

**DECISION NOTICE OF THE
NORTH WALES CJC ECONOMIC WELL-BEING SUB-COMMITTEE
(Rule 20(3) of the Corporate Joint Committees (General) (No.2) (Wales) Regulations
2021)**

17 July 2026 – Virtual Meeting

Present:

Councillors:

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

Co-opted Members: Chris Drew (Bangor University), Laura Gaugh (University of Wrexham), David Roberts (Chair of the Skills Partnership), Ifor Glyn Lloyd (Eryri National Park) and Dave Penrith (Non-Executive Adviser).

Chief Officers of Constituent Councils: Dylan Williams (Isle of Anglesey County Council), Sioned Williams (Cyngor Gwynedd), Rhun ap Iarhai (Conwy County Borough Council), Helen White (Denbighshire County Council) and Andrew Harradine (Wrexham County Borough Council).

Other officers present: Alwen Williams (Chief Executive), Hedd Vaughan-Evans (Portfolio Director), Mark Watkins (Monitoring Officer), Dewi Morgan (Section 151 Officer), Sian Pugh (Assistant Head of Finance), Sara Jane Jones (Senior Accountant), Elliw Alaw Hughes (Growth Deal Programme Manager), David Mathews (Land and Property Programme Manager), Catherine Morris-Roberts (Regional Skills Manager), Angharad Evans (Skills and Employment Project Manager), Iain Taylor (Amion), Nia Medi Williams (Operations and Resources Manager) and Rhodri Jones (Democracy Services Officer).

Observers: Wendy Boddington and Bryn Richards (Welsh Government).

Others invited:

Item 9: Dylan Griffith (Cyngor Gwynedd).

Apologies:

Apologies were received from:

- Professor Edmund Burke (Bangor University) with Chris Drew deputising.
- Professor Joe Yates (Wrexham University) with Laura Gaugh deputising.
- Yana Williams (Coleg Cambria).
- Aled Jones-Griffith (Grŵp Llandrillo Menai).
- Neal Cockerton (Flintshire County Council).
- Dafydd Gibbard (Cyngor Gwynedd) with Sioned Williams deputising.
- Alwyn Jones (Wrexham County Borough Council) with Andrew Harradine deputising.



**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

17 July 2026

SUBJECT

Item 1: ELECTION OF CHAIR

DECISION

To elect Councillor Mark Pritchard as Chair for 2026/27.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

It is a requirement to appoint a 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

17 July 2026

SUBJECT

Item 2: ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

DECISION

To elect Councillor Jason McLellan 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

17 July 2026

SUBJECT

Item 7: FREEPORT GATEWAY PROJECT – REQUEST TO EXTEND VALIDITY PERIOD

DECISION

To approve the request to extend the validity period to complete the Grant Funding Agreement by three months to the 1st of October 2026.

Confirm that the Portfolio Director is authorised to take all necessary operational steps to proceed with and complete the Grant Funding Agreement within the extended validity period, subject to customary legal, financial, procurement and governance requirements.

To confirm that the Sub-Committee's approval is valid until 1st October 2026 and should the project not proceed to a signed Grant Funding Agreement by this date, it will be required to return and resubmit the business case to the Sub-Committee for approval.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

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

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST

A declaration of personal interest was received from Councillor Gary Pritchard (Isle of Anglesey County Council).

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

17 July 2026

SUBJECT

Item 8: NORTH WALES SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT PLAN 2026-2028

DECISION

To approve the North Wales Skills and Employment Plan and the priorities as set out in the plan.

To ask the Regional Skills Partnership to submit an update report in 12 months' time.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

To report to the Economic Well-being Sub-Committee on the North Wales Skills and Employment Plan and seek endorsement of its priorities to support regional delivery.

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

17 July 2026

SUBJECT

Item 9: A LOCAL GROWTH FUND IN NORTH WALES – ADVANCE PLANNING FOR GREATER REGIONAL COLLABORATION FROM 2027/28.

DECISION

1. To note the update on the transitional arrangements for the Local Growth Fund since the relevant reports were submitted to the CJC in March and June.
 2. To note that the Year 1 Transition Plan (2026-27) for the Local Growth Fund was submitted on the 9th of June to the Welsh Government by Cyngor Gwynedd as the lead accountable body for Year 1, and that this plan sets out the approach to maintaining continuity from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) while preparing the region for a fully regionalised delivery model under the Corporate Joint Committee (CJC) in Years 2 and 3.
 3. To endorse the proposed programme of work and milestones required before the next meeting of the Economic Well-being Sub-Committee in October 2026, recognising that the preparatory work must begin immediately if the CJC is to be ready to take responsibility for the Local Growth Fund from April 2027 onwards, subject to confirmation from the Welsh Government.
 4. To authorise the officers to proceed with the necessary requirements, including planning, engagement, commissioning and capacity-building work over the summer, using the funding provided by Welsh Government to support preparation for delivery of the Local Growth Fund from 2027/28 onwards, subject to
-

confirmation from the Welsh Government.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

To update the Economic Well-being Sub-Committee on the Local Growth Fund and to obtain the Sub-Committee's support to progress the work required over the summer to begin planning to meet the Welsh Government's requirements for greater regional collaboration and co-ordination of the fund from 1 April 2027.

