



Uchelgais Gogledd Cymru
Ambition North Wales

Statement of Accounts 2024/25 –
North Wales Economic Ambition Board Joint
Committee

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NARRATIVE REPORT

INTRODUCTION

The North Wales Economic Ambition Board's (NWEAB) Joint Committee was established on 1 February 2019 to develop a regional approach to economic growth and to address the challenges and barriers facing the North Wales economy. It covers the six local authority administrative areas of North Wales comprising Gwynedd, Anglesey, Conwy, Denbighshire, Wrexham and Flintshire councils. The Joint Committee also includes the University of Bangor, Wrexham University, Coleg Cambria and Grŵp Llandrillo Menai. In December 2020, the Joint Committee agreed the North Wales Growth Deal with UK Government and Welsh Government securing an investment of £240 million into the North Wales economy as part of the Deal. A Portfolio Management Office has been established to deliver the Growth Deal and the full business case of the first project was approved in December 2021 and is now in its fourth year of delivery.

On 1 April 2025, the Growth Deal, its funding and the Portfolio Management Office transferred to the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee (CJC).

Cyngor Gwynedd was appointed as host authority for the NWEAB and is also providing the support services for the CJC.

The NWEAB's accounts for the year 2024/25 are presented here on pages 7 to 36. The Statements of Accounts are prepared in accordance with CIPFA's *Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2024/25*.

The Statement of Accounts consist of:

- **Expenditure and Funding Analysis** - Whilst this is not a statutory statement, it shows how annual expenditure is used and funded in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices.
- **Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement** - This statement shows the accounting cost in the year of providing services in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices.
- **Movement in Reserves Statement** - This statement shows the movement in year on the different reserves held by the Joint Committee, analysed into 'usable reserves' and 'unusable reserves'.
- **The Balance Sheet** - Sets out the financial position of the Joint Committee on 31 March 2025.
- **The Cash Flow Statement** - This statement summarises the flow of cash to and from the Joint Committee during 2024/25 for revenue and capital purposes.

These accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis and are supported by this Narrative Report, the Accounting Policies and various notes to the accounts.

NWEAB'S ambition

The NWEAB'S ambition is to build a more vibrant, sustainable and resilient economy for North Wales to:

- Focus on improving the region's economic, social and environmental well-being.
- See the region develop in a sustainable way, with opportunities for people to gain new skills for the future and develop rewarding careers, seeing businesses grow and communities prosper.
- Champion our language, culture and heritage, in line with the well-being goals for Wales.

North Wales Growth Deal

The Growth Deal aims to bring over £1 billion of investment to north Wales in order to generate over 4,000 new jobs and an increase in Gross Value Added (GVA) of £2.4 billion. The UK and Welsh governments have committed to jointly investing £240 million capital over a 15-year period, with the remainder leveraged from private and public sources. The desired outcomes of this investment are to be delivered through the delivery of a portfolio of five separate programmes which:

- Build on our regional strengths in manufacturing and low carbon energy

- Target digital innovation and infrastructure to better connect the region
- Invest in key sites and premises for the developer market
- Enable innovation to boost productivity
- Support our key industries in tourism and agriculture to develop for the future

The five programmes are:-

- Low Carbon Energy
- Agri-food and Tourism
- Innovation in High-Value Manufacturing
- Digital Connectivity
- Land and Property.

2024/25 Budget

The Joint Committee adopted its budget for 2024/25 at its meeting on 15 March 2024 and is available at:

[Agenda for North Wales Economic Ambition Board on Friday, 15th March, 2024, 9.30 am](#)

There have been a number of historical factors that have contributed to the overall slippage of the North Wales Growth Deal's capital portfolio since the agreement of the Final Deal in December 2020, including optimism bias in original estimates, the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and significant cost inflation. The slippage during 2024/25 on the agreed capital profile is down to more project specific matters including planning and consenting delays, and business case development delays. The capital delivery profile is updated annually and agreed with Welsh Government and UK Government.

2024/25 Performance

The NWEAB reports quarterly on the progress against the North Wales Growth Deal, and the Annual Report is available at:

[North Wales CJC Economic Well-being Sub-committee](#)

2024/25 Financial Performance

- The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on page 8 shows that the Joint Committee's gross revenue expenditure on 'cost of services' level was £13,542k during 2024/25, with a net position of £137k.
- The financial out-turn position for 2024/25 was reported to the Economic Well-being Sub-committee on 16 May 2025 and the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee on 13 June 2025 and is available at: [Agenda for North Wales Corporate Joint on Friday, 13th June, 2025, 2.30 pm](#)
- The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the Movement in Reserves Statement on pages 8 and 9 detail the analysis in movements for the year.

TABLE I - Budget and Actual Comparison Summary (Net)

Table I provides a budgetary performance comparison at a summary level, which is detailed further in Table 2.

	Budget	Actual	Variance
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Expenditure on Operations	2,963	5,629	2,666
Financed by-			
Partners' Contributions	(703)	(703)	0
Grants, contributions and other income	(2,193)	(5,245)	(3,052)
Contribution from the General Fund	(67)	(67)	0
Net (Underspend)/Overspend	0	(386)	(386)

TABLE 2 –Transposition movement between ‘Budget and Actual Comparison Summary (Net)’ (Table I) to the Income and Expenditure format

	Performance Report (Out-turn) £'000	Transposition Adjustment £'000	Net Position to be funded by / (transferred to) the General Fund £'000	Adjustments between Funding and Accounting Basis £'000	Income & Expenditure Statement £'000
Expenditure	5,629	(2,800)	2,829	10,713	13,542
Income	(6,015)	3,253	(2,762)	(10,643)	(13,405)
Net Cost of Services	(386)	453	67	70	137

Transposition Adjustment - Adjustments in the transposition column relate to the net contribution to and from reserves, the interest on balances received during the financial year and the reduction to the Growth Deal Grant required in year.

Material Items of Income and Expenditure

Related Items include :-

- £2,800k in interest receivable and similar income (Note 11).
- £13,405k in grants and contributions and equivalent expenditure (Note 20).

Other Issues

- Economic instability and financial risks continue in the UK and globally, especially considering the new tariffs between the USA and the rest of the world. With the Office for Budget Responsibility predicting increases in inflation and energy rates and a decrease in interest rates in their report 'Economic and Fiscal Outlook' dated March 2025, the Joint Committee has taken these circumstances into account in its financial plans, maintaining a prudent level of reserves.
- Cost inflation is a risk for the North Wales Growth Deal's capital projects and the Joint Committee has allocated additional funding for the most mature projects to reduce this risk.

Capital Expenditure in 2024/25

Capital expenditure for 2024/25 amounted to £10.8m. The following table gives an analysis of this expenditure and the way it was financed.

TABLE 3 - SUMMARY OF CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND FINANCING

2023/24 £'000		2024/25 £'000	
1,547	Projects	10,766	
1,547		10,766	
FINANCED BY -			
1,547	Grants and Contributions	10,643	
0	Reserve	123	
1,547		10,766	

The £10,766k in the above table is Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute and has been charged to the Income and Expenditure Statement in the year. The £10,643k financed by the Growth Deal Grant has been spent

on the Enterprise Engineering & Optics Centre project by Wrexham University, Centre of Environmental Biotechnology project by Bangor University and the Tourism Talent Network project by Grŵp Llandrillo Menai. The £123k expenditure relates to the Smart Local Energy project which was financed by the Projects Reserve.

Reserves

The Joint Committee has usable reserve of £7,774k. These are detailed in the Balance Sheet, Movement in Reserves Statement and in Note 10.

Pension Fund

An assessment has been carried out by Gwynedd Pension Fund's Actuary, Hymans Robertson, of the Joint Committee's actuarial position. In order to comply with International Accounting Standard 19, the Joint Committee has shown a nil net liability as at 31 March 2025 on its Balance Sheet. Refer to Note 24 for further information.

The net pension liability is a position at one point in time. Market prices can move substantially up or down in the short-term and it is therefore not possible to quantify the long-term effect such movements in market prices will have on the Pension Fund. The accounts are based on the valuation held on 31 March 2022, the accounts for the financial year 2026/27 onwards will be based on the valuation held on 31 March 2025.

Governance

The NWEAB is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for the governance of its affairs, facilitating the effective exercise of its functions, which includes arrangements for the management of risk. Further information is included within the Annual Governance Statement.

Accounting Policies

The accounting policies adopted on behalf of the Joint Committee comply with all relevant recommended accounting practices and are fully explained in the Accounting Policies set out in Note 1 of the Accounts commencing on page 12.

Changes in Accounting Policies and to the Accounts

The Joint Committee's existing accounting policies have been amended to reflect only the changes required in accordance with proper accounting practices, following adjustments for the 2024/25 financial year to the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom.

Further Information

The Statement of Accounts is available on Cyngor Gwynedd's website (www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru) and on the CJC's website (www.ambitionnorth.wales).

Further information relating to the accounts is available from:

Sian Pugh
Assistant Head of Finance -
Sustainability and Developments
01286 679134

Finance Department
Cyngor Gwynedd
Council Offices
Caernarfon
Gwynedd
LL55 1SH

This is part of the Council's policy of providing full information relating to the Council and the Joint Committees' affairs. In addition, interested members of the public have a statutory right to inspect the accounts before the audit is completed. The availability of the accounts for inspection is advertised on the Council's website at the appropriate time.

NORTH WALES ECONOMIC AMBITION BOARD

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

STATEMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

THE JOINT COMMITTEE'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The North Wales Corporate Joint Committee is required to make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs and to secure that one of its officers has the responsibility for the administration of those affairs. The Statutory Finance Officer of Cyngor Gwynedd is the responsible financial officer of the Corporate Joint Committee. It is the Joint Committee's responsibility to manage its affairs to secure economic, efficient and effective use of its resources, to safeguard its assets, and to approve the Statement of Accounts.



Councillor Mark Pritchard
North Wales Corporate Joint Committee Chair

28 November 2025

THE STATUTORY FINANCE OFFICER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The Joint Committee's Statutory Finance Officer is responsible for the preparation of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board's Joint Committee Statement of Accounts in accordance with proper practices as set out in the CIPFA/LASAAC *Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom* ("the Code").

In preparing the statement of accounts, the Statutory Finance Officer has selected suitable accounting policies and then applied them consistently; has made judgements and estimates that were reasonable and prudent and complied with the Code.

The Statutory Finance Officer has also kept proper accounting records which were up to date, and has taken reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER'S CERTIFICATE

I certify that the Statement of Accounts has been prepared in accordance with the arrangements set out above, and presents a true and fair view of the financial position of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board's Joint Committee at 31 March 2025 and the Joint Committee's income and expenditure for the year then ended.



