



## **BUSINESS DELIVERY BOARD**

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### **1. Role and Remit**

- 1.1. The Business Delivery Board will act as the voice of the business and employers in the region, working closely with organisations such as the North Wales & Mersey Dee Business Council (the umbrella body for Business representative organisations). It will focus on the delivery of the Growth Vision for the region.
- 1.2. It will have a key role in challenging and advising the North Wales Economic Ambition Board on matters relating to the Growth Vision and Growth Deal.
- 1.3. The Board will highlight the barriers to growth, as well as bring forward ideas and proposals. It will be expected that the North Wales Economic Ambition Board will consider ways in which such proposals can be delivered.
- 1.4. The Board is a key part of the Growth Deal governance apparatus and performs an important two-fold role:
  - To ensure the voice and wishes of business shape and influence the Growth Vision for North Wales and the Growth Deal package and delivery;
  - To ensure that opportunities galvanised and catalysed by the development of the Growth Deal can be accessed and led by businesses.
- 1.5. The Board is committed to optimising the opportunities within the Growth Deal, and promoting investment leverage from companies, enterprises and businesses.
- 1.6. The Board will consist of a Chair and between 9-12 members. Its membership will include representatives and sector experts from key businesses from the growth and foundation economic sectors across the region. There is an expectation that the Board Members will include senior decision makers from representative organisations.
- 1.7. Its programme of work (which will be set out in an annual business plan) will demonstrate clearly the private sector opportunities stemming from the delivery of the Growth Vision and Growth Deal. The annual business plan and proposals brought forward by the Board will be formally considered by the North Wales Economic Ambition Board for incorporation within its work programme.
- 1.8. It will strengthen the profile of the business voice and input into the Growth Deal, in order that whilst it is politically-led, it is business and industry driven and delivered.
- 1.9. The Board will ensure that investment in growth is informed and shaped by business for business.
- 1.10. The Chair of the Board will be an Adviser of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board and, in partnership with the North Wales Economic Ambition Board will play a key role in providing leadership and key relations with Welsh Government and the UK Government. The post of Chair will be advertised and publicly appointed.

- 1.11. The constitution and role of the Board within the governance of the Growth Deal and its inter-relationship with the Joint Committee will be encapsulated in Governance Agreement 2. The Board must be flexible to change their constitution and role as they fit in order to be as independent as possible. The constitution and role of the Board and any amendments will be agreed with the North Wales Economic Ambition Board.
- 1.12. The North Wales Economic Ambition Board wilfully consider and take into account any advice or challenge from the Business Delivery Board. Any formal recommendations made by the Business Delivery Board to the North Wales Economic Ambition Board will be presented in a written report to them which will be considered at a meeting of the Board and the response and reasons will be recorded and communicated.

## **2. Key Responsibilities**

2.1. The Business Delivery Board will be responsible for:

- Reviewing and shaping the Growth Vision for North Wales;
- Provide review and challenge to the portfolio of projects proposed within the Growth Deal, and consider and challenge the Full Business Cases for individual projects;
- Focus on the delivery of projects commissioned by the North Wales Economic Ambition Board, and ensure that opportunities catalysed by the Growth Deal can be accessed and led by businesses;
- Provide an advocacy role, promoting the region as a prime investor and visitor location and working with partners to increase the value and quality for inward investment;
- Provide advice on proposed intervention from other key stakeholders, including Welsh Government.

2.2. The Board will have a crucial role to play in maximising the impact of the Growth Deal for the region, securing additional direct and indirect private sector investment for the Deal.

2.3. It will work closely and in partnership with the North Wales Economic Ambition Board.

## **3. The Chair of the Board**

3.1. An interim Chair has been in place since December 2018.

3.2. The new Chair will be appointed on a two-year fixed term basis, with the maximum number of terms limited to two.

3.3. The time commitment, whilst flexible, is assumed to be an average of 1 day a week, though the level of commitment will fluctuate across the term.

3.4. The role will be remunerated at a level which reflects the significance of the role.

3.5. The Chair will be responsible for:

- Leading the Board, ensuring it fulfils its responsibilities;
- Chair meetings of the Board, collecting views expressed by each stakeholder group and where necessary arriving at a consensus;
- Communicating and representing the recommendations of the Board on the North Wales Economic Ambition Board;

- Being a “business” figurehead and champion of the region both nationally and internationally.

The Chair should have the following background and experience:

- Be a member of the private sector business community;
- Have extensive senior leadership experience;
- Have a wide network of public, private and government contacts which extends beyond the region.

3.6. Strategic, research, policy and media support will be provided to the Chair and the Business Delivery Board by the Programme Office (once fully established).

3.7. Both the UK Government and Welsh Government will need to approve the appointment of the Chair. The process will be overseen by the North Wales Economic Ambition Board. Subject to the approval of both the UK and Welsh Governments the Chair will be appointed by the North Wales Economic Ambition Board.

3.8. The Chair will be appointed in accordance with the acknowledged standards for public appointments, including an open advert.

#### **4. Selecting the Business Delivery Board Members**

4.1. The selection process must be open and transparent, accompanied by the selection criteria listed below.

4.2. The Appointment Panel will consist of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board and the Chair of the Business Delivery Board. The Panel will put forward recommendations to the Economic Ambition Board for approval of the most suitable candidates to appoint.

4.3. The Board Membership role will be advertised publicly to encourage a diverse range of applications. The collective set of skills and experience of the Board will be a key consideration. There will be an application process which will allow for proposed members to be nominated.

4.4. Collectively, the Board should have the following knowledge and skills:

- Understanding of the economy of North Wales and an appreciation of opportunities in the growth and foundation economic sectors across the region;
- A wide network of contacts across the UK and internationally;
- Experience of analysing and assessing commercial, technical and financial information in order to provide quality advice to decision makers;
- Experience of providing impartial advice on projects and initiatives, particularly in relation to their viability and impact on economy and employment issues.

4.5. The process will be undertaken in consultation with both Governments.

4.6. In appointing members consideration will be given to establishing a membership which as far as possible is balanced overall so that it reflects and represents the whole of the geographical area

of North Wales its business sectors and communities and this will need to be taken into account during the appointment process.

## **5. Conflict of Interest**

- 5.1. To allow the Business Delivery Board to undertake all its function, a clear distinction will be drawn between those involved in specific project development and those preparing recommendations on those projects to the North Wales Economic Ambition Board. A robust system of declaration of conflict of interest will be put in place. In addition, Advisors to the Economic Ambition Board are governed by a Code in relation to personal interests. Members appointed to the Business Delivery Board will be expected to comply with the same provisions.

## **6. Next Steps**

- 6.1. The next steps will involve advertising the role for Chair. The process would be as follows:
- The North Wales Economic Ambition Board to approve a proposed recruitment process, based on the process set out above;
  - Advertise the position for 2 weeks;
  - The North Wales Economic Ambition Board to undertake shortlisting assessment, and to undertake interviews;
  - To consult with the UK and Welsh Governments on the proposed shortlist;
  - The North Wales Economic Ambition Board, and both Governments, to approve the appointment of the preferred candidate.
- 6.2. The proposed annual cost for supporting the Chair, and other associated Business Delivery Board costs, is £20,000 p.a. This is based on a review of the UK LEPs and other Growth Partnerships. The remuneration of the Chair will be negotiated, but will be limited by the £20,000 of resources allocated to the Business Delivery Board. The Chair's remuneration will include the daily rate of the attendance allowance as well as travelling expenses in accordance with what co-opted members are eligible for on committees such as the Standards Committee. The remaining Board members will be eligible for reimbursement of travelling expenses.