



REPORT TO THE NORTH WALES ECONOMIC AMBITION BOARD
19th June 2024

TITLE: North Wales Growth Deal – Quarter 1 Performance and Risk Report
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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1. The purpose of the report is to present the Quarter 1 (April to July) Growth Deal report and updated Portfolio Risk Register.
- 1.2. Quarterly 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 Quarter 1 Performance Report and updated Portfolio Risk Register.
- 2.2. That the Board approves the submission of the Quarter 1 Performance Report 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. In December 2020, the Economic Ambition Board and the Welsh and UK Governments agreed the Final Deal Agreement for the North Wales Growth Deal.
- 4.2. Regular reporting on progress against the North Wales Growth Deal is a requirement of the Final Deal Agreement.
- 4.3. This report includes two appendices:
 - North Wales Growth Deal – Quarter 1 Performance Report
 - Portfolio Risk Register – June 2024
- 4.4. North Wales Growth Deal – Quarter 1 Performance Report
 - 4.4.1. The Quarter 1 performance report provides an overview of progress on the Growth Deal programmes and projects.

- 4.4.2. During the quarter, the Economic Ambition Board approved the 2023/24 Annual Report.
- 4.4.3. The Economic Ambition Board approved the Full Business Case for the Former North Wales Hospital project.
- 4.4.4. Construction of the Enterprise Engineering and Optics Centre is progressing well, with the procurement for the optic refurbishment, equipment and hydrogen element launched.
- 4.4.5. Delivery commenced on the Shared Prosperity Funded workstreams:
- Annog Cyf have been appointed to deliver a programme to support communities to improve their broadband through an engagement campaign promoting various streams of funding and information; and directly help communities experiencing the poorest broadband.
 - BIC Innovation is delivering a project providing advice and guidance to small businesses on how they can adopt the latest digital communications technologies.
 - The Smart Local Energy Bid Writing support package launched. A tender is live on Sell2Wales to identify a list of suppliers, and applications are open for SMEs, social enterprises and community organisations to procure a bid writing consultant.
- 4.4.6. Phase 2 of the Emissions and Biodiversity project launched in partnership with the WLGA.
- 4.4.3. The Quarter 1 update is showing projects reporting against the revised portfolio delivery profile approved by the Board. Six projects are currently reporting as red due to either risks to the project scope or significant delays to project timescales:
- Connecting the Last Few % - The UK Government investment in broadband in the region due to commence following current procurement for its 'cross regional' framework. Outcome of this will define premises for Growth Deal intervention;
 - Trawsfynydd – uncertainty on the delivery timescales due to the decisions required by Great British Nuclear and UK Government on technology selection and site selection.
 - Deeside Anaerobic Digestion Plant – Funding agreement to be finalised and subsidy control assessments to be completed before Full Business Case can be presented for approval by the Economic Ambition Board.
 - Holyhead Hydrogen Hub – Achieving 50% offtake relies on public sector commitment which remains uncertain.
 - Kinmel Studios – Stage Fifty the project sponsor have been placed into administration, with the project is currently under review.
 - Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub – planning permission is yet to be secured, project delays and issues have been raised within the planning applications.
- 4.5. Portfolio Risk Register – June 2024
- 4.5.1. The Portfolio Risk Register is updated on a regular basis by the Portfolio Management Office and reviewed by the Portfolio Board and the North Wales Economic Ambition Board on a quarterly basis.
- 4.5.2. The risk register has been fully updated with a number of changes recorded in the documents, including revised risk descriptions, revised scoring and mitigating actions, and the commentary has been updated for all risks.

- 4.5.3. While the risk profile has remained stable over the past quarter, the risk profile does remain high with a number of red residual risks including affordability, delay, planning and statutory consents, public and private sector investment, and spending objectives. The gross risk on consenting has increased decreased due to consenting being an issue for projects.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. There are no financial implications arising directly from approving the decision sought in this report.
- 5.2. The revised delivery and expenditure profile approved by the Board is included in the quarterly report.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. There are no direct legal implications arising from the report.
- 6.2. 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** North Wales Growth Deal – Quarter 1 Performance Report
- Appendix 2** Portfolio Risk Register – June 2024

STATUTORY OFFICERS RESPONSE:

i. **Monitoring Officer – Host Authority:**

“It is one of the key tasks of the Economic Ambition Board to monitor progress and risks. The Board needs to consider the register and satisfy itself that it constitutes an accurate reflection of the risk status and that mitigation actions are being addressed.”

ii. **Statutory Finance Officer (the Host Authority’s Section 151 Officer):**

“I am satisfied that the report is a fair reflection of the financial situation of Ambition North Wales during quarter 1. Implementing the decision sought will not create a new spending commitment. I will continue to assist the Portfolio Management Office in managing the relevant risks.”