

NORTH WALES CJC'S ECONOMIC WELL-BEING SUB-COMMITTEE

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

02 October 2026 - Virtual Meeting

Present:

Councillors: Mark Pritchard (Wrexham County Borough Council) (Chair)

Gary Pritchard (Isle of Anglesey County Council), R Medwyn Hughes (Cyngor Gwynedd), Chris Cater (Conwy County Borough Council), Hugh Evans (Denbighshire County Council), Dave Hughes (Flintshire Council).

Co-opted Members: Paul Spencer (Bangor University), David Roberts (Chair of the Skills Partnership), Ifor Glyn Lloyd (Eryri National Park), Aled Jones-Griffith (Grŵp Llandrillo Menai) and Dave Penrith (Non-Executive Adviser),

Chief Officers of Constituent Councils: Sioned Williams (Cyngor Gwynedd), Jenny Williams (Conwy County Borough Council), Helen White (Denbighshire County Council) and Alwyn Jones (Wrexham County Borough Council).

Other officers present: Alwen Williams (Chief Executive), Hedd Vaughan-Evans (Portfolio Director), Mark Watkins (Monitoring Officer), Helen Edwards (Deputy Monitoring Officer), Sian Pugh (Assistant Head of Finance), Sara Jane Jones (Senior Accountant), Elliw Alaw Hughes (Growth Deal Programme Manager), Meghan Davies (Energy and Net Zero Programme Manager), David Mathews (Land and Property Programme Manager), Catherine Morris-Roberts (Regional Skills Manager), Iain Taylor (Amion Consulting), Angharad Williams (Programme Support Officer) and Rhodri Jones (Democracy Services Officer).

Observers: Wendy Boddington and Bryn Richards (Welsh Government)

Others invited:

Apologies:

Apologies were received from:

- Councillor Nia Jeffreys (Cyngor Gwynedd) with Councillor Medwyn Hughes deputising
- Councillor Julie Fallon (Conwy County Borough Council) with Councillor Chris Cater deputising
- Professor Edmund Burke (Bangor University) with Paul Spencer deputising.
- Yana Williams (Coleg Cambria)
- Rhun ap Gareth (Conwy County Borough Council) with Jenny Williams deputising
- Dafydd Gibbard (Cyngor Gwynedd) with Sioned Williams deputising
- Dewi Morgan (Chief Finance Officer)



Cyd-Bwyllgor Corfforedig Gogledd Cymru North Wales Corporate Joint Committee

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

DATE OF DECISION

02 October 2026

SUBJECT

Item 1: ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

DECISION

To elect Councillor Gary Pritchard as Vice-chair.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

It is a requirement to elect a Vice-chair annually

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST

No declarations of personal interest were received.

ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION

None



Cyd-Bwyllgor Corfforedig Gogledd Cymru North Wales Corporate Joint Committee

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

DATE OF DECISION

02 October 2026

SUBJECT

Item 6: NORTH WALES GROWTH DEAL - QUARTER 1 PERFORMANCE AND RISK REPORT

DECISION

To note the Quarter 1 Performance Report and updated Portfolio Risk Register.

To approve the submission of the Quarter 1 Performance Report and updated Portfolio Risk Register.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

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

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST

No declarations of personal interest were received.

ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION

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



Cyd-Bwyllgor Corfforedig Gogledd Cymru North Wales Corporate Joint Committee

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

DATE OF DECISION

02 October 2026

SUBJECT

Item 7: 2026/27 REVENUE AND CAPITAL POSITION – END OF JULY 2026 REVIEW

DECISION

To note the revenue end of July 2026 review for the Growth Deal, including the reserves position.

To note the Growth Deal's revised capital expenditure profile.

To note and accept the revenue end of July 2026 review for the Investment Zone, including the use of the interest on Investment Zone balances to leave a neutral position for 2026/27.

To note the end of July 2026 revenue review for the Regional Skills Partnership.

To note the virements for the Growth Deal and Investment Zone budgets noted in the Growth Deal's Revenue Budget 2026/27.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

To note the projected underspend of £288,174 against the Growth Deal budget for 2026/27.

To note a slippage on the capital programme, with an estimated expenditure of £51.26m in 2026/27 compared with the approved budget of £67.07m for the year.

To note the neutral out-turn position for the Investment Zone for 2026/27, with interest on the Investment Zone's balances of £227,589 being used to fund the difference between the projected spend and £200,000 allocated to the CJC to support the programme's administration. The use of interest is a temporary arrangement as the interest to be received on balances will reduce as the grant cash out-flow of the Investment Zone increases.

To note a neutral out-turn position for the RSP for 2026/27.

To note the virements to the Growth Deal and Investment Zone budgets that will need to be approved by the CJC in accordance with its Financial Procedure Rules.

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST

No declarations of personal interest were received.

ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION

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



Cyd-Bwyllgor Corfforedig Gogledd Cymru North Wales Corporate Joint Committee

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

DATE OF DECISION

02 October 2026

SUBJECT

Item 8: FREEPORT GATEWAY PROJECT, LLANGEFNI - GRANT FUNDING AGREEMENT

DECISION

To note that all remaining steps at the time of approving the Business Justification Case have now been completed or incorporated in the funding agreement and authorise the Portfolio Director to take every operational step to commit to the Grant Funding Agreement with the Isle of Anglesey Council.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

Inability to complete the delegated decision-making authority previously provided by the Economic Well-being Sub-committee to the Portfolio Director in consultation with the Chair, Vice-chair, S151 Officer and Monitoring Officer within the designated period as the post of the Vice-chair is vacant. Therefore, the Economic Well-being Sub-committee's approval is sought in order to proceed to commit to the funding agreement.

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST

A declaration of personal interest was received from Councillor Gary Pritchard, by virtue of his role as the Leader of the Isle of Anglesey County Council. It was noted that this was not a prejudicial interest and he left the meeting during the discussion.

ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION

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



Cyd-Bwyllgor Corfforedig Gogledd Cymru North Wales Corporate Joint Committee

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

DATE OF DECISION

02 October 2026

SUBJECT

Item 9: LPWAN PROJECT DEPLOYMENT PLANS

DECISION

Approved to release the funding for the Deployment Plans outlined in section 4.10 of the report in relation to the LPWAN project and authorise the Portfolio Director to take the required actions to enter into Grant Funding Agreements with the relevant local authorities.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

To seek the Sub-Committee's approval to the Deployment Plans in relation to the LPWAN project. The previous delegated authority to the Portfolio Director in consultation with the Lead Officer and Digital Programme cannot be completed due to the Lead Member vacant post.

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST

No declarations of personal interest were received.

ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION

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



Cyd-Bwyllgor Corfforedig Gogledd Cymru North Wales Corporate Joint Committee

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

DATE OF DECISION

02 October 2026

SUBJECT

Item 10: HOME ADOPTION OF RENEWABLES PROGRAMME (HARP)

DECISION

To approve the development of the Home Adoption of Renewables Programme (HARP) for North Wales.

To authorise Ambition North Wales to lead on the procurement activity to appoint a provider on behalf of the participating local authorities to delegate to the Portfolio Director to take any operational steps to complete the activity.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

A decision is needed in order to proceed with the Home Adoption of Renewables Programme in order to allow Ambition North Wales to procure a supplier for the programme and in order to deliver the programme in North Wales.

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST

No declarations of personal interest were received.

ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION

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



Cyd-Bwyllgor Corfforedig Gogledd Cymru North Wales Corporate Joint Committee

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

DATE OF DECISION

02 October 2026

SUBJECT

Item 11: ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NORTH WALES REGIONAL SKILLS PARTNERSHIP 2025/26

DECISION

To approve the Annual Report for 2025-26, noting that it has already been endorsed by the North Wales Regional Skills Partnership Board.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

It is required to submit an Annual Report for consideration by the Sub-committee.

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST

No declarations of personal interest were received.

ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION

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



Cyd-Bwyllgor Corfforedig Gogledd Cymru North Wales Corporate Joint Committee

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

DATE OF DECISION

02 October 2026

SUBJECT

Item 12: LOCAL GROWTH FUND IN NORTH WALES

DECISION

To note the requirement from Welsh Government for a 10 Year Regional Growth Deal and a Local Growth Fund Delivery Plan for Years 2 and 3 to be submitted by January 2027 - for Welsh Government approval to release funding from April 2027.

To request each partner organisation to consult internally, identify and submit by 30th October 2026 their strategic priorities in line with Welsh Government guidance and framework for the Local Growth Fund, working with CJC officers who will co-ordinate the process.

That the Sub-committee approves the proposed programme of work as set out in sections 4.5 and 4.6 of this report and request that the Chief Executive working alongside officers from partner organisations and Welsh Government prepare an interim Regional Growth Plan and seek confirmation that this approach will meet the Welsh Government requirements.

To note that further reports on the Regional Growth Plan and Local Growth Fund Delivery Plan for Years 2 and 3 will be presented in November and December to secure input and direction from the Sub-Committee, alongside Welsh Governance guidance, before a final proposal is presented for approval in January 2027.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

Around £80 million of finance (around £40 million per annum), was available for north Wales for years 2 and 3 of the Local Growth Fund, subject to the Welsh Government's approval. The work outlined in recommendation 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3 in order to ensure Welsh Government approval to release funding from April 2027 onwards.

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST

No declarations of personal interest were received.

ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION

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



Cyd-Bwyllgor Corfforedig Gogledd Cymru North Wales Corporate Joint Committee

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

DATE OF DECISION

02 October 2026

SUBJECT

Item 13: FLINTSHIRE AND WREXHAM INVESTMENT ZONE - PROJECT AND ALLOCATION APPROVALS

DECISION

Subject to a Subsidy Control Assessment, approve the allocation to Flintshire County Council of £2.5m (capital and revenue) for an SME Grants Programme and authorise the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair, Vice Chair, Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer to enter into a Grant Funding Agreement with Flintshire County Council.

