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Meeting

NORTH WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

Date and Time

1.30 pm, FRIDAY, 23RD JANUARY, 2026

Location

Cyfarfod Rhithiol / Virtual Meeting

Contact Point

Annes Sion

AnnesSion@gwynedd.llyw.cymru

(DISTRIBUTED 15/01/26)

NORTH WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

Council Members

Cllr. Jason McLellan
Cllr. Gary Pritchard
Cllr. Julie Fallon
Cllr. Mark Pritchard
Cllr. Dave Hughes
Cllr. Nia Jeffeys

Denbighshire County Council
Isle of Anglesey County Council
Conwy County Borough Council
Wrexham County Borough Council
Flintshire County Council
Cyngor Gwynedd

Eryri Member

Cllr. Edgar Wyn Owen

Eryri National Park Authority

Constituent Council Chief Executives

Dafydd Gibbard
Dylan Williams
Rhun ap Iared
Neal Cockerton
Graham Boase
Alwyn Jones
Jonathan Cawley

Cyngor Gwynedd
Isle of Anglesey County Council
Conwy County Borough Council
Flintshire County Council
Denbighshire County Council
Wrexham County Borough Council
Snowdonia National Park Authority

Statutory Officers

Alwen Williams
Dewi Aeron Morgan
Iwan G Evans

Corporate Joint Committee Chief Executive
Chief Finance Officer
Monitoring Officer

A G E N D A

1. APOLOGIES

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

To receive any declaration of Personal Interest.

3. URGENT BUSINESS

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

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS 5 - 16

The Chair shall propose that the minutes of the previous meeting held on 7 of November, 2025 and 28 of November, 2025 be signed as a true record.

5. 2026/27 BUDGET, LEVY ON CONSTITUENT AUTHORITIES AND PARTNER CONTRIBUTIONS 17 - 26

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

6. 2025/26 REVENUE AND CAPITAL POSITION – END OF DECEMBER 2025 REVIEW 27 - 39

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

7. STRATEGIC TRANSPORT SUB-COMMITTEE - TERMS OF REFERENCE AND SELF-ASSESSMENT 40 - 48

The Chair of the Strategic Transport sub-committee to present report.

8. REGIONAL TRANSPORT FUND UPDATE 49 - 51

Adam Graham, Senior Transport Officer to present report.

9. FORMAL SUBMISSION OF THE STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN DELIVERY AGREEMENT 52 - 56

Andy Roberts, Regional Strategic Planning Officer to present report.

10. NORTH WALES INNOVATION PARTNERSHIP FUND - NORTH WALES INNOVATION BOARD 57 - 62

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

NORTH WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE 07/11/25

Present: Chair: Councillor Mark Pritchard (Wrexham County Borough Council).

Councillors: Dave Hughes (Flintshire County Council), Nia Jeffreys (Cyngor Gwynedd), Julie Fallon (Conwy County Borough Council), Gary Pritchard (Isle of Anglesey County Council), Jason McLellan (Denbighshire County Council) and Edgar Owen (Chair of Eryri National Park Authority)

Chief Executives of Constituent Councils: Dafydd Gibbard (Cyngor Gwynedd), Dylan Williams (Isle of Anglesey County Council), Rhun ap Iarthur (Conwy County Borough Council), Neal Cockerton (Flintshire County Council), Graham Boase (Denbighshire County Council), Alwyn Jones (Wrexham County Borough Council) and Jonathan Cawley (Eryri National Park Authority)

Other officers present: Iwan Evans (Monitoring Officer – Cyngor Gwynedd), Dewi Aeron Morgan (CJC Statutory Finance Officer), Sara Jane Jones (Senior Accountant Officer – Cyngor Gwynedd), Nia Medi Williams (Operations and Resources Manager – Ambition North Wales), Hedd Vaughan-Evans (Head of Operations - Ambition North Wales), Claire Incledon (CJC Acting Deputy Monitoring Officer), Iain Taylor (AMION Consulting), David Hole (CJC Implementation Programme Lead), Angharad Williams (Programme Support Officer – Ambition North Wales), Eilw Hughes (Growth Deal Programme Manager – Ambition North Wales), David Mathews (Land and Property Programme Manager – Ambition North Wales), Meghan Davies (Energy and Net Zero Programme Manager – Ambition North Wales), Stuart Whitfield (Digital Programme Manager – Ambition North Wales), Andy Roberts (CJC Operational Programme Manager – Ambition North Wales), Adam Graham (Senior Transport Officer – Ambition North Wales), Allan Pitt (ARUP), Gareth Ashman (UK Government), Wendy Boddington (Welsh Government) and Sera Whitley (Democracy Services - Cyngor Gwynedd).

1. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

Councillor Jason McLellan was elected Vice-chair of the Joint Committee for 2025/26.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Alwen Williams (CJC Chief Executive) and Sian Pugh (Assistant Head of Finance – Cyngor Gwynedd).

3. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

Councillor Dave Hughes (Flintshire County Council) for Item 5 due to personal matters. The member did not consider them to be prejudicial interests, and did not leave the meeting during the discussion.

4. URGENT ITEMS

None to note.

5. FLINTSHIRE AND WREXHAM INVESTMENT ZONE

The report was presented by Iwan Evans, Monitoring Officer and Iain Taylor from AMION Consulting.

RESOLVED:

The Update Report was accepted and the work undertaken by Flintshire County Council and Wrexham County Borough Council and the Investment Zone team, Welsh Government and UK Government was noted.

A draft Inter-Authority Agreement (IAA) was approved between the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee (CJC), Flintshire County Council and Wrexham County Borough Council, delegating the right to agree and finalise the final version to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Monitoring Officer, Section 151 Officer, the Vice-chair and Leader of Denbighshire County Council, as the appointed representatives of the Flintshire and Wrexham Investment Zone Advisory Board.

A Year 1 and 2 Schedule of Projects, activities and milestones drafted to support the Annual Delivery Plan was approved.

A draft Memorandum of Understanding was approved, delegating the right to agree and finalise the final version to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Monitoring Officer, Section 151 Officer, the Vice-chair and Leader of Denbighshire County Council, as the appointed representatives of the Flintshire and Wrexham Investment Zone Advisory Board.

DISCUSSION

The Members were thanked for their time and consideration of the report.

It was reported that the development of the programme was now at a key point and had reached the approval phase with the Welsh Government and the UK Government. The Five Gateways Process had expired and the agreement for the Gateways had been accepted. It was explained that the CJC's approval for the Memorandum of Understanding and the Inter-Authority Agreement (IAA) between the CJC, Flintshire County Council and Wrexham County Borough Council was required. It was elaborated that these would govern the transfer of revenue funding and key activities in the programme.

It was explained that annual delivery plans would be agreed every year to support the way the Investment Zones were structured and delivered. The draft Annual Delivery Plan would be submitted to the meeting of the Investment Zone Work Group, where the leaders of Flintshire County Council and Wrexham County Borough Council would meet and review the Annual Delivery Plan. It was noted that the intention was to hold a meeting of the Investment Zone Work Group on 28 November, to discuss the programme's initial activities. Further details were given of another meeting to be held to discuss the second year Delivery Plan.

An overview was given to Members of the Annual Delivery Plan, drawing particular attention to some of the key points of the Investment Zone Programme included in Appendix 2. It was noted that these had been split into business support, skills, innovation, infrastructure and tax sites. The members were informed that the tax sites had been published on Legislation.gov, and they would come into force legally on 21 November.

The members were informed that should the CJC approve the Memorandum of Joint Understanding and the IAA, that the Government would act to issue signed versions of the document within the week.

Members' attention was drawn to the Delivery Plan, highlighting the early work. The members were reminded that it was a Regional Skills Partnership project jointly with Wrexham University and Coleg Cambria. It was explained that the finance to administer the business grants was being delegated to Flintshire County Council and Wrexham County Borough Council. It was recognised that there was a positive increase in terms of the National Manufacturing Institute for Wales, with the intention of bringing this to North-east Wales as well as developments for decarbonisation programmes in industry and the transformation project supported by AMRC. It was elaborated that good progress was being made with the infrastructure requirements of the tax sites, with premises already being constructed in Deeside and projects promoted to be considered for planning in Wrexham. Further details would be presented to the Councils of Flintshire and Wrexham at the end of November, with items being submitted again to the Economic Well-being Sub-committee.

It was explained that this was the last step in the decisions of the CJC in terms of constructing the Growth Zone, and it was explained that they were contracts that committed the CJC to the accountable body role. As an accountable body, the CJC sat between the Governments and therefore the Memorandum of Joint Understanding signed by the CJC and the Government was an ethical commitment to how the project was run. Funding letters, i.e. contractual documents and funding conditions, from the Governments would be sent subsequently.

It was noted that the IAA was a collaboration agreement between the Councils and the CJC, and included how the Investment Zone was run, the governance, the revenue finance arrangements, and the arrangements to comply with the conditions set by the Government for the CJC. It was elaborated that it was a document that built on the decision taken in the last few months in the gateways to create the Investment Zone. Furthermore, it was explained that the Memorandum of Joint Understanding had been re-submitted to the CJC and although it did not appear that there had been many amendments since July, it referred to the control and Management and Non-domestic Tax that would need to be addressed in the Memorandum of Joint Understanding.

It was pointed out that a draft of the IAA was before Members. Apologies were tendered that the document was currently only available in English. It was explained that this was currently an initial version of the existing document to extend the discussion, and to ensure that the project moved forward they requested delegated powers to complete the documents in collaboration with Flintshire County Council and Wrexham County Borough Council. It was noted that they had received positive feedback from the Monitoring Officers of Flintshire County Council and Wrexham County Borough Council. It was emphasised that the right to proceed with the Memorandum of Joint Understanding and the IAA was essential, to draw documents together and give a foundation for the significant work of presenting the Investment Zone.

The Chair extended his thanks to the consultant from AMION Consulting; to Cyngor Gwynedd's legal team and to the Chief Executive and Leader of Flintshire County Council for their partnership with the project. It was stated that this was an excellent opportunity for Flintshire and Wrexham to deliver for businesses in north Wales. Attention was drawn to the importance of the project, especially as a result of the increase in high-quality posts in wider regional economies.

6. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED 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 Section

100A(2) of the Local Government Act 1972. The report relates to financial information associated with the Regional Transport Fund, which has been designated as confidential information by the Welsh Government for the provisions of Section 100 (A)(2) of the Local Government Act 1972. As a consequence, it is a requirement that the report is excluded from publication as this would disclose confidential information.

7. REGIONAL TRANSPORT FUND YEAR 1 PROGRAMME

The report was presented by Adam Graham, Senior Transport Officer.

RESOLVED:

The draft Plan Programme was approved for submission to the Welsh Government.

DISCUSSION

The report was discussed.

The meeting commenced at 12.00 and concluded at 12:30.

(Chair)

NORTH WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE 28/11/25

Present: Chair: Councillor Mark Pritchard (Wrexham County Borough Council)

Councillors: Dave Hughes (Flintshire County Council), Menna Trenholme (Cyngor Gwynedd), Julie Fallon (Conwy County Borough Council), Gary Pritchard (Isle of Anglesey County Council), Jason McLellan (Denbighshire County Council) and Edgar Owen (Chair of Eryri National Park Authority)

Chief Executives of Constituent Councils: Dafydd Gibbard (Cyngor Gwynedd), Dylan Williams (Isle of Anglesey County Council), Rhun ap Iarthur (Conwy County Borough Council), Neal Cockerton (Flintshire County Council), Graham Boase (Denbighshire County Council), Alwyn Jones (Wrexham County Borough Council) and Jonathan Cawley (Eryri National Park Authority)

Other officers present: Alwen Williams (CJC Chief Executive), Sian Pugh (Assistant Head of Finance – Cyngor Gwynedd), Delyth Jones-Thomas (Investment Manager – Cyngor Gwynedd), Iwan Evans (Monitoring Officer – Cyngor Gwynedd), Sara Jane Jones (Senior Accounting Officer – Cyngor Gwynedd), Claire Incledon (CJC Interim Deputy Monitoring Officer), Iain Taylor (AMION Consulting), Adam Graham (Senior Transport Officer – Ambition North Wales), Matthew Edwards (Audit Wales), and Sera Whitley (Democracy Services Officer – Cyngor Gwynedd).

