



Uchelgais
Gogledd Cymru
Ambition
North Wales

North Wales Growth Deal: Overarching Business Plan 2026 - 2030





Contents

Foreword	3
Executive Summary	4
Purpose	5
The Ambition North Wales Partnership	6
The Growth Deal	7
Looking back on the first five years	14
Forward look to 2030	21
Governance	22
Funding	24

Foreward

Over the past five years, Ambition North Wales has undergone a period of significant transformation. The partnership, originally established as the North Wales Economic Ambition Board, has evolved in both structure and ambition. In April 2025, responsibility for delivering the Growth Deal transferred to the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee, marking a new chapter in our collaborative approach to regional economic development. This change brings together the six local authorities and the Eryri National Park Authority, alongside our valued partners in higher and further education, under a unified vision for North Wales.

Reflecting on our journey since the launch of the first Overarching Business Plan in 2020, we have faced considerable challenges—global events, economic uncertainty, and the need to adapt our portfolio to changing circumstances. Despite these hurdles, our partnership has delivered tangible progress. We've seen over £28 million invested in transformative projects, created new jobs, and laid the foundations for sustainable growth. Projects such as the Digital Signal Processing Centre at Bangor University, the Enterprise Engineering and Optics Centre, and the Tourism Talent Network have moved from concept to delivery, demonstrating our capacity to turn ambition into action.

As we look ahead to the next five years, our commitment remains. The transfer to the Corporate Joint Committee provides a strong platform for delivery, governance, and accountability. By 2030, we will have all Growth Deal projects in delivery, maximising the impact of our investments and creating the conditions for a vibrant, resilient, and inclusive economy. Our focus will be on driving new job creation, attracting further investment, and ensuring that the benefits of growth are felt across every community in North Wales.

Together, we move forward with confidence, united in our ambition to build a prosperous future for North Wales.



Cllr Mark Pritchard

Chair of the North Wales
Corporate Joint Committee



Cllr Jason McLellan

Vice-Chair of the North Wales
Corporate Joint Committee



Executive Summary

Since its inception five years ago, Ambition North Wales has not only grown in scale, but in capability and cohesion too, strengthening our collective commitment to building a more vibrant, sustainable, and inclusive economy for North Wales. Thanks to the partnership's unwavering commitment, we have achieved tangible and meaningful progress.

The Growth Deal is bold in its ambition designed to tackle chronic market failures—barriers that, without public funding, would continue to limit private sector investment and regional prosperity. To date, spend has been dominated by public sector intervention, targeting these market failures that would otherwise remain significant obstacles to growth.

In recent years, Ambition North Wales has navigated significant challenges, from global events to economic uncertainty, while adapting our portfolio to meet changing needs. Despite these obstacles, we are proud to have delivered over £28 million in transformational projects, with £25 million funded directly through the North Wales Growth Deal. While the number of projects, expenditure, and jobs created to date are lower than initial forecasts, the last 12 months have seen major changes to the Growth Deal and processes to accelerate delivery, resulting in an increased number of projects in delivery and business cases approved - providing a strong platform for the next five years.

Looking ahead, our future success depends on building and strengthening collaboration with partners, sponsors and across industry and sectors. By working collaboratively to enhance infrastructure and create the conditions for sustained private sector investment, we are laying the groundwork for a thriving North Wales economy. The next five years are pivotal, as we accelerate delivery, maximise the impact of our investments, and ensure that the benefits of growth reach every community across North Wales.

With six projects in delivery and a strong pipeline of projects soon to follow, we are confident that by 2030 all Growth Deal projects will be in delivery, achieving their intended benefits and maximising impact within the region by 2036 and beyond. Our strengthened collective commitment is evident in the progress made and the resilience shown in overcoming challenges.

It is an honour to lead such a dedicated forward-thinking team. We are at the beginning of an exciting transition for North Wales, with the establishment of the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee and supported by the continued collaboration and commitment of our Committee, partners, and stakeholders. Together, we are driving real progress and creating a lasting impact for North Wales and its future generations to come.



