



REPORT TO THE NORTH WALES ECONOMIC AMBITION BOARD
16th June 2023

TITLE: Annual Report 2022-23
AUTHOR: Alwen Williams, Portfolio Director

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1. The purpose of the report is to present the Annual Report for 2022-23.
- 1.2. Quarterly and annual reporting on progress against the North Wales Growth Deal is a requirement of the Final Deal Agreement. Following consideration by the North Wales Economic Ambition Board, the reports will be shared with Welsh Government, UK Government and the local authority scrutiny committees.

2. DECISION SOUGHT

- 2.1. That the Board consider and note the Annual Report for 2022-23.
- 2.2. That the Board approves the submission of the Annual Report for 2022-23 to Welsh Government and UK Government as well as the local authority scrutiny committees.

3. REASONS FOR THE DECISION

- 3.1. As stated in the report.

4. BACKGROUND AND RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1. The Annual Report looks back on the progress made over the last year by Ambition North Wales. It covers the Growth Deal and other supported activities.
- 4.2. The report provides an overview of the Growth Deal and the progress made in delivering the projects as well as other key milestones achieved during the year, including:
 - Three Outline Business Cases being approved namely the Last Few %, Smart Local Energy, and Enterprise Engineering and Optics Centre projects.
 - The Digital Signal Processing Centre project was launched officially and completed the first year of delivery securing the first benefits from the Growth Deal.
 - The Carbon Emissions and Biodiversity methodology was launched.
 - Appointing a team to lead on the Local Area Energy Plans in the region.
 - Endorsement of a Joint Venture agreement for the Parc Bryn Cegin project.
 - The Bodelwyddan Strategic Site and the Llysfasi Net Zero Farm projects were withdrawn from the Growth Deal, and a change request to scale back the Egri project was approved.

- Following the above decisions, £37million of funding was unallocated. This saw the establishment of a £7m Portfolio Delivery Fund to support mature projects into delivery, and a £30million fund was created to attract new projects into the Growth Deal.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. There are no direct legal implications arising from the report. Regular reporting on Growth Deal performance is part of the agreed governance framework and a key requirement of the Final Deal agreement.

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1 Annual Report 2022-23

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):**

“The decision sought will not create a new spending commitment. I am satisfied that the Annual Report is a true and fair reflection of all the work and progress of Ambition North Wales during 2022/23.”