Dewi Aeron Morgan CPFA
Statutory Finance Officer, North Wales Corporate Joint Committee

18 November 2025

EXPENDITURE AND FUNDING ANALYSIS

The Expenditure and Funding Analysis shows how annual expenditure is used and funded from resources in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices. Income and expenditure accounted for under generally accepted accounting practices is presented more fully in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

2023/24				2024/25		
Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund £'000	Adjustments between the Funding and Accounting Basis (Note 8) £'000	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement £'000		Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund £'000	Adjustments between the Funding and Accounting Basis (Note 8) £'000	Net Expenditure in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement £'000
1,380	(39)	1,341	Programme Management Office	1,458	(53)	1,405
162	0	162	Accountable Body Support Services	171	0	171
45	0	45	Joint Committee	22	0	22
456	1,547	2,003	Projects	310	10,766	11,076
608	0	608	Grant Schemes	868	0	868
(2,617)	(1,547)	(4,164)	Income	(2,762)	(10,643)	(13,405)
34	(39)	(5)	Cost of Services	67	70	137
(2,826)	(1)	(2,827)	Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	(2,677)	(124)	(2,801)
(2,792)	(40)	(2,832)	(Surplus)/ Deficit on Provision of Services	(2,610)	(54)	(2,664)
(2,372)			Opening Balance	(5,164)		
(2,792)			(Surplus)/ Deficit in Year	(2,610)		
(5,164)			Closing Balance	(7,774)		

COMPREHENSIVE INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT

This statement shows the accounting cost in the year of providing the Joint Committee service in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices.

2023/24			Note	2024/25		
Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure		Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure
£'000	£'000	£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000
1,341	0	1,341	Programme Management Office	1,405	0	1,405
162	0	162	Accountable Body Support Services	171	0	171
45	0	45	Joint Committee	22	0	22
2,003	0	2,003	Projects	11,076	0	11,076
608	0	608	Grant Schemes	868	0	868
0	(4,164)	(4,164)	Income	0	(13,405)	(13,405)
4,159	(4,164)	(5)	Cost of Services	13,542	(13,405)	137
0	(2,827)	(2,827)	Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	0	(2,801)	(2,801)
4,159	(6,991)	(2,832)	(Surplus) / Deficit on Provision of Services	13,542	(16,206)	(2,664)
		36	Remeasurement of the net pension defined benefit liability/(asset)			66
		36	Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			66
		(2,796)	Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure			(2,598)

MOVEMENT IN RESERVES STATEMENT

The Movement in Reserves Statement shows the movement from the start of the year to the end on the different reserves held by the Joint Committee, analysed into 'usable reserves' (i.e. those that can be applied to fund expenditure) and other 'unusable reserves'. The Statement shows how the movements in year of the Joint Committee's reserves are broken down between gains and losses incurred in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices and the statutory adjustments required to return to the amounts chargeable to council tax (via the Councils' contributions). The Net Increase/Decrease line shows the statutory General Fund Balance movements in the year following those adjustments.

		Movement in Reserves Statement		
	Note	Total Usable Reserves	Unusable Reserves	Total Joint Committee's Reserves
		£'000	£'000	£'000
Balance 31 March 2023 carried forward		(2,372)	34	(2,338)
<u>Movement in reserves during 2023/24</u>				
(Surplus)/Deficit on provision of services		(2,832)	0	(2,832)
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure		0	36	36
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure		(2,832)	36	(2,796)
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations	9	40	(40)	0
Net (Increase)/Decrease before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves		(2,792)	(4)	(2,796)
(Increase)/Decrease in 2023/24		(2,792)	(4)	(2,796)
Balance 31 March 2024 carried forward	10 & 15	(5,164)	30	(5,134)
<u>Movement in reserves during 2024/25</u>				
(Surplus)/Deficit on provision of services		(2,664)	0	(2,664)
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure		0	66	66
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure		(2,664)	66	(2,598)
Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations	9	54	(54)	0
Net (Increase)/Decrease before Transfers to Earmarked Reserves	10 & 15	(2,610)	12	(2,598)
(Increase)/Decrease in 2024/25		(2,610)	12	(2,598)
Balance 31 March 2025 carried forward		(7,774)	42	(7,732)

BALANCE SHEET

The Balance Sheet shows the value as at the Balance Sheet date of the assets and liabilities recognised by the Joint Committee. The net assets of the Joint Committee (assets less liabilities) are matched by the reserves held by the Joint Committee. Reserves are reported in two categories. The first category of reserves is usable reserves, i.e. those reserves that the Joint Committee may use to provide services, subject to the need to maintain a prudent level of reserves and any statutory limitations on their use. The second category of reserves is those that the Joint Committee is not able to use to provide services. This category of reserves includes reserves that hold unrealised gains and losses (for example the Revaluation Reserve), where amounts would only become available to provide services if the assets are sold; and reserves that hold timing differences shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement line 'Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations'.

31 March 2024 £'000		Note	31 March 2025 £'000
0	Long-term Debtors		3
0	Long-term Assets		3
325	Short-term Debtors	12	133
58,916	Cash and Cash Equivalents	13	53,716
59,241	Current Assets		53,849
(1,157)	Short-term Creditors	14	(4,540)
(23,949)	Capital and Revenue Grants Receipts in Advance	20b	(30,787)
(25,106)	Current Liabilities		(35,327)
0	Pension Liability	24	0
(29,001)	Capital and Revenue Grants Receipts in Advance	20b	(10,793)
(29,001)	Long-term Liabilities		(10,793)
5,134	Net Assets		7,732
(5,164)	Usable Reserves	10	(7,774)
30	Unusable Reserves	15	42
(5,134)	Total Reserves		(7,732)

CASH FLOW STATEMENT

The Cash Flow Statement shows the changes in cash and cash equivalents of the Joint Committee during the reporting period. The statement shows how the Joint Committee generates and uses cash and cash equivalents by classifying cash flows as operating and investing activities. The amount of net cash flows arising from operating activities is a key indicator of the extent to which the operations of the Joint Committee are funded by way of grant income or from the recipients of services provided by the Joint Committee. Investing Activities represent the extent to which cash outflows have been made for resources which are intended to contribute to the Joint Committee's future service delivery.

2023/24	Note	2024/25
£'000		£'000
(2,832) Net (Surplus) / Deficit on the Provision of Services		(2,664)
896 Adjustments to net surplus or deficit on the provision of services for non-cash movements	16a	7,864
(1,936) Net cash flows from Operating Activities		5,200
0 Investing Activities		0
0 Financing Activities		0
(1,936) Net (Increase)/Decrease in cash and cash equivalents		5,200
(56,980) Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	13	(58,916)
(58,916) Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	13	(53,716)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

NOTE I – ACCOUNTING POLICIES

I.1 General Principles

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Joint Committee's transactions for the 2024/25 financial year and its position at the year-end of 31 March 2025. The Joint Committee is required to prepare an annual Statement of Accounts by the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 (as amended), in accordance with proper accounting practices. These practices primarily comprise the *Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2024/25*, supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

The accounting convention adopted in the Statement of Accounts is historical cost. The accounts have been prepared on a going concern basis.

The nature of the Joint Committee's transactions is limited and only the relevant policies can be seen below.

I.2 Accruals of Expenditure and Income

Activity is accounted for in the year that it takes place, not simply when cash payments are made or received.

- Revenue from contracts with service recipients, whether for services or the provision of goods, is recognised when (or as) the goods or services are transferred to the service recipient in accordance with the performance obligations in the contract.
- Supplies are recorded as expenditure when they are consumed – where there is a gap between the date supplies are received and their consumption, they are carried as inventories on the Balance Sheet.
- Expenses in relation to services received (including services provided by employees) are recorded as expenditure when the services are received rather than when payments are made.
- Where revenue and expenditure have been recognised but cash has not been received or paid, a debtor or creditor for the relevant amount is recorded in the Balance Sheet. Where debts may not be settled, the balance of debtors is written down and a charge made to revenue for the income that might not be collected.

I.3 Cash and Cash Equivalents

The Joint Committee does not have its own bank account and cash is administered by Cyngor Gwynedd within its own accounts.

I.4 Employee Benefits

I.4.1 Benefits Payable during Employment

Short-term employee benefits are those due to be settled within 12 months of the year-end. They include such benefits as wages and salaries, paid annual leave and paid sick leave for current employees and are recognised as an expense for services in the year in which the employee renders service to the Joint Committee. An accrual is made for the cost of holiday entitlements (or any form of leave, e.g. time off in lieu) earned by employees but not taken before the year-end that employees can carry forward into the next financial year. The accrual is charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services, but then reversed out through the Movement in Reserves Statement to the accumulated absences account so that holiday benefits are charged to revenue in the financial year in which the holiday absence occurs.

I.4.2 Termination Benefits

Termination benefits are amounts payable as a result of a decision by the Joint Committee to terminate an officer's employment before the normal retirement date or an officer's decision to accept redundancy voluntarily and are charged on an accruals basis to the service in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement at the earlier of when the Joint Committee can no longer withdraw the offer of those benefits or when the Joint Committee recognises costs for a restructuring.

Where termination benefits involve the enhancement of pensions, statutory provisions require the Joint Committee fund balance to be charged with the amount payable by the Joint Committee to the Pension Fund or pensioner in the year, not the amount calculated according to the relevant accounting standards. In the Movement in Reserves Statement, appropriations are required to and from the Pensions Reserve to remove the notional debits and credits

NOTE I – ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

for pension enhancement termination benefits and replace them with debits for the cash paid to the Pension Fund and pensioners and any such amounts payable but unpaid at the year-end.

1.4.3 Post-employment Benefits

Employees of the Joint Committee are members of one pension scheme:

- The Local Government Pensions Scheme, administered by the Gwynedd Pension Fund at Cyngor Gwynedd.

The scheme provides defined benefits to members (retirement lump sums and pensions), earned as employees when they worked for the Joint Committee and their previous employers.

1.4.4 The Local Government Pension Scheme

All other staff, subject to certain qualifying criteria, are entitled to become members of the Local Government Pension Scheme. The pension costs charged to the Joint Committee's accounts in respect of this group of employees is determined by the fund administrators and represent a fixed proportion of employees' contributions to this funded pension scheme.

The Local Government Scheme is accounted for as a defined benefit scheme.

The liabilities of the Gwynedd Pension Fund attributable to the Joint Committee are included in the Balance Sheet on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method - i.e. an assessment of the future payments that will be made in relation to retirement benefits earned to date by employees, based on assumptions such as mortality rates, employee turnover rates, etc., and projections of earnings for current employees.

Liabilities are discounted to their value at current prices, using a discount rate of 5.85% calculated as a weighted average of 'spot yields' on AA rated corporate bonds.

The assets of the Gwynedd Pension Fund attributable to the Joint Committee are included in the Balance Sheet at their fair value as determined by the Fund's Actuary.

When the calculation results in a net asset for the Joint Committee, the net asset must be recognised at the lower of that net asset and the asset ceiling, which is calculated as the net present value of future service costs less net present value of future contributions over the future working lifetime. Where the asset ceiling is the lower, an adjustment will be required which is included as a remeasurement.

The change in the net pensions liability is analysed into the following components:

Service cost comprising:

- Current service cost – the increase in liabilities as a result of years of service earned this year – allocated in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the service for which the employees worked.
- Past service cost – the increase in liabilities arising from current year decisions whose effect relates to years of service earned in earlier years – debited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of Non-distributed Costs.
- Net interest on the net defined benefit liability/(asset), i.e. the net interest expense for the Joint Committee – the change during the period in the net defined benefit liability/(asset) that arises from the passage of time charged to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement – this is calculated by applying the discount rate used to measure the defined benefit obligation at the beginning of the period to the net defined benefit liability/(asset) at the beginning of the period – taking into account any changes in the net defined benefit liability/(asset) during the period as a result of contributions and benefit payments.

