Complete Agenda

Cyd-Bwyllgor Corfforedig Gogledd Cymru North Wales Corporate Joint Committee

Mae'r ddogfen hon hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg.

This document is also available in Welsh.

Meeting

NORTH WALES CJC ECONOMIC WELL-BEING SUB-COMMITTEE

Date and Time

9.30 am, FRIDAY, 13TH NOVEMBER, 2026

Location

Cyfarfod Rhithiol / Virtual Meeting

For public access to the meeting, please contact us

Contact Point

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(DISTRIBUTED 6/11/2026)

NORTH WALES CJC ECONOMIC WELL-BEING SUB-COMMITTEE

Voting Members

Councillors

Gary Pritchard	Isle of Anglesey County Council
Nia Jeffreys	Cyngor Gwynedd
Julie Fallon	Conwy County Borough Council
Hugh Evans	Denbighshire County Council
Dave Hughes	Flintshire County Council
Mark Pritchard	Wrexham County Borough Council

Co-optee Members – Non Voting

Professor Edmund Burke	Bangor University
Professor Joe Yates	Wrexham University
Nick Tyson	Coleg Cambria
Aled Jones-Griffith	Grŵp Llandrillo Menai
David Roberts	Chair of the Regional Skills Partnership
Edgar Wyn Owen	Eryri National Park
Dave Penrith	Non-executive Adviser

Constituent Council Chief Executives

Dylan Williams	Isle of Anglesey County Council
Dafydd Gibbard	Cyngor Gwynedd
Rhun ap Gareth	Conwy County Borough Council
Helen White	Denbighshire County Council
Neal Cockerton	Flintshire County Council
Alwyn Jones	Wrexham County Borough Council

Officers in Attendance

Alwen Williams	CJC Chief Executive
Mark Watkins	Monitoring Officer
Helen Edwards	Deputy Monitoring Officer
Dewi Morgan	Chief Finance Officer
Hedd Vaughan-Evans	Head of Operations
Nia Medi Williams	Senior Operations 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 MEETING 4 - 16

The Chair shall propose that the minutes of the meeting held on 2 October 2026 be signed as a true record.

5. NORTH WALES GROWTH DEAL - QUARTER 2 PERFORMANCE AND RISK REPORT 17 - 48

Hedd Vaughan-Evans, Portfolio Director to present the report.

6. NORTH WALES GROWTH DEAL - REQUEST TO EXTEND OBC VALIDITY PERIOD 49 - 52

Hedd Vaughan-Evans, Portfolio Director to present the report.

7. LOCAL GROWTH FUND IN NORTH WALES - INITIAL PRIORITIES AND NEXT STEPS 53 - 67

Alwen Williams, Chief Executive, Ambition North Wales and Iain Taylor, Programme Manager, Ambition North Wales to present the report.

8. HIGH IMPACT EXPRESSION OF INTEREST - UTOPIA CITY PROJECT 68 - 70

Hedd Vaughan-Evans, Portfolio Director to present the report.

Appendix 1 is exempt under Paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 as the contain information relating to the financial and business affairs of identifiable organisations, including detailed project financial information, funding requirements and assumptions, commercial and delivery arrangements, project risks, future investment requirements and other commercially sensitive information provided for the purpose of appraisal and funding decisions.

NORTH WALES CJC ECONOMIC WELL-BEING SUB-COMMITTEE
02/10/2026

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 County Council).

Co-opted Members: Paul Spencer (Bangor University), David Roberts (Skills Partnership Chair), 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:

1. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

Resolved to elect Councillor Gary Pritchard as Vice-Chair for 2026/27.

Councillor Hugh Evans was welcomed to his first meeting of the Sub-Committee, noting that he had been a key member of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board in the past.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:

- Councillor Nia Jeffreys (Cyngor Gwynedd) with Councillor R 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)

3. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

A declaration of personal interest was received from Councillor Gary Pritchard for Item 8, in his role as Leader of the Isle of Anglesey County Council. It was noted that it was not a prejudicial interest and he did not leave the meeting for the discussion.

4. URGENT ITEMS

None to note.

5. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Chair signed the minutes of the meeting held on 12 June 2026 as a true record.

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

The report was presented by the Portfolio Director.

DECISION

To note the updated Q1 Performance Report and Portfolio Risk Register.

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

DISCUSSION

It was explained that this report was being submitted later than usual due to the schedule of meetings of the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee, confirming that a performance report on quarter 2 would be submitted to the next meeting of this Sub-Committee.

Some of the recent highlights were given such as:

- Construction work had begun on the Egni project, at the M-SParc site in June.
- That Phase 1 of site work at Parc Bryn Cegin had commenced in May.
- That Phase 1 of the Cydnerth project had been completed
- That a Grant Funding Agreement for Phase 1 of the demolition, restoration and safeguarding work at the former North Wales Hospital site had been completed, with the work commencing in June.

Wrexham's CanfodAU building was congratulated on being named as the Construction Project of the Year in the over £5 million category, at the Constructing Excellence in Wales Construction Awards 2026.

It was noted that performance within Quarter 1 had been slower than forecast, and it was stated that the delay in projects stemmed from the need to adhere to the pre-election rules of the 2026 Senedd Election as well as ensuring that legal agreements had been properly

developed. However, it was emphasised that a high number of projects had been approved and were on the way to being operational. It was stated that the performance report on Q2 highlighted that a number of projects had been developed during the year.

It was highlighted that no update on jobs and benefits numbers had been included within this report as it had been presented in updates within quarter 2 and quarter 4.

Reference was made to the Risk Register identifying risks to reduced planning and legal capacity and permission, as the Portfolio Management Office had appointed officers to undertake a planning role to be able to work to ensure that planning policies were adhered to.

During the discussion, the following observations were made:

In response to an enquiry on the success of the Hydrogen project during this year's Urdd Eisteddfod, the Energy and Net Zero Programme Manager confirmed that the project had provided approximately 60% of all energy used at the Eisteddfod. It was noted that it was a good opportunity to share knowledge and awareness of the project. It was explained that people had been given the opportunity to drink the water associated with the project to highlight how clean the project's emissions were. It was confirmed that the First Minister had visited the project, in his capacity as the Local Member of the Eisteddfod area. It was reported that a summary of the project's successes had been developed, and that could be shared with Members if they so wished.

The members expressed their thanks for the report.

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

The report was presented by the Assistant Head of Finance

DECISION

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

To note the revised capital expenditure profile of the Growth Deal

To note the end of July 2026 revenue review for the Investment Zone, including the use of the interest on the Investment Zone's 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 in the Growth Deal and Investment Zone budgets as noted in the Growth Deal Revenue Budget 2026/27.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

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

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

To note a neutral out-turn position for the Investment Zone for 2026/27, with interest on the Investment Zone balances of £227,589 used to fund the difference between the forecast expenditure and £200,000 allocated to the CJC to support the programme's administration. The use of interest was a temporary arrangement as interest received on balances would decrease as the Investment Zone grant cash outflow increased.

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

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

DISCUSSION

It was explained that the report detailed projections of the revenue and capital out-turn position of the Growth Deal, Investment Zone and Regional Skills Partnership for 2026/27. It was stated that it had been approved by the Corporate Joint Committee at its meeting on 25 September, and that it had been submitted to this Sub-Committee for the purpose of setting out the likely financial position for the year.

Members were guided through a projection of the Growth Deal's revenue out-turn position and noted that an underspend of £288,000 was forecast by the end of this financial year. It was noted that this stemmed from a number of reasons such as; underspend on employees, additional government roles, accountable body support services and external legal, finance and procurement support on the projects. It was confirmed that the grant contributions used from the Growth Deal, or the contributions from a fund, would be adjusted if the underspend continued until the end of the financial year, to leave a neutral position for the year and ensure that sources of income were available to fund future budgets and minimise any increase in partner contributions. Members were reminded that partner contributions amounted to around 25% of the budget, noting that this was the only permanent source of funding, with any additional funding being only temporary.

The balance of the Growth Deal funds was reported as at 31 March 2026 as well as the estimated balances as at 31 March 2027. It was detailed that the £5 million Interest Fund was set aside to fund borrowing costs in the coming years, as expenditure on the capital projects took place before receiving grant funding from the Government. It was also noted that the Resource Fund was dedicated to funding Government requirements, project development costs and maintaining the capacity of the Portfolio Management Office.

The revised capital profile of the Growth Deal had been shared stating that expenditure of £51.26 million was forecast for the year 2026/27. It was explained that this was £15.81 million less than the budget profile approved in January, following a slippage on projects.

Attention was drawn to the projected expenditure and income of the Investment Zone and the Regional Skills Partnership's projected financial position suggested a neutral position at the end of the financial year.

The budget virements the services required to operate in accordance with the Corporate Joint Committee's Financial Procedure Rules virements plan.

During the discussion, the following observations were made:

In response to an enquiry as to why there had been an underspend on legal aid while delays occurred on projects, the Portfolio Director confirmed that the delays had not been due to a lack of capacity, but due to the fact that the necessary agreements had been very complex and therefore had taken time to be approved by the project sponsors. It was considered

that there was a possibility of overspending on legal aid by the end of the year as the volume of work was rapidly increasing.

The members expressed their thanks for the report.

8. FREEPORT GATEWAY PROJECT, LLANGEFNI - GRANT FUNDING AGREEMENT

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

DECISION

To note that all remaining actions at the time of approval of the Business Justification Case had now been completed or incorporated into the funding agreement, and to authorise the Portfolio Director to take all operational steps to enter into the Grant Funding Agreement with the Isle of Anglesey County Council.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

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 could not be completed within the designated period due to the Vice Chair vacancy. Therefore, approval was sought from the Economic Well-being Sub-Committee to proceed and commit to the funding agreement.

DISCUSSION

Members were reminded that this Sub-Committee had granted an extension on this project to complete discussions with the Local Authority. It was stated that these discussions could not be undertaken in a timely manner, following the resignation of the Leader of Denbighshire County Council, who was the Vice-Chair of this Sub-Committee.

It was explained that it was not possible to come to a decision on the discussions as it required the consent of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Sub-Committee.

It was noted that this report asked the joint committee for additional time to complete discussions, as a successor had been appointed.

During the discussion, the following observations were made:

Any further delay on this project had been requested to be reported to this Sub-Committee as soon as possible. In response to the enquiry, the Portfolio Director confirmed that this would happen, but there was no expectation that there would be a delay on this project.

The members expressed their thanks for the report.

9. LPWAN PROJECT DEPLOYMENT PLANS

The report was presented by the Digital Programme Manager.

DECISION

To approve the release of funding for the Deployment Plans, outlined in section 4.10 of the report, in relation to the LPWAN project and to authorise the Portfolio Director to take the necessary 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 Member, and the Digital Programme could not be completed due to the vacancy of the Lead Member.

DISCUSSION

During the discussion, the following observations were made:-

The partners and Local Authorities were thanked for the close collaboration over the duration of this project to date, highlighting a range of innovative technologies across several service areas. It was believed that the developed technologies could be spread more widely over the next year.

It was highlighted that a number of the Local Authorities had devised several apps as part of this project. It was noted that getting to grips with flood risk was a common topic across the Authorities. In response to the comments, the Digital Programme Manager stated that Cyngor Gwynedd had won an award for the use of LoRaWAN within this area. It was reported that the method they used was more cost effective for the authorities. It was confirmed that this technology simplified the process of tracking a flood situation and enabled authorities to more effectively anticipate when and where flooding was likely to occur. It was reported that it was hoped that this use of technology could be spread more widely across the region.

In response to an enquiry on how LoRaWAN could be linked to the Natural Resources Wales system to expand the provision, the Digital Programme Manager explained that he hoped that this could be done in the future. It was detailed that initial discussions had begun between Wrexham County Borough Council and Natural Resources Wales on this matter.

The members expressed their thanks for the report.

10. THE HOME ADOPTION OF RENEWABLES PROGRAMME (HARP)

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

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

The decision to progress with the Home Adoption of Renewables Programme is required to allow Ambition North Wales to procure a supplier for the programme and to deliver the programme in North Wales.

DISCUSSION

It was explained that this project was based on work that had been carried out by the Cardiff Central region for 2 years, and was now being supported more widely by the Welsh Government.

It was reported that the aim of the Programme was to provide regional compliance in the use of renewable energy in homes. It was noted that it would be based on local energy schemes and contribute to national decarbonisation targets. It was noted that all Local Authorities in the region had expressed their interest in joining the scheme, by signing a Memorandum of Understanding stating that these would be confirmed through future Service Level Agreements in advance of the procurement process.

It was explained that officers were seeking approval to commence procurement processes with all Local Authorities.

During the discussion, the following observations were made:-

It was confirmed that the Low Carbon Board had discussed this project extensively at its recent meeting. It was noted that there was concern about the requirement to be responsible for an additional project on behalf of the Government without financial resources to support its running. In response to the comments, the Portfolio Director noted that the Government was providing a budget for regional energy work and that part of that funding was being allocated to support this project. It was believed that the work of the project could be carried out within existing budgets.

The members expressed their thanks for the report.

11. NORTH WALES REGIONAL SKILLS PARTNERSHIP ANNUAL REPORT 2025/26

The report was presented by the Regional Skills Manager.

DECISION

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

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

An Annual Report was required to be presented for consideration by the Sub-Committee.

DISCUSSION

Some of the highlights over the past year were reported upon, thanking the Regional Skills Partnership Board for its work and support over the past year. It was noted that the highlights draw attention to the strength of collaboration between the partners, and lead to great economic opportunities across the region. It was detailed that the highlights included:

- Flintshire and Wrexham Investment Zone
- North Wales Growth Deal Skills Projects
- Net Zero Delivery Plan
- Green Horizons Event
- Youth Insights Report
- North Wales Skills Portal
- Digital Skills Toolkits
- Employability Workshops

It was noted that they were looking forward to continuing the positive momentum of the partnership over the coming year.

During the discussion, the following observations were made:

The importance of the partnership was emphasised in order to provide the necessary skills to drive the region forward.

The members expressed their thanks for the report.

12. THE LOCAL GROWTH FUND IN NORTH WALES

The report was presented by the Chief Executive and Representative of AMION Consulting.

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 30 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 approve 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

There was c.£80 million of funding (c.£40 million per annum) available for North Wales for years
2 and 3 of the Local Growth Fund, conditional on Welsh Government approval. The work outlined in recommendation 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3 is necessary to secure the Welsh Government's approval to release funding from April 2027.