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Nia Jeffreys (Cyngor Gwynedd) and Dewi Aeron Morgan (CJC Statutory Finance Officer).

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

There were no declarations of personal interest.

3. URGENT BUSINESS

None to note.

4. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19 SEPTEMBER 2025

The Chair signed the minutes of the previous meeting held on 19 September 2025 as a true record.

5. NORTH WALES ECONOMIC AMBITION BOARD'S STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR 2024/25 AND RELEVANT AUDIT

The report was presented by Sian Pugh, Assistant Head of Finance.

RESOLVED:

To consider and approve the ISA 260 report by Audit Wales for the NWEAB.

To consider and approve NWEAB's final Statement of Accounts (post-audit) for 2024/25.

DISCUSSION

The final accounts of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board for 2024/25 were submitted, together with the external auditor's report, namely the ISA260 report. It was explained that the functions of the Economic Ambition Board had transferred to the Corporate Joint Committee (CJC) since 1 April 2025, and this was the final statement of accounts, and would be included as part of the Corporate Joint Committee's Statement of Accounts from 2025/26 onwards.

It was assured that the annual Statement of Accounts had been prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting. It was highlighted that the members had received the information twice already.

It was explained that statements had now been reviewed by Audit Wales, the external auditors. It was highlighted that the auditor intended to issue an unqualified audit opinion on this year's accounts once they had received a Letter of Representation based on what is set out in Appendix 4 of the auditors' report.

Attention was drawn to one error that had not been corrected because an invoice from one supplier could not be allocated to 2024/25 and 2025/26 expenditure, but it did not have a material impact on the accounts. It was explained that pages 86 and 87 showed a summary of the corrections made. It was elaborated that the first correction derived from a payment run made on 31 March; it had been shown as "creditors" and money in the bank as the money had not gone out of the account, but the auditors considered it should be included as "cash in transit" as there was no current commitment in respect of the debt at the end of 31 March. It was acknowledged that this was a technical issue and did not affect the opinion of the audit. The second reference related to the information in Note 24, and did not affect the figures in the accounts themselves.

It was noted that the plan for the year had been submitted to the Joint Committee back in September. The outcome of the audit was presented, and it was noted that it was positive and concluded the former North Wales Economic Ambition Board.

Reference was made to the independence risk of the Audit team due to the relationship of an Audit Manager with a member of the executive group. It was acknowledged that Audit Wales was satisfied with the arrangements to avoid risk.

The team at Audit Wales were thanked for their work on the audit and the team in Cyngor Gwynedd's Finance Department for their work in preparing the Statement of Accounts.

The Chair, together with Cyngor Gwynedd's Head of Finance (as the Statutory Finance Officer of the Corporate Joint Committee), were asked to electronically sign the Accounts and Letter of Representation (Appendix 4 of the report of the Auditor General for Wales) following consideration of the above by the Joint Committee before sending them to Audit Wales.

6. NORTH WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE ANNUAL RETURN 2024/25

The report was presented by Sian Pugh, Assistant Head of Finance.

RESOLVED:

To approve the CJC's revised Annual Return for 2024/25 (following external audit). It had been duly completed and certified by the Statutory Finance Officer for the CJC (Appendix 1).

DISCUSSION

It was reported that the Corporate Joint Committee's Annual Return 2024/25 was being presented to the Members, following an audit by Audit Wales. It was highlighted that this Return had been submitted to the Corporate Joint Committee in draft form along with an out-turn report on 13 June.

As with the Economic Ambition Board's accounts, it was noted that there had been a change to the Return due to the payments run, worth £13 thousand, which had run on 31 March. It was explained that this amount had been shown as "creditors" and money in the bank as the money had not gone out of the account, but the auditors were again of the view that it should be included as "cash in transit" as there was no current commitment in respect of the debt at the end of 31 March.

The Chair was asked to sign the Return before it was sent to Audit Wales, and the Corporate Joint Committee was asked to approve the revised CJC Annual Return for 2024/25 (following external audit). It was noted that it had been duly completed and certified by the CJC's Statutory Finance Officer.

The officer was thanked for the update.

7. TREASURY MANAGEMENT 2025/26 - MID YEAR REVIEW

The report was presented by Delyth Jones-Thomas, Cyngor Gwynedd's Investment Manager.

RESOLVED:

To note and accept the report for information.

DISCUSSION

It was highlighted that the members had approved the Corporate Joint Committee's treasury management strategy for the 2025/26 period at its June 2025 meeting. It was explained that the Corporate Joint Committee was required to have a regular update on the situation, and this update looked at the period up to 30 September 2025.

It was noted that it had been a busy time in the financial markets. Attention was drawn to section 6, where financial investments had been reported on behalf of the Joint Committee including:

- banks and building societies
- local authorities
- money market funds
- debt management office

It was stressed that it was required to invest Corporate Joint Committee funds prudently, taking into account the security and liquidity of its investments before attempting the

highest rates of return. It was detailed that the objective in investing money was to strike the right balance between risk and return, ensuring that liquidity was available to pay for the day-to-day operations of the Joint Committee. It was noted that the returns over the period had been acceptable between 3.4% and 4.1%.

It was reported that the Joint Committee had investment restrictions, and this was in order to spread the risk over different organisations. It was confirmed that there had been full compliance with the restrictions.

It was noted that officers were attending ongoing training with Arlingclose, the financial advisers, to understand market conditions.

8. TRANSFORMATION AND IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME 2025-26 UPDATE

The report was presented by Alwen Williams, Chief Executive and Dave Hole, Programme Lead.

RESOLVED:

To note the progress update and the current challenges with the ongoing transformation and continuous improvement of the CJC during 2025/26.

To instruct that a further report be presented in March 2026 to update on 2025/26 programme delivery, including the new proposed programme for 2026/27.

DISCUSSION

The Transformation and Improvement Programme 2025/26 was presented. It was noted that the purpose of the report was to update CJC Members on current progress, challenges and the next steps for the CJC's ongoing transformation and improvement.

Members were provided with context and reminded that the CJC now operated as an established corporate entity with the authority to employ staff and enable robust governance arrangements. Members were reminded that the Growth Deal, its funding, and its employees had been transferred to the CJC and the Ambition North Wales brand in April 2025, with the launch of a revised and ambitious programme for 2025/26 which built on the CJC's action plan and delivered a programme of continuous improvement. Furthermore, it was noted that the Chief Executive had been appointed in June 2025 and acted as the senior responsible owner for the Transformation and Improvement Programme.

It was highlighted that the programme was ambitious, and the key challenges were listed, including the ability to recruit and retain skilled staff, completing the service level agreements currently in place with Cyngor Gwynedd, managing resource capacity alongside normal business operations, and operating within the budgetary constraints assigned.

External factors that had impacted on progress were further listed, including delays in the launch of the Welsh Government's prospectus, and grant allocations. It was expressed that projects such as implementing committee management and webcasting had been postponed due to these dependencies, but these would continue to be resolved in the coming months.

It was noted that the development of a new, forward-looking programme of change was underway, and a roadmap for subsequent years would continue to be developed. The

key priorities would reflect change within the programme, and these were listed in section 5.6 of the report.

It was elaborated that the programme was supported by internal and external resources, both in terms of financial and governance considerations. It was noted that budgets and grant funding had been identified, but as organisational needs evolved there may be potential to request additional funding. It was confirmed that the responses of statutory officers confirmed the accuracy of the information and highlighted the ongoing challenge of balancing capacity with transformation requirements.

Members were informed that in order to ensure good governance and corporate accountability, the CJC must receive regular updates on transformation and improvement activities.

Concerns about staff retention and recruitment were noted, and it was highlighted as a potential problem for the future. It was elaborated that resources were scarce in north Wales, particularly in areas of expertise such as procurement and policy, and it was essential not to take resources from local authorities. It was confirmed that the Chief Executive intended to highlight recruitment challenges in the report for March 2026.

Concern was expressed that recruitment was a challenge facing all local authorities. It was reported that the Chief Executive was in discussions with the Welsh Government to identify individuals with relevant skills to work with the CJC on secondment. Furthermore, it was noted that the CJC needed to be as flexible as possible with its recruitment to ensure proper resources.

In terms of underspending, it was asked if there were plans to be implemented in north west Wales; it was agreed that the Chair and Chief Executive would hold a meeting with the member to explain the plans further.

Gratitude was expressed for the update.

9. STRATEGIC TRANSPORT SUB COMMITTEE QUARTERLY REPORT

The report was presented by Adam Graham, Senior Transport Officer.

RESOLVED:

To note the report and its appendix.

DISCUSSION

It was reported that the Quarterly Report had been submitted to the Strategic Transport Sub-committee at the meeting on 6 October. It was noted that the Quarterly Report was being presented to the CJC to note the work completed by the Sub-committee and by the officers working on the Regional Transport Plan.

Due to the nature of the way work was progressing, it was explained that some of the content in the Quarterly Report was now outdated, but attention was drawn to the content that had changed since then, namely:

- The Regional Transport Plan had been approved by the Cabinet Secretary for Transport and North Wales and it had now been approved by the Welsh Government.
- The Proposed Programme of Schemes, relating to a Regional Transport

Fund, had been submitted to the Welsh Government last week and was therefore now awaiting feedback from the Welsh Government.

It was agreed that the Chair of the Strategic Transport Sub-committee would be invited to future meetings to present quarterly reports.

10. FLINTSHIRE AND WREXHAM INVESTMENT ZONE - YEAR 1 ANNUAL DELIVERY PLAN

The report was presented by Alwen Williams, Chief Executive and Iain Taylor, AMION Consulting.

RESOLVED:

The following items were considered for approval:

- **The investment allocations of the Annual Delivery Plan**
- **The Investment Zone Programmes as set out in Section 3 of this report**
- **The Terms of Reference for the Flintshire and Wrexham Investment Zone Working Group (Appendix 1)**
- **That the CJC's Section 151 Officer is permitted to sign and issue the Annual Delivery Plan documents to the UK Government and Welsh Government and make any further non-material amendments necessary to agree the ADP with both Governments.**

DISCUSSION

The Year 1 Annual Delivery Plan for the Flintshire and Wrexham Investment Zone was reported. It was noted that this was an exciting opportunity for Flintshire and Wrexham, and for the whole of north Wales. It was elaborated that this would achieve enhanced global status in the Advanced Manufacturing sector in north Wales.

It was reported that the Investment Zone was now in the delivery phase. Members were reminded that a delivery plan must be set each year, and the intention was to deliver the output of the programme in each year. Members were informed that approval was being sought for the current year's delivery plan, which had commenced in April 2025.

It was explained that approval would enable the CJC to submit the Year 1 Annual Delivery Plan, which would trigger the signed final Memorandum of Understanding and the grant offer letter for year one funds. It was elaborated that preparatory work would commence on the Year 2 Annual Delivery fund, and would be starting in April 2026. It was explained that this would be submitted to the Flintshire and Wrexham Working Group and also to the CJC.

It was detailed that the programme was well established, and that it covered skills, business support, infrastructure, etc. An intention was noted to work with partners across north Wales, and for partners to deliver innovation development programmes and proposals for key partnerships with manufacturing companies and for the further design and development of the decarbonisation programme.

It was reported that proposals from Coleg Cambria and Wrexham University had been received for the first phase of the skills programme, and these would be shared with the Regional Skills Partnership. It was stated that the CJC would decide on the skills programme as it progressed. It was elaborated that the intention was to enter into funding agreements to launch a business support programme in Flintshire and

Wrexham, which would see businesses there apply for grant and support.

It was stated that the report noted high-level activities and financial allocations for the first two years. The need to consider year one allocations was emphasised at this meeting.

It was added that decisions regarding the Investment Zone would be evaluated and agreed with the leaders of Flintshire and Wrexham, but the report would be finally agreed by the CJC. A mandate would be given to the CJC's Statutory Finance Officer to sign-off on the Annual Delivery Plan provided that any insignificant adjustments were made at his discretion and submitted back to the CJC.