Remeasurements comprising:

- The return on Plan assets – excluding amounts included in net interest on the net defined benefit liability/(asset) – charged to the Pensions Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.

NOTE 1 – ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

- Actuarial gains and losses – changes in the net pensions liability that arise because events have not coincided with assumptions made at the last actuarial valuation or because the actuaries have updated their assumptions – charged to the Pensions Reserve as Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure.
- Asset ceiling adjustment – reduces to the calculated asset ceiling if this is lower than the asset position.
- Contributions paid to the Gwynedd Pension Fund – cash paid as employer's contributions to the Pension Fund in settlement of liabilities; not accounted for as an expense.

In relation to retirement benefits, statutory provisions require the General Fund balance to be charged with the amount payable by the Joint Committee to the Pension Fund or directly to pensioners in the year, not the amount calculated according to the relevant accounting standards. In the Movement in Reserves Statement, this means that there are appropriations to and from the Pensions Reserve to remove the notional debits and credits for retirement benefits and replace them with debits for the cash paid to the Pension Fund and pensioners and any such amounts payable but unpaid at the year-end. The balance that arises on the Pensions Reserve thereby measures the impact to the Joint Committee of being required to account for retirement benefits on the basis of cash flows rather than as benefits are earned by employees.

International Accounting Standard (IAS) 19 governs how the long-term liabilities which exist in relation to pension costs should be reported. Local Councils (including Joint Committees) in Wales and England are required to produce their financial statements in accordance with IAS 19.

1.4.5 Discretionary Benefits

The Joint Committee also has restricted powers to make discretionary awards of retirement benefits in the event of early retirements. Any liabilities estimated to arise as a result of an award to any member of staff are accrued in the year of the decision to make the award and accounted for using the same policies as are applied to the Local Government Pension Scheme.

1.5 Events after the Reporting Period

Events after the balance sheet date are those events, both favourable and unfavourable, that occur between the end of the reporting period and the date when the Statement of Accounts is authorised for issue. Two types of events can be identified:

- those that provide evidence of conditions that existed at the end of the reporting period – the Statement of Accounts is adjusted to reflect such events; and
- those that are indicative of conditions that arose after the reporting period – the Statement of Accounts is not adjusted to reflect such events, but where a category of events would have a material effect, disclosure is made in the notes of the nature of the events and their estimated financial effect.

Events taking place after the date of authorisation for issue are not reflected in the Statement of Accounts.

1.6 Prior Period Adjustments, Changes in Accounting Policies, Estimates and Errors

Prior period adjustments may arise as a result of a change in accounting policies or to correct a material error. Changes in accounting estimates are accounted for prospectively, i.e. in the current and future years affected by the change and do not give rise to a prior period adjustment.

Changes in accounting policies are only made when required by proper accounting practices or the change provides more reliable or relevant information about the effect of transactions, other events and conditions on the Joint Committee's financial position or financial performance. Where a change is made, it is applied retrospectively (unless not material or stated otherwise) by adjusting opening balances and comparative amounts for the prior period as if the new policy had always been applied.

Material errors discovered in prior period figures are corrected retrospectively by amending opening balances and comparative amounts for the prior period.

NOTE I – ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.7 Government Grants and Other Contributions

Grants and contributions relating to capital and revenue expenditure are accounted for on an accruals basis, and recognised immediately in the relevant service line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as income, except to the extent that the grant or contribution has a condition that the Joint Committee has not satisfied.

Grants and contributions funding capital expenditure that have been credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement are not proper income charges due to the capital control regime requirements to finance capital expenditure as part of the Capital Financing Requirement. Therefore, the Joint Committee accounts for these amounts as follows:

- Where a capital grant or contribution has been received, and conditions remain outstanding at the Balance Sheet date, the grant is recognised as a Capital Grant Receipt in Advance on the Balance Sheet. Once the condition has been met, the grant or contribution is transferred to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.
- Where a capital grant or contribution has been recognised as income in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, and the expenditure to be financed from that grant or contribution has been incurred at the Balance Sheet date, the grant or contribution is transferred from the General Fund to the Capital Adjustment Account, reflecting the application of capital resources to finance expenditure. This transfer is reported in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

1.8 Overheads and Support Services

Charges for services provided by the Central Support Departments within Cyngor Gwynedd are derived from a combination of pre-determined fixed charges, actual recorded staff time, transaction logging and pre-determined formulae.

1.9 Reserves

Specific reserves are created to set aside amounts for future spending schemes. This is done through transfers out of the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Certain reserves, namely “unusable reserves”, are kept for the technical purpose of managing the accounting processes for non-current assets and employee benefits. These do not represent the usable resources of the Joint Committee.

1.10 Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital Under Statute

Legislation allows some expenditure to be classified as capital for funding purposes when it does not result in the expenditure being carried on the Balance Sheet as an asset. The purpose of this is to enable it to be funded from capital resources rather than be charged to the General Fund. This type of expenditure is valued at historical cost and written down over a year.

1.11 Value Added Tax

Only in a situation when VAT is irrecoverable will VAT be included or charged as ‘irrecoverable VAT’. Since the Joint Committee has not registered for VAT, the VAT is recovered through Cyngor Gwynedd’s VAT registration.

1.12 Debtors and Creditors

The Joint Committee’s Accounts are maintained on an accruals basis in accordance with the Code of Accounting Practice. The accounts reflect actual expenditure and income relating to the year in question irrespective of whether the payments or receipts have actually been paid or received in the year.

1.13 Long-Term Contracts

Long-term contracts are accounted for on the basis of charging the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services with the consideration allocated to the performance obligations satisfied based on the goods or services transferred to the service recipient during the financial year.

NOTE 1 – ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

1.14 Joint Operations

Joint operations are arrangements where the parties that have joint control of the arrangement have rights to the assets and obligations for the liabilities relating to the arrangements. The activities undertaken by the Joint Committee in conjunction with other joint operators involve the use of the assets and resources of those joint operators. In relation to its interest in a joint operation, the Joint Committee as a joint operator recognises its share of assets, liabilities, revenue and expenses.

The NWEAB Joint Committee has been categorised as a Joint Operation, making use of the assets and resources of the operators rather than the establishment of a separate entity.

NOTE 2 - CHANGE IN ACCOUNTING POLICY

The Joint Committee's existing accounting policies are amended only insofar as to reflect the guidance in the 2024/25 CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom.

NOTE 3 - PRIOR PERIOD ADJUSTMENTS

There are no prior period adjustments during 2024/25.

NOTE 4 - ACCOUNTING STANDARDS THAT HAVE BEEN ISSUED BUT HAVE NOT YET BEEN ADOPTED

The CIPFA Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom requires the expected impact of any accounting standards that have been issued but not yet adopted to be disclosed. This applies to the following new or amended standards within the 2025/26 Code:

- IAS 21 The Effects of Changes in Foreign Exchange Rate (Lack of Exchangeability) issued in August 2023. The amendments to IAS 21 clarify how an entity should assess whether a currency is exchangeable and how it should determine a spot exchange rate when exchangeability is lacking, as well as require the disclosure of information that enables users of financial statements to understand the impact of a currency not being exchangeable.
- IFRS 17 Insurance Contracts issued in May 2017. IFRS 17 replaces IFRS 4 and sets out principles for recognition, measurement, presentation and disclosure of insurance contracts.
- The changes to the measurement of non-investment assets within the 2025/26 Code include adaptations and interpretations of IAS 16 Property, Plant and Equipment and IAS 38 Intangible Assets. These include setting out three revaluation processes for operational property, plant and equipment, requiring indexation for tangible non investment assets and a requirement to value intangible assets using the historical cost approach. These have the same effect as requiring a change in accounting policy due to an amendment to standards, which would normally be disclosed under IAS 8. However, the adaptations also include a relief from the requirements of IAS 8 following a change in accounting policy.

The Code requires implementation from 1 April 2025 and therefore there is no impact on the 2024/25 Statement of Accounts. It is not anticipated that the items above will have a significant impact on the information provided in the 2025/26 financial statements.

NOTE 5 – CRITICAL JUDGEMENTS IN APPLYING ACCOUNTING POLICIES

In applying the accounting policies set out in Note 1, the Joint Committee has had to make judgements, estimates and assumptions relating to complex transactions, those involving uncertainty about future events and also the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources.

The judgements, estimates and associated assumptions applied are based on current proper practices, historical experience and other factors that include historical and current assumptions and projections, and actual future projections, professional assessment, current trends, and local factors that are considered to be relevant.

NOTE 5 – CRITICAL JUDGEMENTS IN APPLYING ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

All available and related information is sourced and applied in assessing and determining the position, which is particularly critical when considering such matters as actuarial valuation of pension fund assets and liabilities, earmarked reserves and revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute. However, because these issues cannot be determined with certainty, actual results may subsequently differ from those estimates. The estimates and underlying assumptions are continually reviewed.

NOTE 6 – ASSUMPTIONS MADE ABOUT FUTURE AND OTHER MAJOR SOURCES OF ESTIMATION UNCERTAINTY

The Statement of Accounts contains estimated figures that are based on assumptions made by the Joint Committee about the future or that are otherwise uncertain. Estimates are made taking into account historical experience, current trends and other relevant factors. However, because certain balances cannot be determined with certainty, actual results could be different from the assumptions and estimates.

The following item in the Joint Committee's Balance Sheet at 31 March 2025 may be considered to be a significant risk (in terms of certainty in estimation of value), with the possibility of material adjustment in the forthcoming financial year:

Item	Uncertainties	Effect if actual results differ from assumptions
Pensions liability	Estimation of the net liability to pay pensions depends on a number of complex judgements relating to the discount rate used, the rate at which salaries are projected to increase, changes in retirement ages, mortality rates and expected returns on pension fund assets. A firm of consulting actuaries is engaged to provide the Joint Committee with expert advice about the assumptions to be applied.	The effects on the net pension liability of changes in individual assumptions are set out in Note 24.

NOTE 7 – MATERIAL ITEMS OF INCOME AND EXPENSE

Related items include:-

- £2,800k in interest and similar income (Note 11).
- £13,405k in grants and contributions and equivalent expenditure (Note 20).