DISCUSSION

It was explained that the purpose of the report was to ensure that the region was in the best possible position as it entered the next phase of the Local Growth Fund.

It was reported that around £80million was available to the region over the next two years, but access to that funding was contingent on the Welsh Government approving the Regional Growth Plan for a period of 10 years and the Growth Fund Delivery Plan. The need for the Delivery Plan to be adopted by January 2027 was noted in order to receive assurances that the budget would be allocated to the region in April.

It was noted that the 2026-27 Financial Year was a transition year that used the SPF model. It was updated that future budgets were expected to come directly from the Welsh Government.

The need to deal with these changes was strongly stated, with evidence of regional resilience for the budget investment. It was reported that the region was expected to carry out similar work to other corporate joint committees in Wales.

It was explained that the plan focused on productivity, and therefore the Joint Committee was keen to understand more about what was driving it within the region in order to develop it further. Local Authorities were encouraged to hold discussions with their members and partners in order to find out what productivity meant for the area, and feed it into the regional plan.

Reference was made to some of the themes that should be addresses in order to secure funding such as; Research & Innovation & Business Competitiveness, Skills & Employment, Strategic Infrastructure – as well as equality, climate & well-being duties. Similarly, it was noted that there were three priorities within the fund namely:

- More Productive and Competitive Businesses
- Increasing Skills and Supporting People to Work
- Improving regional infrastructure

It was reported that 70% of the fund's budget was a capital budget, with 30% being a revenue budget. It was also noted that the budget for administrative costs was limited to 4% of annual allocation.

It was confirmed that the Government did not wish the fund's money to be allocated to the Local Authorities, as has been the case in the past for the Shared Prosperity Fund and transition year schemes. It was noted that there was a desire to hold discussions to determine an approach to allocating funds so that the investment seen in the counties of the region, was similar to that seen in recent years, while also confirming that adequate budgets were being provided for all projects. The need to develop skills in each county was considered, while also keeping in mind that the whole region could benefit from developing some skills at one particular site.

It was explained that it was hoped that discussions would take place with the Local Authorities in October this year, in order to be able to develop a document detailing what would be included within the Regional Growth Plan. It was elaborated that this basis would be presented to the Welsh Government once the region had approved it. Similarly, it was noted that a draft form of the Local Growth Fund Delivery Plan would be submitted to the Government in November, for years 2 and 3 of the Fund, in order to confirm a budget for the region. It was confirmed that the final documentation would be submitted to the Government in December, if this Sub-Committee so decides following further discussions.

It was confirmed that the Welsh Government would consider and decide on the funding of the Delivery Plan (years 2 and 3) as part of the Regional Growth Plan, during January 2027. It was assured that the budget would be available from April 2027, depending on the Government's decision.

During the discussion, the following observations were made:

It was considered that tight timetables had been set in order to meet the Welsh Government's demands, with a significant amount of money for the region at stake, if not met. The officers were thanked for their assistance in ensuring the success of the targets over the coming months.

Concern was expressed that the nature of the Fund was based on the allocation of funds regionally rather than through the local authorities individually as in previous schemes. The need to ensure that each authority continued to receive individual considerations was noted as their needs were diverse within the region. In contrast, a comment was made stating that the fact that the final decisions were made regionally could be time-saving and reduce duplication of work.

In response to an enquiry, it was confirmed that careful consideration was being given to ensure that a fair budget was allocated to ensure support for areas and projects that were already productive, as well as supporting other areas of the region to be more productive in order to meet targets. It was emphasised that no formal decision had been taken on this issue, as it was dependent on the discussions of the local authorities, and the individual needs that would become clear within the Plan.

The importance of ensuring that colleges and universities were central to local and regional discussions was considered.

The members expressed their thanks for the report.

13. FLINTSHIRE AND WREXHAM INVESTMENT ZONE - PROJECT AND ALLOCATION APPROVALS

The report was presented by the Chief Executive and Representative of AMION Consulting.

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 approval of the Economic Well-being Sub-Committee for the following projects:

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

The application for funding for the SME Grant Programmes was at a level that covered expenditure in Year 2 (the current financial year) and Year 3. The other allocations listed above had been included in the Year 2 Annual Delivery Plan submitted to the UK and Welsh Governments. £14.3m was received in March 2026 for costs in Year 1 and Year 2. Some adjustments to the Year 2 capital and revenue allocations were required to support these allocations, but all were within the tolerances and had been agreed in principle with Flintshire and Wrexham County Councils. The Year 3 ADP review and approval process would highlight any changes.

DISCUSSION

The Committee was reminded that the appendices to this report were exempt and for Members only due to the commercially sensitive information contained therein.

It was explained that the report provided an update on the Flintshire and Wrexham Investment Zone, whilst also seeking approval on a number of arrangements with partners, namely:

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

During the discussion, the following observations were made:-

Thanks was given for regular meetings with the relevant Local Authorities, and officers were thanked for constant communication throughout the process.

Members expressed their thanks for the report.

14. 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, 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.

Members voted in favour of excluding the press and the public.

15. STRATEGY FOR REMAINING UNALLOCATED GROWTH DEAL FUNDING

The report was presented by the Portfolio Director.

RESOLVED

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.

DISCUSSION

The Report was discussed.

The meeting commenced at 09:30 and ended at 11:05.

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Chair

ECONOMIC WELL-BEING SUB-COMMITTEE

13th November, 2026

TITLE: North Wales Growth Deal – Quarter 2 Performance and Risk Report

AUTHOR: Hedd Vaughan-Evans, Portfolio Director

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1. The purpose of the report is to present the Quarter 2 (July to September) Growth Deal report and updated Portfolio Risk Register.

1.2. Quarterly reporting on progress against the North Wales Growth Deal is a requirement of the Final Deal Agreement. Following consideration by the Economic Well-being Sub-Committee, the reports will be shared with Welsh Government, UK Government and the local authority scrutiny committees.

2. DECISION SOUGHT

2.1. That the Sub-Committee consider and note the Quarter 2 Performance Report and updated Portfolio Risk Register.

2.2. That the Sub-Committee approves the submission of the Quarter 2 Performance Report to Welsh Government and UK Government, as well as the local authority scrutiny committees.

3. REASON FOR THE DECISION

3.1. As stated in the report.

4. BACKGROUND AND RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

4.1. In December 2020, Ambition North Wales and the Welsh and UK Governments agreed the Final Deal Agreement for the North Wales Growth Deal.

4.2. Regular reporting on progress against the North Wales Growth Deal is a requirement of the Final Deal Agreement.

4.3. This report includes two appendices:

- North Wales Growth Deal – Quarter 2 Performance Report
- Portfolio Risk Register – September 2026

4.4. <u>North Wales Growth Deal – Quarter 2 Performance Report</u>

4.4.1. The Quarter 2 performance report provides an overview of progress on the Growth Deal programmes and projects.

4.4.2. During the quarter we have seen the acceleration of delivery, with Growth Deal expenditure reaching £38m and total investment at £63m. Construction has progressed well across a number of sites including, Egni, Parc Bryn Cegin, Gogledd Môn and Glynllifon.

4.4.3. The Economic Well-being Sub-Committee approved the business cases for three projects. This included the Business Justification Cases for the Slate Explorer element of the Responsible Adventure project and the Dylan's Spoke as a replacement partner for Academi Croeso, and the Outline Business Case for the Holyhead Hydrogen Hub.

4.4.4. Grant Funding Agreements were completed for three projects – Egni, Albert Gubay Business School, and Port of Mostyn.

4.4.5. The Advanced Wireless and 4G+ grant schemes launched, with expressions of interest invited and assessed.

4.4.6. The Clean Energy Fund held it's one-year review considering the challenges and initial successes to inform priorities for its second year with minor operational changes implemented within the scope of the approved business case.

4.4.7. The Quarter 2 performance report includes information on projects reporting against the portfolio delivery profile. All projects are currently reporting either green or amber.

4.5. Portfolio Risk Register – September 2026

4.5.1. The Portfolio Risk Register is updated on a regular basis by the Portfolio Management Office and reviewed by the Portfolio Board and the Economic Well-being Sub-Committee (previously the North Wales Economic Ambition Board) on a quarterly basis.

4.5.2. The risk register has been fully reviewed by the Portfolio Management Office, with changes recorded in the documents, including mitigating actions and the comments updated.

4.5.3. There were no changes to the residual risk scores during this quarter.

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

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

5.2. The revised delivery and expenditure profile approved by the Sub-Committee is included in the quarterly report.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1. The legal implications are limited. Quarterly reporting forms part of the agreed governance arrangements under the North Wales Growth Deal. The decision sought is to note the

performance and risk information and approve its onward submission to the Welsh and UK Governments and local authority scrutiny committees; it does not itself authorise any additional expenditure, project approval or other substantive action.

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1	North Wales Growth Deal – Quarter 2 Performance Report
Appendix 2	Portfolio Risk Register – September 2026

STATUTORY OFFICERS RESPONSE:

i. Monitoring Officer:

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

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

ii. Statutory Finance Officer:

"I am satisfied that the report is a fair reflection of the financial situation of Ambition North Wales during quarter 2. Implementing the decision sought will not create a new spending commitment. I will continue to assist the Portfolio Management Office in managing the relevant risks."

North Wales Growth Deal Quarterly Performance Report

Quarter 2 2026-27
(July to September 2026)

MAE'R DDOGFEN HON AR GAEL
YN GYMRAEG HEFYD.



CONTENTS

Portfolio Director Summary	3
Quarterly Highlights	4
Project Delivery Dashboard	5
Benefits Dashboard	6
Digital Connectivity Programme	8
Low Carbon Energy Programme	10
Land and Property Programme	13
Agri-food and Tourism Programme	15
Innovation in High Value Manufacturing Programme	17
Project Progress Tracker	19
Growth Deal Projects: Capital Funding Allocation Profile	20
APPENDIX A - Projects Summary – Growth Deal	21

PORTFOLIO DIRECTOR SUMMARY

This quarter represents a significant milestone for the Growth Deal with a significant number of previously approved projects moving into delivery. We now have 17 projects in full or part delivery. Growth Deal expenditure reached £38m, with total investment reaching £63m, and forecast to increase significantly over the next 2 years as projects continue to deliver through their construction phases. Our job creation figures remain low at this point as the majority of jobs are created post construction when projects move into their operational phases.

Some of the key milestones this quarter included completion of funding agreements for the Egni, Albert Gubay Business School and Port of Mostyn projects.

Construction progressed across several sites. At the Former North Wales Hospital, site security works were completed and Phase 1 asbestos remediation commenced. At Parc Bryn Cegin, Phase 1 groundworks and steel erection were completed, with wall and roof cladding underway. Construction commenced in June on the Marine Terminal Building and business units at the Afon Goch site within Gogledd Môn Sites and Premises. At the Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub, completion of groundworks enabled the Sheep Milk Wales element to progress to its next construction phase.

Additional business case approvals strengthened the project pipeline In July, the Economic Well-being Sub-Committee approved the Outline Business Case for Holyhead Hydrogen Hub and the Business Justification Cases for the Slate Explorer element of Responsible Adventure and Dylan's Spoke as a replacement partner for Academi Croeso.

Grant scheme delivery also progressed. The Advanced Wireless and 4G+ schemes were launched, expressions of interest were assessed and applicants were invited to submit full applications in Quarter 3. Clean Energy Fund projects continued to advance and the Fund's one-year review in July considered first-year challenges and initial successes to inform priorities for its second year.

Looking ahead, the focus remains on maintaining the pace of delivery and realising the benefits of investment across the portfolio.



Hedd Vaughan-Evans

Portfolio Director
Ambition North Wales

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS



Digital Grant Schemes

The Advanced Wireless and 4G+ schemes were launched, expressions of interest were assessed and applicants were invited to submit full applications in Quarter 3



Grant Funding Agreements

The Grant Funding Agreements were completed on Egni, Albert Gubay Business School and Port of Mostyn.



Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub

Completion of groundworks enabled the Sheep Milk Wales element to progress to its next construction phase.



Parc Bryn Cegin

Phase 1 groundworks and steel erection were completed, with wall and roof cladding underway



Former North Wales Hospital

Site security works were completed and Phase 1 asbestos remediation commenced.



Gogledd Môn Sites and Premises

Construction commenced in June on the Marine Terminal Building and business units at the Afon Goch site within Gogledd Môn Sites and Premises

PROJECT DELIVERY DASHBOARD

	Projects in Delivery (funding committed)	Projects in part delivery (funding committed)	Approved not yet in delivery (funding committed)	Developing business cases (funding ringfenced)	Under Review (funding ringfenced)	Reserve List and cost inflation reserve (unallocated funding)
Number of Projects	15	2	1	8	0	7
Growth Deal Funding Allocation (£234.85*)	£113.92m	£18.76m	£3.48m	£66.73m	-	£31.96m**
Total Investment Forecast	£270.22m	£105.14m	£19.09m	£358.81m	-	£241.59m**
Jobs Target Forecast	1,604	176	223	1,391	-	406**

* Growth Deal funding shown here does not include £5.15m allocated towards Portfolio Management Office costs
** Figures represent the balance of the target to be met by Reserve List projects

PORTFOLIO SPENDING OBJECTIVES DASHBOARD

Job Creation*

	Target by 2036	Target up until end of 2026/27	End of 2025/26 Actual	Actual Q2 2026/27	Actual Q4 2026/27
Total Jobs	4,000	202	121	134	
New Jobs			63	64	
Construction Jobs			58	70	

Investment

Target by 2036: £1bn Total Investment

	Forecast up until end of 2026/27	End of 2025/26 Actual	Actual Q1 2026/27	Actual Q2 2026/27	Actual Q3 2026/27	Actual Q4 2026/27
£ Growth Deal Investment	£65m	£30,652,413	£32,311,012	£37,842,753		
£ Total Investment	£120m	£34,208,618	£37,129,800	£63,155,577		

*Jobs data is collated on a 6 monthly basis, reporting on figures in both October (end of Q2) and April (end of Q4).

