
NORTH WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE
21/02/25

Present: Chair: Councillor Mark Pritchard (Wrexham County Borough Council).

Councillors:

Dave Hughes (Flintshire County Council), Charlie McCoubrey (Conwy County Borough Council), Gary Pritchard (Isle of Anglesey County Council), Jason McLellan (Denbighshire County Council), Menna Trenholme (Cyngor Gwynedd) and Edgar Owen (Eryri National Park Authority).

Chief Officers: Dylan Williams (Isle of Anglesey County Council), Dafydd Gibbard (Cyngor Gwynedd), Rhun ap Gareth (Conwy County Borough Council), Neal Cockerton (Flintshire County Council), Alwyn Jones (Wrexham County Borough Council), Graham Boase (Denbighshire County Council) and Jonathan Cawley (Eryri National Park Authority).

Statutory Officers

Dewi Morgan (Chief Finance Officer) and Iwan Evans (Monitoring Officer).

Other officers present

Alwen Williams (Interim Chief Executive of the CJC), Sian Pugh (Assistant Head of Finance), Claire Incedon (Deputy Monitoring Officer), Dave Hole (Corporate Joint Committee Implementation Programme Manager), Jack Latkovic (Corporate Joint Committee Democracy Officer), Iain Taylor (AMION Consulting) and Sioned Mai Jones (Democracy Team Leader).

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Nia Jeffreys with Councillor Menna Trenholme deputising.

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

None to note.

3. URGENT ITEMS

None to note.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Chair signed the minutes of the previous meeting held on 17 January 2025 as a true record.

5. FLINTSHIRE AND WREXHAM INVESTMENT ZONE – PROGRESS UPDATE AND GATEWAY APPROVALS

The report was submitted by Alwen Williams, Interim Chief Executive of the CJC and Iain Taylor (Lead Consultant – Flintshire and Wrexham Investment Zone).

RESOLVED:

To approve the financial allocations proposed in Appendix 1.

To delegate to the CJC's Interim Chief Executive and S151 Officer, in consultation with the CJC's Chair and Vice-chair, with Flintshire and Wrexham Councils to agree any minor modifications to the allocations arising from the preparation of the Gateway 4 submission. For the avoidance of doubt, "minor modifications" as those where there is a change of no more than 10% to the funding of any agreed heading, and do not include movement between revenue and capital funding.

To note the progress made to date and request that the remaining Gateways (4 and 5) are presented for approval, along with a final decision on the Investment Zone proposal at a future meeting, once the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and Gateways have been agreed with Welsh and UK Governments.

DISCUSSION

The report was submitted which provided an update on progress to secure the Flintshire and Wrexham Investment Zone. It was explained that the report showed the proposed allocations of the £160m flexible funding for Investment Zone themes and interventions.

Reference was made to gateway 3 which dealt with the proposed governance arrangements for the investment zone. It was explained that the proposals for governance agreed at the last meeting had been passed to the Government for consideration and feedback was expected over the next few weeks on gateway 3 status.

Details were provided on Gateway 4, the interventions gateway, which was also seen as the treasury's evaluation of the impact of the investment zone. The Joint Committee was requested to consider the initial allocations of those interventions and allow the Joint Committee to continue to work with the Government to refine and establish gateway 4. It was noted that this would enable the Joint Committee to move to gateway 5 which was the Delivery Plan.

It was confirmed that good progress was being made on the key themes and thanks were given to everyone involved and who had supported the process.

Gratitude was expressed for the report and the Interim Chief Executive of the CJC and the team and the Lead Consultant were thanked for their work. It was believed that the work was progressing at speed which was positive to see. It was recognised that significant progress had been made and that much work was underway but confidence levels were very high and that the Government was also supportive of the work.

The above comments were echoed by expressing pride at the progress made and it was noted that the project was very exciting and had the potential to enrich the areas of North Wales while encouraging industries to locate here.

It was suggested to add the wording "in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the CJC" to clause 2.2 of the decision sought. Support was expressed for this amendment and the addition was agreed.

6. TRANSFER OF GROWTH DEAL TO THE CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

The report was submitted by Alwen Williams, Interim Chief Executive of the CJC and Iwan Evans, Monitoring Officer.

RESOLVED

To accept the update on the progress made to prepare for the proposed transfer of the Growth Deal, its funding and the PMO into the CJC on 1 April, 2025.

To submit a further decision report to the next CJC meeting on 21 March 2025 to provide its formal decision to accept the transfer and enter into the Delivery and Financing agreement for the transfer of the Growth Deal to the CJC.

DISCUSSION

The report was submitted which provided an update on the progress that had been made to transfer the Growth Deal to the Corporate Joint Committee. Reference was made to the decisions sought as listed in part 2 of the report.

The remaining key steps to implement the transfer, as listed in part 5.1 of the report, were elaborated upon and it was noted that this summarised the current situation. It was explained that the transfer papers and draft agreements were now with the Authorities and it was noted that a further conversation needed to take place with the Welsh Government to confirm the exact route of the novation agreement.

As things currently stood, it was confirmed that the final decision of the Local Authorities was due on 25 March 2025, according to the Cabinet agendas of Councils. It was hoped that the decisions would be confirmed and it was intended to sign the agreement alongside the decision to avoid having to wait until 25 March to finalise all parts of this process. Confidence was expressed that this timetable was achievable.

It was noted that the rest of the project was ready to move forward. It was noted that the process was quite dynamic at the moment and that some issues still required confirmation with partners, but work continued towards the date noting that the programme was falling into place.

The Monitoring Officer and the interim Chief Executive of the CJC were thanked for the update. Pride was expressed in seeing this progress, acknowledging that it was a very complex piece of work and the need to engage with several different partners.

Everyone was thanked for the work that had been undertaken to reach this point. A request was made for any potential delay to be discussed immediately with the CJC Chair and Vice-chair, in the hope that there would be no delay. It was confirmed that a prompt update would be provided should there be any change to the proposed timetable.

The meeting commenced at 13:30 and concluded at 13:50.

(Chair)