NOTE 8 – NOTE TO THE EXPENDITURE AND FUNDING ANALYSIS

ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN FUNDING AND ACCOUNTING BASIS				
2024/25				
Adjustments from General Fund to arrive at the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement amounts	Adjustments for Capital Purposes (i) £'000	Net change for the Pensions Adjustments (ii) £'000	Other Differences (iii) £'000	Total Adjustments £'000
Programme Management Office	0	(65)	12	(53)
Accountable Body Support Services	0	0	0	0
Joint Committee	0	0	0	0
Projects	10,766	0	0	10,766
Grant Schemes	0	0	0	0
Income	(10,643)	0	0	(10,643)
Cost of Services	123	(65)	12	70
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	(123)	(1)	0	(124)
(Surplus) / Deficit on Provision of Services	0	(66)	12	(54)

ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN FUNDING AND ACCOUNTING BASIS				
2023/24				
Adjustments from General Fund to arrive at the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement amounts	Adjustments for Capital Purposes (i) £'000	Net change for the Pensions Adjustments (ii) £'000	Other Differences (iii) £'000	Total Adjustments £'000
Programme Management Office	0	(35)	(4)	(39)
Accountable Body Support Services	0	0	0	0
Joint Committee	0	0	0	0
Projects	1,547	0	0	1,547
Grant Schemes	0	0	0	0
Income	(1,547)	0	0	(1,547)
Cost of Services	0	(35)	(4)	(39)
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	0	(1)	0	(1)
(Surplus) / Deficit on Provision of Services	0	(36)	(4)	(40)

NOTE 8 – NOTE TO THE EXPENDITURE AND FUNDING ANALYSIS (continued)

(i) Adjustments for Capital Purposes

- For **Services**, this column adds in revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute.
- For **Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure**, the statutory charges for capital financing and other revenue contributions are deducted from other income and expenditure as these are not chargeable under generally accepted accounting practices.

(ii) Net Change for the Pensions Adjustments

Net change for the removal of pension contributions and the addition of IAS 19 *Employee Benefits* for pension-related expenditure and income:

- For **Services**, this represents the removal of the employer pension contributions made by the Joint Committee as allowed by statute and the replacement with current service costs and past service costs.
- For **Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure**, the net interest on the defined benefit liability is charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

(iii) Other Differences

Other differences between amounts debited/credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and amounts payable/receivable to be recognised under statute:

- For **Services**, this represents an adjustment for accumulated absences earned but not taken during the year.
- For **Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure**, the other differences column recognises adjustments to the General Fund for the timing differences for premiums and discounts.

NOTE 9 – ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN ACCOUNTING BASIS AND FUNDING BASIS UNDER REGULATIONS

This note details the adjustments that are made to the total comprehensive income and expenditure recognised by the Joint Committee in the year in accordance with proper accounting practice to the resources that are specified by statutory provisions as being available to the Joint Committee to meet future expenditure.

2024/25		
ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN ACCOUNTING BASIS AND FUNDING BASIS UNDER REGULATIONS	Usable Reserve General Fund Balance	Movement in Unusable Reserves
	£'000	£'000
Adjustments involving the Capital Adjustment Account		
Capital grants and contributions applied	10,643	(10,643)
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	(10,766)	10,766
Capital expenditure financed from revenue balances	123	(123)
Adjustments primarily involving the Pensions Reserve		
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited/credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (Note 24)	(157)	157
Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	223	(223)
Adjustment primarily involving the Accumulated Absences Account		
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(12)	12
Total Adjustments	54	(54)

2023/24		
ADJUSTMENTS BETWEEN ACCOUNTING BASIS AND FUNDING BASIS UNDER REGULATIONS	Usable Reserve General Fund Balance	Movement in Unusable Reserves
	£'000	£'000
Adjustments involving the Capital Adjustment Account		
Capital grants and contributions applied	1,547	(1,547)
Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	(1,547)	1,547
Adjustments primarily involving the Pensions Reserve		
Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited/credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (Note 24)	(142)	142
Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	178	(178)
Adjustment primarily involving the Accumulated Absences Account		
Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	4	(4)
Total Adjustments	40	(40)

NOTE 10 – TRANSFERS TO/FROM USABLE RESERVES

The note below sets out the amounts set aside from the General Fund in usable reserves to provide financing for future expenditure plans, with a net increase of £2,610k.

Usable Reserves

2024/25		Balance	Transfers		Balance
		31 March	in	out	31 March
		2024			2025
Note		£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
10.1	Earmarked Reserve	278	0	(67)	211
10.2	Projects Reserve	152	0	(123)	29
10.3	Interest Reserve	4,734	0	0	4,734
10.4	Resources Reserve	0	2,800	0	2,800
Total		5,164	2,800	(190)	7,774

- 10.1 Earmarked Reserve - to support future years' budgets and staffing structure.
 10.2 Projects Reserve - to fund expenditure that supports the delivery of Regional Economic Framework priorities.
 10.3 Interest Reserve - to fund the cost of borrowing in future years.
 10.4 Resources Reserve - to fund government requirements and project development costs, and to retain the Portfolio Management Office's capacity.

NOTE 11 – FINANCING AND INVESTMENT INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

2023/24	2024/25
£'000	£'000
(1) Net interest on the net pension defined benefit liability/(asset)	(1)
(2,826) Interest receivable and similar income	(2,800)
(2,827) Total	(2,801)

NOTE 12 – SHORT-TERM DEBTORS

	31 March	31 March
	2024	2025
	£'000	£'000
Trade Receivables	75	89
Prepayments	1	7
Other Receivable Amounts	249	37
Total	325	133

NOTE 13 – CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

The Joint Committee does not have its own bank account and cash is administered by Cyngor Gwynedd within its own accounts. The figure shown in the table each year is the net cash sum held on behalf of the Joint Committee within the Cyngor Gwynedd amounts.

	31 March 2024 £'000	31 March 2025 £'000
Cash in Bank held by Host Authority	58,916	53,716
Cash and Cash Equivalents	58,916	53,716

NOTE 14 – SHORT-TERM CREDITORS

	31 March 2024 £'000	31 March 2025 £'000
Trade Payables	222	137
Other Payables	935	4,403
Total	1,157	4,540

NOTE 15 – UNUSABLE RESERVES

31 March 2024 £'000	31 March 2025 £'000
0 Capital Adjustment Account	0
0 Pensions Reserve	0
(30) Accumulated Absences Account	(42)
(30) Total Unusable Reserves	(42)

NOTE 15 – UNUSABLE RESERVES (continued)

15.1 Capital Adjustment Account

The Capital Adjustment Account absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for the consumption of non-current assets and for financing the acquisition, construction or enhancement of those assets under statutory provisions. The Account is debited with the cost of acquisition, construction or enhancement as depreciation; impairment losses and amortisations are charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The Account is credited with the amounts set aside by the Joint Committee as finance for the costs of acquisition, construction and enhancement.

Note 9 provides details of the source of all the transactions posted to the Account.

2023/24		2024/25
£'000		£'000
0	Balance 1 April	0
	<u>Reversal of items relating to capital expenditure debited or credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:</u>	
(1,547)	Revenue Expenditure funded from Capital under Statute	(10,766)
	<u>Capital financing applied in the year:</u>	
1,547	Grants and contributions credited to Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement that have been applied to capital financing	10,643
0	Revenue provision for the financing of supported capital investment	123
0	Balance 31 March	0

15.2 Pensions Reserve

The Pensions Reserve absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for post-employment benefits and for funding benefits in accordance with statutory provisions. The Joint Committee accounts for post-employment benefits in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as the benefits are earned by employees accruing years of service, updating the liabilities recognised to reflect inflation, changing assumptions and investment returns on any resources set aside to meet the costs. However, statutory arrangements require benefits earned to be financed as the Joint Committee makes employer's contributions to pension funds or eventually pays any pensions for which it is directly responsible, with funding requirements set aside by the time the benefits are to be paid.

2023/24		2024/25
£000		£000
0	Balance 1 April	0
(36)	Re-measurements of the net pension defined benefit (liabilities) / assets	(66)
(142)	Reversal of items relating to retirement benefits debited or credited to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	(157)
178	Employer's pensions contributions and direct payments to pensioners payable in the year	223
0	Balance 31 March	0

NOTE 15 – UNUSABLE RESERVES (continued)

15.3 Accumulated Absences Account

The Accumulated Absences Account absorbs the differences that would otherwise appear on the General Fund Balance from accruing for compensated absences earned but not taken in the year, e.g. annual leave entitlement carried forward at 31 March. Statutory arrangements require that the impact on the General Fund Balance is neutralised by transfers to or from the Account.

2023/24	2024/25
£000	£000
(34) Balance 1 April	(30)
4 Amount by which officer remuneration charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on an accruals basis is different from remuneration chargeable in the year in accordance with statutory requirements	(12)
(30) Balance 31 March	(42)

NOTE 16a – CASH FLOW STATEMENT – ADJUSTMENTS TO NET SURPLUS OR DEFICIT ON THE PROVISION OF SERVICES FOR NON-CASH MOVEMENTS

2023/24	2024/25
£'000	£'000
1,012 (Increase)/Decrease in Creditors	8,000
(156) Increase/(Decrease) in Debtors	(190)
36 Pension Liability	66
4 Other non-cash items charged to net surplus/deficit on the provision of services	(12)
896	7,864

NOTE 16b – CASH FLOW STATEMENT – OPERATING ACTIVITIES

2023/24	2024/25
£'000	£'000
(2,826) Interest received	(2,800)

NOTE 17 – EXPENDITURE AND INCOME ANALYSED BY NATURE

The Joint Committee's expenditure and income is analysed as follows:

2023/24		2024/25
£'000	<u>Expenditure / Income</u>	£'000
	Expenditure	
1,292	Employee benefits expenses	1,566
37	Premises	36
2	Transport	2
1,059	Supplies and Services	955
222	Third Party	217
0	Interest Payments	0
1,547	Revenue Expenditure Funded From Capital Under Statute	10,766
4,159	Total Expenditure	13,542
	Income	
(934)	Partner Contributions	(704)
(2,827)	Interest and investment income	(2,801)
(3,230)	Grants and other contributions	(12,701)
(6,991)	Total Income	(16,206)
(2,832)	(Surplus) / Deficit on the Provision of Services	(2,664)

NOTE 18 – OFFICERS' REMUNERATION

18a. The Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 (as amended) require the Joint Committee to disclose the following information relating to employees appointed as Senior Officers, and whose salary is between £60,000 and £150,000. In compliance with the defined requirements, the pensionable pay, employer's pension contributions and other employer costs are included below (including termination benefits), but the employer's national insurance contributions are excluded. The remuneration paid to the Joint Committee's senior officers is as follows:

2023/24			Chief Officers	2024/25		
Salary	Employer's Pension Contribution	Total		Salary	Employer's Pension Contribution	Total
£	£	£		£	£	£
118,095	21,764	139,859	Portfolio Director*	119,510	20,762	140,272
83,076	15,951	99,027	Head of Operations**	86,343	16,578	102,921

* Since 10 October 2022, the Portfolio Director has been seconded to the CJC for two days a week to fulfil the role of the CJC's Chief Executive and receives an honorarium in relation to this role. The CJC recompenses the NWEAB for all employment and associated costs. The remuneration costs disclosed are gross of the reimbursement.

** The Head of Operations undertakes the role of Portfolio Director for two days a week and therefore remuneration received is based on two pay scales.

NOTE 18 – OFFICERS’ REMUNERATION (continued)

18b. Other Joint Committee employees receiving more than £60,000 remuneration for the year (excluding employer’s pension and national insurance contributions) were paid the following amounts. Termination benefits are to be included in the figures; however, there were no cases in 2024/25 and 2023/24.