BENEFITS DASHBOARD

Benefits

Individuals registered for apprenticeships
25

Revenue Secured
£7,233,476

Capital Income Levereged
£81,016

Future Workforce Engagements
6878 participants

Individuals completing CPD courses
355

Students completing qualifications
235

Procurement

£89,874,294.74
Total value of Growth Deal contracts awarded (including VAT)

£77,076,853.76
Total value of Growth Deal contracts awarded to North Wales suppliers (including VAT)

86%
of Growth Deal contracts awarded to North Wales suppliers

£72,872,823.47
Total value of Growth Deal contracts awarded to SMEs (including VAT)

81%
of Growth Deal contracts awarded to SMEs

DIGITAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Programme Aim

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

RAG Status

Programme Manager Commentary

- The fourth meeting of the Regional Telecommunications Forum was held this quarter including presentations to the telecommunications industry on the Freeport and Investment Zone.
- Both Advanced Wireless and 4G+ Grant Schemes have now launched with expressions of interest received. Full applications are now due to be received in Q3. The next round of invitations for expressions of interest for both schemes will be prepared in Q3 to be launched in Q4.



Ian Jones
Senior Responsibile Owner



Stuart Whitfield
Programme Manager

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

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

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

DIGITAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Project (Project Sponsor)	Project stage	Key Milestones (this quarter)	Key Milestones (next quarter)	RAG Status	RAG Rationale
Digital Signal Processing Centre Bangor University	Project in delivery	• Funding proposals (£1.5m) submitted to the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council.	• Decision on £1.5m 3 year funding from EPSRC to be confirmed		• Project is behind target on additional grant capture. • A major external funding application to secure additional resources for three years has been submitted. • Regional business engagement delayed due to capacity issues.
4G+ Ambition North Wales	Project in delivery	• Fourth telecoms forum meeting held. • 4G+ Industry and Public Sector grant schemes launched with Expressions of Interest received.	• Review and approval of 4G+ expressions of interest and invitation to full application. • Preparation of second round of expressions of interest to be opened in Q4		• Both grant schemes have launched with a strong level of industry interest with formal expressions of interest received for review ahead of formal invitations to submit full applications in Q3.
Advanced Wireless Ambition North Wales	Project in delivery	• Advanced Wireless Technology grant schemes launched with Expressions of Interest received.	• Review and approval of expressions of interest and invitation to full application. • Preparation of second round of expressions of interest to be opened in Q4		• The grant schemes launched with a strong level of industry interest with formal expressions of interest received for review ahead of formal invitations to submit full applications in Q3.
LPWAN Ambition North Wales	Project in delivery	• Final LoRaWAN deployment plans reviewed and recommendations prepared.	• Approval of Deployment Plans and delivery to begin.		• Recommendations for Deployment Plans to be approved have been prepared for consideration by the Economic Well-being Sub-committee in Q3.

LOW CARBON ENERGY PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Programme Aim

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

RAG Status

Programme Manager Commentary

- **Cydnerth** – Phase 1 works complete, site debolisation.
- **Clean Energy Fund (Smart Local Energy) –** Continued investments made from Private and Voluntary sector sub funds.
- **Trawsfynydd Innovation, Business and Skills Centre –** Appointment of a contractor to deliver the required packages of work to inform the Full business Case, as well as produce the Full business Case document.
- **Egni –** Grant funding agreement singed and site works underway.
- **Holyhead Hydrogen Hub –** Approval of Outline Business Case.



Dylan Williams
Senior Responsibile Owner



Meghan Davies
Programme Manager

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

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

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

LOW CARBON ENERGY PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Project (Project Sponsor)	Project stage	Key Milestones (this quarter)	Key Milestones (next quarter)	RAG Status	RAG Rationale
Cydnerth (Morlais) Menter Môn	Project in delivery	• Year 1 emissions and biodiversity report received. • Continued developer and grid engagement.	• Continued developer and grid engagement.		Project has moved into delivery and is progressing well.
Egni Bangor University	Project in delivery	• Grant Funding Agreement signed. • Conditions precedent evidence received. • Works progressing well with steel frame erected.	• Continued works. • Frist claim submitted.		Project has moved into delivery and works have started on site.
Clean Energy Fund (Smart Local Energy) Ambition North Wales	Project in delivery	• 1 year review held with fund advisors. • Continued submission of Expressions of Interest across all 3 sub funds. • Continued issue of funds from voluntary and private sub fund. • Promotional events and engagement.	• Promotional events and engagement. • Continuation of application assessment and awards. • Creation of a supplier database.		Project is green as Full Business Case has been approved and the fund launched.
Holyhead Hydrogen Hub Menter Môn	Developing Full Business Case	• Approval of the Outline Business Case and planning determination granted.	• Menter Môn continued engagement to attract offtakers. • Preparation of Full Business Case.		RAG status moved to amber as project Outline Business Case is approved and now working towards Full Business Case.
Trawsfynydd Innovation, Business and Skills Centre Cyngor Gwynedd	Developing the Full Business Case	• Appointment of a contractor to deliver the required packages of work to inform the Full Business Case, as well as produce the Full Business Case document.	• Preparation of Full Business case. • Addressing outstanding matters recommended by the Portfolio Management Office including planning and land lease agreements.		Project is green as has submitted the Outline Business Case and it has been approved and now has 12 months to submit the Full Business Case.

LAND AND PROPERTY PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Programme Aim

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

RAG Status

Programme Manager Commentary

- **Former North Wales Hospital -** Site security works including fencing and CCTV cameras have completed and an asbestos contractor has commenced Phase 1 remediation works.
- **Parc Bryn Cegin -** Ground works and steel erection have been completed on Phase 1 and cladding to walls and roof are currently underway. The documentation for Phase2 is being finalised with a target of mid October and enabling site works to commence in November.
- **Gogledd Mon Sites and Premises -** OBR Construction commenced works on the Marine Terminal Building and Afon Goch site for the business units in June and good progress is being made.
- **Albert Gubay Business School -** The Grant funding Agreement completed in August, Wynne Construction commenced enabling works in the same month with main contract works underway in September.
- **Port of Mostyn -** The Grant Funding Agreement completed in September and the Port are to submit their first claim for works undertaken to the end of the month.



David Fitzimon
Senior Responsibile Owner



David Mathews
Programme Manager

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

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

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

LAND AND PROPERTY PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Project (Project Sponsor)	Project stage	Key Milestones (this quarter)	Key Milestones (next quarter)	RAG Status	RAG Rationale
Former North Wales Hospital Jones Bros (Ruthin) Limited / Denbighshire County Council	Phase 1 of the Project in delivery	• Works area perimeter fence completed with CCTV cameras installed. • An approved asbestos contractor, UK Environmental have commenced Phase 1 remediation works. • Surveyors have been instructed to undertake surveys for buildings subject to an application to demolish for Listed Building Consent.	• Commence surveys on the condition of buildings included in the Listed building Consent application. • Demolition works to commence.		• Substantial health and safety issues on site due to the condition of the buildings and contamination on site. • Ongoing issue of trespass by members of the public. • Listed Building Application to demolish remaining structures is subject to detailed discussions with CADW.
Parc Bryn Cegin, Bangor Welsh Government / Ambition North Wales	Phase 1 of the Project in delivery	• Groundworks and steel erecting for Phase 1 completed. • Heads of terms for Phase 2 agreed. • Phase 2 tender sum received and final documentation being prepared.	• Complete cladding works for Phase 1 and lay floor slabs and commence internal works. • Complete Phase 2 Deed of Variation for the Joint Venture Agreement between Ambition North Wales and Welsh Government. • Commence Phase 2 works.		• Project making good progress onsite and no issues to report.
Wrexham Gateway Wrexham County Borough Council	Developing the Full Business Case	• Ecological surveys completed. • Consultant appointed to resolve phosphates. • Discussions ongoing with landowners re site assembly. • Tender for appointment of development partner closed.	• Continued progress on site assembly. • Outline planning application decision. • Complete appointment of development partner. • Full Business Case drafting to commence in October.		• Site assembly, • Appointment of development partner. • Solution for phosphate discharges into the River Dee.

LAND AND PROPERTY PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Project (Project Sponsor)	Project stage	Key Milestones (this quarter)	Key Milestones (next quarter)	RAG Status	RAG Rationale
Gogledd Môn Sites and Premises Isle of Anglesey County Council	Project in delivery	• Main Contractor commenced works on the Marine Terminal Building and Afon Goch site in June 2026. • Grant Funding agreement completed..	• On-going delivery of the construction works.		• Project making good progress on both sites..
Freeport Gateway Isle of Anglesey County Council	Approved not yet in delivery	• Main Contractor appointed for the PEBOC site. • Tender for the appointment for the Main Contractor for Plot 2 completed.	• Completion of the Grant Funding Agreement. • Main Contractors appointed for Plot 2 Tregarnedd. • Commencement of site works.		• Project on track for commencement on site in late Q2 FY26/27.
Padeswood Transport for Wales (TfW)	Developing the Full Business Case	• The MoU has been completed.	• Provision of a firm timeframe for project delivery. • Network Rail to share an integrated Programme of works. • Network Rail to provide revised costs for the project.		• Design and costing of Network Rail track works ongoing.
Albert Gubay Business School Bangor University	Project in delivery	• Main Contractor appointed by Bangor University. • Grant Funding Agreement completed. • Enabling works commenced in August followed by main site works in September.	• Asbestos strip to complete by November. • Demolition works to complete before Christmas 2026.		• Project making good progress on site and no issues to report.
Port of Mostyn Mostyn Estates	Project in delivery	• Groundworks completed. • Grant Funding Agreement Completed. • Dredging works commenced for the main channel.	• Confirmation of security fencing, and heavy lift pad work packages tenders. • Cladding works to commence to the Marsh Row buildings.		• Project making good progress. • Ongoing issue of trespass by members of the public.

AGRI-FOOD AND TOURISM PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Programme Aim

To build a more sustainable, vibrant and resilient foundation economy in the region, optimising opportunities for employment and prosperity through our environment and landscape.

RAG Status

Programme Manager Commentary

- **Responsible Adventure** – The Slate Explorer Business Justification Case was approved by the Economic Well-being Sub-committee and received positive feedback on its Skills Plan from the Regional Skills Partnership.
- **Academi Croeso –** Approval was secured for the Business Justification Case confirming Dylan's Restaurant Ltd as the replacement Capital Spoke partner. Procurement activity has progressed over the months for major electrical works for Dylan's project.
- **Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub –** Groundworks for the Sheep Milk Wales element has been completed, with construction progressing to the next phase. Approval was also received for the Sustainable Dairy Development Phase 2 procurement recommendation, first Claim received from the project.
- **Venue Cymru Futures –** The project secured £1 million from the Arts Council of Wales for 2026/27, alongside additional Welsh Government decarbonisation funding for auditorium improvement works..



Sioned Williams
Senior Responsibile Owner



Elliw Hughes
Programme Manager

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

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

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

AGRI-FOOD AND TOURISM PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Project (Project Sponsor)	Project stage	Key Milestones (this quarter)	Key Milestones (next quarter)	RAG Status	RAG Rationale
Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	Sheep Milk Wales in delivery. Sustainable Dairy - BJC approved. Hub developing FBC	• Sheep Milk Wales - Construction remains on schedule and is progressing well, with the project moving towards the vertical build stage. • Sustainable Dairy Development - The procurement recommendation report for Phase 2 has been approved and signed. • Hub Development - Ongoing work continues on planning proposals.	• Submission of the first project claim. • Completion of the delegated decision to approve Growth Deal investment for the Sustainable Dairy Development project. • Progression of the remaining procurement activities for both Sustainable Dairy Development and Sheep Milk Wales. • Submission of the Hub pre-planning application.		• Planning permission required for Hub. • Sustainable Dairy Development costs increase due to inflation. • Procurement activity not complete.
Academi Croeso Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	Project in delivery	• Dylan's Replacement Project - The Outline Business Case has been approved by the Economic Well-being Sub-committee. • Procurement - Ambition North Wales has endorsed the procurement activity major package of works for Dylan's Restaurant Ltd Spoke. • ZipWorld - Discussions have been held with ZipWorld egarding project delivery arrangements and next steps.	• Finalise the commercial arrangements for the Dylan's Spoke project. • Complete the signing of the back-to-back agreement between GLLM and Dylan's. • Agree a way forward for the delivery of the ZipWorld Spoke project. • Agree a timeline and key milestones for delivery of the Hub element at Llandrillo Rhos Grŵp Llandrillo Menai site.		• Completion of back-to-back agreements. • Incomplete procurement activity. • MoUs with strategic partners. • Claim delay against profile.

AGRI-FOOD AND TOURISM PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Project (Project Sponsor)	Project stage	Key Milestones (this quarter)	Key Milestones (next quarter)	RAG Status	RAG Rationale
Venue Cymru Futures Conwy County Borough Council	Developing the Full Business Case	• The procurement recommendation report for auditorium seating has been completed and signed. • Development of the Full Business Case continues to progress. • Planning and design activities have advanced, supporting the next stage of project development.	• Submit the planning application, along with the required supporting surveys. • Present the Full Business Case to the sub-committee. • Progress procurement activity to support project delivery.		• Planning consent to be secured. • Procurement delay due to re-scoping of the Auditorium refurbishment.
Responsible Adventure ZipWorld	Slate Explorer - In Delivery Developing BJC/Full Business Case	• Slate Explorer - The Business Justification Case has been approved by the Economic Well-being Sub-committee. • Slate Explorer Planning - Ongoing engagement continues with statutory consultees and planning stakeholders to support project development. • Procurement - Procurement activity for the Slate Explorer project continues to progress, supporting the next stage of delivery..	• Complete procurement activities for the Slate Explorer element. • Secure planning approval for Slate Explorer. • Agree a timeline for the development and submission of the next Business Case. • Finalise and seal the Grant Funding Agreement for Slate Explorer.		• Planning consent to be secured. • Slate Explorer undergoing procurement activity. • Timescales delays due to planning.

INNOVATION IN HIGH VALUE MANUFACTURING PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Programme Aim

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

RAG Status

Programme Manager Commentary

- The **Enterprise Engineering and Optics Centre** developed Business Justification Cases for the Plas Coch Equipment and Hydrogen Lab. Integration of new equipment into the curriculum, supporting long-term skills and innovation outcomes.
- The **Centre for Environmental Biotechnology** progressing additional works following tender award as a result of the underspend.
- **Society 5.0** - Major equipment programme continuing, with final design and costs agreed for the sintering room.
- **Project Prince** - Site remediation works underway following planning approval. Securing full planning consent remains a key dependency, with Planning Committee consideration expected in Q3.
- The **Wrexham University Business Gateway-** Nick Whitehead Theatre refurbishment completed and reopened. Procurement and design activity progressing for the next phases of the project.