Alwen Williams

Chief Executive

North Wales Corporate Joint Committee



Purpose

The first Overarching Business Plan 2020-2025 was the basis on which partners entered into the North Wales Growth Deal. It provided an overview of the deal including the programmes and projects to be delivered, it set out what the Growth Deal will deliver in terms of outputs and benefits for the region, the financial contributions of each partner and the governance and performance management arrangements to ensure the Growth Deal is delivered.

This Overarching Business Plan 2026-2030 provides an overview of progress over the past 5 years, a forward look for the next five years, along with information on the partnership, the Growth Deal, its funding and governance.

The Ambition North Wales Partnership

The North Wales Economic Ambition Board partnership was established in 2012 to develop a regional approach to economic growth and to address the challenges and barriers facing the North Wales economy. The partnership covered the six local authority areas of North Wales comprising the councils of Gwynedd, Anglesey, Conwy, Denbighshire, Wrexham and Flintshire. The partnership also included Bangor University, Wrexham University, Coleg Cambria and Grŵp Llandrillo Menai.

In 2021 the Economic Ambition Board endorsed Ambition North Wales as the new brand for the Economic Ambition Board, the North Wales Growth Deal and the Portfolio Management Office.

On 1st April 2025, the responsibility for delivering the Growth Deal transferred from the Economic Ambition Board to the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee. The Corporate Joint Committee comprises of the six local authorities and the Eryri National Park Authority and has new responsibilities for regional transport and strategic planning as well as a responsibility to enhance and promote the economic well-being of North Wales.

The Corporate Joint Committee agreed to adopt the brand of Ambition North Wales.



Background of the Growth Deal

Our journey to get the deal

Growth Deals first emerged from the 2010-2015 coalition government in Westminster as part of its long-term plan to boost local economies. The purpose of City and Growth Deals is to support cities and regions to deliver responsive and flexible local strategies. They are designed to promote decentralisation and stimulate local economic growth by giving more power and flexibility to regions, to make the case for investment, to drive inclusive economic activity and growth.

In response to this policy, partners across North Wales established the Economic Ambition Board in 2012 to develop a regional approach to economic growth and to address the challenges and barriers facing the North Wales economy.

In 2016 the Economic Ambition Board's partners adopted a Growth Vision for the Economy of North Wales (the Growth Vision).

In the 2017 Autumn Budget the UK Government stated that it would begin negotiations to agree a Growth Deal for North Wales. Following this statement the Economic Ambition Board worked collaboratively with Welsh Government, UK Government and representatives of the public and private sector to develop the North Wales Growth Deal, which was outlined in the Proposition Document.

Based on the Growth Vision strategy, the Proposition Document was agreed by the Economic Ambition Board's partners in October 2018. This set out a proposed package of 24 transformational projects across 9 strategic programmes, seeking £334.5m in capital funding plus £8m in revenue funding from the Growth Deal. The programmes were defined as a group of related projects managed in a co-ordinated way to obtain benefits and to deliver the overall vision and aims.

In the Autumn Budget 2018, the then Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rt Hon Phillip Hammond MP, announced £120 million in capital funding for the North Wales Growth Deal. The Welsh Government confirmed that it would match the UK Government's financial contribution to the North Wales Growth Deal, securing commitment for £240m as a grant contribution in capital funding from governments.

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Following this announcement and in response to the UK Government's desire to see a consolidated portfolio of ambitious projects, and because the funds committed were less than the proposition's original scope and capital funding only, the Economic Ambition Board developed and agreed a Draft Implementation Plan, setting out a streamlined package of 14 transformational projects, which was submitted to both governments in March 2019.

The Draft Implementation Plan became the basis for the Heads of Terms agreement signed by both governments in November 2019, and securing, in principle, £240m of capital funding for the North Wales Growth Deal. The Heads of Terms committed all parties to complete a Final Deal Agreement (FDA) within 12-15 months, which, once achieved would see funding released from governments to the region. This overarching business plan forms part of the agreed process to achieve the FDA.

The North Wales Growth Deal a tri-party agreement, signed in December 2020 between Ambition North Wales, UK Government and Welsh Government and has secured funding of £240million from Governments to invest in the North Wales economy as part of the £1bn deal.

The aim of the Growth Deal is to build a more vibrant, sustainable, and resilient economy in North Wales. Building on the region's strengths to boost productivity and tackling long term challenges and economic barriers to deliver inclusive growth. The approach is to promote growth in a scalable, inclusive, and sustainable way in line with Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.



