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**REPORT TO THE NORTH WALES ECONOMIC AMBITION BOARD**  
**10 December 2021**

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**TITLE:** North Wales Regional Economic Framework - draft

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**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to present to the board the draft Regional Economic Framework (REF) for North Wales. The REF for North Wales promotes collaborative economic development across the region through an agreed vision and shared set of priorities for delivery amongst regional partners.

**2. DECISION SOUGHT**

2.1. To recommend the draft 'Regional Economic Framework for North Wales' for adoption by each local authority.

**3. REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

3.1. As outlined within the report.

**4. BACKGROUND**

4.1 The Welsh Government's Economic Action Plan (EAP) established the basis for regional working, including a commitment to deliver a stronger regional voice through a regionally-focused model of economic development. This includes the establishment of regional teams and the development of Regional Economic Frameworks (REFs).

4.2 The development of REFs is an essential part of Welsh Government's commitment to a more regionally focussed model of economic development, supporting inclusive and sustainable economic growth, maximising opportunities to address regional and local inequalities, and contributing to the Well-being Goals for Wales.

4.3 In developing the REFs, consideration must be given to the immediate recovery required in the wake of the Coronavirus pandemic, and the longer-term aspirations for the regions.

4.4 REFs are intended as a vehicle to help promote collaborative regional planning and delivery amongst public, private and third sector partners. Delivery will be focussed around a single shared vision for each region and supported by a suite of shared regional priorities and principles.

4.5 The development of REFs will be key in informing and influencing the delivery of Welsh Government funding priorities.

**5. REGIONAL ECONOMIC FRAMEWORK**

- 5.1 To create the first draft REF for North Wales, officials from Welsh Government’s North Wales regional office and North Wales Economic Ambition Board have undertaken a period of targeted engagement with a range of key regional stakeholders to co-design this placed-based approach to economic development.
- 5.2 The first draft of the REF, builds on pre-existing work, and sets out the shared priorities for the region. These priorities align with Welsh Government’s aspirations for a well-being economy which drives prosperity, is environmentally sound, and helps everyone realise their potential.
- 5.3 The well-being economy priorities are presented in the REF under three themes:
- The Social and Community Well-being Economy
  - Experience Economy
  - Low Carbon and Low Emissions Economy
- 5.4 The priorities are flexible, allowing the region to adapt and respond to the challenges and opportunities faced over the next 20 years.

## 6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. There are no financial implications directly associated with the update in this report.

## 7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. There are no legal implications arising directly from approving the decision sought in this report.

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### APPENDICES:

Appendix 1 – The Regional Economic Framework in Context

Appendix 2 – The Draft Regional Economic Framework for North Wales

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### STATUTORY OFFICERS RESPONSE:

- i. **Monitoring Officer – Host Authority:**  
The recommendation is being made to the individual authorities and they will need to confirm their scrutiny and adoption procedure in taking the matter forward.
- ii. **Statutory Finance Officer (the Host Authority’s Section 151 Officer):**  
Nothing to add to the report from a financial propriety perspective.