first construction phase.</li> <li>Stakeholder meeting to align services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Award contract for first phase of construction and QS work.</li> <li>Procurement activity live on phase 2 of construction.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Progression towards FBC going well.</li> <li>Grant Funding Agreement being drafted.</li> <li>Procurement activity alignment with Ambition North Wales processes.</li> </ul>

# 07 INNOVATION IN HIGH VALUE MANUFACTURING PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Workshop for Welsh Government stakeholder to discuss services.</li></ul>		
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# 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			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	⌚	
	Advance	No consenting at grant scheme level			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	⌚	
Cydnherth (Morlais)	✓	✓	✓	⌚	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Egni	✓	✓	⌚		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	⌚	
Smart Local Energy	No consenting required at fund level				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Holyhead Hydrogen Hub	✓	✓	⌚		Project under review							
Trawsfynydd Business, Innovation and Skills	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	⌚			
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	⌚				✓	✓	✓	✓	⌚			
Business Gateway	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	⌚			

# 09 GROWTH DEAL GRANT EXPENDITURE PROFILE

			Portfolio Business Case 2025 Targets		Approved Project Business Case Targets			Actual	
			Jobs Created (net)	(£M) Total Investment*	OBC/ 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	27	2.76
	Connected Key Sites and Corridors	4G+	38	8.19	FBC	29	10.15	0	0.19
		Connected Campuses	LPWAN	20	1.14	BJC	20	1.14	0
	Advanced Wireless		173	30.31	FBC	200	37.6	0	0.01
Low Carbon Energy	Cydnerth (Morlais)		253	15.99	FBC	230	13.8	12	8.87
	Egni		60	10.01	FBC	49	3.94	0	0
	Smart Local Energy		186	102.50	FBC	193	70	2	0.46
	Holyhead Hydrogen Hub		20	16.22	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Trawsfynydd Business, Innovation and Skills Centre		n/a	n/a	OBC	140	19.55	n/a	n/a
Land and Property	Former North Wales Hospital, Denbigh		70	85.85	FBC	70	74.34	0	0
	Parc Bryn Cegin, Bangor		54	7.11	FBC	83	8.84	0	0.29
	Wrexham Gateway		697	27.00	OBC	418	41.46	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
Agri-food and Tourism	Glynlifon Rural Economy Hub		106	19.29	BJC x2 (partial)	106	19.29	0	0
	Tourism Talent Network		68	19.28	FBC	68	19.03	0	3.94
	Responsible Adventure		291	16.66	OBC	291	16.7	n/a	n/a
	Venue Cymru Futures		59	19.78	OBC	59	19.78	n/a	n/a
Innovation in High Value Manufacturing	Enterprise Engineering and Optics Centre		109	18.82	FBC	90	18.12	2	12.25
	Centre for Environmental Biotechnology		67	3.46	BJC	180	3.46	13	2.56
	Society 5.0		19	3.0	BJC	19	3.0	0	0.21
	Project Prince		268	180.20	OBC	269	180	n/a	n/a
	Business Gateway		n/a	n/a	OBC	130	22.93	n/a	n/a
RESERVE LIST (Medium Case)			738	111.90					
Portfolio Management Office Costs			7	5.15			5.15	7	2.65
Growth Deal Portfolio Total			Targets		8 OBC 17 FBC	Approved		Delivered	
			4,114	915.73		3,456	697.92	56	34.21

\* 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

\*\*\* n/a includes OBC and FULL BUSINESS CASE approved information.

# 10 GROWTH DEAL PROJECTS: GROWTH DEAL CAPITAL FUNDING ALLOCATION PROFILE

Programme	Project	Project Sponsor	Profile 25/26 (£m)	Actual YTD (£m)	Variance (£m)*	Rationale
Digital	Digital Signal Processing Centre	Bangor University	0.65	0.43	-0.22	Claims submitted for DSP, and 4G+ have started spend on the project.
	4G+ - Connected Key Sites and Corridors	Ambition North Wales	0.29	0.19	-0.10	
	LPWAN	Ambition North Wales	0.15	0.02	-0.13	
	Advanced Wireless	Ambition North Wales	0.00	0.01	0.01	
Low Carbon Energy	Cydnherth (Morlais)	Menter Môn	8.87	8.87	0	Three and final loan drawdown on Cydnherth received. The Smart Local Energy project launched in July and started claiming.
	Smart Local Energy	Ambition North Wales	1.83	0.46	-1.37	
Land and Property	Former North Wales Hospital, Denbigh	Ambition North Wales	0.50	0.00	-0.5	Parc Bryn Cegin project has moved into delivery. FNWH, Gogledd Môn, Freeport Gateway, and AGBS and Port of Mostyn are expected to move into delivery in Q1 26/27.
	Parc Bryn Cegin, Bangor	Ambition North Wales	0.15	0.29	0.14	
Agri-food and Tourism	Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub	Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	1.00	0.00	-1.00	The Sustainable Dairy Development BJC has been approved. The Tourism Talent Network have started claiming.
	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	1.30	-0.88	Claims submitted for the EEOC and CEB project.
	Centre for Environmental Biotechnology	Bangor University	1.68	1.48	-0.2	
	Society 5.0	Wrexham University	15	0.21	-1.29	
Portfolio Management Office Costs			1.35	0.87	-0.48	
Total			22.15	15.33	-6.82	

\*Profile 2025/26 – Approved by the Economic Well-being Sub-Committee on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2026

\*\*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, 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	Cydnherth (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.
	Trawsfynydd Business Innovation and Skills Centre	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.
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
	Wrexham Gateway	Wrexham County Borough Council	This project is a sustainable development of a vibrant regenerated area, creating a focal point to support business investment and a multi-modal transportation hub with links to active travel.
Agri-food and Tourism	Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub	Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	The vision is to create a distinctive, world-class Rural Economy Hub at Glynllifon, offering a range of facilities and services to strengthen and enhance the regional economy, specifically through growing the food and drink sector.
	Tourism Talent Network	Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	Future-proofing the pipeline of skills provision and increase commercial benefits from one of the most established sectors in the region. The talent network will stimulate public-private collaboration to coordinate action on skills and product development to transform and accelerate the growth of the tourism and hospitality sector in the region.
	Responsible Adventure	Zip World	A multi-element project as part of a sustainable and eco-tourism package including a new sustainable Cable Car, Slate Explorer including visitor viewing platform, Swing and an eBus Network.
	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.
	Business Gateway	Wrexham University	Serving as a bridge between Wrexham University and local industry, fostering collaboration, innovation, job creation and inclusive economic growth.

Reserve List Projects		
Project	Sponsor	Summary
<b>Property Fund</b>	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.
<b>Innovation and Growth Fund</b>	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.
<b>Adventure Parc Snowdonia</b>	Global Shred Ventures	Deliver a nationally significant new visitor experience on the site of the former Adventure Parc Snowdonia facility.
<b>Queens Market Hotel Development</b>	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.
<b>Move on accommodation St Asaph Business Park</b>	Denbighshire County Council	Development of high-tech industrial units on St. Asaph Business Park.
<b>Bangor Health Hub</b>	Cyngor Gwynedd	To develop an integrated Health and Wellbeing Hub in a vacant former shopping centre in the heart of Bangor city centre.
<b>Quarry Battery</b>	Quarry Battery Co.	A £300m Pumped Storage Hydro / BESS Hybrid scheme in North Wales.
<b>New-H2</b>	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.
<b>Kinmel Studios</b>	Roger Morris	A project to support the film industry in North Wales.
<b>Western Gateway, Wrexham</b>	Wrexham County Borough Council	Delivery of primary services to enable the site to be brought to the market for sale and development.
<b>Holyhead Gateway</b>	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.