The Growth Deal

Our Ambition

To be a confident and cohesive, focused on improving the region's economic, social and environmental well-being.

To see the region develop in a sustainable way, with opportunities for people to gain new skills, develop rewarding careers, for businesses to grow and communities to prosper.

To do this while championing the Welsh language, our culture and heritage, in line with the well-being goals for Wales.

Investment



£240M

Growth Deal target investment



Total Target Investment:
over **£1bn**

Job Creation



Create up to
4,200
new jobs

The Growth Deal

Scope of Programmes



Agri-food and Tourism

The programme aims to promote and support employment and training in the Agri-food and Tourism sectors, building on world-leading skills and expertise already established within the region.



Digital Connectivity

Addressing connectivity challenges within the region, enhancing the capability to develop new technologies for the future ensuring that businesses and residents can benefit from fast, high-quality connectivity.



Innovation in High Value Manufacturing

Promote innovation and commercialisation of technology in the manufacturing industry, building on the existing strength of the sector within our region.



Land and Property

Addressing land and property challenges within the region, to unlock opportunities and build on our strengths. The programme will develop sites to provide residential and employment premises. It will also maximise capacity at key transport links.



Low Carbon Energy

Unlocking the benefits of developing low carbon energy projects within the region, positioning North Wales as a leading location for the low carbon energy sector.

Key Strategies and Principles

Procurement and Social Value

Ambition North Wales has adopted robust procurement principles to underpin all activities across the partnership. The strategy is designed to ensure that procurement processes are effective, fair, and transparent, delivering both value for money and measurable social value.

This approach aims to maximise the regional benefits of Growth Deal investments by embedding social value into every stage of project delivery. It also encourages local, regional, and national companies—who are often best placed to deliver community benefits—to compete for contracts. This is fully aligned with the Well-being of Future Generations Act and the Social Partnership and Public Procurement Act, ensuring that economic growth is delivered alongside environmental and community benefits.

Talent Tourism Network

A £2.9M contract has been awarded to a local North Wales supplier, supporting the delivery of two spokes within the programme. Both spokes have committed to using the same supplier, who will deliver a strong Social Value offer, including:

- Promoting the benefits of the circular economy to local businesses
- Investing in the promotion of green spaces and biodiversity within local education settings
- Contributing time and resources to support environmental education and community engagement
- Supporting STEM curriculum activities in local schools and colleges



Enterprise Engineering and Optic Centre

A £10M+ contract has been awarded to a local North Wales supplier, recognised for delivering exceptional social value. The supplier's social value commitments are already making a tangible impact, including:

- Creating local apprenticeship opportunities
- Sustaining and generating local jobs
- Providing meaningful support to the local community

Cydnerth

In January 2025 Menter Môn as the project sponsor (with input and support from the Portfolio Management Office) sought approval (which was granted) to award a contracts following an open tender process and evaluation of bids. The contracts equate to approximately £13,735,000 (excluding VAT). The largest contract for onshore civils has been awarded to a local North Wales supplier.

Social Value offering equates to £50,441.



Key Strategies and Principles

Commercial

Ambition North Wales is focused on maximising the impact of the North Wales Growth Deal by ensuring that all projects deliver economic and social benefits in line with strategic outcomes. The Growth Deal aims to attract and leverage private sector investment across its portfolio, with each project expected to explore commercial investment opportunities such as loans, investments, or profit-sharing arrangements, subject to state aid guidance.

There is significant potential to generate commercial returns, particularly within the Land and Property and Low Carbon Energy programmes, with the intention that these returns—pending government agreement—will be reinvested in the region.

Ambition North Wales has adopted a set of commercial principles to guide the delivery of the Growth Deal. These include a focus on sustainability and reinvestment, adherence to subsidy control requirements, and the reinvestment of financial surpluses or profits generated by not-for-profit project sponsors. Where projects face viability challenges, gap funding will be considered. Additionally, contractual arrangements are designed to protect the long-term interests of Ambition North Wales.

Ambition North Wales are delivering against these principles, with examples including:



Parc Bryn Cegin

A Joint Venture between Ambition North Wales and Welsh Government on Parc Bryn Cegin providing an annual revenue return and a share of any future capital receipt for the site.