They were thanked for the update. Concern was expressed about a lack of engagement with schools and young people, particularly around apprenticeships and the opportunity for young people to engage with the project. Pride was also expressed in seeing the Regional Skills Partnership included in the project, especially to support the working for the region project. It was noted that the skills agenda would have to take a regional approach and not just Flintshire and Wrexham. It was agreed that it was important for local authorities to work together to support the success of the Investment Zone.

It was enquired about the Investment Zone Advisory Board, and how it fitted within the governance structure. In response, the consultant was asked to send an e-mail to all Members with details of the Investment Zone Advisory Board and a diagram of the governance structure. It was noted that Investment Zones were required to have independent advisory boards to be able to take advice and recommendations on the strategic direction, and it was noted that it was intended to report quarterly to this group. It was confirmed that the CJC was the accountable body for all decisions.

Thanks were expressed to all the officers.

11. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

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 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972: Information about the financial or business transactions of any specific person (including the authority that retains that information).

There is an acknowledged public interest in openness in relation to the use of public resources and related financial issues. It is also acknowledged that there are occasions, in order to protect the financial and commercial interests that matters related to such information need to be discussed without being publicised. The report is specific about agreeing appointment arrangements including job details and conditions and terms of pay that will be subject to a competitive recruitment process.

12. APPOINTMENT OF A PORTFOLIO DIRECTOR FOR THE CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

The report was presented by Alwen Williams, Chief Executive.

RESOLVED:

To agree to advertise the post of Portfolio Director on a permanent full-time basis, at an annual salary at a scale of up to £93,163.

To authorise the commencement of a recruitment process to appoint a Portfolio

Director.

To agree that the recruitment process, including the advertising, would be delegated to the Chief Executive.

To adapt the linguistic requirements in the Job Description to include that the ability to speak and write in Welsh is desirable rather than essential.

DISCUSSION

The report was discussed.

The meeting commenced at 14:00 and concluded at 15:15

CHAIRMAN

NORTH WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

23 January 2026

TITLE: 2026/27 Budget, Levy on Constituent Authorities and Partner Contributions

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

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide the proposed North Wales Corporate Joint Committee (CJC) and Growth Deal budget for 2026/27.

2. DECISION SOUGHT

North Wales Corporate Joint Committee

- 2.1. To approve the budget for 2026/27 as presented in Appendix 1.
- 2.2. To approve the levy on the constituent authorities as noted in Appendix 1.

Growth Deal

- 2.3. To approve the Growth Deal's revenue budget for 2026/27 as presented in Appendix 2.
- 2.4. To approve the funding contributions to include the partner contributions, local authorities' supplementary contributions and partner interest contributions.
- 2.5. To approve the Growth Deal's capital budget for 2026/27 as presented in Appendix 3.

3. REASON FOR THE DECISION

- 3.1. It is a statutory requirement for the CJC to approve its budget at a meeting of the CJC by 31 January annually.
- 3.2. The Growth Deal also requires an annual budget to be approved in order to operate effectively within the funding available.

4. BACKGROUND AND RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1. Regulations 16 and 17 of The North Wales Corporate Joint Committee Regulations set out the details of the process to be used to agree and fund the costs. Again for 2026/27, it is

recommended that the CJC's budget is funded by means of a levy apportioned between the constituent authorities based on the population relevant to the field of work.

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

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

North Wales Corporate Joint Committee

- 5.1. The CJC budget for 2026/27 is shown in Appendix 1 and has been split to four headings which are Strategic Planning, Transport, Investment Zone and corporate functions. This allows the constituent authorities' contributions to be levied separately for 'Planning' and 'Other' functions.
- 5.2. The total expenditure budget for 2026/27 is £2,159,770, with £200,000 funded from the Investment Zone allocation, £100,000 from the Welsh Government Regional Transport Plan Grant, £200,000 from the Welsh Government CJC Grant, £20,000 interest income, £624,590 from the reserve (which will leave around £0.8m in the reserve at 31 March 2027) and £1,015,180 from the levy on constituent authorities.
- 5.3. The budget has overall increased due to additional resources and services required to facilitate the work of the CJC going forwards. The increase is mainly shown within employees, supplies and services and support services lines, with additional budget lines added such as training, advertising and recruitments costs, premises, marketing and bank costs. The projects line (in the supplies and services heading) relates to expenditure that will be funded by the Welsh Government CJC grant – this will be further analysed when further information is available.
- 5.4. In order to further support governance arrangements across the CJC (including the Investment Zone and Growth Deal), 1 FTE Monitoring Officer and 0.6 FTE Section 151 Officer are required. The Monitoring Officer and Section 151 Officer costs under the support services heading are based on 0.35 FTE and 0.18 FTE respectively (which are then split between CJC and Growth Deal). In order to increase capacity to meet these requirements, an additional £129,790 has been budgeted, with £81,110 to the CJC, £16,230 to the Investment Zone and £32,450 to the Growth Deal.
- 5.5. The net expenditure budget is summarised below:
 - Strategic Planning (6 Leaders and Chair of the Park - simple majority, quorum = 5)
 - Other Functions of the CJC including Transport (6 Leaders - simple majority, quorum = 5).

Strategic Planning	Transport	Corporate Joint Committee	Budget Total
£	£	£	£
388,170	179,130	447,880	1,015,180

5.6. In accordance with the legislation, the CJC's general budget and the Transport budget will be funded by the six North Wales authorities, while the Eryri National Park Authority will also contribute towards the Strategic Planning budget (where they will have a vote). The levy for each constituent authority has been divided based on the population figures and the total net budget.

5.7. The levy on the constituent authorities is noted below:

- Strategic Planning (Unanimity, quorum = 7)
- Other Functions (Unanimity, quorum = 6)

	Strategic Planning	Other functions	Total Levy
	£	£	£
Conwy County Borough Council	(61,450)	(103,330)	(164,780)
Denbighshire County Council	(54,690)	(88,350)	(143,040)
Flintshire County Council	(86,790)	(140,200)	(226,990)
Cyngor Gwynedd	(56,130)	(108,660)	(164,790)
Isle of Anglesey County Council	(38,480)	(62,130)	(100,610)
Wrexham County Borough Council	(76,970)	(124,340)	(201,310)
Eryri National Park Authority	(13,660)		(13,660)
Total Levy	(388,170)	(627,010)	(1,015,180)

5.8. The levy has increased by £112,700 for 2026/27 due to inflation (3.5%) and the additional costs of increasing the capacity of the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer for the CJC (£81,110).

5.9. Final approval by the UK and Welsh Governments of the Flintshire and Wrexham Investment Zone was announced in the 2025 Budget. 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 to undertake its statutory role as the accountable body. Legal support will be required in 2026/27, and therefore budget has been allocated to the relevant lines, with the remaining budget allocated to set-up costs. Budget headings such as support services for the Investment Zone will need to be reviewed when further information on the requirements becomes available.

Growth Deal

Revenue Budget

5.10. Appendix 2 sets out the proposed Growth Deal revenue budget per expenditure heading and the corresponding funding streams for the year.

5.11. The total expenditure budget for 2026/27 is £2,946,070, with £469,900 funded by partner contributions, £240,000 by local authorities' supplementary contributions, £154,090 by partner interest contributions, £660,000 from the 2.15% of the North Wales Growth Deal grant allocated to fund revenue expenditure, £435,350 from the top-slice of the projects' allocation

of the North Wales Growth Deal grant to fund posts specific to these projects and £986,730 from the resources reserve.

- 5.12. In its meeting in February 2025, the North Wales Economic Ambition Board approved the transfer of the interest received on the Growth Deal grant balances in 2024/25 and 2025/26 to a specific reserve to fund the additional government roles, the retention of the Portfolio Management Office capacity for an additional two years as well as project development costs. The use of this reserve in 2026/27 will leave an estimated balance of around £2.9m at 31 March 2027.

- 5.13. The contributions from partners are summarised below:

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

- 5.14. Partner contributions will remain the same as 2025/26 due to the reduction of the employer pension contribution rate from 2026/27 offsetting the out-turn adjustment for 2025/26 and the estimated salary inflation for 2026/27.
- 5.15. The supplementary contributions were approved as part of the Delivery and Funding Agreement and are provided by each Council on an ongoing basis to partly fund the annual budget of the Growth Deal.
- 5.16. In 2020, Arlingclose (independent treasury advisory company) were commissioned to model the cost of borrowing and the corresponding annual partner contributions required to meet this cost, and contributions were included in the 2021/22 budget onwards. Although a lot of the variables that can affect these costs remain uncertain, these revised contributions for 2026/27 are based on the most up to date information available and level of contributions required for the remaining years will be reviewed again as more information becomes available during the year.
- 5.17. Changes in projects in the capital profile have led to an overall increase in the estimated cost of borrowing compared to the previous calculation undertaken for the 2025/26 budget and have also altered partners' share of the borrowing cost, which is reflected in the partner interest contributions levels. Some partners also lead their own Growth Deal projects, and the

associated cost of borrowing has therefore been added to their interest contributions. Despite these changes, the interest contributions remain within the thresholds approved in the Delivery and Funding Agreement.

Capital Budget

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

6. IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 6.1. The Corporate Joint Committee is subject to duties under the Equality Act 2010 and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.
- 6.2. In accordance with the legal duties under the Equality Act 2010, when making decisions, the Corporate Joint Committee must give due attention to the need (1) to eliminate unlawful discrimination (2) advance equality of opportunity and (3) encourage good relations based on the protected characteristics. As setting a budget falls within the decisions which can be considered strategically, there is a duty to give due attention to operating in a way which is designed to minimise inequalities which stem from socio-economic disadvantage. As the Corporate Joint Committee is still in its early years, it is not considered that any specific impacts stem from the decisions submitted.

- 6.3. The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 involves improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The act places a well-being duty on public bodies which is aimed at delivering the seven well-being goals, namely a prosperous, resilient, healthier, more equal Wales with cohesive communities and a vibrant culture with a thriving Welsh language and which is globally responsible. Given the context, the recommendations are in accordance with these duties.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. Regulations 16 and 17 of The North Wales Corporate Joint Committee Regulations 2021 set out the details of the process to be used to agree and fund the costs. These regulations place specific requirements regarding the calculation and approval of the budget requirement (Regulation 16) and then, as a second step, agreeing the levy contributions of the constituent authorities (Regulation 17). According to statute, the Corporate Joint Committee must adopt the Budget by 31 January 2026. If the Corporate Joint Committee fails to agree on the contributions, Welsh Ministers have statutory powers to instruct the distribution of contributions.
- 7.2. It is noted in the decisions sought that there are specific requirements regarding quorum and voting in relation to these decisions. Therefore, it must be ensured that voting is arranged in a way which reflects on the one hand the specific voting rights involved with setting the budget and on the other hand the need for unanimity on the decisions on the levy, again while separating both elements.
- 7.3. Senior Officers of Ambition North Wales as well as the Monitoring Officer have contributed to this budget.

APPENDICES:

- Appendix 1:** North Wales Corporate Joint Committee's 2026/27 Revenue Budget
- Appendix 2:** Growth Deal's 2026/27 Revenue Budget
- Appendix 3:** Growth Deal's 2026/27 Capital Budget

STATUTORY OFFICERS RESPONSE:

i. Monitoring Officer:

The report summarises the technical requirements involved with these decisions together with the statutory duties involved with establishing the budget and levy.

ii. Statutory Finance Officer:

Report author.

