



north wales economic ambition board
bwrdd uchelgais economaidd gogledd cymru

The Welsh Affairs Committee inquiry into effectiveness of Growth and City Deals for Wales

Response by the North Wales Economic Ambition Board

The North Wales Economic Ambition Board is a partnership of the six Local Authorities in North Wales along with the two FE Colleges, the two Universities, the North Wales and Mersey Dee Business Council and the North Wales Business Delivery Board.

The North Wales Economic Ambition Board is the body overseeing the North Wales Growth Deal.

The NWEAB welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Inquiry into effectiveness of Growth and City Deals for Wales.

The NWEAB have a detailed vision for the future of the economy in North Wales. "[A Growth Vision for the Economy of North Wales](#)". A draft "[Implementation Plan](#)" is in place to set out the arrangements for the implementation of the North Wales Growth Deal.

Response to questions

How is the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal currently operating?

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How successfully has the Cardiff Capital Region City Deal been implemented and what improvements have been seen in the Cardiff Capital Region economy as a result?

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How has the Swansea Bay City Deal improved the local economy?

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What will change in the governance of the Swansea Bay City Deal following the independent review?

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What lessons can be learnt from the City Deals for the Mid and North Wales growth deal proposals?

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The recent reviews published on the Swansea Bay City Deal have provided conclusions and recommendations that will be considered as potential lessons to be learnt for the North Wales Growth Deal.

- Pre-scrutiny will be encouraged by the NWEAB and the Business Delivery Board on the Outline Business Cases and the Full Business Cases.
- The Programme Office will be designated as a Portfolio Management Office, with a PMO Manual currently developed.
- A Gateway Review process will be used to manage the process of the Growth Deal Projects through the implementation and delivery.
- A Programme Director will be appointed to ensure leadership and independent authoritative advice to the Boards. The Programme Director will have a direct reporting line to the NWEAB.
- NWEAB are delivering a Growth Vision for North Wales. The short term focus will be on delivering the North Wales Growth Deal which is a component of the Growth Vision. The Growth Deal offers a package that includes 7 Programmes, and 14 inter-connected projects. Additionally the NWEAB will lead on a number of Side Deals.
- All 14 projects will be included within Heads of Terms for the NWGD. Proposing a twin track approach for the 14 projects, 6 projects will be included within the first wave, and the remaining 8 in the second wave.
- All partners within the NWEAB are committed to the partnership and the delivery of the NW Growth Vision. Roles and functions with growth projects will be distributed to ensure an equitable balance across the NWEAB.
- There are arrangements in place by the NWEAB for clear communication lines. The NWEAB meets on a monthly basis where representatives from all partners are around the table. The Executive Officers Group also meets on a monthly basis – all project leads form part of this group. Fortnightly meetings are in place between representatives of the NWEAB and UKG and WG officers.

What would be the impact of the proposed North Wales Growth Deal on the North Wales economy, which sectors would benefit, and what would be the quality of jobs created?

The North Wales Growth Deal aims to deliver clean growth, support 6% GVA uplift, create 4,298 new jobs, generate £511 million direct private sector investment and a lead to a leverage of £3.339bn from the private sector. It will also significantly deliver an improved skills base in the region.

The Growth Deal will achieve the following for North Wales:

1. **Build on our strengths to boost productivity**, and as a region:
 - Be positioned as one of the leading UK locations for low carbon energy generation and energy-related supply chain investment, with expertise in low carbon technologies and processes;
 - Capitalise on the strong network of anchor companies with an international profile to build an advanced manufacturing cluster – one which will be highly competitive on the global stage;
 - Become a hub of innovation and technology excellence and a leader in turning exciting ideas into strong commercial products and services;
 - Further develop and project the reputation of North Wales as a centre of excellence for land-based industries and tourism, firmly establishing ourselves as the adventure tourism capital of the UK.

2. **Tackle long-term structural challenges and key economic barriers** in the region, such as transport, digital infrastructure, stalled sites and premises, and skills and employment issues. This will be achieved in a co-ordinated, strategic and integrated way. Through such interventions, we will support and enable the private sector to invest in jobs and growth.
3. **Promote inclusive growth**, addressing social and spatial irregularities and inequalities within the region. Inclusive growth is a central component of our Growth Deal programme.
4. **Address issues which match the strategic priorities for growth** as outlined in key policy documents, such as the North Wales Growth Vision for North Wales, the Welsh Government's Economic Action Plan and the Well-Being of Future Generations Act, and the UK Governments' Industrial Strategy.

All the relevant public bodies will work collectively to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of North Wales – in accordance with the well-being goals. All our Programmes are based on the principles of joined-up interventions, planned over the long term to deliver sustainable improvements in the performance of the North Wales economy.

Is the current UK Government and Welsh Government funding sufficient to support the North Wales Growth Deal?

The UK Government and the Welsh Government have both allocated £120 million each for the purpose of a Growth Deal for North Wales.

However, the Implementation Plan makes the case for an additional sum of £20 million from each Government to support the funding of a package of projects that addresses the challenges faced by the region, particularly in view of the recent announcement by Horizon that work on the proposed £20bn Wylfa Newydd Nuclear Power Station is to be suspended indefinitely.

What should a Mid Wales Growth Deal include and which sectors would it focus on?

What support structures should be put in place to enable a Mid Wales Growth Deal proposal to be successful?