Cydnerth

The funding model for the Cydnerth project is a 100% commercial loan to Menter Môn Morlais Limited providing a revenue return from the interest and the capital repaid to be re-invested in the region.



Clean Energy Fund

Ambition North Wales have launched the Clean Energy Fund that is a private sector loan sub-fund which will provide a revenue return from the interest and the capital repaid to be re-invested in the region and a reserve sub-fund that can consider equity investments.

Key Strategies and Principles

Carbon and Biodiversity

Ambition North Wales has developed a detailed methodology for our projects, which includes guidance for considering emissions and biodiversity at every stage of project development. Each Growth Deal project will aim to deliver against the following aspirations:



To be net zero in operation



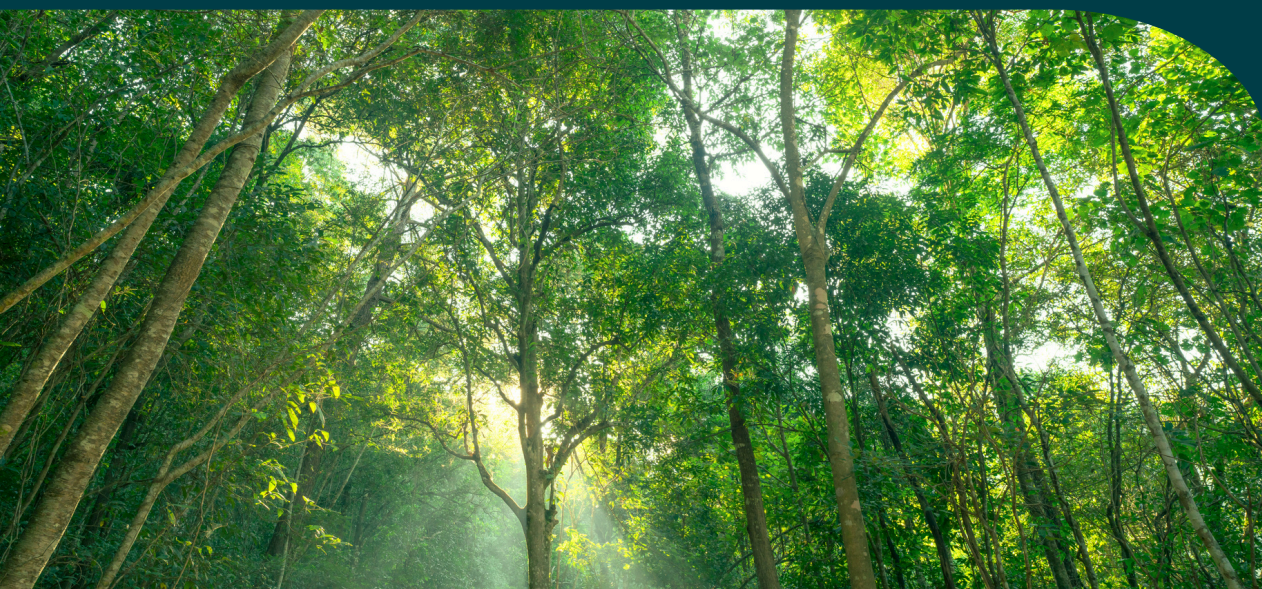
To reduce embodied carbon emissions by **40%** during construction



To drive a **10%** increase in biodiversity

Our objective is to stimulate positive economic change for North Wales but not at the expense of damaging our environment. While not all projects will be able to deliver against the three targets, the aim is to push projects to be as ambitious as possible and deliver as much as can be achieved with the funding available, ensuring that our developments are built sustainably and are ready for the future.

We have achieved recognition as a [Leadership Case Study](#) in the UK national carbon in infrastructure guidelines [PAS 2080](#)



Looking back on the first 5 years

This section provides an overview of our progress over the past five years, outlining our progress in implementing the transformative North Wales Growth Deal along with the other complimentary activities undertaken.

Over the last five years, we have faced challenging economic and financial climate which has significantly affected the speed at which capital projects can be delivered.