Subject to a Subsidy Control Assessment, approve the allocation to Wrexham County Borough Council of £2.6m (capital and revenue) for an SME Grants Programme and authorise the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair, Vice Chair, Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer to enter into a Grant Funding Agreement with Wrexham County Borough Council.

Approve the proposal by Transport for Wales to invest £10m of IZ revenue funds in Flintshire and £7m IZ revenue funds in Wrexham to transform bus services to key employment and skills locations.

Subject to Subsidy Control Assessment, authorise the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair, Vice Chair, Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer to enter into a Grant Funding Agreement with Flintshire County Council for £10m of IZ Revenue to support the Bus Transformation Project.

Subject to Subsidy Control Assessment, authorise the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair, Vice Chair, Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer to enter into a Grant Funding Agreement with Wrexham County Borough Council for £7m of IZ Revenue to support the Bus Transformation Project.

Subject to Subsidy Control Assessment, authorise the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair, Vice Chair, Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer to enter into a Grant Funding Agreement with Transport for Wales for £50,007 of IZ Revenue to support the Bus Infrastructure Project.

Subject to Subsidy Control Assessment and completion of the Business Case Assurance Review by 31ten, approve the allocation to Pochin Goodman Northern Gateway Limited of £3.5m (capital) in support of an infrastructure project to unlock development land within the Deeside Gateway Investment Zone Tax Site and authorise the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair, Vice Chair, Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer to enter into a Grant Funding Agreement with Pochin Goodman Northern Gateway Limited.

Subject to Subsidy Control Assessment, approve the allocation to Wales and West Utilities of £0.5m (revenue) in support of the pre-development work to unlock future investment in the HyLine Gogledd project and authorise the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair, Vice Chair, Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer to enter into a Grant Funding Agreement with Wales and West Utilities Limited.

Subject to Subsidy Control Assessment, approve the allocation to MAAS Spectrometry Limited of £0.25m (capital) in support of an R&D project, forming part of the IZ Innovation Programme, to create a new mass spectrometry machine to demonstrate the application of new technology to support manufacturing growth and export opportunity and authorise the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair, Vice Chair, Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer to enter into a Grant Funding Agreement with MAAS Spectrometry Limited.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

To seek the Economic Well-being Sub-committee's approval for the following projects:

- SME Grants Programme in Flintshire,
- SME Grants Programme in Wrexham,
- Flintshire and Wrexham Bus Transformation Programme,
- Transport for Wales Project Development Costs,
- Deeside Gateway Infrastructure Project,
- HyLine Gogledd,
- MASS Spectrometry Limited

The funding application is for SME Grant Programmes on a level that pays the expenditure in Year 2 (the current financial year) and Year 3. The other allocations listed above have been included in the Year 2 Annual Delivery Plan submitted to the UK Government and Welsh Government. £14.3m was received in March 2026 for costs in Year 1 and Year 2. Some adaptations are needed to the Year 2 capital and revenue allocations to support these allocations, but each are within the tolerances and have been agreed in principle with Flintshire and Wrexham County Councils. The process for reviewing and approving the Year 3 ADP will raise any changes.

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST

No declarations of personal interest were received.

ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION

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



Cyd-Bwyllgor Corfforedig Gogledd Cymru North Wales Corporate Joint Committee

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

DATE OF DECISION

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SUBJECT

Item 14: EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

DECISION

To vote in favour of excluding the press and public.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The Chair shall propose to exclude the press and public from the meeting during the discussion on the following items due to the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 14, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972: Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

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

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST

No declarations of personal interest were received.

ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION

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



Cyd-Bwyllgor Corfforedig Gogledd Cymru North Wales Corporate Joint Committee

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

DATE OF DECISION

02 October 2026

SUBJECT

Item 15: STRATEGY FOR REMAINING UNALLOCATED GROWTH DEAL FUNDING

DECISION

To approve the draft strategy for the unallocated Growth Deal funds as noted in section 5, Strategic Business Case of the Commercial Property Fund and the Strategic Business Case for the Innovation and Growth Fund and ask the Portfolio Director to take the necessary steps to introduce a Final Business Case for consideration.

To approve the proposed decision-making framework for the proposed funds as noted in section 6 of the report and ask the Portfolio Director to incorporate the framework in the final business cases before being submitted for consideration. The Innovation and Growth Fund's Strategic Outline Case and ask the Portfolio Director to undertake all required steps to submit a final business case for consideration.

To agree to the changes in the Reserve List as outlined in section 5 of the report and ask the Portfolio Director to undertake all operational steps to implement the changes.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

To seek the Economic Well-being Sub-Committee's approval of the strategy for the unallocated Growth Deal funds, including the creation of two new funds.

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST

No declarations of personal interest were received.

ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION

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