



ECONOMIC WELL-BEING SUB-COMMITTEE

7th November, 2025

TITLE: North Wales Growth Deal – Quarter 2 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 2 (July to September) 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 Economic Well-being Sub-Committee, the reports will be shared with Welsh Government, UK Government and the local authority scrutiny committees.

2. DECISION SOUGHT

- 2.1. That the Sub-Committee consider and note the Quarter 2 Performance Report and updated Portfolio Risk Register.
- 2.2. That the Sub-Committee approves the submission of the Quarter 2 Performance Report to Welsh Government and UK Government, as well as the local authority scrutiny committees.

3. REASON FOR THE DECISION

- 3.1. As stated in the report.

4. BACKGROUND AND RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1. In December 2020, Ambition North Wales 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 2 Performance Report
 - Portfolio Risk Register – September 2025
- 4.4. North Wales Growth Deal – Quarter 2 Performance Report
 - 4.4.1. The Quarter 2 performance report provides an overview of progress on the Growth Deal programmes and projects.

- 4.4.2. During the quarter, the Economic Well-being Sub-Committee approved two business cases. The Business Justification Case for the Sheep Milk Wales project (Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub) and the Full Business Case for the Advanced Wireless project.
- 4.4.3. The Economic Well-being Sub-Committee also approved two change request, one for additional Growth Deal investment for the Enterprise Engineering and Optics Centre project, and the other for a change in project scope for Responsible Adventure.
- 4.4.4. The Clean Energy Fund launched on the 10th of July with an event at the Grŵp Llandrillo Menai's Engineering Centre in Rhyl.
- 4.4.5. The first loan drawdown for the Cydnerth project was processed.
- 4.4.6. The Joint Venture Agreement with Welsh Government for the Parc Bryn Cegin project was completed and the procurement launched to appoint a main contractor.
- 4.4.7. The Ecological Mitigation Works contract between Denbighshire County Council and Jones Bros was signed and the initial site clearance works for the construction of two bat barns commenced.
- 4.4.8. The Quarter 2 performance report includes information on projects reporting against the portfolio delivery profile. Four projects are reporting as red at the end of the quarter and are subject to the portfolio review. The projects reporting red currently are:
- Holyhead Hydrogen Hub – Project under review whilst key outstanding matters and risks are discussed/resolved.
 - Western Gateway – Project under review, pending the assessment of the WELTaG Lite report.
 - Warren Hall – Project under review, pending the airfield safety case being fully assessed and agreed.
 - Holyhead Gateway – Project under review, pending the outcome of Stena Line's commercial negotiations with end user of new port areas.

4.5. Portfolio Risk Register – September 2025

- 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 Economic Well-being Sub-Committee (previously the North Wales Economic Ambition Board) on a quarterly basis.
- 4.5.2. The risk register has been fully reviewed by the Portfolio Management Office, with changes recorded in the documents, including mitigating actions and the comments updated.
- 4.5.3. There was one change to the residual risks this quarter with the residual risk on 'Affordability' decreasing slightly.
- 4.5.4. While the risk profile has remained stable overall during the past quarter, the risk overall risk profile remains high with four red residual risks including private sector investment, spending objectives, planning and statutory consents and economic context.

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 2 Performance Report
Appendix 2	Portfolio Risk Register – September 2025

STATUTORY OFFICERS RESPONSE:

i. Monitoring Officer:

“It is one of the key tasks of the Economic Well-being Sub-Committee to monitor progress and risks. The Sub-Committee 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:

“I am satisfied that the report is a fair reflection of the financial situation of Ambition North Wales during quarter 2. 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.”