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				
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.			25	↔	<p>Routine reallocation of staff capacity to priority projects</p> <p>Monthly highlight reports to Programme Board with escalation routes to Economic Well Being Sub Committee</p> <p>Programme and project RAID logs in place to record risks and manage issues with mitigation managed at project level.</p> <p>Project business cases and implementation plans to clearly set out risks to project delivery and mitigations. PMO working with sponsors to identify opportunities to minimise delay and where delay is unavoidable minimise impact</p> <p>Quarterly reports to the Economic Wellbeing Sub-Committee and Portfolio Board with specific issues to escalate where necessary.</p> <p>PMO working with sponsors at project-level to identify opportunities to minimise delay and where delay is unavoidable minimise impact</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Monthly</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>Quarterly</p> <p>In place</p> <p>In place</p>	<p>PMO</p> <p>PMO</p> <p>PMO</p> <p>PMO, Project Sponsor</p> <p>PMO</p> <p>PMO, Project Sponsors</p>	3	4	12	↔	Open	<p>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</p> <p>OBC and FBC approvals have addressed some delays. Use of PMO resources more flexibly has proven to be effective to accelerate business case development. Risk probability will reduce further if progress is sustained.</p> <p>A number of projects are experiencing delays which will impact on the timing of benefits realisation.</p> <p>Withdrawal of projects from the Portfolio which have experienced sustained delays reflects reduction in residual probability from 4 to 3</p>	24/03/2026
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			25	↔	<p>Project Business Cases will set out detailed project level financial, commercial and risk management measures to manage costs.</p> <p>Robust performance, risk and financial reporting arrangements will be established for all projects</p> <p>Once Project Business Cases are approved, any additional costs incurred will be the responsibility of the Project Sponsor and alternative funding options will be considered.</p> <p>PMO engaging with sponsors at project level to identify mitigation for cost increases</p> <p>Introduction of new projects introduces further potential for affordability risk, to be managed through business case development.</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>Monthly</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>Monthly</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>PMO, Project Sponsor</p> <p>PMO</p> <p>PMO</p> <p>PMO</p>	4	4	16	▲	Open	<p>Risk reviewed. Residual risk probability increased to 4. Ongoing conflict in the Middle East presents further risk on supply chains and project sponsors are currently being consulted on their assessment of this risk. Early indications suggest there will be an increase in costs across many categories, with the full impact on global supply chains not yet understood. Residual risk to be reassessed across the Portfolio when further details are available. The residual risk rating remains high as costs have increased significantly since the Growth Deal was agreed in December 2020. While costs have stabilised at the moment, the Growth Deal funding from government is fixed at the amount agreed in 2020 therefore affordability remains a challenge for project. This is being managed on a project by project basis with some projects able to look at design changes, changes to deliver models and others needing to secure additional funding from other sources.</p>	24/03/2026
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.			25	↔	<p>Project business cases will set out the consenting requirements for each project and the risks to project delivery</p> <p>Lead Role in PMO assigned for planning</p> <p>Continued engagement with project sponsors and consenting authorities to understand consenting process and risks with support provided where appropriate at project level</p> <p>Lessons learnt review to be delivered following project-level consenting delays</p> <p>Chair and/or Portfolio Director to write to consenting authorities highlighting the impact of delayed decisions when individual project risks are escalated.</p> <p>Refer back to Programme SRO to review risk/issue of Phosphate consenting affecting multiple projects to propose appropriate mitigation.</p> <p>For reserve list projects criteria on planning has been set prior to business case submission ie. no commitment of funding until business case approval</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>In place</p> <p>As required</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>PMO, Project SROs</p> <p>PMO</p> <p>PMO</p> <p>PMO, Project sponsors</p> <p>Portfolio Director</p> <p>Programme SRO</p> <p>PMO</p>	5	5	25	↔	Open	<p>Risk Reviewed. The process to upgrade water treatment works to mitigate phosphates from their discharges is taking longer and this is now impacting planning applications. No Growth Deal projects affected yet but the Wrexham Gateway has had an outline application submitted. There is an emerging risk associated with SUDS/SABs potentially affecting consenting. Consenting remains a high risk and is being managed at a programme and project level within the Growth Deal.</p>	24/03/2026
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.			20	↔	<p>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</p> <p>Grant Funding Agreements to contractually commit sponsors to delivery of spending objectives, with regular reporting and monitoring to ensure early intervention where required.</p> <p>Portfolio review and change control process in place.</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>PMO, Project SROs</p> <p>PMO</p> <p>PMO</p> <p>PMO</p>	4	4	16	↔	Open	<p>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.</p>	24/03/2026
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			20	↔	<p>Ambition North Wales approved Revenue budget to extend fixed term contracts.</p> <p>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</p> <p>PMO engage partners to ensure capacity for delivery and promote recruitment activity</p> <p>Recruitment over Q3/Q4 for Portfolio Director, Project Managers, and other new CJC Roles to increase resources supporting the PMO.</p>	<p>In place</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Reviewed monthly</p> <p>In place</p>	<p>PMO</p> <p>PMO</p> <p>PMO, Project Sponsors</p> <p>PMO</p>	3	4	12	↔	Open	<p>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.</p>	24/03/2026

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				
R006	21/10/2020	Environmental	Climate Change and Biodiversity	Portfolio Director	If projects do not take account of carbon emissions or biodiversity loss within project level assessments, there is a risk the portfolio could contribute towards the issues of climate change and biodiversity loss	4	3	12	↔	Position statement on Climate Change and Biodiversity adopted by the Economic Ambition Board. Project business cases to demonstrate delivery against the adopted the position. Methodology on how to take account of carbon emissions and biodiversity loss within project business cases now published and shared with all projects. Streamlined methodology for smaller and low risk projects developed with WLGA to be adopted	N/A N/A In place In place	NWEAB PMO, Project SROs PMO PMO	3	3	9	↔	Open	Risk reviewed. No changes to gross or residual risk scores. Roll out of methodology and associated training continues	24/03/2026
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	↔	Continued engagement with Project Sponsors and private sector partners and coordination of funder/investors Development of robust project business cases and contractual agreements for Growth Deal funding New investment strategy in place to support PMO engage funders and secure private investment	N/A N/A In place	PMO, Project SROs PMO, Project SROs PMO	4	4	16	↔	Open	No change to residual risk. Global economic conditions associated with conflict in Middle East presents further risk to investor confidence and project sponsors are currently being consulted on their assessment of this 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.	24/03/2026
R008	21/10/2020	Financial	Public Sector Investment	Portfolio Management Office	If the public sector investment is not secured, there is a risk that projects will not be delivered or delivered at reduced scale impacting on the benefits to the region.	4	4	16	↔	All Ambition North Wales partners have signed up to the Growth Deal and Governance Agreement. Development of robust project business cases and contractual agreements for Growth Deal funding Support project sponsor applications for other public funding sources where appropriate	Complete N/A As required	Partners PMO, Project SROs PMO	3	4	12	↔	Open	Risk reviewed, no changes at present however the risks associated with the current conflict in the Middle East may cause affordability challenges which cannot be met by existing public sector investment commitments. Project sponsors are being consulted and risk to be reviewed as further details become available. Risk also relates to R020 Subsidy Control	24/03/2026
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	↔	Prepare briefing packs and sessions for new members of the Senedd and new Ministers post election. 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	N/A Complete Complete Ongoing	Ambition North Wales, PMO Ambition North Wales PMO PMO	3	4	12	↔	Open	Risk reviewed. Residual probability increased reflecting the proximity of the elections in May. The risk remains low at present. Elections in 2026 and 2027 mean this risk may increase in the future and risk to be reviewed following elections in May 2026	24/03/2026
R014	22/10/2020	Financial	Fraud	Portfolio Director	If appropriate processes are not put in place and managed, there is a risk that the portfolio could be subject to fraudulent claims resulting in misuse of public funds	4	4	16	↔	Projects to have robust financial monitoring processes in place including due diligence checks on project sponsors and funding recipients. PMO to review claims and applications submitted before passing them onto accountable body for payment Code of conduct and conflicts of interest policy incorporated as part of Governance Agreement 2 Conflict of Interest Register maintained for all programmes, projects and advisory groups.	N/A N/A Complete N/A	PMO PMO Monitoring Officer PMO	2	4	8	↔	Open	No changes to gross or residual risk scores. Residual risk remains low due to the processes in place by Ambition North Wales. A further round of fraud training was held for the PMO and Business Delivery Board in May 2024. From 2025 projects in delivery will include grant/fund schemes will be managed according to PMO's approach to due diligence. UK Government due diligence service 'Spotlight' introduced to PMO from 2026 to support due diligence reviews.	24/03/2026