Number of other employees who received more than £60,000 and includes remuneration and termination benefits:		
Number in 2023/24		Number in 2024/25
Total		Total
0	£60,000 - £64,999	2

NOTE 19 – EXTERNAL AUDIT COSTS

The Joint Committee has incurred the following costs relating to external audit.

2023/24 £'000		2024/25 £'000
25	Fees payable to the auditor appointed by the Auditor General for Wales with regard to external audit services	13
25	Net Fees	13

NOTE 20 – GRANT INCOME

20a. The Joint Committee credited the following grants, contributions and donations to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:

	2023/24		2024/25	
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Grants and Contributions Credited to Services				
Welsh Government				
European Social Fund Priority 5	233		0	
North Wales Growth Deal Grant*	1,124		10,643	
Local Energy Grant	600		186	
Local Full Fibre Upgrade Grant	423		0	
Agri-Food Status Research Grant	19		2	
Student Placement Grant	15		9	
		2,414		10,840
Other Grants and Contributions				
Partners' Contributions				
Conwy County Borough Council	127		98	
Denbighshire County Council	121		98	
Flintshire County Council	138		98	
Cyngor Gwynedd	129		98	
Isle of Anglesey County Council	114		98	
Wrexham County Borough Council	132		98	
Bangor University	64		29	
Wrexham University	41		29	
Coleg Cambria**	28		29	
Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	40		29	
		934		704
Cyngor Gwynedd				
North Wales Growth Deal Grant	561		714	
UK Shared Prosperity Fund	174		885	
		735		1,599
Other				
North Wales Corporate Joint Committee	70		84	
Wrexham County Borough Council – UK Shared Prosperity Fund	8		174	
Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board and Social Care Wales	3		1	
Agri-food Status Research Contributions	0		3	
		81		262
Total		4,164		13,405

* The North Wales Growth Deal Grant is funded 50% by Welsh Government and 50% by UK Government.

NOTE 20 – GRANT INCOME (continued)

20b. The Joint Committee has received grants, contributions or donations that have yet to be recognised as income as they have conditions attached that could require the monies to be returned to the giver. The balance at the year-end are as follows:

	31 March 2024 £'000	31 March 2025 £'000
Grants and Contributions Received in Advance		
<u>Long Term</u>		
Capital Grants		
North Wales Growth Deal Grant	29,001	10,793
Total Long Term	29,001	10,793
<u>Short Term</u>		
Capital Grants		
North Wales Growth Deal Grant	23,920	30,770
Revenue Grants and Contributions		
Student Placement Grant	8	0
Agri-Food Status Research Contributions	21	17
	29	17
Total Short Term	23,949	30,787
Total	52,950	41,580

NOTE 21 – RELATED PARTIES

The Joint Committee is required to disclose material transactions with related parties – bodies or individuals that have the potential to control or influence the Joint Committee or to be controlled or influenced by the Joint Committee. Disclosure of these transactions allows readers to assess the extent to which the Joint Committee might have been constrained in its ability to operate independently or might have secured the ability to limit another party's ability to bargain freely with the Joint Committee. To conform to the requirements, this is done by Members and Senior Officers completing a personal declaration, as defined in the CIPFA Code of Practice.

Function of the Joint Committee

The North Wales Economic Ambition Board's (NWEAB) Joint Committee was established on 1 February 2019 to develop a regional approach to economic growth and to address the challenges and barriers facing the North Wales economy. It covers the six local authority administrative areas of North Wales comprising Gwynedd, Anglesey, Conwy, Denbighshire, Wrexham and Flintshire councils. The Joint Committee also includes the University of Bangor, Wrexham University, Coleg Cambria and Grŵp Llandrillo Menai. In December 2020, the Joint Committee agreed the North Wales Growth Deal with UK Government and Welsh Government securing an investment of £240 million into the North Wales economy as part of the Deal. A Portfolio Management Office has been established to deliver the Growth Deal and the full business case of the first project was approved in December 2021 and is now in its fourth year of delivery.

Summarised below are the payments and income between the Joint Committee, the Local Authorities, Further and Higher Education Establishments and the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee for the 2024/25 financial year. Cyngor Gwynedd has been appointed as host authority for the NWEAB.

	Payments made	Amounts owed by the NWEAB	Income Received	Amounts owed to the NWEAB
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Conwy County Borough Council	3	0	(98)	0
Denbighshire County Council	12	0	(98)	0
Flintshire County Council	5	0	(98)	0
Cyngor Gwynedd	261	0	(1,697)	0
Isle of Anglesey County Council	2	0	(98)	0
Wrexham County Borough Council	0	0	(272)	0
Bangor University	0	582	(29)	0
Wrexham University	6,210	2,850	(29)	0
Coleg Cambria	4	0	(29)	0
Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	0	1,002	(29)	0
North Wales Corporate Joint Committee	0	4	(1)	(83)

Welsh Government

Welsh Government has effective control over the general operations of the Joint Committee, and is responsible for providing the statutory framework and provides the majority of its funding in the form of grants. Grants received from Welsh Government are set out in the subjective analysis in Note 17 which analyses expenditure and income by nature. The position as at 31 March is detailed in Note 20.

Board Members, Advisers and Officers

Members and advisers of the Joint Committee have influence over the Joint Committee's financial and operating policies.

All Board Members, Advisers and Senior Officers of the Joint Committee have completed declaration forms to declare their interest or relationship in companies, voluntary, charitable or public bodies that have dealings with the Joint Committee.

NOTE 21 – RELATED PARTIES (continued)

A breakdown of the payments made to these bodies under this heading during 2024/25 and balances at 31 March 2025 is as follows:

Payments made	Amounts owed by the NWEAB	Income Received	Amounts owed to the NWEAB
£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
38	19	0	0

One of the voting members of the NWEAB is also a member of the Gwynedd Pension Fund Pensions Committee. Details of transactions with the Pension Fund are shown in Note 24.

NOTE 22 – CAPITAL EXPENDITURE AND CAPITAL FINANCING

The total amount of capital expenditure incurred in the year is shown in the table below (including the value of assets acquired under finance leases), together with the resources that have been used to finance it. Where capital expenditure is to be financed in future years by charges to revenue as assets are used by the Joint Committee, the expenditure results in an increase in the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), a measure of the capital expenditure incurred historically by the Joint Committee that has yet to be financed. The CFR is analysed in the second part of this note.

31 March 2024 £'000		31 March 2025 £'000
0	Capital Adjustment Account (Note 15.1)	0
0	Capital Financing Requirement	0

The movement in the year is explained as follows:

2023/24 £'000		2024/25 £'000
0	Capital Financing Requirement 1 April	0
1,547	Funded from capital under statute	10,766
(1,547)	Government Grants and other contributions	(10,643)
0	Revenue provision for the financing of supported capital investment	(123)
0	Capital Financing Requirement 31 March	0

NOTE 23 – EXIT PACKAGES

There were no exit packages during 2024/25 or 2023/24.

NOTE 24 – PENSION COSTS

As part of the terms and conditions of employment of its officers and other employees, the Joint Committee makes contributions towards the cost of post-employment benefits. Although these benefits will not actually be payable until employees retire, the Joint Committee has a commitment to make the payments. These need to be disclosed at the time that employees earn their future entitlement.

The NWEAB participates in two post-employment schemes:

- a) **The Local Government Pension Scheme** administered locally by Cyngor Gwynedd. This is a funded defined benefit scheme based on final salary for service up to 31 March 2014 and based on a career average salary from 1 April 2014. The Joint Committee and the employees pay contributions into the fund, calculated at a level intended to balance the pensions liabilities with investment assets.
- b) **Arrangements for the award of discretionary post-retirement benefits upon early retirement.** This is an unfunded defined benefit arrangement, under which liabilities are recognised when awards are made. However, there are no investment assets built up to meet these pension liabilities, and cash has to be generated to meet actual pensions payments as they eventually fall due.

The Gwynedd Pension Fund is operated under the regulatory framework for the Local Government Pension Scheme and the governance of the scheme is the responsibility of the Pensions Committee of Cyngor Gwynedd. Policy is determined in accordance with the Local Government Pensions Scheme Regulations.

The principal risks to the Joint Committee from the scheme are the longevity assumptions, statutory changes to the scheme, structural changes to the scheme (such as large-scale withdrawals from the scheme), changes to inflation, bond yields and the performance of equity investments held by the scheme. These are mitigated to a certain extent by the statutory requirements to charge the amounts required by statute as described in the accounting policies note to the General Fund.

Transactions Relating to Post-employment Benefits

The Joint Committee recognises the cost of retirement benefits in the reported cost of services when they are earned by employees, rather than when the benefits are eventually paid as pensions. However, the charge it is required to make is based on the cash payable in the year, so the real cost of post-employment/retirement benefits is reversed out of the General Fund via the Movement in Reserves Statement. The following transactions have been made in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the General Fund Balance via the Movement in Reserves Statement during the year.

NOTE 24 – PENSION COSTS (continued)

Change in the Fair Value of Plan Assets, Defined Benefit Obligation and Net Liability	Net (liability) /asset	
	31 March 2024	31 March 2025
	£'000	£'000
Fair Value of Plan Assets	1,540	1,955
Present Value of Funded Liabilities	(1,397)	(1,551)
Effect of the asset ceiling	(143)	(404)
Opening Position at 1 April	0	0
Service Cost		
- Current Service Cost*	(143)	(158)
Total Service Cost	(143)	(158)
Net interest		
- Interest Income on Plan Assets	79	102
- Interest Cost on Defined Benefit Obligation	(71)	(81)
- Interest on the effect of the asset ceiling	(7)	(20)
Total Net Interest	1	1
Total Defined Benefit Cost Recognised in Profit/(Loss)	(142)	(157)
Cash flows		
- Participants' contributions	0	0
- Employer contributions	171	225
- Benefits paid	0	0
Expected Closing Position	29	68
Remeasurements		
- Change in demographic assumptions	9	3
- Change in financial assumptions	158	503
- Other experience**	(42)	14
- Return on Assets excluding amounts included in net interest	100	(11)
- Changes in the effect of the asset ceiling	150	424
Total remeasurements recognised in Other Comprehensive Income (OCI)	375	933
Fair Value of Plan Assets	1,955	2,354
Present Value of Funded Liabilities	(1,551)	(1,353)
Closing Position at 31 March	404	1,001

* The current service cost includes an allowance for administration expenses of 0.6% of payroll.

** Within this other experience item, the funded obligations have decreased at 31 March 2025 by £14,000 as a result of the pension increase order being different to the previous assumption. The other experience on 31 March 2024 obligations includes an allowance of £42,000 for the April 2024 pension increase order impact.