North Wales Corporate Joint Committee's 2026/27 Revenue Budget

Appendix 1

	Strategic Planning	Transport	Investment Zone	Corporate Joint Committee	Total Budget
Expenditure	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)
Employees					
Employee expenditure (Pay, N.I. & Superannuation)	253,280	116,890	0	495,550	865,720
Additional Monitoring Officer and Section 151 Officer Capacity	0	0	16,230	81,110	97,340
Lay members allowance	0	0	0	2,090	2,090
Training	0	0	0	6,000	6,000
Advertising and recruitment costs	0	0	0	2,000	2,000
Employees Total	253,280	116,890	16,230	586,750	973,150
Travel					
Travel and subsistence	920	400	0	1,790	3,110
Travel Total	920	400	0	1,790	3,110
Supplies and services					
Premises	0	0	0	16,070	16,070
Tools and equipment	3,390	1,450	0	6,540	11,380
Miscellaneous supplies	920	400	0	1,780	3,100
Marketing	0	0	0	10,000	10,000
Bank costs	0	0	0	1,720	1,720
Engagement and meetings	960	1,200	0	2,880	5,040
Audit Wales' fees	0	0	0	41,480	41,480
External consultants	250,000	100,000	0	10,560	360,560
Insurance	2,280	1,060	0	4,530	7,870
Systems	34,940	6,170	0	14,800	55,910
Projects	0	0	0	141,500	141,500
Supplies and services Total	292,490	110,280	0	251,860	654,630
Support Services					
Finance Services Support (includes S151 Officer)	12,090	11,330	0	49,080	72,500
Legal (includes Monitoring Officer)	10,980	10,980	34,140	47,600	103,700
Democratic Support	14,720	18,390	0	44,140	77,250
Corporate Services	7,920	8,610	0	19,750	36,280
Information Technology	5,250	2,250	0	10,130	17,630
Support Services Total	50,960	51,560	34,140	170,700	307,360
Set-up costs					
Legal	0	0	0	13,390	13,390
External consultants	0	0	0	58,500	58,500
Investment Zone	0	0	149,630	0	149,630
Set-up costs Total	0	0	149,630	71,890	221,520
Total Expenditure Budget	597,650	279,130	200,000	1,082,990	2,159,770
Welsh Government - Regional Transport Plan Grant	0	(100,000)	0	0	(100,000)
Welsh Government - CJC Grant	0	0	0	(200,000)	(200,000)
Investment Zone	0	0	(200,000)	0	(200,000)
Interest on balances	0	0	0	(20,000)	(20,000)
Contribution from reserve	(209,480)	0	0	(415,110)	(624,590)
Total Net Expenditure Budget	388,170	179,130	0	447,880	1,015,180

	Strategic Planning	Other functions	Total Levy	2025/26 Levy	(Increase) / Decrease
Income	(£)	(£)	(£)		
Partners Contributions through a levy					
Conwy County Borough Council	(61,450)	(103,330)	(164,780)	(146,820)	(17,960)
Denbighshire County Council	(54,690)	(88,350)	(143,040)	(126,710)	(16,330)
Flintshire County Council	(86,790)	(140,200)	(226,990)	(203,270)	(23,720)
Cynfor Gwynedd	(56,130)	(108,660)	(164,790)	(144,690)	(20,100)
Isle of Anglesey County Council	(38,480)	(62,130)	(100,610)	(90,340)	(10,270)
Wrexham County Borough Council	(76,970)	(124,340)	(201,310)	(177,520)	(23,790)
Eryri National Park Authority	(13,660)	0	(13,660)	(13,130)	(530)
Total Income Budget	(388,170)	(627,010)	(1,015,180)	(902,480)	(112,700)

Relevant population		
Conwy County Borough Council	110,381	114,891
Denbighshire County Council	98,202	98,202
Flintshire County Council	155,867	155,867
Cynfor Gwynedd	100,787	120,813
Isle of Anglesey County Council	69,097	69,097
Wrexham County Borough Council	138,245	138,245
Eryri National Park Authority	24,536	
Total population	697,115	697,115

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

2026/27 Growth Deal Budget

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

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

NORTH WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

23 January 2026

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

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

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee (CJC) with details of the CJC, the Economic Well-being Sub-committee (Growth Deal) and the Regional Skills Partnership's (RSP) projected full year out-turn income and expenditure against their annual budget.
- 1.2. In order to operate effectively, the Joint Committee needs to be aware of the projected expenditure position against the approved annual budget.

2. DECISIONS SOUGHT

- 2.1. To note and accept the revenue end of December 2025 review for the CJC (Appendix 1).
- 2.2. To note and accept the revenue end of December 2025 review for the Economic Well-being Sub-committee (Growth Deal), including the reserves position (Appendix 2 and 3).
- 2.3. To note and accept the Growth Deal's revised capital expenditure profile (Appendix 4).
- 2.4. To note and accept the revenue end of December 2025 review for the RSP (Appendix 5).

3. REASONS FOR THE DECISION

- 3.1. An underspend of £959,205 is forecast against the CJC's revenue budget for 2025/26.
- 3.2. An underspend of £618,025 is forecast against the Economic Well-being Sub-committee's revenue budget for 2025/26. The final underspend at the end of the financial year will be used to reduce the amount claimed from the North Wales Growth Deal grant and the resources reserve, and approval will be sought when the out-turn report is presented to the CJC.
- 3.3. To note a slippage on the capital programme, with an estimated expenditure of £22.15m in 2025/26 compared to an approved budget of £29.61m for the year.
- 3.4. To note a neutral out-turn position for the RSP for 2025/26.

4. BACKGROUND AND RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1. The CJC in its meeting on 17 January approved its 2025/26 budget whilst the North Wales Economic Ambition Board approved the Economic Well-being Sub-committee's 2025/26 revenue and capital budget in its meeting on 14 February 2025. Funding of £290,000 for the RSP was awarded by Welsh Government for 2025/26 in April 2025.
- 4.2. For the CJC, the net out-turn revenue position for the 2025/26 financial year was forecasted to be an underspend of £411,001 at the end of July 2025, but this has now increased to £959,205. This increase is mainly due to the success of the CJC securing grant funding for the Strategic Development Plan (£200,000) and CJC implementation (£200,000) since the previous review.
- 4.3. A further underspend is also forecasted for the Economic Well-being sub-committee, where £618,025 of underspend is now expected compared to £280,562 that was estimated in the July 2025 review. This is due to further underspends in employee expenditure and additional government roles, accountable body support services and the projects heading.
- 4.4. An updated capital profile of the Growth Deal has also been provided following a portfolio review by Ambition North Wales.
- 4.5. The out-turn report for 2025/26 will be presented to the CJC on 19th June 2026.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Corporate Joint Committee

- 5.1. Appendix 1 provides a detailed breakdown of the CJC's expenditure projections per heading against its annual budget.
- 5.2. The net out-turn position at the end of the 2025/26 financial year is forecasted to be an underspend of £959,205. This is mainly due to underspends in employee expenditure, insurance, systems and support services, in addition to grants awarded by Welsh Government for the Regional Transport Plan, Strategic Development Plan and the CJC's implementation.

Employees

- 5.3. An underspend of £356,426 is projected against the employees heading for 2025/26.
- 5.4. The employee expenditure includes the Chief Executive (full time since June 2025, previously on secondment from the Growth Deal for 2 days a week), posts in Policy, Procurement and Operations, support from the Personal Assistant, the Strategic Communication and Engagement Lead and the Procurement and Social Value Manager (2-3 days a week), and the costs of staff on secondment to the CJC. The underspend in the employee expenditure heading is due to posts being filled later on in the current financial year or expected to be filled in 2026/27. This underspend will be used to fund part of the external consultants overspend shown under set-up costs.
- 5.5. The recruitment of a full-time Chief Executive and additional posts has led to expenditure being incurred on advertising, recruitment and training.

- 5.6. Governance and Audit Committee meetings did not commence until December 2025, therefore leading to an underspend in the lay members allowance heading.

Travel

- 5.7. The estimated cost of the essential travel allowance and staff subsistence costs until March 2026 is £1,200, which gives an underspend of £1,800 for 2025/26.

Supplies and Services

- 5.8. There is an estimated net underspend of £31,292 against the supplies and services heading.
- 5.9. The external consultants heading is showing an estimated overspend of £36,160 but the £135,000 expenditure on the Transport sub-heading is funded from the Regional Transport Grant, which is shown as income. The CJC was also successful in securing £200,000 of funding from Welsh Government for the Strategic Development Plan and therefore the external consultants costs of £100,000 is funded by this grant.
- 5.10. The overspend of £13,432 in the Premises relates to the costs of additional office space.
- 5.11. Costs have also been incurred on bank fees and marketing, however there are estimated underspends in tools and equipment, miscellaneous supplies, engagement and meetings and audit fees.
- 5.12. The main underspends relate to insurance and systems. The actual insurance cost for 2025/26 is less than budgeted and most of the cost has been apportioned between the CJC and the Economic Well-being Sub-committee based on employee budget costs, therefore leading to an underspend for the CJC. The systems budget was included to cover the initial set-up costs as well as an annual fee for a Committee Management System; however, this is now expected to be implemented in 2026/27.

Support Services

- 5.13. There is an estimated underspend on this heading of £48,360 due to the recruitment of Cyngor Gwynedd staff supporting the CJC to be taken place after the Service Level Agreement has been finalised.
- 5.14. The underspend on the legal and democratic support headings will be used to fund part of the overspend on the legal and democratic costs from external consultants shown under set-up costs.

Set-Up Costs

- 5.15. The expenditure on legal and external consultants relates to the support on the implementation of the CJC, and support has continued beyond the initial contracted period as part of the CJC's transformation, therefore leading to an estimated overspend of £140,243 compared to the budget.

Income

- 5.16. The CJC was successful in its bid to Welsh Government for funding towards the Regional Transport Plan, the Strategic Development Plan and the support of the CJC's implementation,

with £200,000 awarded for all three headings in 2025/26. The CJC implementation grant and the remainder of the Regional Transport Plan and Strategic Development Plan grants will be used to fund expenditure that had previously been budgeted such as staffing and set up costs.

- 5.17. It is estimated that £60,000 of interest income will be received for 2025/26.
- 5.18. The levy on the constituent authorities for 2025/26 was approved by the CJC in its meeting on 17 January 2025.

Reserves

- 5.19. The earmarked reserve balance at 31 March 2025 was £1,112,671, and £564,740 of this reserve has been allocated to the 2025/26 budget to give a balance of £547,931. Any underspend at the end of the financial year will be transferred to the earmarked reserve, therefore the estimated balance at 31 March 2026 is £1,507,136. £624,590 of the reserve has been earmarked for the 2026/27 budget.

Investment Zone

- 5.20. The estimated expenditure on the Investment Zone is £132,980, which includes set up costs, translation from corporate services, and engagement and meetings. £25,000 has been awarded by Welsh Government for consultancy support, with £109,550 being funded from the CJC's earmarked reserve which will be repaid once the grant income has been approved by Government.

Economic Well-being Sub-committee

- 5.21. Appendix 2 provides a detailed analysis of the Economic Well-being Sub-committee's actual expenditure and income per heading up to the end of December 2025, together with a projected full year out-turn against its annual budget.
- 5.22. It is estimated that the net out-turn position at the end of the 2025/26 financial year will be an underspend of £618,025. This is mainly due to underspends in employee expenditure and additional government roles, accountable body support services and the projects heading. Ambition North Wales was also successful in its Shared Prosperity Fund application which has further contributed to the underspend in employee expenditure.

Portfolio Management Office

- 5.23. There is a £436,732 underspend on the Portfolio Management Office and the main underspend is shown on the employee expenditure and additional government roles heading.
- 5.24. Posts that were in the budget were filled during the financial year or are expected to be filled at the end of the financial year or at the beginning of 2026/27, leading to an underspend in employee expenditure. Funding received from the Local Area Energy Plan grant and the UK Shared Prosperity Fund for 2025/26 has also been used to fund the costs of two officers and a proportion of the costs for other staff. The support of three officers and the previous Portfolio Director to the CJC for one to three days a week has also led to an underspend in employee expenditure.

- 5.25. 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.
- 5.26. The recruitment of additional government roles has taken place during the financial year, therefore also contributing to the underspend. However, additional recruitment, including the recruitment of Portfolio Director, is expected to lead to an overspend in advertising and assessment of candidates costs.
- 5.27. The portfolio and programme development heading is showing an overspend due to work undertaken on portfolio business cases reviews and carbon and emissions support. The underspend shown under the project business case development heading will be used to fund this overspend.
- 5.28. The insurance heading is showing an overspend of £11,800 due to what was explained in 5.12. Whilst the systems budget was included to fund the costs of the Committee Management System (which is now not expected to be implemented until 2026/27), expenditure has been incurred on a platform and the development of a project management system.

Accountable Body Support Services

- 5.29. The estimated underspend on this heading is £44,230 with the explanation the same as that noted in 5.13.