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				
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.			16	↔	<p>Each programme and project will be responsible for benefits management through a Benefits Realisation Plan.</p> <p>Monthly highlight reports to Programme Board to monitor benefits realisation</p> <p>Procurement Principles adopted with focus on community benefits and social value</p> <p>Benefits Realisation guidance developed and being disseminated to project sponsors for use in project business cases</p> <p>Impact system launched and project teams trained.</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>Monthly</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>PMO, Programme and Project SROs</p> <p>PMO</p> <p>PMO</p> <p>PMO</p>	<p>3</p> <p>3</p> <p>3</p>	<p>3</p> <p>3</p> <p>9</p>	↔	Open	<p>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.</p> <p>Period for benefits realisation continues to reduce however emphasis on deliverability for reserve list projects minimised risk (see R002)</p>	24/03/2026	
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		5	20	↔	<p>Economic Ambition Board approved Revenue budget to extend fixed term contracts. Longer term solutions continue to be investigated</p> <p>Partners and project sponsors responsible for sourcing revenue funding to support non-Ambition North Wales led projects</p> <p>PMO working to identify additional funding opportunities for Ambition North Wales led projects</p> <p>PMO capitalises salary costs associated with project delivery where appropriate and in line with guidance.</p> <p>Growth Deal top slice increased to 2.15%, allowing extension of Fixed term contracts</p> <p>SPF bid to 6 local authorities successful.</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>PMO</p> <p>PMO, Project SRO</p> <p>PMO, Project SRO</p> <p>PMO</p> <p>PMO</p> <p>PMO</p>	<p>3</p> <p>4</p> <p>4</p>	<p>3</p> <p>4</p> <p>12</p>	↔	Open	<p>No changes to gross or residual risk scores.</p> <p>Budget for 2026-27 approved by the Corporate Joint Committee</p>	24/03/2026	
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.			16	↔	<p>Project business cases and implementation plans to clearly set out risks to project delivery and mitigations, including supply chain risks.</p> <p>RSP working with PMO to identify regional supply chain / skills challenges and identify mitigations</p> <p>Additional funding secured for skills activity</p> <p>Projects to conduct early market engagement where appropriate</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>In place</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>PMO</p> <p>PMO</p> <p>PMO</p> <p>Project Sponsors</p>	<p>3</p> <p>4</p> <p>4</p>	<p>3</p> <p>4</p> <p>12</p>	↔	Open	<p>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.</p>	24/03/2026	
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		5	20	↔	<p>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</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>PMO, Project Sponsors</p>	<p>3</p> <p>5</p> <p>15</p>	↔	Open	<p>Risk reviewed: No immediate changes. Ongoing conflict in the Middle East presents further risk on supply chains and project sponsors are currently being consulted on their assessment of this risk. Residual risk to be reassessed across the Portfolio when further details are available</p> <p>Developing global issues affecting supply chains and energy market likely to affect costs in the short to medium term.</p>	24/03/2026		
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.		5	15	↔	<p>Integrated Assurance and Approval Plan (IAAP) agreed with Welsh and UK Government as part of Final Deal.</p> <p>Continued engagement with Welsh Government Assurance Hub to refine and update the Integrated Assurance and Approval Plan (IAAP)</p> <p>PMO assurance lead to coordinate delivery of assurance in accordance with the IAAP</p> <p>Streamlined approach to assurance introduced for new projects</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>Quarterly</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>PMO</p> <p>PMO</p> <p>PMO</p>	<p>2</p> <p>4</p> <p>4</p>	<p>2</p> <p>4</p> <p>8</p>	↔	Open	<p>Risk reviewed. No changes to gross or residual risk scores.</p>	24/03/2026	
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.		4	12	↔	<p>Ambition North Wales will utilise existing financial processes of Cyngor Gwynedd as the Host Authority.</p> <p>Project Business Cases will set out detailed project level financial, commercial and risk management measures to manage finances</p> <p>Robust monthly performance, risk and financial reporting arrangements will be established for all projects</p> <p>Robust financial claims process established for the drawdown of funding</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>Monthly</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>PMO</p> <p>PMO, Project SRO</p> <p>PMO, Project SRO</p> <p>PMO</p>	<p>2</p> <p>3</p> <p>3</p>	<p>2</p> <p>3</p> <p>6</p>	↔	Open	<p>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.</p>	24/03/2026	
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.		4	12	↔	<p>Review options for no subsidy investment, e.g. commercial loans</p> <p>Address details and assessment with sponsors at earliest stage (Terms sheet)</p> <p>Legal advice commissioned early on all Subsidy Control assessments</p> <p>Subsidy Control lead and support allocated within PMO</p>	<p>As per SOC-FBC stages</p>	<p>Programme Managers</p>	<p>3</p> <p>3</p> <p>3</p>	<p>3</p> <p>3</p> <p>9</p>	↔	Open	<p>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.</p>	24/03/2026	

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	24/03/2026

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**ECONOMIC WELL-BEING SUB-COMMITTEE**

**15 May 2026**

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**TITLE:** 2025/26 Revenue and Capital out-turn position

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

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**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Economic Well-being Sub-committee with the final position of the Growth Deal, Investment Zone and Regional Skills Partnership for both revenue and capital in 2025/26.
- 1.2. The Growth Deal out-turn position was presented to the Portfolio Board on 24 April 2026. The Growth Deal (which also includes Shared Prosperity Fund and Local Area Energy Plan), Investment Zone and Regional Skills Partnership's positions, along with the Corporate Joint Committee, Strategic Planning and Transport, will be presented to the Governance and Audit Sub-committee on 4 June 2026 before seeking the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee's approval (CJC) in its meeting on 19 June 2026.

**2. DECISIONS SOUGHT**

- 2.1. To note the Growth Deal's out-turn position for 2025/26 (Appendix 1). Due to the underspend reported, this includes not using £60,990 of the earmarked reserve and using a reduced amount of £867,731 from the North Wales Growth Deal grant in order to show a neutral position for the year.
- 2.2. To note the Growth Deal's reserves position (Appendix 2).
- 2.3. To note the Growth Deal's capital end of year review as of 31 March 2026 (Appendix 3).
- 2.4. To note the Investment Zone's out-turn position for 2025/26.
- 2.5. To note the Regional Skills Partnership's out-turn position for 2025/26.

**3. REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

- 3.1. 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.

**4. BACKGROUND AND RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS**

- 4.1. On 1 April 2025, the North Wales Economic Ambition Board's role and functions were transferred to the CJC, which included staff, resources, financial liabilities and assets, including

the Growth Deal and funding. The Regional Skills Partnership also transferred to the CJC on the same date.

- 4.2. The CJC is considered a “larger relevant body” pursuant to the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 (as amended). This means that an annual Statement of Accounts in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom will be produced in 2025/26 and presented in due course.

## 5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

### Growth Deal (including Shared Prosperity Fund and Local Area Energy Plan)

- 5.1. Appendix 1 provides a detailed analysis of the actual expenditure and income per heading against the 2025/26 budget.
- 5.2. The final net out-turn position for 2025/26 was an underspend of £543,259, and this has decreased from the £618,025 underspend that was forecasted in the end of December 2025 review. The budget and the December 2025 review included £412,085 of the resources reserve; however, as shown in Appendix 1, £79,162 has been used and this has funded the additional government roles. The reduction in the use of the resources reserve has offset further underspends in various budget headings.
- 5.3. In order to leave a neutral position for the year, the CJC will be asked not to use £60,990 of the earmarked reserve and to approve for a reduced amount of £867,731 (compared to the original budget of £1,350,000) of the Growth Deal grant to be used to fund the revenue expenditure in 2025/26.

### Portfolio Management Office

- 5.4. There is a £761,218 underspend on the Portfolio Management Office (PMO) and the main underspend is shown on the employee expenditure and additional government roles heading.
- 5.5. The underspend on the employee expenditure heading is £655,371 and this is due to some staff costs that were included within the core budget were subsequently funded by other sources.
- 5.6. Almost £90,000 of the underspend is due to staff working a proportion of their time on the CJC, around £39,000 relates to staff working on the Regional Skills Partnership and around £156,400 relates to staff that were funded by Ambition North Wales’s Growth Deal projects.
- 5.7. The Shared Prosperity Fund and the Local Area Energy Plan grants received were also used to fund staff costs, which together contribute nearly £153,300 of the underspend.
- 5.8. Vacant posts during the year also led to a further underspend of around £254,500 in employee expenditure. 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.
- 5.9. The additional government roles were filled during the year therefore leading to an underspend of £127,158.
- 5.10. Additional recruitment, including the recruitment of Portfolio Director, led to an overspend in advertising and assessment of candidates costs by £20,932.

- 5.11. There was an overspend of £11,610 on supplies and services due to upgrades in equipment and equipment for new staff.
- 5.12. The insurance heading is showing an overspend of £11,800 as the majority of the cost was apportioned between the CJC and the Growth Deal based on employee budget costs. Whilst the systems budget was included to fund the costs of the Committee Management System (which is expected to be implemented in 2026/27), expenditure has been incurred on a platform and the development of a project management system.

#### Accountable Body Support Services

- 5.13. The final underspend on this heading is £82,056 as the Service Level Agreement between the CJC and Cyngor Gwynedd is yet to be finalised. Financial and legal support were also apportioned to the Investment Zone during the year, therefore contributing to the underspend for the Growth Deal.

#### Joint Committee

- 5.14. The Joint Committee heading shows an underspend of £27,456, with an underspend in external legal support, external financial fees as well as the Business Delivery Board.

#### Projects

- 5.15. The final overspend on this heading is £58,704. There is an overspend in external legal support costs on numerous projects in the capital programme, however there is an underspend on project business case development costs, external finance support, external procurement support and assurance costs.
- 5.16. The project delivery and project delivery - employees headings relate to expenditure on Growth Deal projects led by Ambition North Wales that are currently in delivery and are considered as revenue expenditure. The expenditure on these headings is funded by the projects' Growth Deal allocation and this is shown in the Income section.

#### Grant Schemes

- 5.17. The expenditure under this heading includes grant funded Local Area Energy Plan and Shared Prosperity Fund projects and there was an underspend of £31,989. Confirmation was received during the financial year that the funding for the Shared Prosperity Fund can be claimed up to September 2026 and therefore the underspend of £31,986 will be spent and claimed in 2026/27.

#### Transfers to Reserves

- 5.18. The transfers to reserves section includes £108,380 of partner interest contributions and £24,679 of access to funding charges on Growth Deal projects, which will be transferred to the interest reserve to fund the cost of borrowing in future years.
- 5.19. At the North Wales Economic Ambition Board meeting on 14 February 2025, a request from the PMO to transfer the interest received in 2024/25 and 2025/26 on the North Wales Growth Deal grant balances to a specific reserve to fund additional government requirements and

project development costs from 2025/26 and the retention of PMO's capacity for an additional two years beyond March 2026 was approved. The interest received on balances was £1,833,295 and £1,635,549 of this balance will be transferred to this reserve (resources reserve) whilst the remaining £197,746 will be transferred to the interest reserve.