Projects in delivery

6

Projects with Full Business Case approved and moving into delivery

9



New Jobs created (direct and indirect)

49



Construction Jobs

49



Growth Deal investment



Total investment



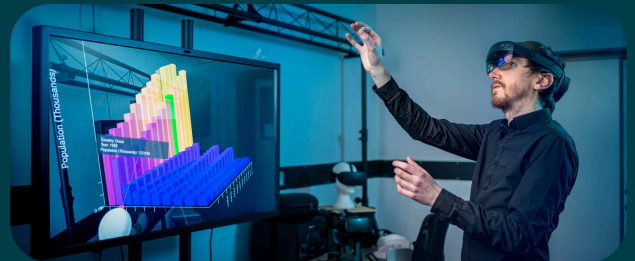
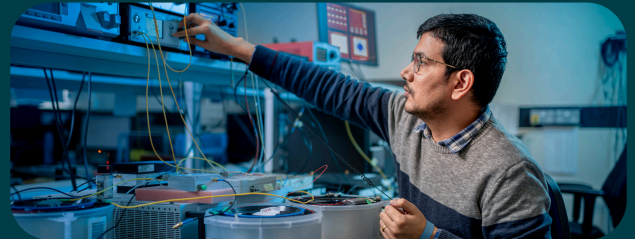
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Progress

The total investment up to the end of October 2025 stands at £28.58m with £25m of that funded directly through the Growth Deal based on 6 projects in delivery. The number of projects in delivery, expenditure to date and jobs created to date are low compared to the initial forecasts for the deal (see next section for details). However, progress over the last 12 months has been significant with major changes made to the Growth Deal and processes to speed up delivery resulting in an increased number of business cases approved or in-delivery and providing a strong platform for delivery over the next five years. This demonstrates both the continued scale of our ambition for the region and our capacity to achieve real, positive impact.

Digital Signal Processing Centre

The first project to move into delivery was the Digital Signal Processing Centre at Bangor University, who are now in the fifth year of delivery. The current phase of the project involves increasing engagement to pursue commercial research with regional businesses and installation of a 5G private network to demonstrate the technology's benefits to businesses.



Enterprise Engineering and Optics Centre

The Enterprise Engineering and Optics Centre was our first construction project into delivery and has completed the construction on the Plas Coch site, with the new building named CanfodAU officially open. The delivery of improved facilities at the Optic Centre in St. Asaph is expected to complete before the end of March 2026.



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Centre for Environmental Biotechnology Plus

The refurbishment at the Henfaes site of the Centre for Environmental Biotechnology Plus project is now complete. Creating new equipment and new scale-up facilities for use in exploring the use of biological processes as low carbon alternatives to products and industrial manufacturing processes

Tourism Talent Network

The Tourism Talent Network project officially launched in 2024, with the aim of developing a resilient, skilled, and future-ready workforce for the region's tourism and hospitality sectors. Zip World and Portmeirion were confirmed as initial spoke partners. In June 2025, Theatr Clwyd was announced as the latest spoke partner, contributing a wide range of training opportunities across visitor experience, arts and cultural tourism, and hospitality. These include areas such as marketing and communications, duty management, sales, events coordination, and roles within Theatr Clwyd's new hospitality and catering provision.



Clean Energy Fund

The £24.6m Clean Energy Fund launched on 10th of July 2025, the fund comprises of two sub-funds, with WCVA working in conjunction with Community Energy Wales on the voluntary sector sub-fund; and UMi leading the sub-fund targeting the private sector.



Cydnerth

The Cydnerth project is in delivery and has secured two loan drawdowns. The Cydnerth project will futureproof the Morlais tidal energy scheme run by social enterprise, Menter Môn. By investing in its infrastructure, the Growth Deal will enable the scheme's 18MW grid capacity to increase over time to allow the full 240MW.



Continued...

We have another 9 projects with full business cases approved and will move into delivery once the necessary arrangements are in place.

The 4G+ project has secured both Outline and Full Business Case approval. The aim of the project is to tackle long standing mobile coverage challenges across key locations and to maximise economic benefits for the region. Four interventions will address a range of opportunities including a regional telecoms forum, improving access to publicly owned infrastructure for operators and grant funding to directly enhance 4G network coverage and capacity.