NOTE 24 – PENSION COSTS (continued)

Pensions assets and liabilities recognised in the Balance Sheet

The amount included in the Balance Sheet arising from the Joint Committee's obligation in respect of its defined benefit plan is as follows:

	31 March 2024	31 March 2025
	£'000	£'000
Fair Value of Plan Assets	1,955	2,354
Present Value of Funded Obligations	(1,551)	(1,353)
Sub-total	404	1,001
Effect of IAS 19/ IFRIC 14	(404)	(1,001)
Net Asset/ (Liability) Arising From Defined Benefit Obligation	0	0

The actuarial valuation of the Joint Committee's pension scheme liabilities and pensions reserve shown on the Balance Sheet reports a net asset or liability of zero. The Joint Committee's Actuary, Hymans Robertson LLP, determined that the fair value of the Joint Committee's pension plan assets outweighed the present value of the plan obligations at 31 March 2025 resulting in a pension plan asset. IFRIC 14 and IAS 19 Employee Benefits require that, where a pension plan asset exists, it is measured at the lower of:

- The surplus in the defined benefit plan; and
- The asset ceiling, which is capped at £0

The asset ceiling is the present value of any economic benefits available in the form of refunds from the plan or reductions in future contributions to the plan. The Joint Committee's Actuary calculated the asset ceiling as the net present value of future service costs less net present value of future contributions. The calculated asset ceiling for 2024/25 results in greater future service contributions than future service costs so the economic benefit is limited to zero. The Joint Committee relies and places assurance on the professional judgement of the Actuary and the assumptions used to calculate this actuarial valuation.

The Major Categories of Plan Assets as a Percentage of Total Plan Assets

The Actuary has provided a detailed breakdown of Fund assets in accordance with the requirements of IAS 19. This analysis distinguishes between the nature and risk of those assets, and to further break them down between those with a quoted price in an active market, and those that are not quoted. The asset split for the NWEAB is assumed to be in the same proportion to the Fund's asset allocation as at 31 December 2024. The split is shown in the table below. The actuary estimates the bid value of the Fund's assets as at 31 March 2025 to be £3.18bn based on information provided by the Administering Authority and allowing for index returns where necessary. Only a portion of the Fund is relevant to the NWEAB.

NOTE 24 – PENSION COSTS (continued)

Fair Value of Employer Assets

The asset values below are at bid value as required under IAS 19.

Asset Category	At 31 March 2024				At 31 March 2025			
	Quoted Prices in Active Markets	Prices not quoted in Active Markets	Total		Quoted Prices in Active Markets	Prices not quoted in Active Markets	Total	
	£'000	£'000	£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000	
Private Equity								
All	0	102	102	5	0	127	127	5
Real Estate								
UK Property	0	136	136	7	0	150	150	6
Investment Funds and Unit Trusts								
Equities	0	1,088	1,088	56	0	1,300	1,300	55
Bonds	0	0	0	0	0	692	692	29
Infrastructure	0	0	0	0	0	69	69	3
Other	0	556	556	28	0	0	0	0
Derivatives								
Inflation	0	48	48	3	0	0	0	0
Cash and Cash Equivalents								
All	0	25	25	1	0	16	16	1
Total	0	1,955	1,955	100	0	2,354	2,354	100

Basis for estimating assets and liabilities

Liabilities have been assessed on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method, an estimate of the pensions that will be payable in future years dependent on assumptions about mortality rates, life expectancy and salary levels. Life expectancy is based on the Fund's VitaCurves with improvements in line with the CMI 2023 model, with a 15% weighting of 2023 (and 2022) data, a 0% weighting of 2021 (and 2020) data, standard smoothing (Sk7), initial adjustment of 0.25% and a long term rate of improvement of 1.5% p.a. for both males and females.

Both the Gwynedd Pension Scheme and Discretionary Benefits liabilities have been estimated by Hymans Robertson, an independent firm of actuaries. Estimates for the Gwynedd Pension Fund were based on the latest full valuation of the scheme as at 31 March 2022. The significant assumptions used by the Actuary in the following table have had a significant impact on the values of the assets and liabilities as follows:

NOTE 24 – PENSION COSTS (continued)

	31 March 2024	31 March 2025
Financial Assumptions	% p.a.	% p.a.
Pensions Increase Rate	2.75	2.70
Salary Increase Rate	3.25	3.20
Inflation Rate	2.75	2.70
Discount Rate	4.85	5.85
Long-term expected rate of return on all categories of assets	4.85	5.85
Take-up option to convert annual pension into retirement lump sum		
for pre-April 2008 service	65	65
for post-April 2008 service	65	65
Mortality assumptions	Years	Years
Longevity at 65 for current pensioners		
Men	20.8	20.7
Women	23.7	23.7
Longevity at 65 for future pensioners		
Men	22.5	22.4
Women	25.5	25.4

The estimation of the defined benefit obligations is sensitive to the actuarial assumptions set out in the table above. In order to quantify the impact of a change in the financial assumptions used, the Actuary has calculated and compared the value of the scheme liabilities as at 31 March 2025 on varying bases. The approach taken is consistent with that adopted to derive the IAS 19 figures provided in this note.

To quantify the uncertainty around life expectancy, the Actuary has calculated the difference in cost to the Joint Committee of a one-year increase in life expectancy. For sensitivity purposes this is assumed to be an increase in the cost of benefits of broadly 3-5%. In practice the actual cost of a one-year increase in life expectancy will depend on the structure of the revised assumption (i.e. if improvements to survival rates predominantly apply at younger or older ages).

The figures in the table below have been derived based on the membership profile of the Joint Committee as at 31 March 2022, the date of the most recent actuarial valuation. The approach taken in preparing the sensitivity analysis shown is consistent with that adopted in the previous year.

Impact on the Defined Benefit Obligation in the Scheme		
Change in assumption	Approximate increase to Defined Benefit Obligation	Approximate monetary amount
	31 March 2025	31 March 2025
	%	£'000
0.1% decrease in real discount rate	3	42
1 year increase in member life expectancy	4	54
0.1% increase in the salary increase rate	0	2
0.1% increase in the pension increase rate	3	41

NOTE 24 – PENSION COSTS (continued)

Impact on the Joint Committee's Cash Flows

One of the objectives of the scheme is that employer contributions should be kept at as constant a rate as possible. The Joint Committee has agreed a strategy with the fund's Actuary to achieve a funding level of 100% over the next 17 years. Funding levels are monitored on an annual basis.

The contributions paid by the Joint Committee are set by the Fund Actuary at each triennial valuation, or at any other time as instructed to do so by the Administering Authority. The contributions payable over the period to 31 March 2025 are set out in the Rates and Adjustments certificate. For further details on the approach adopted to set contribution rates for the Joint Committee, please refer to the 2022 actuarial report dated 28 March 2023.

Information about the Defined Benefit Obligation

	Liability Split	
	31 March 2025	
	£'000	%
Active Members	1,348	99.6
Deferred Members	5	0.4
Pensioner Members	0	0.0
Total	1,353	100.0

The above figures are for funded obligations only and do not include unfunded pensioner liabilities. The durations are effective at the previous formal valuation as at 31 March 2022. As at the date of the most recent valuation, the duration of the Employer's funded obligations is 31 years.

Impact in Future Years

The total contributions expected to be made to the Local Government Pensions Scheme by the Joint Committee in the year to 31 March 2026 is £225k.

As the Actuary's report is based on estimates and due to timing issues, an adjustment of -£1,518 has been made in 2024/25 (£7,328 in 2023/24), to bring the position in the Scheme based on the Actuarial figures in line with the closing position as at 31 March 2025 (before applying any asset ceiling adjustments). This variance has been treated as Actuarial Gains and Losses on Pension Assets and Liabilities.

NOTE 25 – EVENTS AFTER THE REPORTING PERIOD

The Statement of Accounts was authorised by the responsible financial officer on 18 November 2025. Events taking place after this date are not reflected in the financial statements or related notes. Where events taking place before this date provided information about conditions existing at 31 March 2025, the figures in the financial statements and notes have been adjusted in all material respects to reflect its impact. The accounts have been updated since published subject to audit, to incorporate auditor recommendations.

2024-2025 Annual Governance Statement

Introduction

Ambition North Wales

The 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 which covered the six local authority administrative areas of North Wales comprising the councils of Gwynedd, Anglesey, Conwy, Denbighshire, Wrexham and Flintshire. The partnership also includes Bangor University, Wrexham University, Coleg Cambria and Grŵp Llandrillo Menai.

A Portfolio Management Office was appointed in 2019 to lead on the delivery of the North Wales Growth Deal.

In December 2020, the partnership agreed the North Wales Growth Deal with UK Government and Welsh Government securing an investment of £240million into the North Wales economy as part of the Deal.

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

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.

The governance of the Growth Deal is now overseen by the Economic Wellbeing Sub-Committee of the Corporate Joint Committee. Reference in this document to the Economic Ambition Board relate to decisions taken before 1st April 2025.

Purpose

The Economic Ambition Board was established by local authority partners as a joint committee in 2019 and is the decision-making body for the North Wales Growth Deal, as well as leading on regional economic collaboration.

Having secured the Growth Deal in December 2020, the partners entered into 'Governance Agreement 2'. This agreement, which is a legally binding document, defines the role and function of the Economic Ambition Board and its use of delegated powers. It also outlines the decision-making structures and democratic accountability.

The North Wales Corporate Joint Committee is a corporate body established by the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee Regulations 2021, the "Establishment Regulations". The Corporate Joint Committee has a duty to prepare and publish a Constitution, the Constitution was first published on the 1st April 2025 and will be reviewed and amended as necessary. The Constitution describes how the Corporate Joint Committee is made up, and its role, functions, membership and procedural rules.

As part of the transfer to the Corporate Joint Committee the partners entered into an "Agreement in relation to the delivery of the North Wales Growth Deal by the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee". This agreement brings 'Governance Agreement 2' to an end. This new agreement sits 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 Growth Deal's governance arrangements enable decisions to be made in an open and transparent way for the benefit of the whole of the region. While the Economic Ambition Board (up until 31 March 2025) then the Economic Well-being Sub-Committee (post 1st April 2025) acts as the decision-making body for the Growth Deal, there are strong links both formal and informal to the Welsh and UK Governments as funders of the Deal.

Ambition North Wales has adopted a delivery model based on a best practice approach to portfolio, programme and project management. This approach is an integrated way of meeting an organisation's ambition, driving better decisions and increasing the likelihood of successful outcomes.

North Wales Growth 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 aims to bring over £1 billion of investment to North Wales in order to generate over 4,000 new jobs and an increase in GVA of £2.4 billion. The UK and Welsh governments have committed to jointly investing £240 million capital over a 15-year period, with the remainder leveraged from private and public sources.

The desired outcomes of this investment are to be delivered through the delivery of a portfolio of five separate programmes which:

- build on our regional strengths in manufacturing and low carbon energy
- target digital innovation and infrastructure to better connect the region
- invest in key sites and premises for the developer market
- enable innovation to boost productivity
- support our key industries in tourism and agriculture to develop for the future.

Growth Deal Programmes

The five programmes are

- Low Carbon Energy,
- Agri-food and Tourism,
- Innovation in High-Value Manufacturing,
- Digital Connectivity,
- Land and Property.

Governance Framework

Ambition North Wales has an established governance framework based on best practice. Governance Agreement 2 (pre 31st March 2025) and “Agreement in relation to the delivery of the North Wales Growth Deal by the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee” (post 1st April 2025) defines the functions, powers and accountability structures for the Board/Sub-Committee and the North Wales Growth Deal. The North Wales Growth Deal has an adopted portfolio, programme and project management structure and have developed a project management framework to underpin the delivery of the North Wales Growth Deal.