### Funding Contributions

- 5.20. 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.
- 5.21. The use of the Growth Deal grant for projects is £239,795 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.
- 5.22. Due to the final net out-turn position for 2025/26 being an underspend of £543,259, and in order to leave a neutral position for the year, it is proposed that the earmarked reserve of £60,990 is not used (therefore available to use for future years' budgets) and the North Wales Growth Deal grant allocation is reduced by £482,269 from £1,350,000 to £867,731. Although the North Wales Growth Deal grant is a capital grant, the same flexibility as local authorities have been used in the way that they manage their capital funding, with Cyngor Gwynedd allocating the Growth Deal grant against its capital projects and releasing the equivalent value of revenue funding to the Growth Deal to fund its revenue expenditure.

### Reserves

- 5.23. Appendix 2 shows the movement in reserves during the year and the balances at 31 March 2026.
- 5.24. The total earmarked reserve balance at 31 March 2026 was £210,977.
- 5.25. The projects reserve balance at 31 March 2025 was £29,167. In 2024/25, costs of £123,133 relating to the Clean Local Energy Project were met from the projects reserve as the Full Business Case was yet to be approved by 31 March 2025. The Full Business Case has subsequently been approved therefore £123,133 of the Growth Deal grant has been transferred to the reserve.
- 5.26. The interest reserve is ringfenced to fund the cost of borrowing in future years. Its balance at 31 March 2026 is £5,064,288 and this includes the partner interest contributions of £108,380, access to funding charges of £24,679 and £197,746 of interest income on the reserve balance.
- 5.27. £412,085 of the resources reserve was allocated to the 2025/26 budget but only £79,162 was used and this was to fund the additional government roles. The underspend on employee expenditure and project development costs and the appointment of the additional government roles during the year led to less funding required from the reserve.

- 5.28. Interest of £1,635,549 on the Growth Deal grant and the resources reserve balance was received and therefore the balance of the reserve as at 31 March 2026 was £4,356,618. The CJC at its meeting on 23 January 2026 approved the use of £986,730 of this reserve as part of the 2026/27 budget.

### Capital

- 5.29. Appendix 3 shows the Growth Deal's capital programme end of year review for 2025/26.
- 5.30. The total expenditure up to 31 March 2026 is £30.64m.
- 5.31. There is a net reduction of £14.28m in the expenditure for 2025/26 and this is due to slippage on projects. However, the expenditure on the Cydnerth project was brought forward with the total expenditure of £8.87m shown under 2025/26 rather than between two financial years as was originally profiled in the budget therefore reducing the slippage.
- 5.32. The expenditure in Appendix 3 also includes the project delivery costs shown in Appendix 1 – these relate to the Clean Energy Fund, 4G+, LPWAN and Advanced Wireless projects.
- 5.33. The 2.15% budget for revenue funding in 2025/26 has also reduced to £0.87m to reflect the final revenue out-turn position.

### **Investment Zone**

- 5.34. Final approval by the UK and Welsh Governments of the Flintshire and Wrexham Investment Zone was announced in the 2025 Budget and over the ten-year duration of the Investment Zone, a total of £6.4m is available to support the programme's administration. From this allocation, £200,000 per annum is allocated to the CJC and £220,000 each to Flintshire County Council and Wrexham County Borough Council. The 2025/26 funding was received in March 2026.
- 5.35. Appendix 4 provides an analysis of the Investment Zone's actual expenditure and income, with a neutral out-turn position for 2025/26.
- 5.36. The CJC's expenditure on the Investment Zone consists of £51,839 on employees (the Chief Executive, Regional Skills Manager and Skills and Employability Portal Project Manager's time), £457 on supplies and services, £29,644 on support services (translation and financial and legal support) and £131,834 on external consultants. The CJC was also awarded £25,000 during the year from Welsh Government for consultancy support.
- 5.37. The Investment Zone grant used as at 31 March 2026 is £522,831. This consists of £200,000 of the CJC's annual allocation and £322,831 of Flintshire County Council and Wrexham County Borough Council's expenditure.
- 5.38. The Investment Zone's expenditure for 2024/25 was £83,067 and this was initially funded by the CJC reserve. £20,662 has been repaid to the reserve from the remainder of the CJC's annual grant allocation and the interest received on the grant balance in 2025/26. The remaining £62,405 will be repaid from interest received in 2026/27.

## Regional Skills Partnership

- 5.39. Appendix 5 provides an analysis of the Regional Skills Partnership's actual expenditure and income against its 2025/26 budget.
- 5.40. The out-turn is a neutral position, with the expenditure of £290,000 funded by Welsh Government grant.
- 5.41. There was £346,422 in the skills reserve at 31 March 2026 to fund commitments in the skills field in subsequent years.

## 6. CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN

- 6.1. The appendices of the Growth Deal were presented to the Portfolio Board on 24 April 2026.

## 7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

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### APPENDICES:

<b>Appendix 1</b>	Growth Deal's revenue out-turn position 2025/26
<b>Appendix 2</b>	Growth Deal's reserves position
<b>Appendix 3</b>	Growth Deal's capital position
<b>Appendix 4</b>	Investment Zone's out-turn position 2025/26
<b>Appendix 5</b>	Regional Skills Partnership's out-turn position 2025/26

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**STATUTORY OFFICERS RESPONSE:**

**i. Monitoring Officer:**

The report is presented for noting and forms part of the CJC's financial reporting and assurance arrangements for 2025/26. The relevant legal framework is set out in the report, including the requirement for the CJC, as a larger relevant body, to prepare annual accounts in accordance with the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 and the applicable accounting code.

There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations. Officers should continue to ensure that the use of grant funding, reserves and project funding is consistent with the relevant grant conditions, approved budgets, delegations and the CJC's financial procedure rules.

**ii. Statutory Finance Officer:**

Report author.

## Growth Deal's Financial Position 2025/26

## Appendix 1

Expenditure	Base Budget (£)	One-off virements (£)	Total Budget (£)	2025/26 Final Position (£)	Overspend / (Underspend) (£)
<b>Portfolio Management Office</b>					
Employee Expenditure (Pay, N.I. & Superannuation)	1,558,280	0	1,558,280	902,909	(655,371)
Additional Government Roles	206,320	0	206,320	79,162	(127,158)
External Advisor	0	0	0	22,677	22,677
Advertising and Assessment of Candidates	2,500	0	2,500	23,432	20,932
Travel and Subsistence	10,000	0	10,000	5,464	(4,536)
Training	18,000	0	18,000	(577)	(18,577)
Engagement and Meetings	10,000	0	10,000	4,889	(5,111)
Communications and Public Relations	25,000	0	25,000	23,060	(1,940)
Supplies and Services	15,000	0	15,000	26,610	11,610
Premises	36,000	0	36,000	30,094	(5,906)
Portfolio and Programme Development	30,000	0	30,000	21,000	(9,000)
Insurance	4,130	0	4,130	15,930	11,800
Systems	9,540	0	9,540	8,902	(638)
<b>Total Portfolio Management Office</b>	<b>1,924,770</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,924,770</b>	<b>1,163,552</b>	<b>(761,218)</b>
<b>Accountable Body Support Services</b>					
Finance Services Support	113,330	0	113,330	65,108	(48,222)
Legal (includes Monitoring Officer)	44,980	0	44,980	20,263	(24,717)
Democratic Support	28,430	0	28,430	25,697	(2,733)
Corporate Services	48,350	0	48,350	45,509	(2,841)
Information Technology	28,440	0	28,440	24,897	(3,543)
<b>Total Accountable Body Support Services</b>	<b>263,530</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>263,530</b>	<b>181,474</b>	<b>(82,056)</b>
<b>Joint Committee</b>					
External Legal Support	18,000	0	18,000	13,116	(4,884)
External Financial Fees	10,000	0	10,000	2,428	(7,572)
External Audit Fee	28,350	0	28,350	28,350	0
Business Delivery Board	15,000	0	15,000	0	(15,000)
<b>Total Joint Committee</b>	<b>71,350</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>71,350</b>	<b>43,894</b>	<b>(27,456)</b>
<b>Projects</b>					
Project Business Case Development	150,000	0	150,000	70,095	(79,905)
External Legal Support	150,000	0	150,000	187,114	37,114
External Finance Support	50,000	0	50,000	810	(49,190)
External Procurement Support	50,000	0	50,000	0	(50,000)
Assurance	50,000	0	50,000	10,890	(39,110)
Project Delivery	0	0	0	24,188	24,188
Project Delivery - Employees	0	0	0	215,607	215,607
<b>Total Projects</b>	<b>450,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>450,000</b>	<b>508,704</b>	<b>58,704</b>
<b>Grant schemes</b>					
Employee Expenditure - Local Area Energy Project	0	80,040	80,040	87,292	7,252
Other related costs - Local Area Energy Project	0	10,310	10,310	2,011	(8,299)
External Advisor - Local Area Energy Project	0	79,920	79,920	80,964	1,044
Local Area Energy Plans	0	6,800	6,800	6,800	0
Employee Expenditure- Shared Prosperity Fund	0	196,870	196,870	197,216	346
Other related costs - Shared Prosperity Fund	0	16,865	16,865	16,449	(416)
Shared Prosperity Plans	0	230,515	230,515	198,599	(31,916)
<b>Grant schemes Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>621,320</b>	<b>621,320</b>	<b>589,331</b>	<b>(31,989)</b>
<b>Transfers to reserves</b>					
Partner interest contributions	108,380	0	108,380	108,380	0
Access to Funding Charges	0	0	0	24,679	24,679
Interest on balances	0	0	0	1,833,295	1,833,295
<b>Total Transfers to reserves</b>	<b>108,380</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>108,380</b>	<b>1,966,354</b>	<b>1,857,974</b>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>2,818,030</b>	<b>621,320</b>	<b>3,439,350</b>	<b>4,453,309</b>	<b>1,013,959</b>

