



REPORT TO THE NORTH WALES ECONOMIC AMBITION BOARD
20 March, 2020

TITLE: *Team North Wales – Working Together*

AUTHOR: *Alwen Williams, Programme Director*

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1. To outline the need to refresh the North Wales Growth Vision and develop a Regional Economic Framework.

2. DECISION SOUGHT

- 2.1. To approve the Terms of Reference for Regional Working in North Wales.
- 2.2. To approve the proposed programme of activity to deliver a refresh of the North Wales Growth Vision and the development of a Regional Economic Framework.

3. REASONS FOR THE DECISION

- 3.1. As outlined in the report.

4. BACKGROUND AND RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1. The Executive Support Group and Welsh Government regional team have agreed and propose that the Welsh Government and the North Wales Economic Ambition Board work together to refresh the North Wales Growth Vision and to co-design and develop a Regional Economic Framework.

- 4.2. Officers from the Programme Office and Welsh Government have been working on a Terms of Reference (**Appendix 1**) that sets out how we will work together in partnership to develop and then deliver against a single common North Wales Regional Economic Framework.

4.3. North Wales Growth Vision

- 4.3.1 The “Growth Vision for the Economy of North Wales” was adopted in September 2016. The vision set out a collective and strategic ambition for North Wales for infrastructure development; skills and employment; and business growth.

- 4.3.2. The Executive Support Group have identified the need to refresh the Growth Vision. The refresh will build on and update the current vision, and will consider what has changed since 2016 and our ambition for 2035. This is timely, especially in light of major external changes that will impact the North Wales region, namely exiting the EU and the net zero target by 2050 and Welsh Government announcing a climate change emergency.

4.3.3. Through the work developing the North Wales Growth Deal we have a great spirit of collaboration in the region, which can be further developed to respond to the opportunities and challenges facing North Wales. We also recognise the need to bring in additional partners to work with us on some of the priority areas identified, for example the foundation economy and the rural economy.

4.3.4. The refreshed North Wales Growth Vision will align and execute a shared narrative for the region that amplifies and reinforces the richness and opportunity, our culture, landscapes and language.

4.4. **Regional Economic Framework**

4.4.1. The Welsh Government's Economic Action Plan outlines the basis for a regional approach to economic development. The Economic Action Plan is shaped by key principles, one being Regional Working, with a need to deliver a stronger regional voice through a regionally-focussed model of economic development, building upon and enhancing existing cross-government work with the regions.

4.4.2. A Chief Regional Officer has been appointed in North Wales, with a role to deliver a regional economic framework that will identify regional priorities and opportunities within the region.

4.4.3. The Regional Economic Framework will provide a single coherent view of the needs of opportunities in North Wales that can directly influence and inform national policies and interventions. It is also intended that the REF, under the refreshed Growth Vision for North Wales, will clearly articulate our respective roles and responsibilities in delivering against the vision.

4.5. **Programme of Activity**

4.5.1. To support the ambition to co-deliver and co-design the refreshed Growth Vision and developing a Regional Economic Framework, we have a proposed programme of activity (see details in **Appendix 2**).

5. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1. None.

6. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1. None.

7. **STAFFING IMPLICATIONS**

7.1. None.

8. **IMPACT ON EQUALITIES**

8.1. None.

9. **CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN**

9.1. The draft Terms of Reference: Working Together for North Wales was discussed by the Executive Support Group on 07/02/2020, and the Proposed Programme of Activity was discussed by the Executive Support Group on 06/03/2020.

APPENDICES:

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Appendix 1 | Terms of Reference – Regional Working |
| Appendix 2 | Proposed Programme of Activity |

STATUTORY OFFICERS RESPONSE:

- i. **Monitoring Officer – Host Authority:**
“No observations to add in relation to propriety.”

- ii. **Statutory Finance Officer (the Host Authority’s Section 151 Officer):**
“Nothing to add from a financial propriety perspective.”