Tony Ward
Senior Responsibile Owner



Elliw Hughes
Programme Manager

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

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

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

INNOVATION IN HIGH VALUE MANUFACTURING PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Project (Project Sponsor)	Project stage	Key Milestones (this quarter)	Key Milestones (next quarter)	RAG Status	RAG Rationale
Enterprise Engineering and Optics Centre Wrexham University	Project in delivery	• Draft Hydrogen Business Justification Case submitted for review. • Continued engagement with regional businesses to maximise use of the Enterprise Engineering and Optics Centre new facilities. • Procurement activity progressing.	• Consideration of Business Justification Case for Plas Coch equipment and Hydrogen Lab. • Procurement completed for the project.		• Project nearing full operational status. • Minor delay to project delivery due to procurement and contract finalisation. • Benefits continuing to be realised across the project.
Centre for Environmental Biotechnology Bangor University	Project in delivery	• Tender award for Henfaes Additional works. • Training on new specialist equipment for staff training.	• Undertake initial projects using new Bioreactor facility. • Ongoing training on new equipment. • Delivery of the additional works commences.		• Project nearing full operational status... • Benefits being realised • Slight delay to additional works.
Society 5.0 Wrexham University	Project in delivery	• Automated Festo equipment installed in CanfodAU. • Composite drill delivered and installed. • Wynne Construction agreed final design and price for completing sintering room.	• Equipment used in curriculum. • Initiate sintering room refurbishment works. • Claim full expenditure of project.		• Ample testing of market conducted for remaining equipment. • Slight delay due to procurement activity. • Project nearing full operational status.

INNOVATION IN HIGH VALUE MANUFACTURING PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Project (Project Sponsor)	Project stage	Key Milestones (this quarter)	Key Milestones (next quarter)	RAG Status	RAG Rationale
Project Prince Knauf	Developing the Full Business Case	• Site remediation works commenced following unanimous planning approval in July. • Detailed design work for the main build continues to progress. • Ongoing engagement with key stakeholders to secure planning consent and address environmental requirements. • Procurement activity, first package released on Sell2Wales	• Secure planning consent for the vertical build. • Agree timeline for submission of the Full Business Case. • Continue procurement activity to support project delivery.		• Complex Planning and Environmental process to obtain consent, but ample stakeholder engagement being made to mitigate as much risk.
Business Gateway Wrexham University	Developing the Full Business Case	• Tender process for Pre-Construction Service for the main build underway. • Pre-Construction Service for Catrin Finch Building in delivery. • Nick Whitehead Theatre refurbishment completed and reopened.	• Preferred contractor identified for Gateway Phase 2 • Pre-Construction Service activities for Catrin Finch building advanced, with design and cost development reviewed. • Pre-Construction Service agreement procurement completed for the main build.		• Progression towards FBC going well. • Grant Funding Agreement being drafted. • Procurement activity alignment with Ambition North Wales processes.

JOBS AND INVESTMENT PROFILE

☑ - completed/delivering
☑ - in progress

Project	Consenting Stage				Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4	Stage 5	Stage 6	Stage 7	Stage 8
	Pre-application stage	Outline planning / Consent	Full planning / Consent	Conditions discharged	Determine the Project context	Preparing the Strategic Outline Case	Preparing the Outline Business Case	Approval of the Outline Business Case	Preparing the Full Business Case	Approval of the Full Business Case	Project implementation and monitoring	Project Evaluation
Digital Signal Processing Centre	No planning required				☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	
4G+	Consenting requirements TBC				☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	
LPWAN	No consenting requirements				☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	
Advanced Wireless	No consenting at grant scheme level				☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	
Cydnerth (Morlais)	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	
Egni	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	
Smart Local Energy	No consenting required at fund level				☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	
Holyhead Hydrogen Hub	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑			
Trawsfynydd Business, Innovation and Skills	☑				☑	☑	☑	☑	☑			
Former North Wales Hospital	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	
Parc Bryn Cegin, Bangor	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	
Wrexham Gateway	☑	☑			☑	☑	☑	☑	☑			
Gogledd Môn Sites and Premises	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	
Freeport Gateway	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	
Padeswood	No consenting requirements (TBC)				☑	☑	☑	☑	☑			
Albert Gubay Business School	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	
Port of Mostyn	No planning consent required.				☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	
Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub	☑				☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	
Academi Croeso	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	
Responsible Adventure	☑	☑			☑	☑	☑	☑	☑			
Venue Cymru Futures	☑				☑	☑	☑	☑	☑			
Centre for Environmental Biotechnology	☑	☑	☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	
Enterprise Engineering and Optics	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	
Socio 5.0	No planning required				☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	
Project Prince	☑				☑	☑	☑	☑	☑			
Business Gateway	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑			

JOBS AND INVESTMENT PROFILE

PROJECTS IN DELIVERY

Programme	Project	Rag Status	Jobs		Growth Deal		Total Investment	
			Target	Actual*	Allocation (£m)*	Actual (£m)*	Target (£m)*	Actual (£m)*
Digital Connectivity	Digital Signal Processing Centre (DSP)		40	23	2.96	2.95	3.08	3.14
	Advanced Wireless		173	0	19.54	0.04	30.31	0.04
	4G+		39	0	6.17	0.30	8.20	0.30
	LPWAN		20	0	1.14	0.05	1.14	0.05
Low Carbon Energy	Cydnerth (Morlais)		253	8	8.87	8.87	15.99	8.87
	Clean Energy Fund		186	2	24.63	0.81	102.5	0.91
	Egni		63	0	3.94	0.20	10.01	2.86
Land and Property	Former North Wales Hospital, Denbigh - Phase 1		0	0	2.00	0.53	5.00	1.85
	Parc Bryn Cegin, Bangor		83	0	7.49	2.07	8.84	2.07
	Gogledd Môn Sites and Premises		95	0	7.00	0.51	10.44	1.87
	Albert Gubay Business School		90	1	7.3	0.08	20.45	3.47
	Port of Mostyn		299	0	4.0	0.96	14.70	6.80
Agri-food and Tourism	Academi Croeso		68	0	4.43	2.20	19.28	3.94
	Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub - Sheeo Milk Wales and Sustainable Dairy		66	0	5.0	0.59	9.9	4.87
Innovation in High Value Manufacturing	Enterprise Engineering and Optics Centre		109	13	11.99	11.38	18.82	13.77
	Centre for Environmental Biotechnology		67	8	2.96	2.21	3.46	2.71
	Society 5.0		106	0	1.5	1.06	3.00	2.63
	PMO		-	9	5.15	3.03	5.15	3.03
	TOTAL		1,757	64	126.07	37.84	290.27	63.16

PROJECTS APPROVED NOT IN DELIVERY

Programme	Project	Rag Status	Jobs		Growth Deal		Total Investment	
			Target	Actual*	Allocation (£m)*	Actual (£m)*	Target (£m)*	Actual (£m)*
Land and Property	Former North Wales Hospital, Denbigh - Phase 2		70	0	4.94	0.00	80.85	0.00
	Freeport Gateway		223	0	3.48	0.00	19.09	0.00
Agri-food and Tourism	Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub - Hub		40	0	6.82	0.00	9.39	0.00
	TOTAL		333	0	15.24	0	109.33	0.00

** Figures to the 2 decimal points, as a result the total is based on the true figure to the two nearest decimal points.*

APPENDIX A - GROWTH DEAL PROJECTS SUMMARY

	Project	Sponsor	Summary
Digital	Digital Signal Processing Centre (DSP)	Bangor University	The project will allow the DSP Centre to expand its presence and remit, integrating fully with the National Strategy Project (NSP) and enable the scaling of key assets including a 5G testbed, research capacity and state-of-the-art equipment.
	4G+ (Connected Key Sites and Corridors)	Ambition North Wales	This project will improve 4G mobile connectivity at key economic sites in the region, targeting transport routes, business and tourism hubs while supporting the further deployment of 5G network coverage in these areas.
	Advanced Wireless (Connected Campuses)	Ambition North Wales	The Advanced Wireless project will support private and public sector organisations adopt the latest wireless technologies to support improved service delivery, business efficiencies, innovation and growth, particularly through the use of internet of things applications.
	LPWAN (Connected Campuses)	Ambition North Wales	This project aims to deliver extensive and accessible LoRaWAN (Long Range Wide Area Network) network coverage throughout the region, providing businesses and public sector users with a cost effective solution for adopting internet of things applications and supporting innovation.
Low Carbon Energy	Cydnerth (Morlais)	Menter Môn	Investing in infrastructure to connect to the National Grid network and monitor marine environmental effects. This will enable an increase in the deployment of turbines by tidal developers and the generation of renewable energy.
	Egni	Bangor University	Investing in the development of facilities at Bangor University and Menai Science Park, enhancing the North Wales and UK capabilities for innovation in low carbon energy and related areas, helping to create the conditions for new inward investment and business growth in the low carbon energy supply chain in North Wales.
	Smart Local Energy	Ambition North Wales	To help achieve renewable energy, decarbonisation and local ownership targets, the project will support innovative enabling projects and demonstrators that overcome market failures and unlock private and community sector investments in smart local energy solutions.
	Holyhead Hydrogen Hub	Menter Môn	This project will build a green hydrogen production facility at Parc Cybi, Holyhead, producing around 2000+kg/day of green hydrogen, supplying road, maritime and rail transport customers across North Wales.
	Trawsfynydd Business Innovation and Skills Centre	Cyngor Gwynedd	A scheme which will include a building to include office spaces, laboratory spaces (exact specification to be confirmed) and ancillary facilities (meeting space, café/canteen etc), to support the nuclear and low carbon energy industry together with the scientific community, located on Trawsfynydd Site.
Land and Property	Former North Wales Hospital, Denbigh	Ambition North Wales	The Growth Deal funding will assist in the delivery of a cleared and remediated site with primary services to bring forward a mixed-use commercial and residential development
	Parc Bryn Cegin, Bangor	Ambition North Wales	Provide industrial floor space to meet known demand for units.
	Wrexham Gateway	Wrexham County Borough Council	This project is a sustainable development of a vibrant regenerated area, creating a focal point to support business investment and a multi-modal transportation hub with links to active travel.
	Gogledd Môn Sites and Premises	Isle of Anglesey County Council	Delivering 2,200sqm of business space in North Anglesey creating at least 59 jobs, and leveraging the Freeport and low-carbon energy growth.
	Freeport Gateway	Isel of Anglesey County Council	Unlocking 6,750sqm of business space in Llangefni, creating at least 186 jobs and maximising benefits of the Anglesey Freeport.
	Padeswood	Transport for Wales	Rail line enhancements to remove constraints and address access/egress for rail freight into the Padeswood Cement Works
	Port of Mostyn	Port of Mostyn	Upgrading berth and regeneration of former industrial site.
	Albert Gubay Business School	Bangor University	Construction of the Albert Gubay Business School at Bangor University.
Agri-food and Tourism	Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub	Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	The vision is to create a distinctive, world-class Rural Economy Hub at Glynllifon, offering a range of facilities and services to strengthen and enhance the regional economy, specifically through growing the food and drink sector.
	Academi Croeso (Tourism Talent Network)	Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	Future-proofing the pipeline of skills provision and increase commercial benefits from one of the most established sectors in the region. The talent network will stimulate public-private collaboration to coordinate action on skills and product development to transform and accelerate the growth of the tourism and hospitality sector in the region.
	Responsible Adventure	Zip World	A multi-element project as part of a sustainable and eco-tourism package including a new sustainable Cable Car, Slate Explorer including visitor viewing platform, and Swing attraction.
	Venue Cymru Futures	Conwy County Borough Council	A project that will expand facilities at Venue Cymru, boost jobs, cut carbon, and attract major shows, conferences, and cultural investment.
Innovation in High Value Manufacturing	Centre for Environmental Biotechnology (CEB)	Bangor University	The Centre for Engineering Biotechnology will be a world-leading centre in the discovery and characterisation of novel extremophilic enzymes of industrial relevance. The Centre for Engineering Biotechnology will provide a strong foundation for attracting world-leading researchers, significant public and commercial research funding, and inward investment to Wales.
	Enterprise Engineering & Optics Centre	Wrexham University	The Enterprise Engineering & Optics Centre will provide facilities targeted to boost high-level skills development for the region and enable Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME's) and large businesses to work in partnership with Wrexham Glyndwr University on commercially driven research and development in optics, composites and hydrogen fuel cells.
	Society 5.0 Manufacturing & Capability Project	Wrexham University	Enhance the Enterprise Engineering and Optics Centre to enable industry to access further world-class high precision engineering resources.
	Project Prince	Knauf	Construction of 110kt rock mineral wool plant with submerged arc furnace (SAF), primarily to serve the UK and Ireland markets.
	Wrexham University Business Gateway	Wrexham University	Serving as a bridge between Wrexham University and local industry, fostering collaboration, innovation, job creation and inclusive economic growth.