Growth Deal's Financial Position 2025/26

Appendix 1

	Base Budget	One-off virements	Total Budget	2025/26 Final Position	Overspend / (Underspend)
Income	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)
<b>Funding Contributions</b>					
<b>Partner Contributions</b>					
Conwy County Borough Council	(58,730)	0	(58,730)	(58,730)	0
Denbighshire County Council	(58,730)	0	(58,730)	(58,730)	0
Flintshire County Council	(58,730)	0	(58,730)	(58,730)	0
Cyngor Gwynedd	(58,730)	0	(58,730)	(58,730)	0
Isle of Anglesey County Council	(58,730)	0	(58,730)	(58,730)	0
Wrexham County Borough Council	(58,730)	0	(58,730)	(58,730)	0
Bangor University	(29,380)	0	(29,380)	(29,380)	0
Wrexham University	(29,380)	0	(29,380)	(29,380)	0
Coleg Cambria	(29,380)	0	(29,380)	(29,380)	0
Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	(29,380)	0	(29,380)	(29,380)	0
<b>Local Authorities' Supplementary Contributions</b>					
Conwy County Borough Council	(40,000)	0	(40,000)	(40,000)	0
Denbighshire County Council	(40,000)	0	(40,000)	(40,000)	0
Flintshire County Council	(40,000)	0	(40,000)	(40,000)	0
Cyngor Gwynedd	(40,000)	0	(40,000)	(40,000)	0
Isle of Anglesey County Council	(40,000)	0	(40,000)	(40,000)	0
Wrexham County Borough Council	(40,000)	0	(40,000)	(40,000)	0
<b>Partner Interest Contributions</b>					
Conwy County Borough Council	(13,420)	0	(13,420)	(13,420)	0
Denbighshire County Council	(11,870)	0	(11,870)	(11,870)	0
Flintshire County Council	(18,710)	0	(18,710)	(18,710)	0
Cyngor Gwynedd	(13,730)	0	(13,730)	(13,730)	0
Isle of Anglesey County Council	(8,290)	0	(8,290)	(8,290)	0
Wrexham County Borough Council	(23,210)	0	(23,210)	(23,210)	0
Wrexham University	(10,070)	0	(10,070)	(10,070)	0
Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	(9,080)	0	(9,080)	(9,080)	0
<b>Other</b>					
North Wales Growth Deal grant	(1,350,000)	0	(1,350,000)	(1,350,000)	0
North Wales Growth Deal grant (Projects)	(116,675)	0	(116,675)	(239,795)	(123,120)
Capitalisation of Salary Costs	(60,000)	0	(60,000)	0	60,000
Welsh Government Energy Grant	0	(177,070)	(177,070)	(177,067)	3
UK Shared Prosperity Fund	0	(444,250)	(444,250)	(412,264)	31,986
Public Health Wales NHS Trust and Social Care Wales	0	0	0	(1,036)	(1,036)
Access to Funding Charges	0	0	0	(24,679)	(24,679)
Interest on balances	0	0	0	(1,833,295)	(1,833,295)
Earmarked Reserve	(60,990)	0	(60,990)	(60,990)	0
Resources Reserve	(412,085)	0	(412,085)	(79,162)	332,923
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>(2,818,030)</b>	<b>(621,320)</b>	<b>(3,439,350)</b>	<b>(4,996,568)</b>	<b>(1,557,218)</b>
<b>Net Overspend / (Underspend)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(543,259)</b>	<b>(543,259)</b>

## Growth Deal's Financial Position 2025/26

## Appendix 1

Expenditure	Base Budget (£)	One-off virements (£)	Total Budget (£)	2025/26 Final Position (£)	Overspend / (Underspend) (£)
<b>Portfolio Management Office</b>					
Employee Expenditure (Pay, N.I. & Superannuation)	1,558,280	0	1,558,280	902,909	(655,371)
Additional Government Roles	206,320	0	206,320	79,162	(127,158)
External Advisor	0	0	0	22,677	22,677
Advertising and Assessment of Candidates	2,500	0	2,500	23,432	20,932
Travel and Subsistence	10,000	0	10,000	5,464	(4,536)
Training	18,000	0	18,000	(577)	(18,577)
Engagement and Meetings	10,000	0	10,000	4,889	(5,111)
Communications and Public Relations	25,000	0	25,000	23,060	(1,940)
Supplies and Services	15,000	0	15,000	26,610	11,610
Premises	36,000	0	36,000	30,094	(5,906)
Portfolio and Programme Development	30,000	0	30,000	21,000	(9,000)
Insurance	4,130	0	4,130	15,930	11,800
Systems	9,540	0	9,540	8,902	(638)
<b>Total Portfolio Management Office</b>	<b>1,924,770</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1,924,770</b>	<b>1,163,552</b>	<b>(761,218)</b>
<b>Accountable Body Support Services</b>					
Finance Services Support	113,330	0	113,330	65,108	(48,222)
Legal (includes Monitoring Officer)	44,980	0	44,980	20,263	(24,717)
Democratic Support	28,430	0	28,430	25,697	(2,733)
Corporate Services	48,350	0	48,350	45,509	(2,841)
Information Technology	28,440	0	28,440	24,897	(3,543)
<b>Total Accountable Body Support Services</b>	<b>263,530</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>263,530</b>	<b>181,474</b>	<b>(82,056)</b>
<b>Joint Committee</b>					
External Legal Support	18,000	0	18,000	13,116	(4,884)
External Financial Fees	10,000	0	10,000	2,428	(7,572)
External Audit Fee	28,350	0	28,350	28,350	0
Business Delivery Board	15,000	0	15,000	0	(15,000)
<b>Total Joint Committee</b>	<b>71,350</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>71,350</b>	<b>43,894</b>	<b>(27,456)</b>
<b>Projects</b>					
Project Business Case Development	150,000	0	150,000	70,095	(79,905)
External Legal Support	150,000	0	150,000	187,114	37,114
External Finance Support	50,000	0	50,000	810	(49,190)
External Procurement Support	50,000	0	50,000	0	(50,000)
Assurance	50,000	0	50,000	10,890	(39,110)
Project Delivery	0	0	0	24,188	24,188
Project Delivery - Employees	0	0	0	215,607	215,607
<b>Total Projects</b>	<b>450,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>450,000</b>	<b>508,704</b>	<b>58,704</b>
<b>Grant schemes</b>					
Employee Expenditure - Local Area Energy Project	0	80,040	80,040	87,292	7,252
Other related costs - Local Area Energy Project	0	10,310	10,310	2,011	(8,299)
External Advisor - Local Area Energy Project	0	79,920	79,920	80,964	1,044
Local Area Energy Plans	0	6,800	6,800	6,800	0
Employee Expenditure- Shared Prosperity Fund	0	196,870	196,870	197,216	346
Other related costs - Shared Prosperity Fund	0	16,865	16,865	16,449	(416)
Shared Prosperity Plans	0	230,515	230,515	198,599	(31,916)
<b>Grant schemes Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>621,320</b>	<b>621,320</b>	<b>589,331</b>	<b>(31,989)</b>
<b>Transfers to reserves</b>					
Partner interest contributions	108,380	0	108,380	108,380	0
Access to Funding Charges	0	0	0	24,679	24,679
Interest on balances	0	0	0	1,833,295	1,833,295
<b>Total Transfers to reserves</b>	<b>108,380</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>108,380</b>	<b>1,966,354</b>	<b>1,857,974</b>
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>2,818,030</b>	<b>621,320</b>	<b>3,439,350</b>	<b>4,453,309</b>	<b>1,013,959</b>