Joint Committee

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

Projects

- 5.31. The expected net underspend on this heading is £60,794 There is an overspend in external legal support costs on numerous projects in the capital programme, however there is an expected underspend on project business case development costs, external finance support, procurement support and assurance costs.
- 5.32. The project delivery heading relates to expenditure on Growth Deal projects lead by Ambition North Wales that are currently in delivery and are considered as revenue expenditure.

Grant Schemes

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

Funding Contributions

- 5.34. 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.

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

Reserves

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

Capital

- 5.41. Appendix 4 shows the revised capital programme as at the end of December 2025.
- 5.42. There is a net reduction of £7.46m in the anticipated expenditure for 2025/26 and this is due to slippage on projects. However, the expenditure on the Cydnerth, Centre of Environmental Biotechnology and Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub projects has been brought forward therefore has reduced the slippage.
- 5.43. A portfolio review was conducted by Ambition North Wales, which lead to some Growth Deal projects being removed and a Reserve List established during the financial year. Some projects that were on the Reserve List have secured funding following the approval of their business cases and therefore expenditure is expected to increase in 2026/27 compared to the 2025/26 capital profile budget that was approved in February 2025. Society 5.0 is a new project following the Reserve List process, and it is expected that expenditure will be incurred in 2025/26.

Regional Skills Partnership

- 5.44. Appendix 5 provides an analysis of the RSP's actual expenditure and income per heading up to the end of December 2025, with a projected full year out-turn against its annual budget.
- 5.45. The projected out-turn is a neutral position, with the expenditure of £302,000 funded by Welsh Government grant of £290,000 plus a reserve of £12,000 for work that commenced in 2024/25 but not completed until May 2025.

6. CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN

- 6.1. The Economic Well-being Sub-Committee appendices of this report were presented to the Portfolio Board on 16 January 2026.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1	2025/26 CJC's Revenue Budget – End of December 2025 Review
Appendix 2	2025/26 Economic Well-being Sub-committee's Revenue Budget – End of December 2025 Review
Appendix 3	Economic Well-being Sub-committee's reserves position
Appendix 4	2025/26 Growth Deal Capital Budget – End of December 2025 Review
Appendix 5	2025/26 RSP's Revenue Budget – End of December 2025 Review

STATUTORY OFFICERS RESPONSE:

i. Monitoring Officer:

No observations to add in relation to propriety.

ii. Statutory Finance Officer:

Report author.

North Wales Corporate Joint Committee's 2025/26 revenue budget - December 2025 Review

Appendix 1

	Strategic Planning	Transport	Budget Investment Zone	Corporate Joint Committee	Total Budget	Strategic Planning	Transport	Expenditure forecast Investment Zone	Corporate Joint Committee	Total Expenditure	Forecast Overspend / (Underspend)
Expenditure	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)
Employees											
Employee expenditure (Pay, N.I. & Superannuation)	226,230	112,970	0	428,880	768,080	92,814	45,356	0	244,254	382,424	(385,656)
Advertising and recruitment costs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	26,000	26,000	26,000
Training	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4,000	4,000	4,000
Lay members allowance	0	0	0	1,230	1,230	0	0	0	460	460	(770)
Employees Total	226,230	112,970	0	430,110	769,310	92,814	45,356	0	274,714	412,884	(356,426)
Travel											
Travel and subsistence	940	400	0	1,660	3,000	100	100	0	1,000	1,200	(1,800)
Travel Total	940	400	0	1,660	3,000	100	100	0	1,000	1,200	(1,800)
Supplies and services											
Premises	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13,432	13,432	13,432
Tools and equipment	3,440	1,470	0	6,090	11,000	500	1,000	0	6,000	7,500	(3,500)
Miscellaneous supplies	940	400	0	1,660	3,000	400	400	0	1,500	2,300	(700)
Marketing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6,000	6,000	6,000
Bank costs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,350	1,350	1,350
Engagement and meetings	930	1,160	0	2,780	4,870	500	500	300	2,780	4,080	(790)
Audit Wales' fees	0	0	0	30,000	30,000	0	0	0	26,480	26,480	(3,520)
External consultants	132,500	66,340	0	10,000	208,840	100,000	135,000	0	10,000	245,000	36,160
Insurance	15,000	15,000	0	30,000	60,000	1,701	848	0	2,767	5,316	(54,684)
Systems	4,770	5,960	0	14,310	25,040	0	0	0	0	0	(25,040)
Supplies and services Total	157,580	90,330	0	94,840	342,750	103,101	137,748	300	70,309	311,458	(31,292)
Support Services											
Finance Services Support (includes S151 Officer)	11,630	10,920	0	47,100	69,650	4,970	4,260	0	27,130	36,360	(33,290)
Legal (includes Monitoring Officer)	12,940	12,940	0	27,330	53,210	10,540	10,540	0	22,270	43,350	(9,860)
Democratic Support	14,220	17,770	0	42,650	74,640	12,900	16,130	0	39,130	68,160	(6,480)
Corporate Services	4,750	4,920	0	12,710	22,380	4,750	4,920	1,270	12,710	23,650	1,270
Information Technology	3,210	1,380	0	5,690	10,280	3,210	1,380	0	5,690	10,280	0
Support Services Total	46,750	47,930	0	135,480	230,160	36,370	37,230	1,270	106,930	181,800	(48,360)
Set-up costs											
Legal and Democratic	0	0	0	50,000	50,000	19,909	19,909	0	26,545	66,363	16,363
External consultants	0	0	0	72,000	72,000	0	0	0	195,880	195,880	123,880
Investment Zone	0	0	180,000	0	180,000	0	0	132,980	0	132,980	(47,020)
Set-up costs Total	0	0	180,000	122,000	302,000	19,909	19,909	132,980	222,425	395,223	93,223
Total Expenditure Budget	431,500	251,630	180,000	784,090	1,647,220	252,294	240,343	134,550	675,378	1,302,565	(344,655)
Welsh Government - Strategic Development Plan Grant	0	0	0	0		(200,000)	0	0	0	(200,000)	(200,000)
Welsh Government - Regional Transport Plan Grant	0	0	0	0	0	0	(200,000)	0	0	(200,000)	(200,000)
Welsh Government - CJC Grant	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	(200,000)	(200,000)	(200,000)
Welsh Government - Investment Zone	0	0	0	0	0	0		(25,000)	0	(25,000)	(25,000)
Investment Zone	0	0	(180,000)	0	(180,000)	0	0	(109,550)	0	(109,550)	70,450
Interest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	(60,000)	(60,000)	(60,000)
Contribution from reserve	(56,460)	(67,450)	0	(440,830)	(564,740)	(56,460)	(67,450)	0	(440,830)	(564,740)	0
Total Net Expenditure Budget	375,040	184,180	0	343,260	902,480	(4,166)	(27,107)	0	(25,452)	(56,725)	(959,205)

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

Appendix 2

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

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

Appendix 2

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

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

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

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

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

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

Regional Skills Partnership's Financial Position (December 2025)

Appendix 5

	Budget	December 2025	December 2025	Estimated Final	Overspend /
	(£)	(£)	Commitments	Position	(Underspend)
Expenditure	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)
Employee Expenditure (Pay, N.I. & Superannuation)	209,900	139,236	0	209,900	0
Travel and Subsistence	1,500	1,538	0	4,220	2,720
Supplies and Services	45	0	683	683	638
Lightcast and Data City	10,000	0	0	12,875	2,875
Website	10,000	0	0	9,000	(1,000)
Premises	12,000	7,786	861	10,370	(1,630)
Skills Plan - Labour Market Information Work	12,660	12,735	0	12,735	75
Cluster Groups allocation	1,395	0	0	0	(1,395)
Skills Portal	10,000	9,926	0	9,926	(74)
Events and Meetings	19,500	4,628	218	17,291	(2,209)
Marketing and Communications	15,000	5,139	5,403	15,000	0
Total Expenditure	302,000	180,988	7,165	302,000	0
Income	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)
Welsh Government Grant	(290,000)	(97,667)	0	(290,000)	0
Earmarked Reserve	(12,000)	0	0	(12,000)	0
Total Income	(302,000)	(97,667)	0	(302,000)	0
Net Overspend / (Underspend)	0	83,321	7,165	0	0

NORTH WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

23 January 2026

TITLE: Strategic Transport Sub-Committee - Terms of Reference and self-assessment

AUTHOR: To be presented by the Chair of the Strategic Transport sub-committee

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1. To consider the recommendations from the Strategic Transport Sub-Committee in relation to amendments to their Terms of Reference and feedback on their annual self-assessment

2. DECISION SOUGHT

- 2.1. To approve the following changes to the Terms of Reference of the Strategic Transportation sub-committee:
- That the requirement to produce a quarterly progress report is replaced with bi-annual reporting
 - That the sub-committee have the delegated power to consider and make recommendations to the CJC on regional transport funding and scheme commitments
- 2.2 To note the feedback from the sub-committee's self-assessment questionnaire.

3. REASON FOR THE DECISION

- 3.1. The sub-committee shall annually review its Terms of Reference and may recommend to the CJC any amendments. Any revision to these terms must be endorsed by the CJC. The Sub-Committee must apply those rules and procedures as approved by the CJC and set out in the Terms of Reference – these are the powers delegated to the Sub-Committee.
- 3.2 The Terms of Reference also require that the sub-committee shall conduct an annual self-assessment of its activities. As part of the assessment it shall consider whether or not it receives adequate and appropriate support in fulfilment of its role and whether or not its annual plan of work is manageable.

4. BACKGROUND AND RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1. The CJC approved the establishment of the Strategic Transport Sub-Committee and its membership, including voting rights, to discharge the function of developing and producing a Regional Transportation Plan and related policies for the CJC. Whilst the function of developing transportation policies is for the Sub-Committee to carry out, the power of approval or revision is reserved to the CJC.

4.2 The detail put before the sub-committee is set out in report at Appendix 1. The functions as set out in the paragraph headed 'Role' in the Terms of Reference are delegated to the Sub-Committee from the CJC. The sub-committee unanimously supported the changes to the Terms of Reference to recommend bi-annual reporting as a more sustainable process for reporting performance and progress, and to include the power to make recommendations to the CJC on funding, and proposed programmes to be funded.

4.3 The annual self-assessment (report is at Appendix 2) has been undertaken through a questionnaire looking at the work of the sub-committee as a whole – including whether Members feel supported from the point of their co-option and through-out their work on the sub-committee. The feedback from the questionnaire is positive and Members noted their support and endorsed the findings.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1. There are no financial implications arising out of this report.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1. The legal and governance implications are addressed in the body of the report.

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1: Report to the Strategic Transportation Sub-Committee – Terms of Reference

Appendix 2: Report to the Strategic Transportation Sub-committee – Self Assessment

STATUTORY OFFICERS RESPONSE:

i. **Monitoring Officer:**

"No observations to add in relation to propriety."

ii. **Statutory Finance Officer:**

"I have no objections to the decision sought."

REPORT TO THE STRATEGIC TRANSPORT SUB-COMMITTEE

15 December 2025

TITLE: Terms of Reference for the Strategic Transport Sub-Committee

AUTHOR: Claire Incledon

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1. To review the Terms of Reference for the Strategic Transport Sub-Committee.

2. DECISION SOUGHT

- 2.1. To recommend the following changes to the Terms of Reference to the CJC :
- That the requirement to produce a quarterly progress report is replaced with bi-annual reporting
 - That the sub-committee have the delegated power to consider and make recommendations to the CJC on regional transport funding and scheme commitments

3. REASON FOR THE DECISION

- 3.1. The sub-committee shall annually review its Terms of Reference and may recommend to the CJC any amendments. Any revision to these terms must be endorsed by the CJC. The Sub-Committee must apply those rules and procedures as adopted by the CJC and set out in the Terms of Reference – these are the powers delegated to the Sub-Committee.