APPENDIX – Clean Energy Fund quarter 2 update

Uchelgais Gogledd Cymru
Ambition North Wales

Cronfa Ynni Glân
Clean Energy Fund

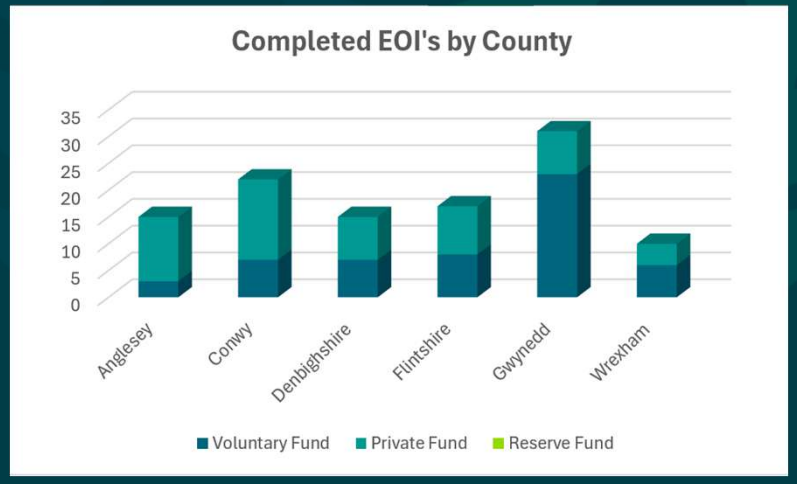
Quarter 2 update

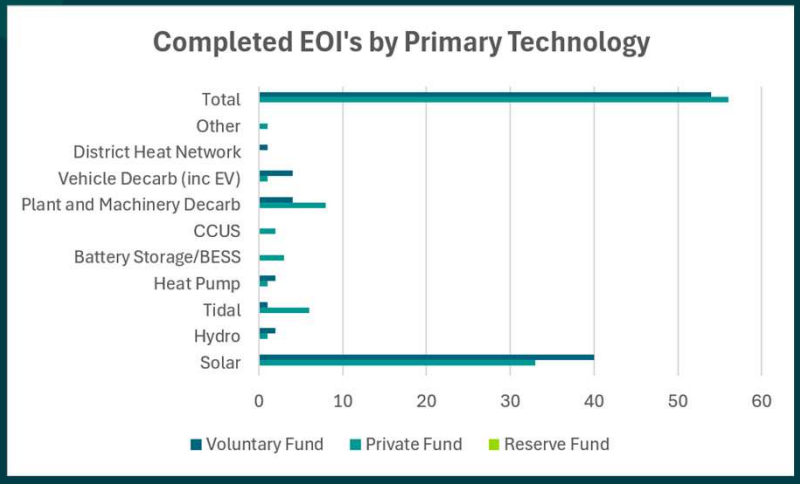
Organisation Name	County	Project Description	Grant	Loan	Match (Output 2.1)	Total Project Value (SO2)	Jobs Created (SO1) (Output 1.1)	Jobs Safeguarded (Output 1.3)	Carbon Reduction (SO3)	Local Onwership (SO4)	Status
	Wrexham	Heat pump, solar, energy efficiency, battery	£ 235,000	£ 10,000	£ 290,000	£ 535,000	3	0	12	100%	HoT *
Rugby Consortium	Various	Solar, battery, EV charging point, energy efficiency, LED Lighting	£ 263,513	£ 68,943	£ 194,572	£ 527,028	1	7	44	100%	HoT *
		Total Voluntary Sector	**£ 498,513**	**£ 78,943**	**£ 484,572**	**£ 1,062,028**	**4**	**7**	**56**	**100%**	
Ty'n Yr Onnen Farm Ltd	Gwynedd	Solar Panels	£ -	£ 25,001	£ 12,449	£ 37,450	1	0	13	100%	Delivery
		Total Private Sector	**£ -**	**£ 25,001**	**£ 12,449**	**£ 37,450**	**1**	**-**	**13**	**100%**	
		Total Clean Energy Fund	**£ 498,513**	**£ 103,944**	**£ 497,021**	**£ 1,099,478**	**5**	**7**	**69**	**100%**	

HoT * - Project approved and Organisation currently in Legal/Commercial negotiations

*this is data for the quarter and not culmulative

Expressions of Interest's (EOI's) Completed to Q2 26/27





*this data is culmulative

NORTH WALES GROWTH DEAL PORTFOLIO RISK REGISTER

Risk ID	Date Raised	Risk Category	Risk Name	Risk Owner	Description of the Risk	Current Gross Risk Rating			Trend	Mitigating Actions	Action Due Dates	Action owner	Residual Risk Rating			Trend	Status (Open / Closed)	Commentary	Date of last update
						P	I	Score					P	I	Score				
R001	21/10/2020	Programme and Project Delivery	Capacity	Portfolio Director	If sufficient resources are not in place at portfolio, programme and project level, there is a risk that this could impact on the successful delivery of the deal	4	5	20	↔	Ambition North Wales approved Revenue budget to extend fixed term contracts. Additional procurement, finance, legal and technical capacity to be secured for projects and PMO as required. PMO engage partners to ensure capacity for delivery and promote recruitment activity Recruitment completed for Portfolio Director, Project Managers, and other new CJC Roles increases resources supporting the PMO. Approval from both Governments to increase the top slice to 2.15% and enabling PMO to draw down additional funding through Growth Deal budget and extend contracts as required PMO resources directed to priority projects to ensure FBC completion.	In place Ongoing Reviewed monthly In place In place In place	PMO PMO PMO, Project Sponsors PMO PMO PMO	3	4	12	↔	Open	Risk reviewed, no change after residual risk reduction following recruitment last quarter	09/10/2026
R002	21/10/2020	Programme and Project Delivery	Delay	Portfolio Management Office	If there are delays to project delivery, there is a risk this could have an impact on the realisation of benefits or could result in projects not progressing.	5	5	25	↔	Routine reallocation of staff capacity to priority projects. Monthly highlight reports to Programme Board with escalation routes to Economic Well-Being Sub-Committee. Programme and project RAID logs in place to record risks and manage issues with mitigation managed at project level. Project business cases and implementation plans to clearly set out risks to project delivery and mitigations. PMO working with sponsors to identify opportunities to minimise delay and where delay is unavoidable minimise impact Quarterly reports to the Economic Wel-lbeing Sub-Committee and Portfolio Board with specific issues to escalate where necessary. PMO working with sponsors at project-level to identify opportunities to minimise delay and where delay is unavoidable minimise impact	Ongoing Monthly N/A Quarterly In place In place	PMO PMO PMO PMO, Project Sponsor PMO PMO, Project Sponsors	3	4	12	↔	Open	Risk Reviewed. No change to residual risk however minimising delays remains a priority for the PMO. Mitigating capacity risk (R001) will contribute to mitigation however progress is still affected by sponsors OBC and FBC approvals have addressed some delays. Use of PMO resources more flexibly has proven to be effective to accelerate business case development. Risk probability will reduce further if progress is sustained. A number of projects are experiencing delays which will impact on the timing of benefits realisation. Withdrawal of projects from the Portfolio which have experienced sustained delays reflects reduction in residual probability from 4 to 3. Selection of new projects has prioritised deliverability and low risk delay.	09/10/2026
R003	21/10/2020	Financial	Affordability	Portfolio Management Office	If projects increase in cost, there is a risk they may not go ahead or project scope may need to be scaled down	5	5	25	↔	Project Business Cases will set out detailed project level financial, commercial and risk management measures to manage costs. Robust performance, risk and financial reporting arrangements will be established for all projects Once Project Business Cases are approved, any additional costs incurred will be the responsibility of the Project Sponsor and alternative funding options will be considered. PMO engaging with sponsors at project level to identify mitigation for cost increases Introduction of new projects introduces further potential for affordability risk, to be managed through business case develeopment.	N/A Monthly N/A Monthly N/A	PMO, Project Sponsor PMO PMO PMO PMO	4	4	16	↔	Open	Risk reviewed. No change to residual risk. Ongoing conflict in the Middle East presents further risk on supply chains and project sponsors are currnetly being consulted on their assessment of this risk.Indications suggest there will be an increase in costs across many categories, with the full impact on global supply chains not yet understood. Residual risk to be reassessed across the Portfolio when further details are available. The residual risk rating remains high as costs have increased significantly since the Growth Deal was agreed in December 2020. While costs have stabilised at the moment, the Growth Deal funding from government is fixed at the amount agreed in 2020 therefore affordability remains a challenge for project. This is being managed on a project by project basis with some projects able to look at design changes, changes to deliver models and others needing to secure additional funding from other sources.	09/10/2026
R006	21/10/2020	Environmental	Climate Change and Biodiversity	Portfolio Director	If projects do not take account of carbon emissions or biodiversity loss within project level assessments, there is a risk the portfolio could contribute towards the issues of climate change and biodiversity loss	4	3	12	↔	Position statement on Climate Change and Biodiversity adopted. Project business cases to demonstrate delivery against the adopted the position. Methodology on how to take account of carbon emissions and biodiversity loss within project business cases now published and shared with all projects. Streamlined methodology for smaller and low risk projects developed with WLGA to be adopted.	N/A N/A In place In place	ANW PMO, Project SROs PMO PMO	3	3	9	↔	Open	Risk reviewed. No changes to gross or residual risk scores. Roll out of methodology and associated training continues	09/10/2026
R007	21/10/2020	Financial	Private Sector Investment	Portfolio Management Office	If the private sector investment is not secured, there is a risk that projects will not be delivered or delivered at reduced scale impacting on the benefits to the region.	4	5	20	↔	Continued engagement with Project Sponsors and private sector partners and coordination of funder/investors. Development of robust project business cases and contractual agreements for Growth Deal funding. New investment strategy in place to support PMO engage funders and secure private investment.	N/A N/A In place	PMO, Project SROs PMO, Project SROs PMO	4	4	16	↔	Open	No change to residual risk. Global economic condiitons associated with conflict in Middle East presents further risk to investor confidence and project sponsors are currnetly being consulted on their assessment of this risk Securing the private sector investment for the Growth Deal remains a high risk however the position has improved with the creation of the reserve list and subsequent approved business cases. Risk also relates to R020 Subsidy Control.	09/10/2026

Risk ID	Date Raised	Risk Category	Risk Name	Risk Owner	Description of the Risk	Current Gross Risk Rating			Trend	Mitigating Actions	Action Due Dates	Action owner	Residual Risk Rating			Trend	Status (Open / Closed)	Commentary	Date of last update
						P	I	Score					P	I	Score				
R008	21/10/2020	Financial	Public Sector Investment	Portfolio Management Office	If the public sector investment is not secured, there is a risk that projects will not be delivered or delivered at reduced scale impacting on the benefits to the region.	4	4	16	↔	All Growth Deal partners have signed up to the Final Deal Agreement and Governance Agreement. Development of robust project business cases and contractual agreements for Growth Deal funding Support project sponsor applications for other public funding sources where appropriate	Complete N/A As required	Partners PMO, Project SROs PMO	3	4	12	↔	Open	Risk reviewed, no changes at present however the risks associated with the current conflict in the Middle East may cause affordability challenges which cannot be met by existing public sector investment commitments. Project sponsors are being consulted and risk to be reviewed as further details become available. Risk also relates to R020 Subsidy Control	09/10/2026
R009	21/10/2020	Regulatory	Planning and Statutory Consents	Portfolio Management Office	If projects do not receive the necessary statutory consents and planning approval, there is a risk that projects will not be delivered and the benefits would not be realised.	5	5	25	↔	Project business cases will set out the consenting requirements for each project and the risks to project delivery. Continued engagement with project sponsors and consenting authorities to understand consenting process and risks with support provided where appropriate at project level Lessons learnt review to be delivered following project-level consenting delays. Chair and/or Portfolio Director to write to consenting authorities highlighting the impact of delayed decisions when individual project risks are escalated. Refer back to Programme SRO to review risk/issue of Phosphate consenting affecting multiple projects to propose appropriate mitigation. For reserve list projects criteria on planning has been set prior to business case submission ie. no committment of funding until business case approval Direct planning input, advice and support from the wider ANW Team to project sponsors and liaison with LPAs and other relevant parties	N/A N/A In place As required N/A N/A N/A	PMO, Project SROs PMO PMO, Project sponsors Portfolio Director Programme SRO PMO CJC	5	4	20	↔	Open	Risk Reviewed no changes at present. The process to upgrade water treatment works to mitigate phosphates from their discharges is taking longer and this is now impacting planning applications. No Growth Deal projects affected yet but the Wrexham Gateway has had an outline application submitted. There is an emerging risk associated with SUDS/SABs potentially affecting consenting.Consenting remains a high risk and is being managed at a programme and project level within the Growth Deal. Planning support provided to projects by the CJC has enabled a refocus on finding solutions to planning issues that have previously stalled the consideration of projects. Those projects where this was the case now have a positive momentum towards a planning permission, or providing additional evidence required to get to that stage. Projects receiving early stager planning support from the CJC to ensure risks are better understood, reducing the liklihood of later issues.	09/10/2026
R010	21/10/2020	Reputational and Social Impact	Spending Objectives	Portfolio Director	If projects fail to deliver against the portfolio spending objectives, there is a risk that the Growth Deal may not meet its targets in relation to job creation, GVA and investment.	5	4	20	↔	Robust business cases will be developed for each programme and project in line with 5 Case Business Model and will need to set out contribution to portfolio spending objective targets Grant Funding Agreements to contractually commit sponsors to delivery of spending objectives, with regular reporting and monitoring to ensure early intervention where required. Portfolio review and change control process in place. New project process was completed in early 2025 with a reserve list of projects established. Investment strategy developed and approved.	N/A Ongoing N/A Complete In place	PMO, Project SROs PMO PMO PMO PMO	4	4	16	↔	Open	Risk reviewed, no change to gross and residual risk. While the creation of the Reserve List has mitigated the impact of projects withdrawn and provided momentum with recent business case approvals the risk remains high.	09/10/2026
R013	21/10/2020	Reputational and Social Impact	Political Change	Portfolio Director	If stakeholders are not managed effectively, there is a risk that political change could impact support for the portfolio, programme and projects.	4	4	16	↔	Briefing packs prepared and sessions for new members of the Senedd and new Ministers post election. Frequent engagement with UK, Welsh Government and local government politicians and officials. Delivery and Funding Agreement (GA3) and Final Deal agreement to confirm commitments of all parties. New members to be briefed on the Growth Deal Portfolio following change to the leadership.	N/A Complete Complete Ongoing	Ambition North Wales, PMO Ambition North Wales PMO PMO	3	4	12	↔	Open	Risk reviewed. No change to residual risk. Local Government elections in 2027 mean this risk may increase in the future.	09/10/2026
R014	22/10/2020	Financial	Fraud	Portfolio Director	If appropriate processes are not put in place and managed, there is a risk that the portfolio could be subject to fraudulent claims resulting in misuse of public funds	4	4	16	↔	Projects to have robust financial monitoring processes in place including due diligence checks on project sponsors and funding recipients. PMO to review claims and applications submitted before passing them onto accountable body for payment. Code of conduct and conflicts of interest policy incorporated as part of the Governance Agreement. Conflict of Interest Register maintained for all programmes, projects and advisory groups.	N/A N/A Complete N/A	PMO PMO Monitoring Officer PMO	2	4	8	↔	Open	No changes to gross or residual risk scores. Residual risk remains low due to the processes in place by Ambition North Wales. From 2025 projects in delivery include grant/fund schemes which will be managed according to PMO's approach to due diligence. UK Government due diligence service 'Spotlight' **has been introduced** to PMO from 2026 to support due diligence reviews. Fraud awareness session with the Senior Leadership Team held with WG Head of Counter Fraud in July 2026.	09/10/2026