## Growth Deal's Financial Position 2025/26

## Appendix 1

	Base Budget	One-off virements	Total Budget	2025/26 Final Position	Overspend / (Underspend)
Income	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)
<b>Funding Contributions</b>					
<b>Partner Contributions</b>					
Conwy County Borough Council	(58,730)	0	(58,730)	(58,730)	0
Denbighshire County Council	(58,730)	0	(58,730)	(58,730)	0
Flintshire County Council	(58,730)	0	(58,730)	(58,730)	0
Cyngor Gwynedd	(58,730)	0	(58,730)	(58,730)	0
Isle of Anglesey County Council	(58,730)	0	(58,730)	(58,730)	0
Wrexham County Borough Council	(58,730)	0	(58,730)	(58,730)	0
Bangor University	(29,380)	0	(29,380)	(29,380)	0
Wrexham University	(29,380)	0	(29,380)	(29,380)	0
Coleg Cambria	(29,380)	0	(29,380)	(29,380)	0
Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	(29,380)	0	(29,380)	(29,380)	0
<b>Local Authorities' Supplementary Contributions</b>					
Conwy County Borough Council	(40,000)	0	(40,000)	(40,000)	0
Denbighshire County Council	(40,000)	0	(40,000)	(40,000)	0
Flintshire County Council	(40,000)	0	(40,000)	(40,000)	0
Cyngor Gwynedd	(40,000)	0	(40,000)	(40,000)	0
Isle of Anglesey County Council	(40,000)	0	(40,000)	(40,000)	0
Wrexham County Borough Council	(40,000)	0	(40,000)	(40,000)	0
<b>Partner Interest Contributions</b>					
Conwy County Borough Council	(13,420)	0	(13,420)	(13,420)	0
Denbighshire County Council	(11,870)	0	(11,870)	(11,870)	0
Flintshire County Council	(18,710)	0	(18,710)	(18,710)	0
Cyngor Gwynedd	(13,730)	0	(13,730)	(13,730)	0
Isle of Anglesey County Council	(8,290)	0	(8,290)	(8,290)	0
Wrexham County Borough Council	(23,210)	0	(23,210)	(23,210)	0
Wrexham University	(10,070)	0	(10,070)	(10,070)	0
Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	(9,080)	0	(9,080)	(9,080)	0
<b>Other</b>					
North Wales Growth Deal grant	(1,350,000)	0	(1,350,000)	(1,350,000)	0
North Wales Growth Deal grant (Projects)	(116,675)	0	(116,675)	(239,795)	(123,120)
Capitalisation of Salary Costs	(60,000)	0	(60,000)	0	60,000
Welsh Government Energy Grant	0	(177,070)	(177,070)	(177,067)	3
UK Shared Prosperity Fund	0	(444,250)	(444,250)	(412,264)	31,986
Public Health Wales NHS Trust and Social Care Wales	0	0	0	(1,036)	(1,036)
Access to Funding Charges	0	0	0	(24,679)	(24,679)
Interest on balances	0	0	0	(1,833,295)	(1,833,295)
Earmarked Reserve	(60,990)	0	(60,990)	(60,990)	0
Resources Reserve	(412,085)	0	(412,085)	(79,162)	332,923
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>(2,818,030)</b>	<b>(621,320)</b>	<b>(3,439,350)</b>	<b>(4,996,568)</b>	<b>(1,557,218)</b>
<b>Net Overspend / (Underspend)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(543,259)</b>	<b>(543,259)</b>

North Wales Growth Deal's Capital Position 2025/26

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	0.43	0.38	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	0.19	1.92	2.35	1.57	0.14	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	0.02	0.65	0.43	0.00	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	0.01	2.08	6.76	8.56	2.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	19.54
Low carbon energy	Cydnerth (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	2.94	1.00	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	0.46	5.00	6.95	6.20	6.02	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	1.80	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.80
Low carbon energy	Trawsfynydd Business, Innovation and Skills Centre	Cyngor Gwynedd	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.20	7.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.00
Land and property	Former North Wales Hospital, Denbigh	NWH Ltd (Jones Bros)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	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	0.29	5.20	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.49
Land and property	Wrexham Gateway	Wrexham County Borough Council	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.89	4.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.79
Land and property	Gogledd Môn Sites and Premises	Isle of Anglesey County Council	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.32	3.68	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.00
Land and property	Freepoint Gateway	Isle of Anglesey County Council	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.70	1.78	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	4.98	2.32	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.30
Land and property	Padeswood	Transport for Wales / Network Rail	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.40	4.30	3.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.30
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	1.48	0.90	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	1.30	0.88	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	0.21	1.29	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	2.20	12.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	14.40
Innovation in High Value Manufacturing	Business Gateway	Wrexham University	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.64	4.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.24
Agri-food and tourism	Glynliffon Rural Economy Hub	Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.87	3.79	2.16	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	1.20	1.15	1.08	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	2.71	1.49	2.00	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	0.25	2.44	2.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.00
Reserve List projects			0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.50	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00	2.50	1.96	31.96
<b>Projects Sub Total</b>			<b>0.12</b>	<b>1.66</b>	<b>1.12</b>	<b>10.64</b>	<b>14.46</b>	<b>56.26</b>	<b>73.70</b>	<b>44.10</b>	<b>13.29</b>	<b>5.00</b>	<b>5.02</b>	<b>5.02</b>	<b>2.50</b>	<b>1.96</b>	<b>234.85</b>
2.15% to fund the Growth Deal revenue budget			0.22	0.28	0.56	0.71	0.87	1.14	0.50	0.30	0.15	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.07	0.05	5.15
<b>Programme Total</b>			<b>0.34</b>	<b>1.94</b>	<b>1.68</b>	<b>11.35</b>	<b>15.33</b>	<b>57.40</b>	<b>74.20</b>	<b>44.40</b>	<b>13.44</b>	<b>5.10</b>	<b>5.12</b>	<b>5.12</b>	<b>2.57</b>	<b>2.01</b>	<b>240.00</b>
<b>Approved budget (February 2025)</b>			<b>0.34</b>	<b>1.94</b>	<b>1.68</b>	<b>12.51</b>	<b>29.61</b>	<b>40.86</b>	<b>59.28</b>	<b>42.58</b>	<b>22.45</b>	<b>8.10</b>	<b>8.20</b>	<b>7.33</b>	<b>5.07</b>	<b>0.05</b>	<b>240.00</b>
<b>Variance</b>			<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>-1.16</b>	<b>-14.28</b>	<b>16.54</b>	<b>14.92</b>	<b>1.82</b>	<b>-9.01</b>	<b>-3.00</b>	<b>-3.08</b>	<b>-2.21</b>	<b>-2.50</b>	<b>1.96</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Cumulative expenditure</b>			<b>0.34</b>	<b>2.28</b>	<b>3.96</b>	<b>15.31</b>	<b>30.64</b>	<b>88.04</b>	<b>162.24</b>	<b>206.64</b>	<b>220.08</b>	<b>225.18</b>	<b>230.30</b>	<b>235.42</b>	<b>237.99</b>	<b>240.00</b>	<b>240.00</b>

\* The profile above includes expenditure for the following projects that are included within the revenue outturn: £0.06m Clean Energy Fund, £0.15m 4G+, £0.02m LPWAN and £0.01m Advanced Wireless

## Investment Zone's 2025/26 Out-turn Position

Appendix 4

Expenditure	Budget (£)	2025/26 Final Position (£)	Overspend / (Underspend) (£)
<b>Employees</b>			
Employee expenditure (Pay, N.I. & Superannuation)	0	51,839	51,839
<b>Employees Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>51,839</b>	<b>51,839</b>
<b>Supplies and services</b>			
Miscellaneous supplies	0	21	21
Engagement and meetings	0	436	436
<b>Supplies and services Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>457</b>	<b>457</b>
<b>Support Services</b>			
Finance Services Support (includes S151 Officer)	0	4,840	4,840
Legal (includes Monitoring Officer)	0	24,363	24,363
Corporate Services	0	441	441
<b>Support Services Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>29,644</b>	<b>29,644</b>
<b>Set-up costs</b>			
Investment Zone	180,000	131,834	(48,166)
<b>Set-up costs Total</b>	<b>180,000</b>	<b>131,834</b>	<b>(48,166)</b>
<b>Flintshire and Wrexham expenditure</b>			
Flintshire and Wrexham expenditure	0	322,831	322,831
<b>Total Flintshire and Wrexham expenditure</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>322,831</b>	<b>322,831</b>
<b>Transfer to reserve</b>			
Transfer to the CJC reserve	0	20,662	20,662
<b>Total transfer to reserve</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>20,662</b>	<b>20,662</b>
<b>Total Expenditure Budget</b>	<b>180,000</b>	<b>557,267</b>	<b>377,267</b>
Welsh Government - Investment Zone	0	(25,000)	(25,000)
Investment Zone Grant	(180,000)	(522,831)	(342,831)
Interest	0	(9,436)	(9,436)
<b>Total Net Expenditure Budget</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

Regional Skills Partnership's Financial Position 2025/26

Appendix 5

	Budget	2025/26 Final	Overspend /
	(£)	Position	(Underspend)
Expenditure	(£)	(£)	(£)
Employee Expenditure (Pay, N.I. & Superannuation)	209,900	211,777	1,877
Travel and Subsistence	1,500	3,399	1,899
Supplies and Services	45	3,438	3,393
Lightcast and Data City	10,000	12,875	2,875
Website	10,000	9,000	(1,000)
Premises	12,000	9,965	(2,035)
Skills Plan - Labour Market Information Work	12,660	12,736	76
Cluster Groups allocation	1,395	15	(1,380)
Skills Portal	10,000	9,926	(74)
Events and Meetings	19,500	5,410	(14,090)
Marketing and Communications	15,000	11,459	(3,541)
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>302,000</b>	<b>290,000</b>	<b>(12,000)</b>
<b>Income</b>	<b>(£)</b>	<b>(£)</b>	<b>(£)</b>
Welsh Government Grant	(290,000)	(290,000)	0
Earmarked Reserve	(12,000)	0	12,000
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>(302,000)</b>	<b>(290,000)</b>	<b>12,000</b>
<b>Net Overspend / (Underspend)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>



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**ECONOMIC WELL-BEING SUB-COMMITTEE**

**15<sup>th</sup> May, 2026**

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**TITLE:** North Wales Growth Deal – Cost Inflation Reserve

**AUTHOR:** Hedd Vaughan-Evans, Portfolio Director

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**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1. The purpose of the report is to set out the proposal to establish a Cost Inflation Reserve to support the delivery of projects during the 2026-27 financial year.

