



NORTH WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

21 March, 2025

TITLE: Business Advisory Board and Non-Executive Advisors

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1. The purpose of the report is to present for consideration the Terms of Reference for a new private sector advisory body and to present role descriptions for two new Non-Executive Advisors.

2. DECISION SOUGHT

- 2.1. To approve the Terms of Reference and appointment process as set out in **Appendix 1** for the establishment of a new Business Advisory Board following transfer of the Growth Deal and to delegate the implementation process to the Interim Chief Executive.
- 2.2. To approve the role description (**Appendix 2**) for the two new Non-Executive Advisor roles and authorise the Interim Chief Executive undertake all necessary steps to procure candidates to be recommended for appointment to the CJC's Economic Well-being Sub Committee.
- 2.3. To delegate to the Interim Chief Executive, in consultation with the Monitoring Officer, the Chair and Vice Chair the authority to make any minor amendments to the Terms of Reference and role descriptions in response to any feedback received from Welsh and UK Governments prior to implementation.

3. REASON FOR THE DECISION

- 3.1. The adopted governance model to support the delivery of the NWGD includes a private sector advisory body. The recommendations in this report ensures that this requirement is met by the Corporate Joint Committee post novation of the Growth Deal, as well as responding directly to recommendations from recent assurance reviews.

4. BACKGROUND AND RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1. The novation of the North Wales Growth Deal and Portfolio Management Office is scheduled to take place on 1st April, 2025 subject to agreements from the Economic Ambition Board partners and Welsh Government.

New Business Advisory Board

- 4.2. A Business Delivery Board has been in place since the start of the North Wales Growth Deal to provide private sector advice to the Economic Ambition Board on the whole portfolio and on specific project investments ahead of business case approvals.

- 4.3. Recent assurance reviews have made specific recommendations around reviewing and relaunching this advisory body to ensure it is more representative of the private sector in North Wales and the transfer to the Corporate Joint Committee provides this opportunity.
- 4.4. The proposal for the new Business Advisor Board is for a new private sector advisory group with a wider remit across all current functions of the Corporate Joint Committee including economic well-being, transport and planning. The new board will still have a significant focus on the Growth Deal, but a wider remit is considered to be key in maintaining engagement with businesses across the region.

Non-Executive Advisors

- 4.5. In response to another assurance review recommendation to consider the appointment of Non-Executive Directors to support the delivery of the Growth Deal and provide commercial expertise and challenge to the Board, it is proposed to appoint two Non-Executive Advisors. This approach is proposed as it is not possible to co-opt Non-Executive Directors within the Corporate Joint Committee framework.
- 4.6. The Non-Executive Advisors will be individuals with significant private sector and commercial experience to support and challenge the Economic Well-being Sub-Committee and work with the Portfolio Management Office to support the delivery of the North Wales Growth Deal. It is proposed that these two individuals would also act as Chair and Vice-Chair of the new Business Advisory Board and that they would attend the Economic Well-being Sub-Committee as advisors.
- 4.7. **Appendix 2** set outs the job roles for these individuals who will be appointed by the Board following a procurement process to be agreed with the Monitoring Officer.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. The Economic Ambition Board has approved the budget for 2025-26 and this includes provision to support a new Business Advisory Board and two Non-Executive Advisor posts. This budget will be transferred to the Corporate Joint Committee upon novation of the Growth Deal and therefore there are no additional financial implications arising from this report.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. The appointment of the Non-Executive Advisors is being undertaken in response to the recommendations of the assurance review. As a local authority the CJC and in the same way as the Councils is subject to constraints as to who may be members or co-opted members. Regulation 9A of the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee Regulations 2021 disqualifies holders of paid offices appointed by the CJC (in the corporate sense) from being co-opted members. There is no corresponding equivalent to the Company "Non-Executive Director".
- 6.2. In order to respond to the requirements of the Governments and appoint to these roles the proposed services contract model offers the most appropriate pathway to secure the private sector input required. These roles will be procured in accordance with the CJC's Contract Procedure roles. They would act as consultant advisors to the CJC in relation to the Growth Deal and initially serve as Chair and Vice-Chair of the Business Advisory Board. As the report notes they would also be subject to requirements in relation to management of Conflicts of Interests and confidentiality as with the other members of the Business Advisory Board.

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1: Proposed Terms of Reference for the Business Advisory Body

Appendix 2: Job roles for Non-Executive Advisors

STATUTORY OFFICERS RESPONSE:

i. Monitoring Officer:

“I have had the opportunity to advise on the report and its appendices. No observations to add in relation to propriety.”

ii. Statutory Finance Officer:

“I can confirm the contents of paragraph 5.1. The budget which has been approved for 2025-26 contains provision for the Business Advisory Board and the Non-Executive Advisor posts. I have no further comments from the perspective of financial propriety.”