The Governance Framework comprises of the systems, processes, cultures and values by which the Board/Sub-Committee is directed and controlled and also the way it accounts to, engages with and leads the Region. It enables the Board/Sub-Committee to monitor the achievement of its strategic objectives and to consider whether those objectives are/have led to the delivery of appropriate, relevant, value for money projects.

The system of internal control is a significant part of that framework and is designed to manage risk to an appropriate level. It aims to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of Ambition North Wales’ policies, aims and objectives. It evaluates the likelihood and impact of identified risks being realised and to manage individual risks appropriately.

Ambition North Wales has adopted and implemented a code of Corporate Governance based on the Framework ‘Delivering Good Governance in Local Government’ published by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) and Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers (SOLACE).

The governance framework described above has been in place at Ambition North Wales for the year ending 31 March 2025 and remains applicable up to the date of the approval of the Statement of Accounts.

This section sets out how Ambition North Wales delivers against the seven fundamental principles of corporate governance as set out by CIPFA/SOLACE:

1. Integrity and Values

Behaving with integrity, demonstrating strong commitment to ethical values, and respecting the rule of law.

- The expectations of the Portfolio Management Office, Committee Members and the Accountable Body are set out within the ‘Governance Agreement 2’, ‘Agreement in relation to the delivery of the North Wales Growth Deal by the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee’ and the Constitution. The Agreements and Constitution set out the procedure for meetings, decision making structures, democratic accountability, delegations’ policy, scrutiny arrangements and includes the Code of Conduct.

- A conflict of interest policy is in place covering the Growth Deal, specifically for the portfolio, programme and project boards. Portfolio Management Office staff and representatives on the Economic Ambition Board (pre 31st March 2025), Committees (post 1st April 2025), Portfolio Board, Business Delivery Board (pre 31st March 2025), Programme and Project Boards are all required to complete a Conflict of Interest form annually. Individual and organisational interest should be declared. Declarations of interest is a standing item on the agenda of the Committees, Economic Ambition Board, Portfolio Board, Business Delivery Board and all Programme and Project Boards.
- Internal and External audit arrangements are in place.
- As required by the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011, and outlined in the Constitution, the Corporate Joint Committee must establish a sub-committee known as the Governance and Audit Sub-Committee. The membership shall consist of 9 members, 6 of whom shall be elected members drawn from and nominated by the Governance and Audit Committees of each of the 6 Constituent Councils and 3 of whom shall be Lay Members. This Sub-Committee will be established during 2025/26.
- All reports to the Economic Ambition Board, Corporate Joint Committee and Sub Committees include comments by legal/finance statutory officers, or their deputies, prior to publication.
- The Monitoring Officer ensures compliance on all decisions undertaken by the Economic Ambition Board, Corporate Joint Committee and Sub Committees.
- Scrutiny arrangements are in place with all 6 local authorities.
- Outlined in the Constitution, the Corporate Joint Committee must establish a sub-committee known as the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee, playing a vital role in ensuring transparency and accountability within the Corporate Joint Committee's operations. This Sub-Committee will be established during 2025/26.
- The Portfolio Management Office have developed and committed to a set of values for the team:
 - to be ambitious
 - to work collaboratively
 - to do the right thing
 - to make a difference.

2. Openness and engagement

Ensuring openness and comprehensive stakeholder engagement.

- The Economic Ambition Board, Corporate Joint Committee and its Sub Committee meetings are public meetings with the publication of agendas, papers and minutes. These are currently available on the website of Cyngor Gwynedd, which was the host authority of the Economic Ambition Board up to 31 March 2025.

- The decision-making process is outlined within Governance Agreement 2 and the Constitution.
- Reports relating to the Growth Deal and economic well-being are discussed by the Portfolio Board before submission to the Economic Ambition Board/Economic Well-being Sub-Committee. Where appropriate consultation takes place with Programme and Project Boards, Governments and key stakeholders.
- The scrutiny arrangements allow participation from the members of all six local authorities.
- The Portfolio Management Office promotes Ambition North Wales and encourages engagement with the wider community of North Wales as outlined with the Communications Strategy.

3. Making a difference

Defining outcomes in terms of sustainable economic, social, and environmental benefits.

- Ambition North Wales have a clear vision in place; “To build a more vibrant, sustainable and resilient economy in North Wales.”
- Ambition North Wales have a Carbon emissions and biodiversity Statement and Methodology.
- A benefits realisation framework has been developed to support the delivery of the Growth Deal.
- The Portfolio Management Office presents quarterly and annual progress reports to both Governments, the Economic Ambition Board/Economic Well-being Sub-Committee and local authority Scrutiny Committees.

4. Making sure we achieve what we set out to do

Determining the interventions necessary to optimise the achievement of the intended outcomes.

- Ambition North Wales have appointed a Portfolio Management Office to ensure the delivery of the Growth Deal.
- A Senior Responsible Officer has been appointed for the Growth Deal Portfolio.
- Senior Responsible Officers have been appointed to each Growth Deal Programme and Project.
- The Growth Deal Portfolio is supported by a detailed Portfolio Business Case.
- All Programmes are supported by detailed business cases.
- All Projects are required to submit detailed business cases.
- All business cases are developed in line with the Better Business Case guidance.
- A Streamlined Assurance and Approval Process for business cases has been developed by Ambition North Wales, and agreed with the Sub-Committee and both Governments. The aim is to streamline processes and speed up delivery and a more flexible and tailored approach to be implemented.

5. Valuing our people; engaging, leading and supporting

Developing capacity and the capability of leadership and individuals.

- Ambition North Wales ensures that the Portfolio Management Office officers have the correct skills and knowledge to fulfil their roles effectively. To ensure this the Portfolio Management Office provides a comprehensive induction for all new officers as well as providing job related training.
- The governance structure includes a Business Delivery Board. The Business Delivery Board Chair was an advisor to the Economic Ambition Board until 31st March 2025. During 2025 Ambition North Wales will establish a new Business Advisory Board, with the Chair and Vice Chair taking roles as Non-Executive Advisors.
- Governance Agreement 2 (for pre 31st March 2025) and the Constitution (post 1st April 2025) sets out clearly the roles and responsibilities of members, advisers and officers.
- Regular Portfolio Board and Committee meetings are held.

6. Managing risks, performance and finance

Managing risks and performance through robust internal control and strong public financial management.

- A Risk Management Plan is in place, with quarterly Growth Deal Performance and Risk Reports presented to the Portfolio Board and the Economic Ambition Board/Economic Well-being Sub-Committee.
- The Portfolio, Programmes and Projects complete Risk Profile Assessments in advance of any assurance activity.
- The Portfolio Business Case and Programme Business Cases are updated and approved on an annual basis.
- The Accountable Body's Section 151 Officer presents quarterly Financial Reports to the Portfolio Board, the Economic Ambition Board/Sub-Committee, and the Corporate Joint Committee.
- The Annual Budget is set jointly by Cyngor Gwynedd (as the Host Authority) Finance Team and the Portfolio Management Office. The Annual Budget is agreed by the Economic Ambition Board/Corporate Joint Committee. Robust financial management processes are in place.
- Ambition North Wales is subject to internal audits by the host authority up to 31 March 2025. From 1 April 2025 internal audit is provided by Cyngor Gwynedd on a contractual basis. The external auditors are Audit Wales.
- Annual Audit reports are submitted by Audit Wales to the Economic Ambition Board/Corporate Joint Committee.
- During 2025, the Corporate Joint Committee will establish a sub-committee known as the Governance and Audit Sub-Committee as required by the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011. The Committee

will oversee the Corporate Joint Committee's financial affairs, risk management, internal control, performance management and corporate governance arrangements.

7. Good transparency and accountability

Implementing good practices in transparency, reporting, and audit to deliver effective accountability.

- The Portfolio Management Office has developed an Integrated Assurance and Approval Plan, Monitoring and Evaluation Plan and Portfolio Business Plan.
- The Economic Ambition Board, Corporate Joint Committee, and Sub Committees meeting papers are published on the website of Cyngor Gwynedd (as Host Authority prior to 31 March 2025 and subsequently the contacted provider of Democratic Services) as well as Ambition North Wales' website. This includes quarterly performance and risk reports.
- Ambition North Wales have an annual Portfolio and Programme Project Assessment Review (PAR) focussing on the delivery of the Growth Deal.
- Quarterly meetings with Welsh Government and UK Government.
- Projects have assurance reviews throughout the life of the projects.
- Implementation of Internal Audit and Audit Wales recommendations.
- The Economic Ambition Board have adopted the Code of Corporate Governance based on CIPFA framework.

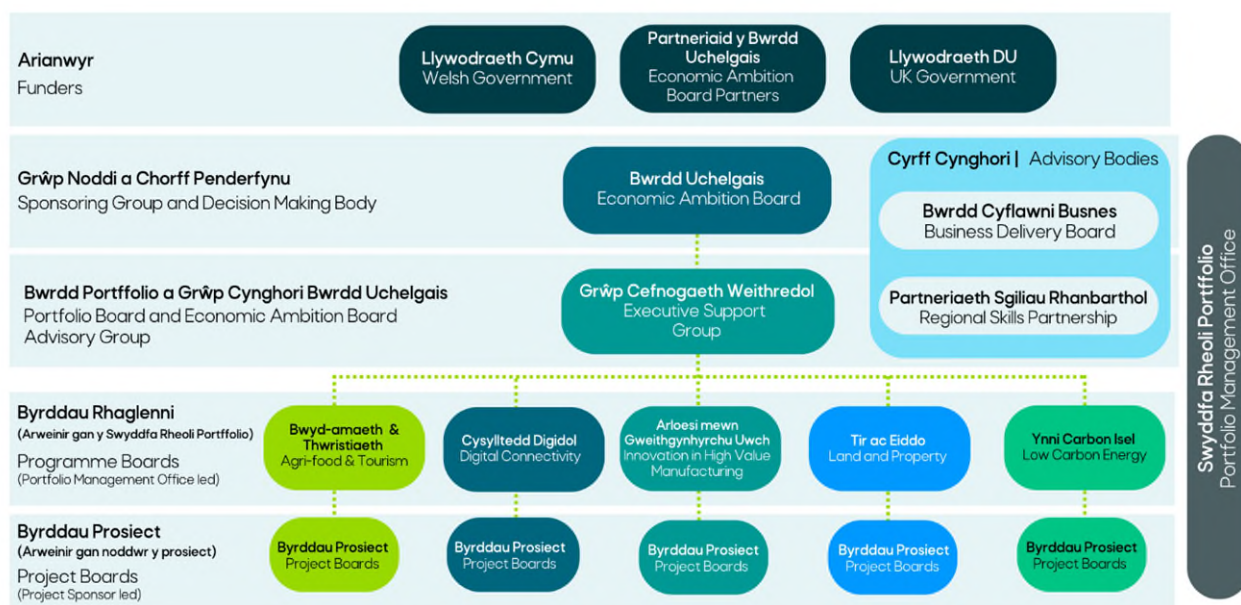
Growth Deal Governance

Ambition North Wales has developed a Project Management Framework that sets out how an Ambition North Wales project is to be directed, managed, defined and communicated.