**2. DECISION SOUGHT**

- 2.1. That the Sub-Committee agree to establish a Cost Inflation Reserve for 2026-27 and an initial £3.96m of Growth Deal funding to this reserve.
- 2.2. To approve the criteria set out in section 4.6 for the Cost Inflation Reserve and the delegated decision matrix set out in section 4.7.

**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. The North Wales Growth Deal is an agreement between the UK Government, Welsh Government and Ambition North Wales to deliver a transformational £1billion investment in the North Wales economy. The aim of the Growth Deal is to build a more vibrant, sustainable and resilient economy in North Wales, building on our strengths to boost productivity while tackling long-term challenges and economic barriers to delivering inclusive growth.
- 4.3. As per the Final Deal agreement, business cases are to be developed for each project within the Growth Deal in line with the 'Better Business Case' guidance developed by Welsh Government and HM Treasury. Each business case includes five cases which address key questions and should be supported by workshops.
- 4.4. In December 2022 in response to cost inflation driven by the invasion of Ukraine, the Economic Ambition Board established a Portfolio Delivery Fund to support mature projects within the portfolio dealing with cost inflation or viability issues to move into delivery during 2023-24.

#### 4.5. Cost Inflation Risk

- 4.5.1. The Portfolio Management Office has identified in its latest risk review an increasing risk around affordability due to emerging cost inflation pressures as a result of the war in Iran. The war has already resulted in significant increases in energy and fuel costs with construction materials, particularly those heavily dependent on energy at risk of increasing significantly should the conflict continue.
- 4.5.2. At present this is an emerging risk, however, learning from the experience following the invasion of Ukraine it is important for the Growth Deal to be proactive and put in place the mechanisms to support projects in order to maintain the pace of delivery. The Portfolio Management Office is aware of some contractors already being reluctant to enter into fixed price contracts due to the uncertainty around costs and without the ability to respond flexibly and quickly to support projects, this risk could in a worse-case scenario result in significant delays across multiple projects.

#### 4.6. Cost Inflation Reserve

- 4.6.1. The Portfolio Management Office proposes the establishment of a Cost Inflation Reserve to support approved project (BJC or FBC approval) with increased costs that cannot be mitigated in order to ensure projects move into delivery during 2026-27.
- 4.6.2. £3.96m would be initially allocate to the Cost Inflation Reserve, to be reviewed in six months. This would leave £28m of unallocated funding available to Reserve List projects.
- 4.6.3. Projects that meet the following criteria could apply for funding:
- a) Project has an approved BJC or FBC.
  - b) Project has completed procurement, identified a preferred supplier and concluded negotiations with their preferred supplier to reduce costs where appropriate.
  - c) Project Sponsor has agreed to the terms of the Grant Funding Agreement with Ambition North Wales and the provision of additional funding would enable the project sponsor to enter into a contract for the delivery of the project.
  - d) The application for additional funding will be in line with the criteria below:
    - Where the Growth Deal is a minority funder in the project, the Growth Deal contribution towards the additional funding will be capped at the existing % intervention rate.
    - Where the Growth Deal is a majority funder in the project, the Growth Deal contribution towards the additional funding will be capped at 50% of the additional funding required.

#### 4.7. Delegated Decision Matrix

- 4.7.1. Taking into account the criteria above, the applications for additional funding are likely to be received by projects at the end of the procurement process and following negotiations with contractors. As a result, there will be a need to consider applications in a pragmatic and timely manner as agreed costs are likely to be time-bound.
- 4.7.2. The Portfolio Management Office are therefore proposing a scheme of delegation as set out below to enable certain decisions to be approved outside of the Economic Well-being Sub-Committee schedule. This is considered to be the most effective route to manage the process,

enabling timely decision to support projects into delivery and reduce the risk of additional cost increases that could be caused by waiting for schedules committee dates.

4.7.3. The following delegated decision matrix is proposed:

<b>Economic Well-being Sub-Committee</b>	All awards over £500k
<b>Portfolio Director in consultation with Chair, Vice-Chair, Chief Executive, Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer</b>	Individual project awards of up to 10% of original Growth Deal contribution capped at £500k
<b>Portfolio Director</b>	Individual project awards of up to £100k

## 5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1. Approving the decision sought would allocate £3.96m to the Cost Inflation Reserve. The funding would come from the current unallocated Growth Deal funding of £31.96m, leaving £28m unallocated to support projects on the Reserve List.

## 6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1. The reallocation of funding within the Growth Deal is a matter for the Economic Well-being Sub-Committee to decide upon within the agreed affordability envelope for the partnership and where the projects deliver against the objectives of the Growth Deal and its programmes.

6.2. Individual awards may require consideration of subsidy control, procurement compliance, grant funding agreement terms and whether the proposed additional funding would amount to a material change to an approved business case. These issues may need to be considered on a case-by-case basis.

## STATUTORY OFFICERS RESPONSE:

### i. Monitoring Officer:

“The reserve is a reasonable response to an identified programme delivery risk. Each award should be supported by a written Decision Notice confirming compliance with the approved criteria.

As regards decision making, the Portfolio Director remains the decision-maker for delegated awards where applicable and, for reasons of operational agility, should consult by way of assurance only, and not in terms of a separate approval or further collective decision-making process outside the formal committee structure.

Subject to those safeguards being reflected in the decision-making process, I have no further observations from a Monitoring Officer perspective to the decision sought.”

ii. **Statutory Finance Officer:**

“The risk of cost inflation and the impact of this on the ability to deliver the North Wales Growth Deal is significant. The establishment of a Cost Inflation Reserve will contribute to mitigating these risks and therefore I support the decision sought.”

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## ECONOMIC WELL-BEING SUB-COMMITTEE

15 May, 2026

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**TITLE:** Flintshire & Wrexham Investment Zone: Initial Innovation Programme Projects

**AUTHOR:** Iain Taylor

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### 1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1. The purpose of the report is to present the three Investment Zone Innovation Projects for approval by the Economic Well-being Sub-Committee.

### 2. DECISION SOUGHT

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

- 2.1. Note the progress on establishing and implementing the Investment Zone Innovation programme in close partnership with Wrexham University, AMRC, Bangor University and Net Zero Industry Wales.
- 2.2. 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.
- 2.3. 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.
- 2.4. 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 agreement to implement any recommendations arising from the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee Project Review of the Growth Deal Digital Signal Processing Centre (DSP) Project.
- 2.5. Approve the project proposal submitted by Net Zero Industry Wales to a value of **£260,000** 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 Net Zero Industry Wales on behalf



of local Industrial Decarbonisation Partnership (including NEWID and Deeside Decarbonisation Forum).

### **3. REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

- 3.1. 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.

### **4. BACKGROUND AND RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS**

- 4.1. Decisions regarding Investment Zone investment in Innovation are aligned to the principles for Skills delivery and based on the following:

- Projects are coordinated, additional and dedicated to innovation in advanced manufacturing in Flintshire and Wrexham;
- Projects are in line with the Innovation best practice and advice from Welsh Government Innovation and UKRI;
- Projects delivered to the benefit of businesses or partners based in Flintshire and Wrexham; and
- Advice and any associated skills support is accessible to all.

- 4.2. **The North Wales Innovation Board**

The projects contained in this report have presented and received feedback from the North Wales Innovation Board. Each project presented their proposal to the Board meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup> April 2026.

Each project received feedback and where appropriate, the feedback has been factored in to the recommendations contained in this report.

### **5. INTRODUCTION TO THE INVESTMENT ZONE INNOVATION PROGRAMME PROJECTS**

- 5.1. Details of each project are contained in Appendix 1 of this report. Each project is summarised below.

- 5.2. **Wrexham University – Knowledge Transfer and Skills Vouchers Project Summary**

The Knowledge Transfer and Skills Vouchers project provides flexible, accessible and business-focused support for companies across Wrexham and Flintshire to engage with university expertise, specialist facilities and advanced workforce development. It directly responds to the challenges identified by employers, particularly SMEs, who are under increasing pressure



to innovate, adopt new technologies and strengthen their higher-level skills base to remain competitive in an evolving advanced manufacturing landscape.