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

17 July 2026

SUBJECT

Item 10: EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

DECISION

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

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The Chair shall propose to exclude the press and public from the meeting during the discussion on the following items due to the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 14, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972: Information 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

15 May 2026

SUBJECT

Item 11: HOLYHEAD HYDROGEN HUB OUTLINE BUSINESS CASE

DECISION

To approve the Outline Business Case for the Holyhead Hydrogen Hub subject to Menter Môn addressing the matters identified in the report, as described in Section 7, and requesting that a Full Business Case be prepared for consideration by the Sub-Committee.

To reject the request for advance funding from Menter Môn for the reasons set out in Section 7.

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

To confirm that the Sub-Committee's approval is valid for a period of twelve months and should the project not proceed to an approved Full Business Case during this time, it will be required to return and submit the business case to the Sub-Committee for approval.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

To seek the Sub-Committee's approval of the Outline Business Case for the Holyhead Hydrogen Hub.

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST

A declaration of personal interest was received from Councillor Gary Pritchard (Isle of Anglesey County Council), as he is a board member of Menter Môn in his role as Council Leader.

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

15 May 2026

SUBJECT

Item 12: BUSINESS JUSTIFICATION CASE FOR ZIP WORLD RESPONSIBLE ADVENTURE PROJECT – SLATE EXPLORER

DECISION

1. To approve the Business Justification Case for the Slate Explorer element of the Zip World Responsible Adventure project subject to Welsh Government and UK Government approval of the assurance process undertaken, and Zip World addressing the matters identified in the report as described in Section 7.
 2. To delegate to the Portfolio Director, in consultation with the Chair, Vice-chair, Monitoring Officer and Section 151 Officer to confirm that the outstanding matters in the report have been completed before the funding is released.
 3. To authorise the Portfolio Director in consultation with the Chair, Vice-chair, Section 151 Officer and the Monitoring Officer to agree the terms of the grant funding agreement in accordance with this report, to be approved later by the Sub-committee.
 4. To confirm that the Sub-committee's approval is valid for a period of six months and should the project not proceed to a signed funding agreement during this time, it will be required to return and re-present the business case to the Sub-committee for approval.
 5. To note that there may be up to three further Business Case approvals to deliver the remaining elements of the Responsible Adventure project and that they will be
-

submitted to the Sub-Committee for future consideration.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

To seek the Subcommittee's approval of the Business Justification Case for the Slate Explorer element of the Responsible Adventure project.

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST

No declarations of personal interest were received.

ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION

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



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

17 July 2026

SUBJECT

Item 13: ACADEMI CROESO (PREVIOUSLY KNOWN AS TOURISM TALENT NETWORK) BUSINESS JUSTIFICATION CASE FOR INCLUDING DYLAN'S RESTAURANT LTD AS REPLACEMENT SPOKE PARTNER

DECISION

1. To approve the Business Justification Case for Dylan's Restaurant Limited to be a spoke partner for the Academi Croeso project by Grŵp Llandrillo Menai, subject to Grŵp Llandrillo Menai and Dylan's Restaurant Limited addressing the matters identified in the report, as described in Section 7.
2. To delegate to the Portfolio Director, in consultation with the Chair, Vice-chair, Section 151 Officer and the Monitoring Officer to confirm that the outstanding matters in the report have been completed before the funding is released.
3. To note that a funding agreement has already been entered into with Grŵp Llandrillo Menai for the Academi Croeso (Tourism Talent Network) project following approval of a Full Business Case, and that this agreement will include the delivery of this element of the wider project if the Sub-Committee approves this Business Justification Case.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

To seek the Sub-Committee's approval of the Business Justification Case for including Dylan's Restaurant Limited as a new spoke for Grŵp Llandrillo Menai's Academi Croeso project.

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST

No declarations of personal interest were received.

ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION

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



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

17 July 2026

SUBJECT

Item 14: STRATEGY FOR REMAINING UNALLOCATED GROWTH DEAL FUNDING

DECISION

A vote was taken on the strategy, and it was not adopted in accordance with the outcome of that vote.

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.



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

17 July 2026

SUBJECT

Item 15: FLINTSHIRE AND WREXHAM INVESTMENT ZONE – YEAR 2 ANNUAL DELIVERY PLAN AND WLA PROJECT

DECISION

1. To approve the Annual Delivery Plan's investment allocations for Year 2 and note the Year 1 allocations that will be used as part of the Year 2 programme.
2. To approve the proposal by Wrexham Leadership Alliance 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 Leadership Alliance for £200,000 (to allow project costs of £150,000, £0,000 VAT and £20,000 contingency).
3. To permit the CJC's Section 151 Officer to sign and issue the Annual Delivery Plan documents to the UK Government and Welsh Government and to make any further non-material amendments that are necessary to agree the Annual Delivery Plan with the UK and Welsh Governments.
4. To confirm that any material change to the approved allocation, recipient, project scope, outputs, funding source, delivery model, risk profile or compliance position, must be reported back to the Economic Well-being Sub-Committee for further approval.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

Investment Zones are required to agree Annual Delivery Plans with the UK and Welsh Governments.

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.