4. BACKGROUND AND RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1. The CJC approved the establishment of the Strategic Transport Sub-Committee and its membership, including voting rights, to discharge the function of developing and producing a Regional Transportation Plan and related policies for the CJC. Whilst the function of developing transportation policies is for the Sub-Committee to carry out, the power of approval or revision is reserved to the CJC.
- 4.2. The functions as set out in the paragraph headed 'Role' in the Terms of Reference are delegated to the Sub-Committee from the CJC. The strategic nature of the Sub-Committee's role provides for policy development on a regional basis. To monitor this progress the Sub-Committee provides performance management reports to the CJC and regular updates on resource management and policy development considering its obligations under the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act and other statutory duties.
- 4.5. The Sub-Committee meets quarterly and currently the Terms of Reference required it to prepare a progress report to cover its performance, outcomes and resource requirements. The short turn around in preparing these reports is undermining their purpose to provide time for considered focus on performance and resource management. Members are asked to

recommend bi-annual reporting as a more sustainable process for reporting performance and progress.

- 4.6 Recent developments in the implementation of the Regional Transport Plan have included new ways of working through grant modernisation. Welsh Government has shared guidance on the development of the Regional Transport Fund (RTF) which has supported the development of a programme of schemes to deliver the Regional Transport Delivery Plan. Currently the role of the sub-committee is to make recommendations on regional transportation Plans and policies. Work with the sub-committee in progressing the first transitional year of grant programming has illustrated a gap in the functions of the sub-committee. Consequently Members are asked to consider that the Terms of Reference are amended to include the power to make recommendations to the CJC on funding, grant distribution and proposed programmes to be funded.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. There are no financial implications arising out of this report.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. The legal and governance implications are addressed in the body of the report.

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1: Terms of Reference for the strategic Transportation Sub-Committee with amendments

STATUTORY OFFICERS RESPONSE:

- i. **Monitoring Officer:**
The report has been prepared by the Deputy Monitoring Officer. No observations to add in relation to propriety
- ii. **Statutory Finance Officer:**

I have no objections to the decision sought.

STRATEGIC TRANSPORT SUB-COMMITTEE - TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Corporate Joint Committees Regulations

The North Wales Corporate Joint Committee Regulations 2021 provide that the CJC is to exercise the functions of developing policies under section 108 of the Transport Act 2000.

The Corporate Joint Committee (Transport Functions)(Wales) Regulations modify the Transport Act 2000 in relation to Corporate Joint Committees established under Part 5 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021, where the functions of developing policies under section 108 of the Transport Act 2000 have been conferred on Corporate Joint Committees.

ROLE:

- to make recommendations to the Corporate Joint Committee on the approval and revision of a Regional Transport Plan and its submission to Welsh Ministers for approval.
- to make recommendations to the Corporate Joint Committee on policies for the implementation by the local transport authorities in its area of the Wales Transport Strategy.
- To make recommendations to the Corporate Joint Committee on regional transport funding and scheme commitments
- to advise and make recommendations on a co-ordinated joined-up and integrated strategic transportation service in North Wales; through the monitoring, and review of a Regional Transport Plan.
- to plan, co-ordinate and advise on regional responses to the Welsh Government Improving Public Transport proposals.
- to report regularly to the Corporate Joint Committee on progress, performance, outcomes, and resource requirements.
- keeping its regional transport plans and policies under review and recommend any alterations it if it considers it appropriate to do so.
- to undertake any activities which are ancillary or reasonably incidental to the achievement of these functions

The chairperson of the sub-committee will play a key role in providing leadership and key relations with Welsh Government and the UK Government with regard to the work of the Sub-Committee and its advisory role in the development of the Regional Transport Plan.

The Sub Committee will be advised by Officers of the CJC and its Statutory Officers or their duly appointed representatives or deputies.

Strategic

- to co-ordinate Local Authority and other partner activity so that a strategic regional approach takes place in the relevant policy area.
- to provide relevant strategic advice to the Corporate Joint Committee.
- to support the Corporate Joint Committee to influence national policies and funding programmes.
- to enact the decisions of the Corporate Joint Committee. The Corporate Joint Committee will provide direction and commission the Sub-Committees to undertake key tasks.

Programme & Project Management

- to co-ordinate the planning, development and delivery of relevant Programme(s) / Project(s) within these Terms of Reference.
- to monitor and review progress and impact of relevant Programme(s) / Project(s), and to put forward any recommendations to the Corporate Joint Committee.
- To monitor and review the level and deployment of resources including staff and where it deems appropriate make recommendations to the CJC in relation to these matters.

Resource Management

- To monitor and review the level and deployment of resources required including staff and where it deems appropriate make recommendations to the CJC in relation to these matters.

Performance Management

- To co-ordinate the reporting of performance to the Corporate Joint Committee.

RESPONSIBILITIES and DELIVERABLES:

Communication and Awareness Raising

The Transport Sub-Committee will prepare a bi-annual report on its work for the Corporate Joint Committee which shall include:

- Progress on implementation of the Regional Transport Plan including individual Programmes and Projects.
- The Financial Performance of the Committee
- Forthcoming developments.

The report shall form part of an agreed scrutiny protocol, and shall be in a format which will facilitate its submission into Scrutiny or other governance arrangements as determined the Corporate Joint Committee.

QUORUM:

No fewer than 5 of the members must be present.

REVIEW

The Transport Sub-Committee shall conduct an annual self-assessment of its activities under these Terms of Reference and report any conclusions and recommendations to the Corporate Joint Committee and, as part of this assessment, shall consider whether or not it receives adequate and appropriate support in fulfilment of its role and whether or not its annual plan of work is manageable.

The Committee shall annually review its Terms of Reference and may recommend to the Corporate Joint Committee any amendments to its Terms of Reference.

REPORT TO THE STRATEGIC TRANSPORT SUB-COMMITTEE

15 December 2025

TITLE: Strategic Transport Sub-Committee annual self-assessment review

AUTHOR: Claire Incledon, Deputy Monitoring Officer (interim)

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1. To review the annual self-assessment of the Strategic Transport Sub-Committee's activities.

2. DECISION SOUGHT

- 2.1. To report any conclusions and recommendations arising from the self-assessment to the CJC.

3. REASON FOR THE DECISION

- 3.1. The Terms of Reference provide that the sub-committee shall conduct an annual self-assessment of its activities. As part of the assessment it shall consider whether it receives adequate and appropriate support in fulfilment of its role and whether or not its annual plan of work is manageable.

4. BACKGROUND AND RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1. The sub-committee commenced its work in October 2024 and has in that short while reviewed the Regional Transport Plan (RTP), Regional Transport Delivery Plan and related policy support documents for approval by the Corporate Joint Committee. Alongside its formal work it has received regular updates and presentations on national and regional transportation initiatives and proposals. Membership of the sub-committee is drawn from portfolio holders within each regional local authority that have responsibility for transportation.
- 4.2. To date Members have received a quarterly report outlining performance of the sub-committee, including the progress on the RTP and related programmes and developments. Whilst these reports have been broad ranging Members have not had the opportunity to specifically assess the activities of the sub-committee to date.
- 4.3. The self-assessment has been carried out as a questionnaire looking at the work of the sub-committee as a whole, and whether Members feel supported from the point of co-option onto the sub-committee and through-out their work on the sub-committee. The feedback from the questionnaire provides an overall positive picture (a summary of the feedback is at Appendix 1). Members have indicated that they are feeling appropriately supported and that the sub-committee is undertaking its role appropriately, with the Forward Work Plan, agendas and information sharing all working well.

- 4.4 In the last year a significant amount of work has been undertaken involving this new sub-committee and membership to support regional transport delivery. It is accepted that there is always room for improvement and this questionnaire highlights the importance of working together to achieve better ways of working, and to secure the delivery of the RTP.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. There are no financial implications arising out of this report.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. The legal and governance implications are addressed in the body of the report.

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1: feedback on the self-assessment questionnaire.

STATUTORY OFFICERS RESPONSE:

- i. **Monitoring Officer:**
- ii. **Statutory Finance Officer:**

I have no comments from the perspective of financial propriety.

Response	1	2	3	4	5
A gawsoch ddigon o gefnogaeth gan y CBC pan gawsoch eich cyd-ethol i'r is-bwyllgor? / Did you receive sufficient support from the CJC when you were co-opted on to the sub-committee?	Na / No	Do / Yes	Do / Yes	Do / Yes	Do / Yes
Sylwadau / Comments:	Not Really as Cabinet member for Environment, Highways , and Transport I was just ask to join the CJC.	Greater clarity on terms of reference		0	Just joined and the information that I have received assists me greatly 0 for preparing for the meetings.
A gawsoch ddigon o wybodaeth am rôl yr is-bwyllgor a'r CBC i gefnogi eich gwaith ar yr is-bwyllgor? / Did you have sufficient information about the role of the sub-committee & CJC to support your work	Na / No	Do / Yes	Do / Yes	Do / Yes	Do / Yes
Sylwadau / Comments:1	I wasn't given any information about the role.	Yes- improving roles		0	I received all the information I 0 needed
A oes gennych unrhyw anhawster i gael mynediad at agenda'r is-bwyllgor? / Do you have any difficulties in accessing the sub-committee agendas?	Na / No	Na / No	Na / No	Na / No	Na / No
Sylwadau / Comments:2	No problem with the agendas.		0	I have only had one experience when I did not receive the paper being discussed (the proposal from Ambition North Wales to the CJC sub Group regarding the proposed changes to the governance 0 arrangements.	No
A ydych wedi cael unrhyw anhawster i fynychu cyfarfodydd yr is-bwyllgor ar-lein? / Have you had any difficulties in attending sub-committee meetings on-line?	Do / Yes	Na / No	Na / No	Na / No	Na / No
Sylwadau / Comments:3	Some times I have clashes with my Cabinet work for DCC.		0	0	0 No issues
Mae gwaith yr is-bwyllgor wedi'i nodi yn ei Gylch Gorchwyl. A ydych chi'n cytuno bod y Rhaglen Waith Ymlaen a'r eitemau ar yr agenda yn adlewyrchu'n ddigonol y busnes y mae angen i'r is-bwyllgor ei ym	Ydw / Yes	Ydw / Yes	Ydw / Yes	Ydw / Yes	Ydw / Yes
Sylwadau / Comments:4	No problem with this.	This this work is improving		0	Items are timely and in tune with 0 the FWP
A ydych yn ystyried bod rhaglen sesiynau anffurfiol a chyfarfodydd ffurfiol yr is-bwyllgor yn eich hysbysu'n ddigonol am ddatblygiadau trafnidiaeth rhanbarthol a chenedlaethol? / Do you consider the s	Ydw / Yes	Ydw / Yes	Ydw / Yes	Ydw / Yes	Ydw / Yes
Sylwadau / Comments:5	Yes I feel that a lot of thought goes into the both meetings.	We need to be clear what's informal and what's the formal role		0	I find these meetings informative 0 and very useful
A ydych yn teimlo eich bod yn cael digon o gefnogaeth i gyflawni eich rôl ar yr is-bwyllgor? Os nad ydych, beth allai gael ei wella? / Do you feel adequately supported to carry out your role on the su	Ydw / Yes	Ydw / Yes	Ydw / Yes	Ydw / Yes	Ydw / Yes
Sylwadau / Comments:6	I do now.		0	0	As a new member, I am finding my way and I'm receiving a lot of 0 assistance.
Wrth edrych yn ôl dros y flwyddyn ddiwethaf, a ydych yn credu bod yr is-bwyllgor wedi perfformio'n dda? Os nad ydych, beth allai gael ei wneud yn well? / Looking back over the last year do you think t	Ydw / Yes	Ydw / Yes	Ydw / Yes	Ydw / Yes	Na / No
Sylwadau / Comments:7	Yes there has been a lot of work to do in a short time line.	New roles and responsibilities - and improving		0	0 Can't comment
A oes unrhyw sylw yr hoffech ei roi am reolaeth adnoddau neu berfformiad yr is-bwyllgor a fyddai'n helpu Aelodau i gyflawni eu rôl? / Is there any comment you would like to provide about the resource	Nag oes / No	Nag oes / No	Nag oes / No	Nag oes / No	Nag oes / No
Sylwadau / Comments:	Nothing to add realy.		0	0	0 N/A
Oes gennych chi unrhyw sylwadau neu arsylwadau eraill yr hoffech chi eu rhannu? / Do you any other comments or observations you would like to share?	Not really.	The CJC. Is improving all the times its critical to ensure that all LAs are involved and ensure all cabinet members understand their roles.	Nagoes	No	An interesting sub committee that hopefully will advise on major/minor transport improvements, improvements from the grass roots.