Risk ID	Date Raised	Risk Category	Risk Name	Risk Owner	Description of the Risk	Current Gross Risk Rating			Trend	Mitigating Actions	Action Due Dates	Action owner	Residual Risk Rating			Trend	Status (Open / Closed)	Commentary	Date of last update
						P	I	Score					P	I	Score				
R015	22/10/2020	Reputational and Social Impact	Benefits Realisation	Portfolio Management Office	If project benefits are not realised, there is a risk that the overall Growth Deal could fail to deliver the benefits set out within business case.	4	4	16	↔	Each programme and project will be responsible for benefits management through a Benefits Realisation Plan. Monthly highlight reports to Programme Board to monitor benefits realisation. Procurement Principles adopted with focus on community benefits and social value. Benefits Realisation guidance developed and being disseminated to project sponsors for use in project business cases. Impact system launched and project teams trained.	N/A Monthly Complete N/A N/A	PMO, Programme and Project SROs PMO PMO PMO PMO	3	3	9	↔	Open	Risk reviewed. No changes to gross or residual risk scores. A recent assurance review highlighted the work of the PMO on benefits realisation as good practice which will ensure the structures and systems are in place to help projects realise and report on benefits realisation. Period for benefits realisation continues to reduce however emphasis on deliverability for reserve list projects minimised risk (see R002)	09/10/2026
R016	22/10/2020	Programme and Project Delivery	Assurance	Head of Operations	If agreed assurance processes are not followed, there is a risk that project approval could be impacted and could result in suspension/postponement of government grant payments.	3	5	15	↔	Integrated Assurance and Approval Plan (IAAP) agreed with Welsh and UK Government as part of Final Deal. Continued engagement with Welsh Government Assurance Hub to refine and update the Integrated Assurance and Approval Plan (IAAP) PMO assurance lead to coordinate delivery of assurance in accordance with the IAAP Streamlined approach to assurance introduced for new projects	Complete Quarterly N/A	PMO PMO PMO	2	4	8	↔	Open	Risk reviewed. No changes to gross or residual risk scores.	09/10/2026
R017	22/10/2020	Financial	Financial Management	s151 Officer	If appropriate financial arrangements are not put in place, there could be a risk to the delivery of the deal, draw-down of the funding grant and allocation of funds.	3	4	12	↔	Ambition North Wales will utilise existing financial processes of Cyngor Gwynedd. Project Business Cases will set out detailed project level financial, commercial and risk management measures to manage finances. Robust monthly performance, risk and financial reporting arrangements will be established for all projects. Robust financial claims process established for the drawdown of funding.	N/A N/A Monthly N/A	PMO PMO, Project SRO PMO, Project SRO PMO	2	3	6	↔	Open	Risk reviewed. No changes to gross or residual risk scores. Residual risk remains low due to the processes in place by Ambition North Wales and the funding agreements with project sponsors.	09/10/2026
R018	01/10/2020	Financial	Revenue Funding	Portfolio Management Office and Project Sponsors	If sufficient revenue funding is not in place to support the activities of the PMO and delivery of the Growth Deal, then project delivery and achievement of spending objectives and benefits may be impacted	4	5	20	↔	Revenue budget approved to extend fixed term contracts. Longer term solutions continue to be investigated. Partners and project sponsors responsible for sourcing revenue funding to support non-Ambition North Wales led projects. PMO working to identify additional funding opportunities for Ambition North Wales led projects. PMO capitalises salary costs associated with project delivery where appropriate and in line with guidance. Growth Deal top slice increased to 2.15%, allowing extension of Fixed term contracts.	N/A N/A N/A N/A Complete	PMO PMO, Project SRO PMO, Project SRO PMO PMO PMO	3	4	12	↔	Open	Risk reviewed. No changes to gross or residual risk scores. Budget for 2026-27 approved by the Corporate Joint Committee. Medium Term Financial Plan in development	09/10/2026
R019	01/10/2020	Programme and Project Delivery	Supply Chain & Skills Capacity	Portfolio Management Office	If the regional supply chain does not have the capacity to deliver projects, then projects' delivery could be impacted and regional benefits could be lower.	4	4	16	↔	Project business cases and implementation plans to clearly set out risks to project delivery and mitigations, including supply chain risks. RSP working with PMO to identify regional supply chain / skills challenges and identify mitigations. Additional funding secured for skills activity. Projects to conduct early market engagement where appropriate.	N/A N/A In place N/A	PMO PMO PMO Project Sponsors	3	4	12	↔	Open	Risk reviewed. No changes to gross or residual risk scores. Close collaboration between the PMO and the RSP on skills and supply chain is key to reducing the probability of this risk. This is an ongoing activity to ensure the capacity and skills are in the region to take advantage of the opportunities through the Growth Deal.	09/10/2026
R020	03/10/2022	Programme and Project Delivery	Economic Context	Portfolio Management Office	If there are significant changes to the UK economy (e.g. cost of living crisis and the energy security crisis), then the strategic and economic cases for programmes and projects may be adversely impacted	4	5	20	↔	Project business cases and implementation plans to clearly set out the case for projects and the risks to project delivery, including the impact of recent economic developments.	N/A	PMO, Project Sponsors	3	5	15	↔	Open	Risk reviewed: No immediate changes.Ongoing conflict in the Middle East presents further risk on supply chains and project sponsors are currently being consulted on their assessment of this risk. Residual risk to be reassessed across the Portfolio when further details are available Developing global issues affecting supply chains and energy market likely to affect costs in the short to medium term.	09/10/2026
R021	26/04/2024	Regulatory	Subsidy Control	Portfolio Management Office	Link to Public Sector investment risk R008: If subsidy control assessments cannot be confirmed the approval of funding for projects may be delayed or jeopardised.	3	4	12	↔	Review options for no subsidy investment, e.g. commercial loans. Address details and assessment with sponsors at earliest stage (Terms sheet). Legal advice commissioned early on all Subsidy Control assessments. Subsidy Control lead and support allocated within PMO.	As per SOC-FBC stages	Programme Managers	3	3	9	↔	Open	Risk reviewed. No changes to gross or residual risk scores Challenges in completing 7 Principle assessments being supported by external specialist legal advice but these need to be addressed earlier in the assurance process, e.g. at Terms sheet stage pre OBC completion.	09/10/2026

ECONOMIC WELL-BEING SUB-COMMITTEE
13th November 2026

TITLE: North Wales Growth Deal - Request to extend OBC Validity Period

AUTHOR: Hedd Vaughan-Evans, Portfolio Director

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval for an extension to the validity period previously set by the Economic Well-being Sub-Committee to allow sufficient time for the submission and consideration of the Full Business Cases.

2. DECISION SOUGHT

2.1. That the Sub-Committee approves the request to extend the Validity Period of the previously approved Outline Business Case as outlined in section 4.3 of the report.

2.2. That the Sub-Committee note that is the projects do not proceed to an approved Full Business Case during this time, it will be required to return for further consideration by the Sub-Committee.

3. REASONS FOR THE DECISION

3.1. To seek the Sub-Committee's approval to extend the validity date for the Outline Business Cases due to reasons set out in Section 4.

4. BACKGROUND AND RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE REQUEST TO EXTEND THE TIME TO COMPLETE GRANT FUNDING AGREEMENTS ON THREE PROJECTS

4.1 The projects noted below were approved by the Sub-Committee between October 2025 and May 2026 at Outline Business Case (OBC) stage. The approvals were granted on the basis that they would remain valid for a period of between six and 12 months from the date of the Sub-Committee's decision, during which time the projects were expected to develop and bring forward their Full Business Cases (FBCs) for consideration and approval. Where a project does not progress to an approved FBC within this period, it is required to return to the Sub-Committee for further consideration and approval.

4.2. This extension is requested to provide sufficient time for the projects to complete the necessary development and due diligence activities and bring forward their Full Business Cases (FBCs) for approval.

4.3. To enable the Sub-Committee to understand the current situation for each project and the reason behind this request', this is set out in the table below:

Project Name and Sponsor	EWSC Approval date	Reasons for extension request	Proposed FBC submission:	Proposed Revised validity end date
Project Prince, Knauf	3rd October 2025	There have been delays in the planning application process for the main build requiring the extension. Site remediation works have been approved and have commenced.	March 2027	November 2027
Business Gateway, Wrexham University	6th February 2026	Wrexham University has progressed delivery of elements of the project at risk. Delays in PCSA Stage 2 procurement and social value evaluation have impacted programme timescales, making it difficult to finalise subcontractor pricing before February 2027 and submit the FBC as originally planned.	July 2027	November 2027
Venue Cymru Futures, Conwy County Borough Council	15th May 2026	The project committed to achieving 52% of total expenditure before FBC submission. A minor re-scoping of the Auditorium Refurbishment Works has delayed progress, with completion expected by mid-Jan, enabling the expenditure threshold to be met.	March 2027	July 2027
Padeswood, Transport for Wales and Network Rail	5th December 2025	There have been delays in the development of the programme of works and the FBC with TfW and Network Rail now targeting a July 2027 approval.	July 2027	November 2027

All the projects noted above are progressing with the relevant activity required to enable their FBCs to be presented to the Sub-Committee for approvals. The delays reflect the complexity of some of these activities e.g. design and planning taking longer than initially planned rather than any significant risk to project delivery. The proposed extension dates provide a reasonable amount of contingency should there be a further delay to the proposed FBC submission date and takes into account the pre and post-election period in 2027 that will impact on the ability of the Sub-Committee to make approvals.

5. Key Risks

5.1. Ambition North Wales considers the following key risks will need to be carefully managed by the Project Sponsors during the extended period required to finalise and submit the Full Business Cases (FBCs).

Risk	Impact Description	Mitigation / Countermeasures
Programmes	Delays in progressing projects to FBC stage could impact delivery timescales and the realisation of anticipated benefits.	Maintain regular project review meetings and clear development milestones to ensure FBCs are completed and submitted within the extended validity period.
Costs	Extended development and delivery timescales may result in increased project costs due to inflation and changing market conditions.	Continually review cost estimates and assumptions during FBC development and update financial appraisals where necessary.
Market and Supply Chain Con	Changes in market conditions or supply chain availability could affect project affordability and deliverability.	Early market engagement and regular review of procurement and delivery assumptions as part of FBC preparation.

6. Conclusions

6.1. Ambition North Wales recommends that the Sub-Committee approves the extension to the validity period of the approved Outline Business Cases for the projects identified in this report. The extension will provide sufficient time for the Project Sponsors to complete the necessary development work and submit Full Business Cases for consideration, while avoiding the need to seek renewed Outline Business Case approval.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1. At present, all the procurement activity indicates that the projects are deliverable from the allocated budgets, but the increased delay in completing funding agreements increases the risk of cost inflation and supply chain impacts affecting project funding and delivery. Should there be additional costs that cannot be mitigated, these would need to be met through the previously approved Cost Inflation Reserve.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS *(available on request)*

- Outline Business Case's and Appendices

STATUTORY OFFICERS RESPONSE:

i. Monitoring Officer:

"I note the reasons for the requested extensions and the continuing requirement for each project to return to the Sub-Committee for approval of its Full Business Case. On that basis, I am content with the proposed extensions to the OBC validity periods."

ii. Statutory Finance Officer:

"The decision sought provides a pragmatic approach to the development of the projects specified.

Part 7 above notes that the delay in development may lead to additional costs. However, from a financial perspective there are clear governance and control measures in place to mitigate these matters, including the Cost Inflation Reserve."

ECONOMIC WELL-BEING SUB-COMMITTEE

13 November, 2026

TITLE:	Local Growth Fund in North Wales – initial priorities and next steps
AUTHOR:	Alwen Williams, Chief Executive, Ambition North Wales Iain Taylor, Programme Manager, Ambition North Wales

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1. To update the Economic Well-being Sub-Committee on the work being developed to secure Local Growth Fund (LGF) for North Wales in 2027/28 and 2028/29, and to seek the Sub-Committee's input and endorsement to emerging proposals.

2. DECISION SOUGHT

2.1. That the Sub-Committee note the requirement from Welsh Government for a 10-Year Regional Growth Plan and a Local Growth Fund Delivery Plan for Years 2 and 3 - for Welsh Government approval to release funding from April 2027.

2.2. That the Sub-Committee endorse the emerging priorities as set out in section 4.5 of this report, noting that these continue to be draft and will be brought back for approval at a later date (see 2.6).

2.3 To request the Chief Executive approach Cyngor Gwynedd to engage in discussions with a view to agreeing a commission arrangement to allow existing claim management and programme administration arrangements to continue into Year 2 of the programme with future arrangements for Year 3 and beyond to be evaluated in the summer of 2027.

2.3. That the Sub-Committee endorse the proposed prioritisation criteria set out in 4.6, and request that the Corporate Joint Committee apply this, in consultation with each local authority, to recommend provisional allocations in the delivery plan, brought back to this committee for approval in December (see 2.6).

2.4. That the Sub-Committee note the key principles of the Regional Growth Plan and Local Growth Fund Structure as set out in Annexes B and C, and request that the Chief Executive working alongside officers from partner organisations continue to develop these, and seek confirmation that this approach will meet the Welsh Government requirements.

2.5. That the Sub-Committee ask the Chief Executive to seek a delegation from the Corporate Joint Committee at it's meeting on the 20 November, for the Economic Well-being Sub-Committee to approve the Local Growth Fund submission to Welsh Government in mid-December.

3. REASON FOR THE DECISION

3.1. There is c.£80 million of funding (c.£40 million per annum) available for North Wales for years 2 and 3 Local Growth Fund, conditional on Welsh Government approval. Ambition North Wales has been asked to prepare a Regional Growth Plan and a Year 2 and 3 Local Growth Fund Delivery Plan and to be the Accountable Body for the Local Growth Fund Programme in Years 2 and 3.

4. BACKGROUND AND RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

4.1. The Government's Local Growth Fund (LGF) is a three year fund, administered by Welsh Government through its LGF Investment Plan. Year 1 is the current financial year with Year 2 (April 2027-March 2028) and Year 3 (April 2028-March 2029). Any funding after that depends on future Spending Reviews.

4.2. From 2027–28, Welsh Government will award funding directly to the four Corporate Joint Committees through annual grant offer letters. Each Corporate Joint Committee will then lead regional planning and portfolio selection. The indicative North Wales allocation is £41.44m in 2027–28 and £39.92m in 2028–29. Each year includes a pan-Wales capital ringfence of £5.37m for North Wales. This funding is conditional on Welsh Government sign-off.