The Former North Wales Hospital project has received Full Business Case approval. With a £107m capital investment to be delivered by Jones Bros, redeveloping the 53 acre site, including the restoration of the Grade 2* listed building, new homes, green spaces, a training facility, and commercial space. A Phased approach was agreed by the Sub-Committee in October 2025 which will see the release of an initial £2m of Growth Deal funding towards phase 1 comprising of ecological mitigation works and site clearance and Demolition works to reduce health and safety risks on site.

The Advanced Wireless project secured Full Business Case approval in July 2025. The project is in the initial phase focusing on design before the capital funding is rolled out to eligible organisations. The project will deliver a grant scheme to support private and public sector users adopt advanced wireless technologies such as 5G, sharing a similar scope to the UK Wireless Infrastructure Strategy and the UK 5G Innovation Regions Programme.

Design and Consultancy Teams for the Parc Bryn Cegin project have been appointed by Welsh Government to obtain a project scheme and submit for planning and other consents. New employment units are set to be delivered in collaboration with Welsh Government, providing 1,730sqm of modern, energy-efficient business floor-space at Parc Bryn Cegin.



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The LPWAN Business Justification Case was approved by the Economic Ambition Board on 19th July 2024. It will deliver accessible and cost effective low power wireless connectivity to support users adopt Internet of Things applications. Following approval, the procurement of the hardware has been prepared and participating councils have developed plans to host the network using council owned premises. A further project will now support farm businesses trial the use of the new network to achieve business benefits and promote the technology.

The Business Justification Case for the Sheep Milk Wales element of the Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub project has been approved. The project aims to support the growth of the Sheep milk sector in Wales to include a sheep shed and a sheep dairy parlour, to demonstrate and promote sheep milking as a commercially viable new business enterprise to Welsh sheep farmers.



Two Anglesey Sites and premises projects have now joined the Growth Deal and have Business Justification Case Agreement, moving into Delivery.

- The Gogledd Môn Sites and Premises will deliver a total of 2,200sqm of modern Business space across two sites in Amlwch.
- The Freeport Gateway project will acquire, demolish, decontaminate, create development plots and provide access and mains services to the former Peboc/Eastman Chemical Works on the Parc Bryn Cefni Industrial Estate. In addition, five light industrial units on Plot 2 of Tregarnedd Industrial Park and bring forward level Plot 3 for sale to the private sector for future development.

The Business Justification Case for the Society 5.0 project has gained approval. This project aims to enhance the EEOC project, giving industry greater access to world-class high-precision engineering resources.






Key changes to the Portfolio since 2020

Since the first Overarching Business Plan was approved the North Wales Growth Deal has seen significant delays to the anticipated delivery profile. These delays can be attributed in the first instance to projects being too optimistic around their maturity and delivery timescales and ability to progress through the governance and assurance process effectively. This was compounded by global events including Covid-19 and the cost inflation crisis which has resulted in further delays and affordability challenges. There have also been specific planning challenges associated with a number of projects.

As a result there have been a number of changes to the Growth Deal portfolio over the first five years of delivery, notably:



The Bodelwyddan Key Strategic Site project was removed from the Growth Deal in September 2022. The decision was following Denbighshire County Council's review of the Local Development Plan, with the evidence confirming a decrease in the need for new houses in Denbighshire, resulting in much smaller project.

Followed by the removal of the Llysfasi project. Ambition North Wales and Coleg Cembria jointly decided that the Llysfasi Zero Net Farm project would no longer be funded by the North Wales Growth Deal. With the project going ahead funded by other sources including the Welsh Government's Sustainable Communities for Learning Fund, which aligned closely with the educational goals of the college. The project enables the agricultural industry to benefit from a new state-of-the-art teaching and learning space at Llysfasi, which supports them as they expand low carbon farming practices within their businesses and across the farming sector.

Following the removal of both projects, an open call launched for new projects to join the Growth Deal. This resulted in 5 new projects joining the portfolio:

- Deeside Anaerobic Digestion Plant
- Holyhead Hydrogen Hub
- Kinmel Studios
- Responsible Adventure
- Wrexham Gateway

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There was a change in scope for the Egni project, with a decision to retain phase 1 of the project within the Growth Deal, but withdraw phase 2 of the project. Phase 1 focusses on the smaller development at MSParc.