NORTH WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

23rd January 2026

TITLE: Regional Transport Fund Update

AUTHOR: Adam Graham, Senior Transport Officer

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1. This report is to update the Corporate Joint Committee (CJC) on the feedback from Welsh Government on the draft Programme of Schemes that was submitted in November 2025.

2. DECISIONS SOUGHT

- 2.1. To note the report.

3. REASON FOR THE DECISION

- 3.1. The Corporate Joint Committee approved the draft Programme of Schemes on 7th November 2025 for submission to Welsh Government for review and approval. The deadline for submission was the 21st November, 2025.
- 3.2. Welsh Government undertook a review of the programme and sent comments back to Ambition North Wales by 19th December, 2025.
- 3.3. Any alterations resulting from Welsh Government feedback will be brought to the CJC at its meeting on 23rd January, 2026. It is not expected that there will be a need to be any alterations to the programme of schemes approved by the CJC in November. This report outlines the current position on the progress of the programme and work undertaken to achieve final approval by the Welsh Minister.
- 3.4. In March 2026 Welsh Government will approve the Regional Transport Fund (RTF) programme and send the RTF offer letters for FY2026-27 to the local authorities and CJs (subject to Ministerial approval).
- 3.5. Local authorities will begin delivery of schemes in April 2026.
- 3.6. Further to Welsh Government Regional Transport funding guidance the Corporate Joint Committee has responsibility for developing a five-year Programme of Schemes to be funded by the RTF and to undertake in-year management of the grant spend.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1. In guidance from Welsh Government, CJs are asked to identify a draft RTF Programme of schemes showing a delivery schedule for schemes to receive funding during 2026/27 - the first

year of the Regional Transport Fund. The CJC has worked closely with all the Councils across the region to identify and prioritise schemes to be included in the draft Programme. Additional to this, Welsh Government have advised that CJs may recommend that funding is awarded to schemes for the 2027/28 and 2028/29 financial years, up to a maximum value of 50% of the amount available to the region in 2026/27. The programme of schemes must be in line with the Regional Transport Delivery Plan.

- 4.2. At the CJC meeting on 7th November 2025, the Committee approved a draft programme of schemes for submission to Welsh Government for review. This was then submitted to Welsh Government on the 21st November.

5. FEEDBACK FROM WELSH GOVERNMENT

- 5.1. Ambition North Wales have worked with Welsh Government and local authority officers to address some of the early questions raised by Welsh Government.
- 5.2. Welsh Government sent their more formal comments back to Ambition North Wales on 19th December.
- 5.3. A comment was provided on each scheme, and each scheme was given a red, amber or green rating, where:
 - Green – Minor comment that doesn't preclude approval, but should be taken into consideration in the finalisation of the programme (30th January 2026) and/or implementation of the works.
 - Amber – Flagging of an issue that doesn't preclude approval, but must be acted upon in the finalisation of the programme (30th January 2026) and/or implementation of the works.
 - Red – A serious concern that may preclude approval if not addressed.
- 5.4. Of the schemes on the list:
 - 37 were given a green rating.
 - 43 were given an amber rating. We are working with local authorities to address the additional information sought on these.
 - Three were given a red rating. We are working with Welsh Government and local authority officers to address the concerns raised on these. Of these schemes:
 - One is on the reserve list, so is not anticipated to cause any concerns for the programme.
 - Another, also on the reserve list, relates to landownership for a proposed Active Travel scheme so we are working with the authority and Welsh Government to resolve the concern.
 - The third relates to possible onward funding of the project beyond next year and we are working with the local authority and Welsh Government to identify options for progression.
- 5.5. A revised list, with comments addressed, is required to be submitted to Welsh Government by 30th January.
- 5.6. At the time of writing this report, noting the ongoing work described on section 5.4, it is not expected that there will be a need to be any alterations to the programme of schemes approved by the CJC in November.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1. There are no financial implications of this report.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1. There are no legal implications of this report.

APPENDICES:

None

STATUTORY OFFICERS RESPONSE:

i. Monitoring Officer:

“No observations to add in relation to propriety.”

ii. Statutory Finance Officer:

“This report provides the CJC with an update following approval of the draft Programme of Schemes in November 2025. There are no financial implications of this report, and I have no further comments to add.”

REPORT TO THE CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

23rd January, 2026

TITLE: Formal Submission of the Strategic Development Plan Delivery Agreement

AUTHOR: Andy Roberts, Regional Strategic Planning Officer

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1. This report seeks the agreement of the Corporate Joint Committee (CJC) to formally submit the Delivery Agreement (DA) for the North Wales Strategic Development Plan (SDP) to Welsh Government for approval by the Welsh Ministers. This follows the setting of an appropriate budget by the CJC for 2026/27, to meet the costs of producing the SDP in the first year of the timetable and commence the plan.

2. DECISION SOUGHT

- 2.1. To formally approve the submission of the SDP Delivery Agreement to Welsh Government for approval in accordance with Regulation 11(2) of the Town and Country Planning (Strategic Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2021.
- 2.2. To provide delegated authority to the Chief Executive of Ambition North Wales in consultation with the Chair of the Strategic Planning sub-committee to make any minor editorial or formatting amendments to the Delivery Agreement to prepare it for formal submission to Welsh Government.

3. REASON FOR THE DECISION

- 3.1. Responsibility to approve and submit the draft Delivery Agreement for approval by Welsh Ministers rests with the Corporate Joint Committee.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1. Members of the Corporate Joint Committee considered the SDP draft Delivery Agreement at its meeting held on Friday 19th September 2025. Following feedback from a consultation on the Delivery Agreement, the Committee agreed at that meeting to approve the Delivery Agreement ready for submission to Welsh Government, subject to resolution of the funding of the SDP. This resolution also considered changes to the Delivery Agreement as detailed in the Consultation Report appended to the covering report to that meeting and is also inclusive of a Member amendment made and agreed at that meeting, in relation to full compliance with the Welsh Language Standards.

- 4.2. Members also considered feedback received from the consideration given to the same matters by the Strategic Planning Sub-Committee who met prior to the CJC meeting on the 19th of September. A key concern expressed by the sub-committee was the impact the funding of the SDP would have on existing Local Authority budgets and the levy paid by each authority to fund the CJC. It was noted in the report to the Committee on the 19th of September that these are considerations for the process of setting the CJC budget overall, and not just a budget for the SDP.
- 4.3. Since that date the budget setting process of the CJC has been underway to set the overall budget for 2026/27, including the funding needed in year 1 of the SDP Delivery Programme to commence the plan. Officers have been working with finance colleagues to ensure that the wishes of Member in relation to budget pressures were considered in how the SDP is resourced. The CJC budget for 2026/27 is due to be reported to the CJC on 23rd January 2026 for approval.
- 4.4. The SDP process has therefore in effect been on hold since September awaiting budget setting and approval, as that is the reassurance that Members wanted prior to formally submitting the Delivery agreement. From the report that presents the budget to this meeting for approval, Members will see that the funding needed to commence the plan has been identified, and in doing so, this has avoided any impact on the Local Authority levy from the SDP. This is explained in more detail in the following section.

5. CONSIDERATIONS

- 5.1. As Members will know, the estimated cost of producing the SDP has been estimated at £3.276m over the five-year process, or an average of £655,272 per annum. Whilst this is considered a realistic estimate, it is also one that should be seen as a worst-case scenario, leaving scope at each annual budget setting cycle to seek to achieve efficiencies and savings. These are the total costs to the CJC whose duty it is to produce the SDP and to fund that process. Members have previously considered a specific report on the funding of the SDP ([LINK](#)) which compared the budget set for 2025/26 with the funding that would be required to meet these costs, which in essence required the 2025/26 budget to increase by about 50%.
- 5.2. Having considered the revenue expenditure needed for the first year of producing the SDP following Welsh Government approval of the Delivery Agreement, a budget for the SDP for 2026/27 has been proposed amounting to £597,650. The breakdown of this is provided in the budget report that appears earlier on this agenda which details the required expenditure and the sources of income that will be used to meet that expenditure (see budget summary sheet in **Appendix 1**).
- 5.3. The main components of the budget are made up of expenditure requirements of: £253,290 to cover current salaries and planned recruitment in-year; £292,490 that mainly provides funding for essential consultancy support along with a sum to fund the provision of an SDP back-office system; and finally £50,960 that provides funding for the various support services required to assist with plan production. The total expenditure of £597,650 is below the annual average estimated costs above and presents an early example of budgeting for the costs we need to expend, rather than simply accumulating a budget. Whilst the costs may vary over time, these will be determined at each annual budget setting process, guided by the overall cost estimates, the stage reached with the plan, and other potential sources of income available at that time.

- 5.4. A key concern for Members when the Delivery Agreement was approved in September, was the ability to set an appropriate budget for the SDP, without this having a significant effect on Local Authority Budgets. This concern was also echoed by Members of the Strategic Planning Sub-Committee. There are two things for Members to note from the budget summary in appendix 1 in relation to this. Firstly, the cumulative contribution to meeting the proposed expenditure from the Local Authority levy is £388,170. This remains very close to the levy amount required in the 2025/26 budget (£375,040) representing only a £13,130 difference, or 2.2% of the overall expenditure budget for 2026/27.
- 5.5. A significant mitigating factor that has helped significantly limit the impact on Local Authorities is the reserve funding that has been identified to use in the budget (£209,480). This has come from a combination of budget underspend in-year in 2025/26, and the award of a performance grant from Welsh Government to the CJC for the progress it has made of £200,000. The combination of these potentially also leaves further reserves that can be considered as part of setting the budget for year 2 of the SDP in 2027/28.
- 5.6. The CJC has therefore reached the point where it has firstly already approved the Delivery Agreement for submission to the Welsh Ministers for their approval and secondly, has set a realistic budget for year 1 of the SDP programme that is sufficient to meet the production costs. The position reached with the budget in terms of the very limited impact on the Local Authority levy is a significant achievement, providing Members with the reassurance they sought, and with the potential to repeat this as part of the budget setting exercise for 2027/28, at least. Whilst a Medium-Term Financial Strategy has yet to be agreed for the CJC, this position is considered to be the best that can be achieved for next year (and the year after), and therefore the certainty required to commit to formally submitting the SDP Delivery Agreement for approval by Welsh Ministers.

6. NEXT STEPS

- 6.1. Members are therefore now asked to agree to formally submit the SDP Delivery Agreement to Welsh Government for approval in accordance with Regulation 11(2) of the Town and Country Planning (Strategic Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2021.
- 6.2. On the presumption that Members agree, the Delivery Agreement will be finalised following this meeting and submitted within as short a space of time as possible. Once received by Welsh Government it is understood that the Minister will write to the CJC within four weeks of receipt to indicate acceptance of the Delivery Agreement, signifying the formal commencement of work on the plan. If Welsh Government have any queries about the content of the Delivery Agreement, there is more than sufficient time to address these, secure the full amount of performance grant, and maintain progress against the SDP timetable.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. Costs will be drawn from the proposed North Wales CJC budget for 2026/27 with the necessary support from the CJC's Legal and Finance teams. The CJC will also seek to secure further funding support from Welsh Government as the SDP progresses, and to identify efficiencies and potential savings in setting future annual budgets.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1. The Corporate Joint Committee has a statutory duty to prepare a Strategic Development Plan further to the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended). The specific requirements and steps to produce a Strategic Development Plan are set out in The Town and Country Planning (Strategic Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2021.

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1: Ambition North Wales Summary Budget 2026/27

STATUTORY OFFICERS RESPONSE:

i. Monitoring Officer:

“There are a series of key decisions which lead ultimately to the adoption of a Strategic Development Plan. Although a technical document in many respects the approval of the Delivery Agreement for submission to Welsh Government is a significant decision. It sets out the proposed process and commitment of the CJC to deliver the plan. The recommendation draws attention to the issue of funding of the Plan process and the need for the CJC to ensure resolution of this issue as a pre-condition for the submission of the Agreement to Welsh Government.”

ii. Statutory Finance Officer:

“The submission of the Delivery Agreement is a key step in the development of the Strategic Development Plan.