4.3. At the 2 October Sub-Committee it was agreed that Ambition North Wales would run a 4 week 'call for evidence' from partner organisations, asking each partner to set out their strategic priorities for reducing productivity gaps, tackling inequalities in areas of deprivation and rurality across the region, and how their proposals for intervention fit within the Welsh Government's framework. The Corporate Joint Committee is bringing the outputs from this initial phase of work to the Sub Committee today for initial review.

4.5. Local Growth Delivery Plan

4.5.1. LGF investment for years 2 and 3 must align with Welsh Government's three priorities: more productive and competitive businesses; increasing skills and supporting people into work; and improving regional infrastructure. The LGF plan must explain how interventions address different needs across the region, including the areas facing the greatest challenges. It must also show that LGF funding will leverage additional private investment. Welsh Government accepts that a direct, measurable impact on productivity is unrealistic. However, it expects a clear "golden thread" from regional activity to its priorities for productivity growth and for lagging areas catching up.

4.5.2. A template for the Local Growth Fund is included in Annex C.

Table 1 illustrates the allocations to North Wales in Years 2 and 3.

Table 1 North Wales Year 2 and 3 Allocations			
£m	Year 2 (2027–28)	Year 3 (2028–29)	Two-year total
Revenue	12.9	11.4	24.4
Capital (regional)	23.1	23.1	46.3
Regional subtotal	**36.1**	**34.5**	**70.6**
Pan-Wales capital ringfence	5.4	5.4	10.7
Total	**41.4**	**39.9**	**81.4**

Table 2 illustrates the intention to allocate funding across the Priority Areas across Wales.

Table 2 – Allocations across Priority Areas – indicative across Wales						
£m	Y2 revenue	Y2 capital	Y2 total	Y3 revenue	Y3 capital	Y3 total
P1: Productive and competitive businesses	12.0	50.4	62.5	10.6	50.4	61.0
P2: Skills and people into work	36.1	13.3	49.4	31.9	13.3	45.1
P3: Regional infrastructure	9.6	63.7	73.3	8.5	63.7	72.2
Administration	2.4	5.3	7.7	2.1	5.3	7.4
Wales total	**60.2**	**132.6**	**192.9**	**53.1**	**132.7**	**185.8**

4.5.2. Priority 1 – More Productive and Competitive Businesses

4.5.3. As well as individual productivity interventions set out in Priority 2, LGF is concerned with driving productivity by supporting business growth and investment, both in terms of their output but also in terms of their employment. The programme has three objectives: growing high-potential start-ups, spinouts and social enterprises, including those from under-represented groups; increasing capital investment in businesses with high growth potential; and raising investment in research, development and innovation capacity, exploitation and diffusion across businesses and research organisations. The rationale is that firms grow more productive by expanding, exporting, innovating and reaching new markets. Many face barriers in doing so, particularly access to finance and expert advice, and Wales has historically had low levels of capital investment by both the public and private sectors.

Engagement with the partner local authorities has identified proposals that focus on business investment, job creation and private sector leverage. They cluster in the following four themes:

1. **Capital investment grants** – grants for SME investment in equipment, technology and productivity.
2. **Start-up and business growth support** – advice and grant programmes for new and growing businesses.
3. **Innovation and incubation space** – the Business Innovation and SME Scale-up Hub, linked to colleges, universities and anchor firms, and incubation and R&D space.
4. **Readiness for major investment** – a Readiness Business Programme preparing local businesses for growth.

4.5.4. Priority 2 – Skills & Employability

4.5.5. During October, the Corporate Joint Committee facilitated workshops with the Regional Skills Partnership (RSP) and its Employability Working Group, bringing together representatives from Further and Higher Education, local authorities, employability providers, Careers Wales, Business Wales, DWP, employers and Welsh Government to consider existing skills and employability provision across North Wales and test priorities for future investment.

4.5.6. The discussions highlighted the importance of building on effective existing provision, addressing gaps and avoiding duplication, while ensuring future interventions are employer-led and help more people access and progress in employment.

4.5.7. The Board also recognised the complex landscape of existing skills and employability provision across North Wales, involving a range of programmes, organisations and funding streams. While there is considerable activity already taking place, provision can be fragmented, and it is important to understand what is available, where gaps exist and where opportunities to improve coordination or expand successful approaches may be identified.

4.5.8. The six emerging priorities for future investment below should align with the emerging Regional Growth Plan and also align with the strategic direction and priorities of the new North Wales Skills and Employment Plan (2026–2029). They reflect the Plan's focus on supporting employers to access the skills they need, enabling individuals to develop and progress, and strengthening the connections between skills provision, employment opportunities and regional economic growth.

4.5.9. The six priorities are presented below and are not listed in any priority order.

1. Employment pathways and work experience – creating more opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds to gain practical experience and access routes into sustainable employment, including placements, apprenticeships and work experience.

2. Employer opportunity creation – supporting employers, particularly SMEs and micro-businesses, to overcome recruitment barriers and create more opportunities through placements, apprenticeships and inclusive recruitment, helping them access a wider pool of talent.

3. Earlier intervention and prevention – identifying and supporting young people at risk of becoming NEET, strengthening transitions between education, training and employment.

4. Linking skills to economic growth – aligning skills and employment support with regional investment, major projects and emerging workforce opportunities, ensuring local people and businesses are better placed to benefit.

5. Workforce progression – helping people already in employment develop their skills, progress into higher-level roles and improve their earning potential, while supporting businesses to retain talent and improve productivity.

6. Talent retention – improving career opportunities within North Wales for young people, graduates and people with higher-level skills, strengthening the connection between education providers and local employers.

4.5.10. During the workshop, the following groups were identified as needing particular consideration when developing future interventions under LGF Priority 2:

- Young people aged 16-24, including those who are NEET or at risk of becoming NEET.
- Economically inactive individuals and people seeking to enter or return to employment.
- Individuals facing barriers to employment, including disabled people with additional learning needs, care leavers and young carers.
- Individuals, including undergraduates and graduates, who lack relevant work experience or workplace readiness.
- People already in employment who would benefit from skills development and progression opportunities.

4.5.11. The Board also recognised the importance of engaging employers, particularly SMEs and micro-businesses, alongside businesses in sectors experiencing recruitment and skills challenges.

4.5.12 In relation to employability support, the provision funded by Welsh Government is currently subject to review and will be a consideration going forward.

4.5.13. Priority 3 – Sites and Premises

4.5.14. A lack of readily available commercial and employment sites has been identified as a key barrier to economic growth across the region. Prohibitive development costs for remediation, site-infrastructure and improved transport accessibility, create viability gaps which means these sites cannot come forward without public sector investment. Investing in large scale, strategic sites that attracts and enables business expansion will have a significant impact for the region.

Revenue support has been allocated to support feasibility, business case, project development and planning costs (RIBA 1-4 work stages).

Proposals received to date include 36 Priority 3 proposals, mainly from Wrexham (18), Denbighshire (9) and Conwy (6). Six common themes emerge:

1. Strategic employment sites – enabling works to unlock employment land, including utilities, sewerage, access and ecological and phosphorus mitigation for Wrexham Industrial Estate and Investment Zone sites, Ruabon Business Park and the Western Gateway (Wrexham); employment land across Anglesey (Ynys Môn); and Tir Llwyd, Kinmel Bay and Abergele South East (Conwy).
2. Business premises and grow-on space – modern SME premises (Wrexham), St Asaph Business Park grow-on space and upgrades to council industrial units (Denbighshire),and Bodlondeb Entrepreneurial Hub (Conwy).
3. Town centre regeneration – bringing vacant and underused property back into use in Rhyl and Denbigh (Denbighshire), Colwyn Bay (Conwy), Holyhead (Ynys Môn) and Wrexham city centre.
4. Visitor, heritage and cultural assets – Eirias Regional Centre and Llandudno Vaults (Conwy); Moel Famau, Bodelwyddan Park, LIME, county heritage sites and the World

Heritage Site joint scheme (Denbighshire); and City of Culture 2029, music venue and artist studio space (Wrexham).

5. **Transport and access** – bus infrastructure (Flintshire, Wrexham), Wrexham bus station, and bus, active-travel and last-mile links between priority neighbourhoods and employment sites (Wrexham).
6. **Energy and digital infrastructure** – grid connection, renewables and storage, including a new primary substation for the Gwenfro corridor, and broadband and mobile blackspots (Wrexham); and solar PV and energy efficiency for council units (Denbighshire).

4.6. Prioritisation Criteria for Capital Projects

4.6.1. Purpose

The LGF Delivery Plan is required to include a consistent and transparent method to identify the projects most suitable for investment by LGF. The prioritisation criteria allows an assessment of each project proposal against the Regional Growth Plan objectives, in particular how projects make a demonstrable contribution to local and regional productivity, local deprivation and economic inequality. Projects will be assessed at a local level to ensure there is investment and action to drive productivity and reduce deprivation across North Wales, raising local measures and closing the gap between the lowest and highest levels of economic output.

4.6.2. Local Growth Fund Requirements

The criteria are drawn from the Welsh Government LGF Investment Plan and the draft RGP framework:

- **Productivity:** the Fund is a framework for investing in productivity growth, targeting places with the greatest potential for growth and working through business investment, RD&I, skills, sites and premises, connectivity and energy.
- **Deprivation and inequality:** the Fund aims to tackle economic inequality in deprived areas. WIMD carries a significant part of the regional allocation, and regions are expected to show how interventions support the areas facing the biggest challenges or lacking investment.**Rurality and peripherality:** rurality carries part of the allocation, recognising the barriers faced by places without agglomeration.
- **Cross-cutting themes:** equality, climate and well-being, with the Welsh language, are to be integrated in all investments.
- **Leverage and additionality:** regions should lever private investment, fill investment gaps and avoid duplicating other programmes.
- **Delivery:** spend must be achieved within the two financial years, with risk registers in place.
- **RGP fit:** a golden thread from each project to the seven draft RGP objectives (O1–O7), which translate the well-being goals into economic objectives.

4.6.3. Proposed Prioritisation Structure

We are required to set out an approach to prioritisation given that there are more project proposals that can be afforded by the current LGF funding available. A full framework which

sets out the basis for scoring will be prepared and agreed with partner LAs and WG. Ambition North Wales and the LAs will apply the prioritisation criteria in a pragmatic and proportionate way to enable swift identification of projects and the application of process either within LAs or by Ambition North Wales. To indicate the general approach., the proposed structure for the prioritisation process considers the following stages:

Stage 1 - Gateway

A pass/fail criteria to ensure that all projects assessed are suitable for LGF investment. These criteria include:

- Fit with LGF Objectives
- Fit with RGP Objectives
- Can incur spend in Year 2 or Year 3
- Confirmation of capital expenditure
- Compliance with Subsidy Control Scheme (to be developed)
- Clearly additional and not otherwise expected to occur
- Of local, cross LA border or regional benefit

Stage 2 - Assessment

The detailed assessment will be developed in advance of the December Economic Well-being Sub-Committee meeting and recommend scoring allocations and the basis for the scores awarded. At this stage, we expect the assessment criteria to cover the following areas:

- **Productivity,** including scale of outputs and outcomes
- **Deprivation and Inclusion**, benefits to deprived communities, inclusion and access to work and addressing barrier to investment
- **Strategic alignment**, contribution to RGP objectives and local strategic fit
- **Wider impacts,** contribution to climate, environment, culture and language
- **Deliverability**, readiness, spend profile and risks
- **Value for money, additionality and co-investment**, determined locally rather than regionally

4.7. Delivery and Administration

4.7.1. Detailed arrangements are still being developed, but the administration budget, including accrued interest, is expected to be sufficient to maintain funding for programme administration, local authorities' local fund administration roles and the Corporate Joint Committee's programme management role, subject to final agreement of Year 2 roles and responsibilities.

4.7.2. The intention, as outlined in Table 3 below, is to preserve the resources available for regional coordination and the partner councils for local coordination. The uplift in the level of administration will create headroom to support the Corporate Joint Committee's delivery role. The intention is to explore and prepare a 'commission' arrangement to allow for smooth continuation of the LGF programme into Year 2. Alternative delivery models have

been considered but none can be executed in time to allow for a Year 2 start on the 1st of April.

Table 3 – Overview of Indicative Funding Allocations			
£000	Year 2: 2027–28	Year 3: 2028–29	Total
Total regional allocation	**41,443**	**39,920**	**81,363**
Administration (4%)	**1,658**	**1,597**	**3,255**
Local authority administration, benefits realisation, monitoring performance, stakeholder liaison, project support	799	799	1,598
Programme Management (CG + ANW) Increases regional benefits realisation, project support	859	798	1,657
Delivery Revenue (26%)	**10,775**	**10,379**	**21,154**
Regional skills and employability programme Skills: towards a regional programme, Employability towards local delivery. Further work to consider revenue to business support element.	9,500	9,500	19,000
Pre-development and feasibility	1,275	879	2,154
Delivery Capital (70%)	**29,010**	**27.944**	**56,954**
Capital for projects, business support and skills	23,638	22,572	46,211
Pan-Wales capital ringfence	5,372	5,372	10,743
Total	**41,443**	**39,920**	**81,363**

4.8. Regional Growth Plan

4.8.1. The Welsh Government requires Corporate Joint Committees to set out a plan that analyses long-term strengths, opportunities and needs, and set out a 10-year vision for growth. That vision should cover all significant growth opportunities, not only LGF funds.

4.8.2. We are developing a Regional Growth Plan Strategic Framework which aims to set the key foundations for the 10 Year Growth Plan. We plan to test emerging drafts with the Welsh Government to assure this will be sufficient to secure their approvals. Our proposed approach would allow for the formal 10 Year Growth Plan to be developed, with public consultation in the Summer of 2027, for approval of Economic Well-being Sub-Committee in the Autumn of 2027.

4.8.3. We have commenced work on the RGF Strategic Framework. An overview of the working document is set out in Annex B to indicate the direction of travel. A more resolved draft will be shared with the Economic Well-being Sub-Committee in December.

5. KEY MILESTONES & TIMETABLE

5.1. The Sub-Committee is asked to note that we are now working to an expedited timetable to secure timely approvals from the Welsh Government. We are aiming for a December approval point, which is critical to securing the 2027–28 allocation.