Ambition North Wales formally accepted the withdrawal of the Deeside Anaerobic Digestion Plant project from the Growth Deal in November 2024. The project confirmed it was proceeding without the need for the allocated £6.4m of Growth Deal funding. The successful outcome was made possible due to the close collaboration between Ambition North Wales and The Circular Economy Developments Ltd, which enabled their investors to commit to the funding required for the plant. Work is progressing well on site.



In early 2025, the Portfolio Management Office carried out a Portfolio Review at the request of the Board and both Governments. Decisions were taken to:

- Withdraw the current Trawsfynydd project from the Growth Deal, and place the Trawsfynydd alternative scheme proposal on the reserve list.
- Withdraw the Last Few % project from the Growth Deal.
- Move the Kinmel Studios project to the reserve list.
- Move the New-H2 project to the reserve list.
- Withdraw the Full Fibre (Connected Key Sites and Corridors) project from the Growth Deal.

A Growth Deal project Reserve List was established which includes a strong pipeline of new projects. Projects on the reserve list are developing their business cases to be presented for a decision when the criteria around deliverability have been met. This new approach aims to de-risk delivery at the portfolio level and will increase the certainty on delivery once business cases are approved.

To date a total of five reserve list projects have formally joined the Growth Deal following business case approvals. Namely, Freeport Gateway, Gogledd Môn Sites and Premises, Project Prince, Society 5.0 and Venue Cymru Futures.

During October 2025 the Portfolio Management Office undertook a second Portfolio Review considering the projects reporting red. Decisions were taken to:

- Move the Holyhead Gateway project to the reserve list.
- Move the Western Gateway project to the reserve list
- Transfer the Warren Hall project to the Investment Zone.
- Retain the Holyhead Hydrogen Hub project for a further six months.

Forward look to 2030

Over the next five years, our focus alongside our partners remains unchanged. We will drive our projects forward to deliver new jobs and attract the investment needed to secure North Wales' future prosperity. We are at the beginning of a significant change with the Portfolio Management Office team and the North Wales Growth Deal now transferred into the Corporate Joint Committee.

In terms of the Growth Deal portfolio, we always understood that our projects would take time to mature and deliver, which is reflected in the fifteen-year term of the Growth Deal. There have been some significant challenges to date, however progress is being made and we are now seeing a significant increase in the number of projects moving into delivery and the first jobs being created.

Our future depends on joint financial commitments across Governments and sectors to enhance the region's infrastructure and create the conditions for sustained private sector investment and a thriving economy.

We move into the next five years with confidence that this will be a significant period in delivering the deal, with an estimate of between £200m and £220m of Growth Deal funding being released to projects by 2030. We are committed to maintaining the momentum on delivery and spend. By 2030 all Growth Deal projects will be in delivery and will be delivering against our benefits, maximising the impact within the region.

	Current Position	Forecast position - end of March 2030	Forecast position - End of the Growth Deal (2036)
Projects in delivery	6	All	All
Growth Deal investment	£	£200m-£220m	£240m
Total investment	£	£600m-£700m	£800m-£1bn
Jobs	49	1,800-2,200	3,250-4,500



Governance

Up until the 31st of March 2025, the North Wales Growth Deal was bound by the terms of Governance Agreement 2, with the Economic Ambition Board operating as a contractual Joint-Committee, and Cyngor Gwynedd acting as the Accountable Body.

From the 1st of April 2025, having secured the transfer of the Growth Deal, it's funding and the Portfolio Management Office to the Corporate Joint Committee. Partners agreed to enter into a Delivery and Funding Agreement, which formally transferred the funding commitments and implementation of the North Wales Growth Deal to the Corporate Joint Committee.

The agreement, which is a legally binding document, defines the role and function of the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee and it's partners for the North Wales Growth Deal. The Delivery and Funding Agreement is a key document, providing a clear structure and foundation, for taking the implementation of the Growth Deal forward. Provision is made for the commitments of the partners to the projects and how these are managed and apportioned. The underlying arrangements providing for legal and compliance matters within the partnership and the governance of the Portfolio Management Office are also addressed.

The Delivery and Funding Agreement is intended to sit alongside the governance of the Corporate Joint Committee and the Growth Deal documents in order to achieve the continued implementation of the Growth Deal.

