



north wales economic ambition board
bwrdd uchelgais economaidd gogledd cymru

REPORT TO THE NORTH WALES ECONOMIC AMBITION BOARD

February 1st 2019

Title: Initial Work Programme for the EAB and future meeting arrangements

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1. Purpose of the Report

The purpose of the report is to propose a high level work programme for the Economic Ambition Board for the next 6-9 months. The report will also recommend a timetable of meetings for the Board.

2. Decision Sought

To agree the proposed high level work programme for the Economic Ambition Board for the next 6-9 months.

To agree a timetable of meetings for the Economic Ambition Board until the end of the calendar year.

3. Reasons for the Decision

It is crucial that the newly formed Economic Ambition Board has a clear work programme to guide key activity over the next 6-9 months. This will allow the Board to commission the Executive Support Group with a bespoke work plan in order to co-ordinate the delivery of the Growth Vision. This will ensure that there is an agreed direction to the activities of the Executive Support Group, with clear milestones and timelines, which will help in managing expectations.

4 Background and Relevant Considerations

A first stage Governance Agreement to formalise the constitutional arrangements for the North Wales Economic Ambition Board was approved by all partners in June and July 2018.

This agreement defined the purpose of the Board as follows

- To co-ordinate the planning and delivery of the Growth Vision, with an initial emphasis on the Growth Deal;
- To provide direction for key strategies in support of the above, In particular transport, skills and employment, economic development and land use planning;
- To unite partners around common purpose in support of the planning and delivery of the Growth Vision and the Growth Deal;
- To provide direction to any Sub-Boards that the Joint Committee chooses to appoint including the commissioning of specific tasks or projects;
- Proposing projects that could be undertaken as part of the Growth Deal;
- Deliberating on such projects to assess whether further due diligence is warranted and reaching agreement on the costs that should be incurred undertaking further appraisal work;
- Agreeing a pro-forma Implementation Plan that will set out the process for agreeing and prioritising projects that will be taken forward pursuant to the Growth Deal;
- Preparing a draft Business Plan in accordance with clause 7 (Business Plan)
- Overseeing and co-ordinating the discharge of the Council's preparatory obligations in relation to the Growth Deal
- To take all necessary decisions to pursue the aims and objectives of the Growth Vision;
- To carry out the functions set out in Schedule 2 (Joint Committee Terms of Reference) in the Governance Agreement.

Terms and Reference and Membership of the Board – as set out in the Governance Agreement – is set out in Appendix 1.

The Proposition Document, which set out a package of bold measures and interventions to deliver sustainable and inclusive economic growth in North Wales, was approved by all partners in September and October 2018. This document identified 16 projects to be funded through the Growth Deal, with details on costs, outcomes and timeline for delivery included. The total sum that was targeted from the Growth Deal was £334m of capital funding and £8m of revenue funding.

The UK Government confirmed an allocation of £120 million for the Growth Deal in the Chancellor's Budget, held on the 29th of October, 2018. Confirmation was received from the Welsh Government that they would match this sum on the 21st of December, 2018. This meant that a budget of £240 million is now in place to deliver projects within the Growth Deal.

The next stage of the Growth Deal process, following the announcements by both Governments, is to agree Heads of Terms, and this will need to be achieved by May or June 2019.

Given the tight timescales, and the need to drive forward other key priorities apart from the Heads of Terms, a high level work programme is proposed, which includes 10 work packages which are listed below;

- Heads of Terms
- Governance
- Finance
- Programme Office
- Commissioned Strategies and Projects
- Legal and Procurement
- Monitoring and Evaluation
- Stakeholder Engagement and Communication
- Strategic Regional Functions
- Delivery Management

Key tasks are identified for each work package, as well as the timeframe for delivery and the responsible party. A copy of the high level work programme is presented in Appendix 2.

The Executive Support Group has discussed the priorities of the work programme, and copies of the draft programme has been sent to all representatives for comment and suggestions.

A more detailed work programme will be prepared for the Executive Support Group, to include success factors, sub-tasks, named officers, specific deadlines and inter-dependencies – including risk.

A proposed timetable of meetings for the Economic Ambition Board is set out in Appendix 3. Meetings of the Executive Support Group will take place 2 weeks prior to the meetings of the Board.

5. Financial Implications

In keeping with the first stage Governance Agreement, and in respect of the Annual Budget, each Council shall pay a sum of £50,000 during the 2019/20 financial year, and each advisor, other than the North Wales and Mersey Dee Business Council, shall pay a sum of £25,000 during the 2019/20 financial year. The Accountable Body (Gwynedd Council) shall hold and account for the Annual Budget on behalf of the Joint Committee and the other parties.

As stated within the initial work programme, the budget for 2019/20 will be agreed during the NWEAB March meeting.

6. Legal Implications

The proposal is in keeping with the agreed first stage Governance Agreement.

7. Staffing Implications

8. Impact on Equalities

The proposal is in keeping with the equalities policies and strategies of the Accountable Body.

9. Consultations undertaken

Consultation undertaken with the Executive Support Group.

10. Appendix

Appendix A Terms and Reference and Membership of the Board, Governance Agreement 1

Appendix B Initial Work Programme

Appendix C Timetable of Meetings

STATUTORY OFFICERS' RESPONSE:

i. Monitoring Officer – Accountable Body:

The report establishes the foundations for the Economic Ambition Board as it becomes a statutory joint committee. I have co-operated on the preparation of the report therefore I have no specific observations to add from a propriety perspective.

ii. Head of Finance – Accountable Body:

I have collaborated with the author to prepare this report and I confirm the financial aspects of the content.