Table 4 – Key Milestones	
Date	**Milestone**
20 November	Seek Approval from the Corporate Joint Committee to delegate approval of LGF document to Economic Well-being Sub-Committee
11 December	Seek approval from Economic Well-Being Sub-Committee to Local Growth Delivery Plan for 2027/28 and 2028/9 and 'Towards a Regional Growth Plan'
February – March 2027	Welsh Government review and agreement of the plan; 2027–28 grant offer. Confirmation of delivery arrangements, including regional programmes and the process for the assessment and assurance of capital projects. The project identification, proposal and assessment process will be run in this period for projects ready to start on April 1, 2027. A delegation will be sought from Economic Well-being Sub-Committee to allow decision on LA backed or supported projects that can make an immediate start to ensure delivery risks are managed.
April 2027	CJC-led LGF partnership with LA delivery begins
2027–28 onwards	Six-monthly Welsh Government reviews; the 10-year plan is kept under review and refreshed alongside future UK Spending Reviews

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1. The Corporate Joint Committee has received a Welsh Government grant award of £200,000 in 2026/27 to produce the Regional Growth Plan and support the capacity building and partnership arrangements needed to prepare for implementation from April 2027.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1. The legal implications at this stage are limited. The report seeks the Committee's endorsement to continuing to develop proposals for both the Regional Growth Plan and Local Growth Fund Delivery Plan and does not approve the final plans, individual projects or funding awards. Any future acceptance of Welsh Government funding, approval of plans and subsequent project or funding decisions will require the appropriate decision-making authority and further legal and financial advice.

STATUTORY OFFICERS' RESPONSE:

i. Monitoring Officer:

"I note the emerging proposals and the further work required before the Local Growth Fund Delivery Plan and Regional Growth Plan are finalised. I am content with the recommendations, noting that the proposed approval of the December submission by the Sub-Committee will be subject to the Corporate Joint Committee granting the

necessary delegation on 20 November. Any subsequent project and funding decisions will continue to require the appropriate approval and assurance arrangements."

ii. Statutory Finance Officer:

"The decisions sought are a pragmatic solution to the requirements of Welsh Government for addressing growth across the region. Since the greater proportion of the funding is for capital expenditure, work has been undertaken to identify projects where this expenditure can occur before the end of March 2029. Whilst this may be challenging within the timescale, the proven ability of the region to work together on recent schemes such as the North Wales Growth Deal and the Shared Prosperity Fund will give confidence that the robust financial governance will continue."

Annex A – Welsh Government LGF Priorities & Objectives

Local Growth Investment Plan – Published by Welsh Government

Priority 1: More productive and competitive businesses

Objective 1.1: Creation and growth of high-potential start-ups, spinouts, and social enterprises – including from under-represented groups.

Objective 1.2: Increasing capital investment in high growth potential businesses to support productivity growth

Objective 1.3: Increase levels of investment in RD&I capacity, exploitation and diffusion in businesses and research organisations

Priority 2: Increasing skills and supporting people into work

Objective 2.1: Reduce levels of economic inactivity, notably among young people, disabled people, women and people from ethnic minority backgrounds

Objective 2.2: Enhance workforce skills through flexible, demand-led education and training aligned with needs of high-growth and regionally important sectors

Priority 3: Improving regional infrastructure

Objective 3.1: Unlock investment in strategic sites and premises

Objective 3.2: Capital investment aligned to Regional Transport Plans

Objective 3.3: Capital investment aligned to regional energy plans / strategies

Annex B Regional Growth Plan Strategic Framework

1 November 2026

Executive summary

The North Wales Regional Growth Plan (RGP) sets a ten-year direction for the regional economy from 2027 to 2037. Prepared by the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee (CJC) with the six councils, it meets the Local Growth Fund (LGF) Investment Plan requirement for a long-term regional vision and will carry the LGF Delivery Plan as an annex. It builds on the North Wales Growth Vision, the Growth Deal and the Regional Economic Framework, and is organised around the seven well-being goals of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

North Wales leads the Welsh regions on most headline measures. GVA per head was 76.8% of the UK in 2023, and real GVA grew 12.0% over 2015–23 against 7.6% for Wales. But it is two economies: Flintshire (104.3) and Wrexham (99.0) are the most productive authorities in Wales, while Gwynedd (69.9) and Conwy (67.2) rank 20th and 21st of 22. A falling working-age population, a NEET rate of 15.1% among 16–24 year olds and economic inactivity of 22.9% mean that people and skills are now the main constraints on growth.

Vision for 2037

By 2037 North Wales will be a confident, productive and connected region, leading the UK's clean energy and advanced manufacturing transition. A region that retains and attracts talent, promotes Welsh language and culture, and where the benefits of growth reach every community.

The vision keeps the region's established Smart, Resilient and Connected identity and adds a fourth theme, Sustainable and rooted, reflecting the well-being economy focus of the Regional Economic Framework. It supports Welsh Government's ambition to halve the productivity gap between Wales and the rest of the UK over the next ten years, and the two LGF outcomes of higher real household disposable income and GDP per head.

Strategic objectives

Seven objectives, one for each well-being goal, turn the vision into priorities for investment (Table ES1). Each is linked to a headline measure and to the LGF objectives it draws on, and together they form the logic model that will guide prioritisation in the LGF Delivery Plan.

Table ES1 – Strategic objectives of the Regional Growth Plan		
Objective	**Well-being goal**	**What success looks like by 2037**
O1 Productivity: Raise productivity and close the gap within the region	A prosperous Wales	GVA per hour rising fastest in Conwy and Gwynedd, and the internal gap narrowing
O2 Low carbon: Build a low carbon economy within environmental limits	A resilient Wales	More local firms winning clean energy contracts, and more locally owned generation
O3 Good work: Secure economic and social outcomes from the	A healthier Wales	Fewer people inactive through long-term sickness

health and care sector and drive down economic inactivity		
O4 Opportunity: Extend economic opportunity to deprived places and young people	A more equal Wales	A falling NEET rate, higher household incomes and lower child poverty
O5 Places: Create well-connected, liveable places with homes for all	A Wales of cohesive communities	More households within an hour of key jobs by public transport
O6 Rural and Welsh: Grow a stronger rural, coastal and Welsh-speaking economy	A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language	The working-age population stabilising in the west
O7 Global: Compete globally through trade, innovation and fair work	A globally responsible Wales	Rising enterprise birth rates and RD&I investment

Key Growth Drivers

North Wales hosts a set of nationally significant projects that together could support well over 10,000 construction and permanent jobs over the decade, across North Wales.

The plan identifies five key growth drivers:

Nuclear: Wylfa has been chosen for the UK's first small modular reactors, with up to 3,000 local jobs at peak construction and a supply chain and skills base that will last decades.

Offshore wind and marine energy: Awel y Môr, Mona, Morlais tidal and the ports at Holyhead and Mostyn offer construction, operations and maintenance, and supply-chain opportunities along the coast.

Advanced manufacturing: already 24.5% of regional GVA and growing, anchored by Airbus Broughton, AMRC Cymru and the £160m Flintshire and Wrexham Investment Zone.

Creative, culture and sport: worth £639m including digital, with a distinctive Welsh-language screen base, three World Heritage Sites and an international sporting and events profile.

Digital and AI: the AI Growth Zone at Prosperity Parc and Trawsfynydd, with about 3,450 jobs expected, pairing data centres with clean power and supporting AI adoption across the economy.

Four foundational sectors (tourism and the visitor economy, agriculture and food, care and health, and housing and construction) employ far more people and will decide whether communities across the region share in this growth. The test for every sector is not only growth, but whether it lifts productivity in the west and connects deprived communities and young people to jobs.

The framework will be tested with partners ahead of public consultation in summer 2027.

Annex C Local Growth Fund Delivery Plan Template

The Local Growth Fund Delivery Plan is expected to be structured as follows:

1. Introduction and Purpose
   An overview of what the Delivery Plan is for and what it covers. It will explain how it was developed and its relationship to the Regional Growth Plan.

2. Strategic Context and evidence
   Information and evidence regarding the regional economy, the partnership and delivery context, strengths and opportunities and the wider investment landscape.

3. Objectives and the logic model
   Relationship to the Regional Growth Plan Objectives and the logic model that illustrates the progression from strategy and intervention to outputs, outcomes and impacts.

4. Funding and financial profile
   Indicative budgets and areas of investment

5. Investment priorities and interventions
   Overview of the regional skills and employability programmes and key sites. Consideration of the pan-Wales opportunities.

6. Project pipeline and prioritisation
   Overview of the prioritisation process, criteria and pipeline.

7. Delivery arrangements and governance
   Roles, responsibility and decision making arrangements and the resource allocations.

8. Monitoring, evaluation and reporting
   Outputs and outcome targets, headlines and reporting cycles.

9. Risk Management
   Risk management strategy and Risk Register

10. Compliance with guidance and regulations
    Assessment of the Delivery Plan against the requirements of WG

11. Timetable and milestones
    Programme and key milestones

Economic Well-being Sub-Committee
13th November 2026

TITLE: High Impact Expression of Interest - Utopia City Project

AUTHOR: Hedd Vaughan-Evans, Portfolio Director

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1. The purpose of the report is to present the Utopia City Expression of Interest.

2. DECISION SOUGHT

2.1. That the Economic Well-being Sub-Committee accepts the Expression of Interest for the Utopia City project and formally invite the project to join the reserve list.

3. REASONS FOR THE DECISION

3.1. To seek Economic Well-being Sub-Committee endorsement of the Utopia City project to join the reserve list.

4. BACKGROUND AND RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

4.1. The North Wales Growth Deal is an agreement between the UK Government, Welsh Government and Ambition North Wales to deliver a transformational £1billion investment in the North Wales economy. The aim of the Growth Deal is to build a more vibrant, sustainable and resilient economy in North Wales, building on our strengths to boost productivity while tackling long-term challenges and economic barriers to delivering inclusive growth.

4.2. As per the Final Deal agreement, business cases are to be developed for each project within the Growth Deal in line with the 'Better Business Case' guidance developed by Welsh Government and HM Treasury. Each business case includes five cases which address key questions and should be supported by workshops. The guidance allows for single-stage Business Justification Cases to be used for projects of low-medium value and risk.

4.3. The Economic Well-being Sub-Committee (previously the role of the Economic Ambition Board) acts as the decision-making body for the North Wales Growth Deal. The Welsh Government and UK Government are funders of the Growth Deal, retaining a role in approving the assurance process each project has undertaken. The assurance process undertaken by projects will be included in all reports for consideration.

4.4. The Economic Well-being Sub-Committee approved the Strategy for Remaining Unallocated Funding in October 2026. The strategy included £8m of funding available to the Reserve List to support the delivery of high impact projects only. The high impact criteria specifies that 16 net jobs should be created per £1m Growth Deal invested or £4.5m match funding per £1m invested.

4.5. An open call via the six local authorities was opened for new Reserve List projects to be nominated using the previous Expression of Interest application forms where those projects meet the high impact criteria on jobs or investment.

4.6. One Expression of Interest has been received to date from Wrexham County Borough Council for the Utopia City project which has been reviewed by the Portfolio Management Office and is presented for consideration for inclusion on the reserve list in this report. The call for projects via the six local authorities remains open and will do so until all available Growth Deal funding has been allocated.

4.7. SUMMARY OF THE UTOPIA CITY PROJECT

4.7.1. Utopia City is a proposed phased employment campus north of Bryn Lane, adjoining Wrexham Industrial Estate, within the Flintshire and Wrexham Investment Zone. The first phase of the project seeks £5 million from the North Wales Growth Deal alongside £5 million from the Investment Zone, forming a capped £10 million public contribution towards utilities, drainage, site preparation and access infrastructure. These works would address infrastructure and viability constraints that would otherwise delay and limit development.

4.7.2. Alongside the public funding there is significant proposed private investment in the initial phase of the project that would unlock approximately 15 acres of serviced employment land and deliver 128,101 sq ft of modern industrial floorspace across Units 3–6, targeting advanced-manufacturing occupiers. (Full details of the project are included in annex 1 which is exempt)

4.7.3. The project has been assessed and meets the criteria for reserve list (that 16 net jobs should be created per £1m Growth Deal invested or £4.5m match funding per £1m invested):

- Creating 298 net jobs (direct and indirect) – this equates to 29.8 jobs per £1m of public funding, significantly higher than the high impact criteria.
- Total investment of £41.56 – this equates to £4.1m per £1m public funding invested, only slightly lower than the high impact criteria for investment.
- The full (hybrid) planning application has already been submitted (2023). Determination, with a resolution to grant, is targeted for December 2026, with the Section 106 agreement to be finalised in Q1 2027.

4.7.3. On the basis of the jobs per £1m metric, the project meets the high impact criteria and is being recommended for inclusion on the reserve list. Inviting the project to join the reserve list does not represent a decision to fund the project but provides the project sponsor the opportunity to present a business case for consideration by the Sub-Committee in the future in line with the usual assurance and approvals process.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1. The decisions in this report do not commit the Sub-Committee to spending any Growth Deal funding. Should the Sub-Committee approve the Expression of interest and invite the project to join the reserve list, any future release of funding would be subject to the approval of a business case by the Sub-committee in line with the agreed assurance and approvals process.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1. The proposed approach is in line with the strategy agreed by the Sub-Committee in October 2026, which is in line with the requirements of the Final Deal Agreement. All subsequent approvals will be subject to the usual assurance and approvals process for Growth Deal projects.

6.2. As with all Growth Deal projects, as part of the business case process the project would be required to demonstrate Subsidy Control compliance as part of their final business case.

7. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

7.1. An integrated impact assessment will be undertaken at Business Case stage to assess the impact of the project on the Welsh Language, equalities and against the Future Generations.

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1 Utopia City – Expression of Interest (Exempt)

STATUTORY OFFICERS RESPONSE:

i. Monitoring Officer:

"The proposed inclusion of this project onto the Reserve List is consistent with the strategy for remaining unallocated Growth Deal funding previously approved by the Sub-Committee. Inclusion will not constitute approval of funding or create any commitment to the project.

Any subsequent proposal to allocate funding will remain subject to the applicable business case, assurance and approval processes, including appropriate legal and due diligence requirements and compliance with subsidy control requirements."

ii. Statutory Finance Officer:

"As is explained in Part 5 above, adopting the decision sought does not commit the Growth Deal to expenditure at this stage. The EOI is a first step of many before the approval of a Final Business Case and the Finance Service will provide support and analysis as needed during this process should the project progress to the subsequent stages."