The project offers a structured suite of vouchers at different financial levels, enabling businesses to access consultancy, feasibility studies, prototyping, collaborative R&D, specialist equipment and high-level accredited and non-accredited training. This model lowers risk, removes financial and administrative barriers and creates a practical entry point for businesses who may be working with universities for the first time. By offering support that is both flexible and tailored to real operational needs, the project builds confidence and establishes the foundations for deeper, longer-term partnerships.

The project will be led by Wrexham University, with delivery by both Wrexham University and Bangor University working in partnership. Business development and engagement will be led through Wrexham University's Enterprise team and delivery supported by academic experts and technical specialists from both universities. This partnership model brings together the full breadth of research capability, specialist infrastructure and sector knowledge across both institutions. Alongside this, the project enables collaboration with other key regional assets, such as AMRC Cymru, sector-specific innovation centres, and local training providers etc, ensuring businesses benefit from the wider ecosystem and that the project leverages insight, expertise and facilities beyond the two universities where appropriate.

Activities will be delivered through multiple accessible channels to ensure maximum reach and convenience for employers. Support will take place across university campuses in Wrexham and Bangor and on employer sites where needed. The delivery timeframe has been designed to create sustained, long-term impact for the region. Initial setup and capacity development began in 2025/26, with full programme rollout from 2026/27. Delivery will continue through to 2029/30, providing a stable, multi-year platform that allows businesses to progress from exploratory innovation activity to more substantial research collaborations, commercial R&D, technology adoption and higher-level skills development.

The capability of both universities, the accessible delivery model, wider regional partnerships and the multi-year timeframe position the Knowledge Transfer and Skills Vouchers project as a transformative opportunity for strengthening innovation, productivity and workforce capability across the Investment Zone's advanced manufacturing sector.

### 5.3. **Bangor University - DSP Project Summary**

The BRIDGE project is strategically designed to accelerate the further development of the Advanced Manufacturing Cluster in Flintshire and Wrexham by enhancing business' connectivity, resilience, and productivity, and also fostering the creation of a sophisticated, advanced manufacturing-driven digital ecosystem to establish in the North East/North West region as a direct result of the innovation-led industrial growth.

This section details BRIDGE's objectives, workplan and delivery-related considerations. It should be noted that detailed alignment aspects, including how the project's four critical outputs support the Investment Zone's core objectives, are covered in Section B. That section



also outlines BRIDGE's alignment with the Technology and Connectivity Cross-cutting Theme and key national priorities such as the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act, Wales Innovate, and the UK's ambition to become a science and technology superpower.

### *Objectives*

BRIDGE has four objectives detailed below:

- **Objective 1: Strategic Digital Roadmaps and Technical Solutions:** Identify bespoke digital technology roadmaps for individual businesses within the Cluster, and propose both immediate and long-term technical solutions to satisfy the evolving business needs.
- **Objective 2: Industry-driven R&D and 5G Use Case Innovation:** Conduct industry-driven, international-leading R&D to develop cutting-edge digital techniques and innovative 5G use cases, which will form a vital technical platform for creating both requirement-oriented solutions for the Cluster's businesses and game-changing innovations capable of addressing bottleneck challenges associated with 5G and beyond.
- **Objective 3: Value-driven Knowledge Transfer and Commercialization:** Implement customer-centric knowledge transfer workstreams to accelerate the "research-to-revenue" transition. This includes partnering with the Cluster's manufacturing companies to develop "new-to-the-market" products based on BRIDGE-developed high-market-potential technologies, and to implement tailored 5G use cases to enhance business' operation productivity, efficiency and competitiveness.
- **Objective 4: Specialized Digital Skills and Talent Retention:** Deliver a specialized digital skills training programme through strategic collaborations with Wrexham University and Coleg Cambria. This will provide both high-level academic and vocational pathways to equip the Cluster's existing workforce and local youth with the agility to meet future Industry 4.0 challenges.

The successful delivery of these objectives will catalyse a sophisticated, advanced manufacturing-driven digital ecosystem, thus positioning the North East / North West region as a global benchmark for innovation-led industrial growth.

#### 5.4. Net Zero Industry Wales – North East Wales Decarbonisation Project Summary

In response to the Industrial Strategy, Net Zero Industry Wales and other stakeholders in the region (Net Zero Energy Systems and AMRC) have explore options of further collaboration between these organisations and North Wales Corporate Joint Committee, to make best use of the resources & support activities listed in the Industrial Strategy Zone Action Plan and accelerate these activities in the Flintshire & Wrexham Investment Zone, to attract investment, as well as maintain public trust.



This paper background to the outlined proposal and why Net Zero Industry Wales (NZIW) is unique positioned to support the Investment Zone in its objectives, as part of delivering the wider UK Industrial Strategy in Wales, as well as providing within the proposal, a description of the activities that NZIW could support the Investment Zone with, closely linked to the Industrial Strategy Zone action plan.

This proposal positions NZIW as a convening and delivery partner for supporting the implementation elements of the Industrial Strategy Zone Action Plan within the Flintshire & Wrexham Investment Zone. By combining infrastructure acceleration, planning capacity, innovation support, and robust reporting, the outlined support program aims to:

- Unlock early private investment
- Accelerate industrial decarbonisation
- Strengthen regional competitiveness
- Deliver measurable economic and environmental benefits for North Wales

The requested funding will enable coordinated, strategic delivery aligned with UK Industrial Strategy priorities while safeguarding long-term public value and trust.

#### 5.5. Analysis of Funding Availability

The project funding requests outlined in this paper are within the broad parameters of the agreed project budgets confirmed by Flintshire and Wrexham Councils and in line with budgets approved by the [Economic Wellbeing Sub-Committee](#) in its approval of the Year 2 Annual Delivery Plan.

Specifically:

- The Wrexham University request of £3,645,364 is afforded within the Business Support Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) allocation of £4.675m
- The Bangor University request of £1.3m (of which £120k is capital) is to be funded from the £1.018m allocation to R&D and £282k from the Business Support and Research & Innovation programmes, re-profiling the capital and revenue allocations.
- £260k request from NZIW is to be funded from the 'Studies' programme budget. Should there be future pressure on the studies budget, it would be possible to support this from the KTP allocation given the approach taken by the project to use a KTP approach to delivery.

#### 6. ASSURANCE PROCESS & OUTCOMES

- 6.1. The contents of this report have been co-developed by the projects and the Investment Zone team. The core objective of each project has been set out in the approved Gateway documentation agreed with the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee, Welsh Government and UK Government. The approved Investment Zone MOU includes reference to an innovation programme that includes Knowledge Transfer, Data and Connectivity research and regional decarbonisation partnerships with Industry.



- 6.2. The Wrexham University project has consulted and been agreed with the North Wales Regional Skills Partnership and the North Wales Innovation Board. The Bangor University Project is named in the investment Zone Gateway documentation approved by partners and recommended for consideration by the North Wales Innovation Board. The advice of the Investment Zone team is that the funding approval to Bangor University is subject to acceptance of the Growth Deal led 'Deep Dive' into the delivery of the Growth Deal supported DSP project. The key considerations relate to the business engagement elements and governance to ensure that the businesses identified through the Investment Zone business support programme are supported with access to the DSP capability.
- 6.3. A project to support regional decarbonisation partners was set out in the Gateway documentation approved. The project lead and structure of the proposal has developed initial proposals by the NEWID and Deeside Decarbonisation partners into a joint submission. The North Wales Innovation Board recommended the project for approval.

## 7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. Each project will require a Grant Funding Agreement between the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee and the project sponsor. The Grant Funding Agreement will reflect the requirements on the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee to account for investment zone funds and the appropriate reporting of delivery and outputs.

## 8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1. The funds requested are in line with the broad intervention allocations and the agreed project budgets (and the agreed revenue and capital splits) will be set out in the Investment Zone Delivery Plans and reported to a future Economic Well-being Sub-Committee once the funding agreements are agreed. It is the expectation that minor budget adjustments between revenue and capital allocations will be necessary to support the funding allocations requested. There are sufficient unallocated funds to manage this.

## 9. IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 9.1. Delivery of these projects will be in line with the Investment Zone approach to Impact Assessment.

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### APPENDICES:

<b>Appendix 1</b>	Wrexham University Proposal
<b>Appendix 2</b>	Bangor University Proposal
<b>Appendix 3</b>	Net Zero Industry Wales Proposal

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STATUTORY OFFICERS RESPONSE:

i. **Monitoring Officer:**

“The recommendations involve approval of three Investment Zone Innovation Programme projects and authority to proceed to Grant Funding Agreements with the relevant project sponsors. The substantive decision will be one for the Sub-Committee, with implementation delegated to officers (subject to consultation) once that decision has been made.

The Grant Funding Agreements should include appropriate provisions on eligible expenditure, outputs, milestones, monitoring, etc. Any material departure from the approved proposals, funding values or delivery arrangements should be referred back for further approval.

Subject to those safeguards, then no objection to the recommendations.”

ii. **Statutory Finance Officer:**

“I do not have an objection to the decision sought and I am satisfied that the funding for the project proposals are within the budgets included in the Annual Delivery Plan. We will continue to support the officers as the Investment Zone projects move forward to delivery”.