The Delivery and Funding agreement is the agreement between Ambition North Wales and our partners, which defines how we deliver against the Final Deal Agreement. The Final Deal Agreement is the agreement between the Ambition North Wales partners, Welsh Government and UK Government.

The North Wales Corporate Joint Committee is a corporate body in it's own right, able to directly employ staff, hold assets and manage funding.

The Corporate Joint Committee has appointed the Economic Well-being Sub-Committee to lead on the Economic Well-being functions of the Corporate Joint Committee. This includes overseeing and coordinating the planning and delivery of the Growth Deal. The Economic Well-being Committee is made up of the 6 constituent Council Members of the Corporate Joint Committee, and supported by the co-option of Bangor University, Wrexham University, Grŵp Llandrillo Menai and Coleg Cambria. A representative of the Business Advisory Board, Regional Skills Partnership and Eryri National Park Authority are also co-opted to the Sub-Committee.



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The Economic Well-being Sub-Committee is responsible for making key decisions related to economic development initiatives within the region. It oversees the approval of Outline Business Cases (OBCs) and Full Business Cases (FBCs) for projects within the Growth Deal portfolio, ensuring that proposed initiatives meet the necessary criteria for funding. Additionally, the sub-committee holds the authority to approve funding agreements and variations to them when necessary.

Ambition North Wales has adopted a delivery model based on a best practice approach to portfolio, programme and project management delivery and has established a Portfolio Management Office to deliver the Growth Deal.

Programme and project performance is monitored on a monthly basis through the relevant programme and project boards with formal quarterly performance and risk reports submitted to the Economic Well-being Sub-committee, their partners, UK and Welsh Government.

Ambition North Wales prepare an Annual Report to report on progress, performance and impact. The Annual Report is approved by the Sub-Committee before it's presented to both Governments and partner Scrutiny Committees.





Funding/Finance

Portfolio and Programme level finance

In order to operate effectively within the funding available the Economic Well-being Sub-Committee (previously the Economic Ambition Board) approve an annual revenue and capital budget for the North Wales Growth Deal.

The annual Capital budget reflects the most recent expenditure profile for each project within the Growth Deal. The capital budget includes a 2.15% top-slice to fund the revenue budget annually.

Although the £240m expenditure will be funded from the Growth Deal, the timing of the grant receipt will mean that borrowing will be required in the short term. The cost of borrowing will be funded by partners and project sponsors, and partners have already been contributing an annual sum towards these costs of which has been set aside in a specific reserve.

Each project business case includes a Financial Case. Once the Full Business Case is approved, each project is required to enter into a Grant Funding Agreement, with a claims schedule agreed

Growth Deal Cash-flow Financing Contributions

A total of £240m grant contribution to the North Wales Growth Deal is provided by the UK and Welsh Government over a 15-year period.

Due to the profile of the annual Growth Deal grant payments from government, there will be a medium-term temporary funding gap between the expected expenditure profile of the Growth Deal and the funding received.

The North Wales Corporate Joint Committee (Ambition North Wales) will be responsible for managing this negative cash flow. This will be met by the local authorities (proportional to population) for regional Growth Deal projects, and with project lead partners responsible for the cost in relation to their projects (which create assets).



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Annual Partner Contributions

No revenue funding is provided through the Growth Deal for the delivery of the projects or the operational running costs of the project once completed.

Revenue funding to support the Portfolio Management Office is provided through Ambition North Wales partner contributions (including supplementary local authority contributions). An amount equivalent to the 'top slice' of the annual government grant at 2.15% is also used to fund this. Any additional Portfolio Management Office costs directly attributable to the delivery of the projects will be accounted for within project business cases.

The annual partner contributions toward Portfolio Management Office costs are set out in the table below:



	Local Authority Contribution	HE/FE Annual Contributions	Total Annual Contribution
Annual Core Contributions*	£58,730 per LA	£29,380 PER partner	£400k
Annual Supplementary Contribution**	£40k per LA	0	£240k

*these are the figures for 2025/26. The annual core contributions are subject to indexation at the start of each accounting period.

** this contribution is a supplementary contribution agreed by the Local Authorities only

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