I can confirm that the financial information contained in this report is consistent with the proposed budget for 2026/27. Subject to the Corporate Joint Committee approving the budget, I have no objections to the decisions sought.”

North Wales Corporate Joint Committee's 2026/27 Revenue Budget

Appendix 1

	Strategic Planning	Transport	Investment Zone	Corporate Joint Committee	Total Budget
Expenditure	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)
Employees					
Employee expenditure (Pay, N.I. & Superannuation)	253,280	116,890	0	495,550	865,720
Additional Monitoring Officer and Section 151 Officer Capacity	0	0	16,230	81,110	97,340
Lay members allowance	0	0	0	2,090	2,090
Training	0	0	0	6,000	6,000
Advertising and recruitment costs	0	0	0	2,000	2,000
Employees Total	253,280	116,890	16,230	586,750	973,150
Travel					
Travel and subsistence	920	400	0	1,790	3,110
Travel Total	920	400	0	1,790	3,110
Supplies and services					
Premises	0	0	0	16,070	16,070
Tools and equipment	3,390	1,450	0	6,540	11,380
Miscellaneous supplies	920	400	0	1,780	3,100
Marketing	0	0	0	10,000	10,000
Bank costs	0	0	0	1,720	1,720
Engagement and meetings	960	1,200	0	2,880	5,040
Audit Wales' fees	0	0	0	41,480	41,480
External consultants	250,000	100,000	0	10,560	360,560
Insurance	2,280	1,060	0	4,530	7,870
Systems	34,940	6,170	0	14,800	55,910
Projects	0	0	0	141,500	141,500
Supplies and services Total	292,490	110,280	0	251,860	654,630
Support Services					
Finance Services Support (includes S151 Officer)	12,090	11,330	0	49,080	72,500
Legal (includes Monitoring Officer)	10,980	10,980	34,140	47,600	103,700
Democratic Support	14,720	18,390	0	44,140	77,250
Corporate Services	7,920	8,610	0	19,750	36,280
Information Technology	5,250	2,250	0	10,130	17,630
Support Services Total	50,960	51,560	34,140	170,700	307,360
Set-up costs					
Legal	0	0	0	13,390	13,390
External consultants	0	0	0	58,500	58,500
Investment Zone	0	0	149,630	0	149,630
Set-up costs Total	0	0	149,630	71,890	221,520
Total Expenditure Budget	597,650	279,130	200,000	1,082,990	2,159,770
Welsh Government - Regional Transport Plan Grant	0	(100,000)	0	0	(100,000)
Welsh Government - CJC Grant	0	0	0	(200,000)	(200,000)
Investment Zone	0	0	(200,000)	0	(200,000)
Interest on balances	0	0	0	(20,000)	(20,000)
Contribution from reserve	(209,480)	0	0	(415,110)	(624,590)
Total Net Expenditure Budget	388,170	179,130	0	447,880	1,015,180

	Strategic Planning	Other functions	Total Levy	2025/26 Levy	(Increase) / Decrease
Income	(£)	(£)	(£)		
Partners Contributions through a levy					
Conwy County Borough Council	(61,450)	(103,330)	(164,780)	(146,820)	(17,960)
Denbighshire County Council	(54,690)	(88,350)	(143,040)	(126,710)	(16,330)
Flintshire County Council	(86,790)	(140,200)	(226,990)	(203,270)	(23,720)
Cynfor Gwynedd	(56,130)	(108,660)	(164,790)	(144,690)	(20,100)
Isle of Anglesey County Council	(38,480)	(62,130)	(100,610)	(90,340)	(10,270)
Wrexham County Borough Council	(76,970)	(124,340)	(201,310)	(177,520)	(23,790)
Eryri National Park Authority	(13,660)	0	(13,660)	(13,130)	(530)
Total Income Budget	(388,170)	(627,010)	(1,015,180)	(902,480)	(112,700)

Relevant population		
Conwy County Borough Council	110,381	114,891
Denbighshire County Council	98,202	98,202
Flintshire County Council	155,867	155,867
Cynfor Gwynedd	100,787	120,813
Isle of Anglesey County Council	69,097	69,097
Wrexham County Borough Council	138,245	138,245
Eryri National Park Authority	24,536	
Total population	697,115	697,115

NORTH WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

23rd January, 2026

TITLE: North Wales Innovation Partnership Fund
- North Wales Innovation Board

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

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1. To summarise the progress made on a North Wales Innovation Partnership Fund proposal and to seek approval to the submission of an 'Expression of Readiness' and Terms of Reference for a new North Wales Innovation Board.

2. DECISION SOUGHT

- Approve the Terms of Reference attached to this report as **Appendix 1**.
- Submit an Expression of Readiness for a North Wales Local Innovation Partnership Fund proposal.

3. REASON FOR THE DECISION

3.1. Background

- 3.1.1 In July 2025 the CJC took a decision to welcome proposals for a North Wales Innovation Board. Since this time, the 'Innovation Board Working Group' stakeholders have been working together on the scope and role of such a Board. Much of the initial discussion considered how a focused board could bring expertise and guidance on innovation themes to support the delivery of the Investment Zone in a similar vein to how the Regional Skills Partnership is supporting Investment Zone Skills Strategy.

- 3.1.2 The opportunity for a regional innovation board has developed significantly since the Government's announcement of the Local Innovation Partnership Fund.

3.2. Local Innovation Partnership Fund

- 3.2.1 The Government has announced its intention to administer £500m for a programme of Local Innovation Partnerships across the UK. Some regions, including Cardiff Capital Region have been earmarked £30m, whereas other regions, including North Wales are invited to consider a competitive process to secure £20m of revenue and capital funding. The Local Innovation Partnership programme is a 5-year programme intended to support innovation across industry, academia and the public sector (the triple helix).

- 3.2.2 The thematic focus of the proposal is evolving but likely to focus on the 'Sustainable Manufacturing' opportunities for businesses across North Wales to respond to the major investment opportunities including Anglesey Freeport, AI Growth Zone, Wylfa SMR Programme, Offshore Energy Programme, North Wales Growth Deal and the Flintshire and Wrexham Investment Zone.
- 3.2.3 If approved, it is expected that Ambition North Wales will submit the 'Expression of Readiness' to UK Research and Innovation by the deadline on the 12th February, 2026. Further details on the proposal will be brought back to the CJC if UKRI invites the region to prepare a proposal.
- 3.2.4 There is clear intent from the partners, that investment and delivery will occur locally and across North Wales and complement existing funding arrangements.

4. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1. Ambition North Wales has financially supported the development of the Local Innovation Partnership Fund and proposals for a North Wales Innovation Board.
- 4.2. The financial considerations relating to the Innovation Board will be determined by the Board in early meetings to determine the level of resource required to operate the programme. Initially, the Board will be supported by Ambition North Wales from resources within existing programmes.
- 4.3. The financial considerations relating to the Local Innovation Partnership Fund proposal will be brought back to the CJC once it has been confirmed by UKRI that North Wales is invited to submit a formal proposal. This would include the administration of up to £20m over 5 years with the majority of funds being distributed to partners across North Wales.

5. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 5.1. The legal aspects of the Local Innovation Partnerships Fund, including a partnership MOU and delivery and funding agreements will be brought back to a future CJC once it has been confirmed that North Wales will prepare a formal proposal.
- 5.2. The Terms of Reference attached set out the basis for the operation of the Innovation Board.

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1: Terms of Reference for the North Wales Innovation Board

STATUTORY OFFICERS RESPONSE

i. Monitoring Officer

“This report represents an interim step in creating the Partnership Fund. When the details of the proposition are being considered for approval by the CJC the overall governance structures and function will need to be detailed and aligned.”

ii. Statutory Finance Officer

“I have no objections to the decision sought from a financial perspective. I note from paragraph 4.3 that the financial considerations relating to the Local Innovation Partnership Fund proposal will be brought back to the CJC once it has been confirmed by UKRI that North Wales is invited to submit a formal proposal.”

North Wales Innovation Board

Terms of Reference

January 2026

<p>1. Authority/ 2. Constitution</p>	<p>Ambition North Wales, the Corporate Joint Committee (CJC) is the accountable body for the North Wales Innovation Zone Board (and any programmes or projects it is invited to manage) and will delegate accountable body responsibilities to its Economic Wellbeing Sub-Committee.</p>
<p>3. Accountability</p>	<p>The North Wales Innovation Board, through its Chair, is responsible to the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee and its Economic Wellbeing Sub-Committee.</p> <p>The Chair will liaise with key partners to the Innovation Board. Reports on progress will be provided by the Innovation Board Chair to the Economic Wellbeing Sub-Committee and other partners as appropriate.</p>
<p>4. Functions and responsibilities</p>	<p>The Board will strive for innovation policy alignment at Local, Regional and National levels. The Board will communicate local and regional innovation perspectives to national audiences and seek to communicate national perspectives and policy to regional and local audiences and stakeholders.</p> <p>The key functions and responsibilities of the North Wales Innovation Board are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommend these ToRs to the CJC • Establish KPIs • Identify a reporting template and report to the CJC / EWSC • Progress Innovation Partnership Fund proposals • Support Innovation delivery of the Flintshire and Wrexham Investment Zone • Support Innovation delivery of the Anglesey Freeport • Advise on innovation projects submitted to the North Wales Growth Deal
<p>5. Membership</p>	<p>The Membership of the North Wales Innovation Board is to be drawn from representatives from the following organisations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair, recruited from Industry/Academia • Universities (Bangor University and Wrexham University) • Further Education (Gwrp Llandrillo Menai and Coleg Cambria) • M-SParc • AMRC Cymru • Offshore and Renewable Energy Catapult • BIC Innovation • Industry (Tier 1s)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Industry (SMEs) • Public Bodies (UKRI, Welsh Government - Innovation, ANW) • Other invited Innovation led organisations <p>The Innovation Board will be deemed to be quorate when at least 5 members are present in the meeting.</p> <p>Members of the Innovation Board are expected to attend at least 75% of all meetings and should aim to attend all meetings. Attendance will be recorded and monitored. If a member unavoidably cannot attend, the member may propose, ideally three or more days before the meeting, a substitute to attend with the agreement of the Chair on behalf of the Innovation Board. This approach is to maintain the cohesion of the Innovation Board. Any substitute who is proposed must be an individual who is fully qualified, aware and appraised of the issues to be discussed at the meeting, so that they are able to fully input through providing the necessary expertise to discuss key matters.</p> <p>Members are expected to be of good standing and reputation within their respective sectors and conduct themselves having regard to the standing and reputation of Ambition North Wales and it's partners.</p>
6. Equality, diversity, and inclusion	<p>In conducting its business, the Advisory Board will at all times seek to promote its commitment the Welsh language and to equality and diversity by the creation of an environment that is inclusive for both its members and partners including those who have protected characteristics and vulnerable members of our community.</p>
7. Communication	<p>The Innovation Board will be supported by ANW and meet quarterly in a hybrid format at locations across North Wales.</p> <p>An open communications style will be adopted on Innovation Board matters between and on behalf of partners.</p>
8. Meeting administration and reporting	<p>A CJC officer will act as the secretary to the Innovation Board and will provide appropriate support to the Chair and Innovation Board members.</p> <p>Agendas and papers will be submitted at least 5 full business days in advance of a meeting.</p> <p>A note of all meetings of the Innovation Board shall be formally recorded and submitted to the Economic Wellbeing Sub Committee. Any feedback from the Economic Wellbeing Sub Committee will be reported to the Innovation Board.</p>
9. Conflicts of interest	<p>Innovation Board members will be required to declare any conflicts of interest as they arise.</p> <p>They will need to adhere to the Seven Principles of Public Life, as drawn up by the Committee on Standards in Public Life more commonly known as the Nolan Principles.</p> <p>Ensuring a balanced approach, conflicts of interest will be managed in line with the CJC's Conflicts of Interests Policy for Consultative Bodies.</p> <p>Conflict of Interest Declarations will be required at the beginning of each meeting's agenda. All meeting notes and papers will be published therefore any Conflicts of Interest will be publicly transparent.</p>

10. Review	The Terms of Reference for the North Wales Innovation Board shall be reviewed annually.
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