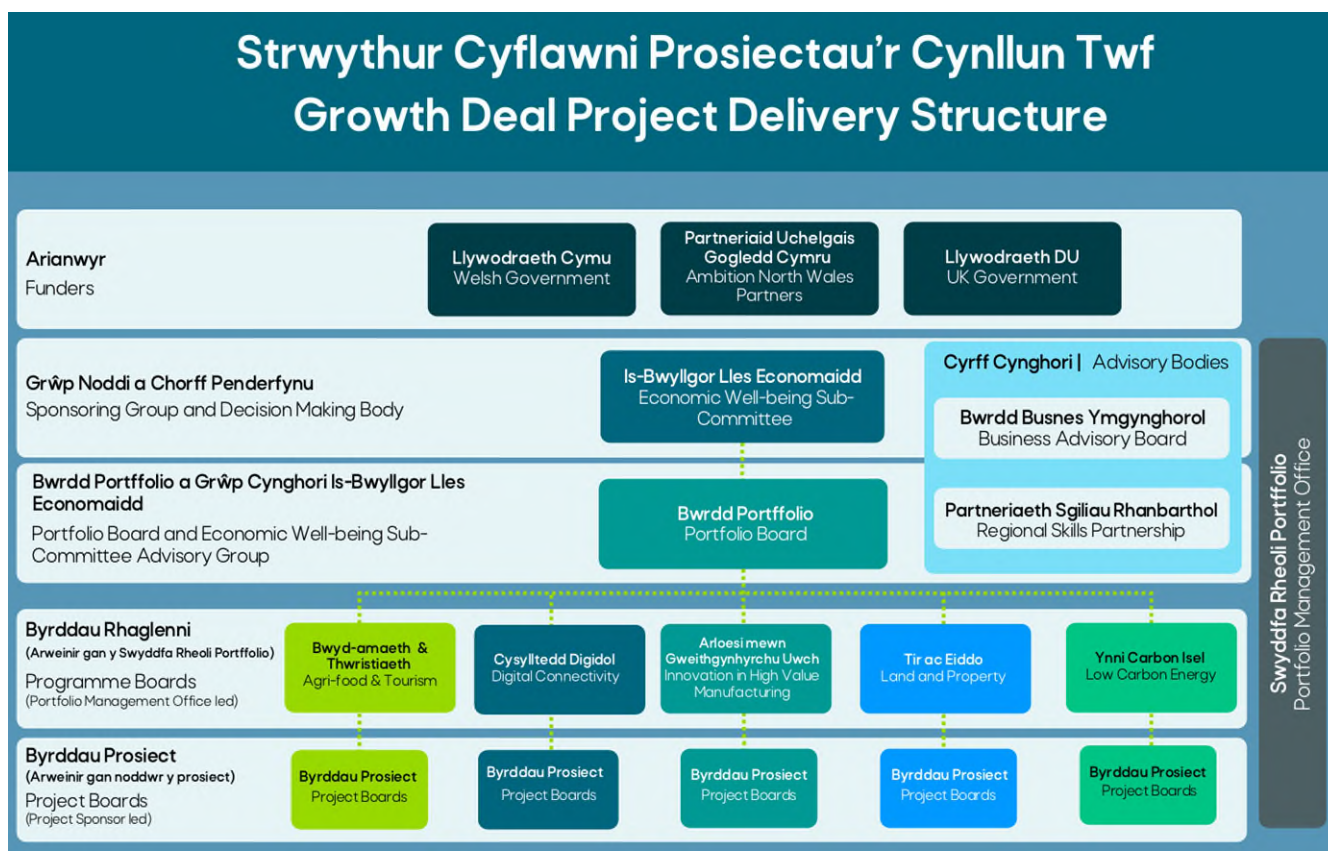
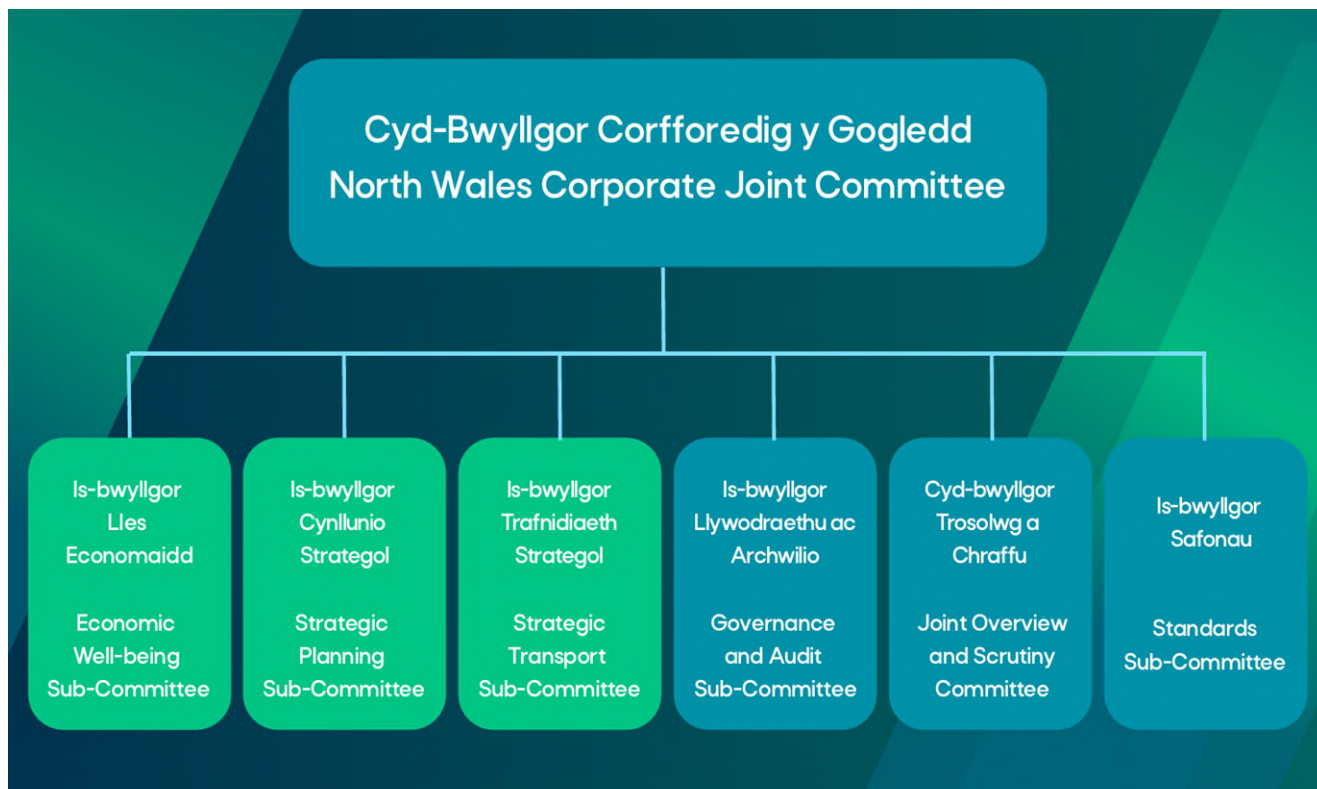
The Framework provides a best-practice approach that will help achieve co-ordination across the organisation's projects by adopting a single method so they are executed in the same manner, thus providing consistency, continuity and clarity in the approach, communication and products created. This Framework is aligned with HM Government project guidance with methods tailored to meet Ambition North Wales' requirements.

The diagram below provides a visual overview of the framework:

Up until 31st March 2025:



From 1st April 2025:



All Ambition North Wales projects' business cases are developed in line with the 'Better Business Cases' guidance and the Five Case model developed by Welsh Government and HM Treasury as well as HM Treasury's Green Book guide. Business cases are subject to independent Gateway Reviews by Welsh Government Integrated Assurance Hub, at all key decision points, in line with Cabinet Office Gateway Process. Sponsor procurement arrangements are scrutinised as part of this process.

Ambition North Wales has a Conflict of Interest policy, which sets out the guidelines and procedures for identifying, monitoring and controlling cases, whether they are real or potential. In line with the policy, the process mandates every individual to declare their interests in a pro forma register, and evidence of this was seen. A description, together with the details of any contact attached to the programmes with which it relates, is recorded, and the pro forma is signed and kept on the portfolio office records. Elected members and advisers were subject to these arrangements in respect of conflict of interests through their code of conduct or the equivalent arrangements in Governance Agreement 2 (pre 31st March 2025) and the Constitution (post 1st April 2025).

The funding agreement between Ambition North Wales and the main project sponsors encompasses conflicts of interest as well as the need to procure in a transparent, competitive and sustainable manner.

Significant Governance Issues

There were no significant governance issues within the year.

Assurance

The Portfolio Management Office worked with the Welsh Government Assurance Hub to develop an Integrated Assurance and Approval Plan (IAAP) that sets out the assurance activities that will be undertaken at portfolio, programme and project level for the North Wales Growth Deal.

As part of the IAAP, assurance activities will take place across all levels of the Growth Deal – portfolio, programme and project. The North Wales Growth Deal will utilise the pre-defined Gateway 0-5 and flexible Project Assessment Reviews (PAR) as appropriate and proportionate.

The North Wales Growth Deal IAAP covers the portfolio, programmes and projects.

The portfolio, five programmes and projects within the North Wales Growth Deal will be required to complete Risk Profile Assessments (RPA) in advance of any assurance activity taking place.

It has been agreed with the Welsh Government Integrated Assurance Hub that there will be an annual Portfolio and Programme Project Assessment Review (PAR) focusing on the delivery of the Growth Deal.

At project level while the exact nature and timing of reviews will be agreed between the Portfolio Management Office, the Welsh Government Integrated Assurance Hub and the Project SRO, the following principles are to be applied:

- Project assurance reviews will take place throughout the life of the project at pre-agreed stages, including before key decision points. The level of assurance may vary per project, but would include a minimum of two external Gateway reviews per project, including a Gateway 2 review and a benefits realisation review. The rationale for the proposed approach is set out below:
 - Project Gateway 1 (SOC) – Only required for new projects or those currently at concept stage due to the approved Programme Business Case. All other projects to produce combined SOC/OBC for Gateway 2.
 - Project Gateway 2 (OBC) – Required for all projects within the Growth Deal.
 - Project Gateway 3 (FBC) – Decision on whether Gateway 3 is required on a project by project basis. Agreed between Portfolio Management Office and Welsh Government Integrated Assurance Hub taking into account recommendations from Gateway 2.
 - Project Gateway 4 (Implementation) – Portfolio Management Office decision on whether Gateway 3 is required on a project by project basis.
 - Project Gateway 5 (Benefits Realisation) – Required for all projects within Growth Deal.

- Project Assessment Review (PAR) – may be used in place of Gateway 1-5 where the Portfolio Management Office in consultation with the Welsh Government Assurance Hub consider it a more appropriate review mechanism.
- Consequential Assurance Reviews may be required following a Gateway Review where a project receives an Amber/Red or Red delivery confidence assessment, or when issues or concerns are raised in between the traditional Gates 1-5.

In 2025, a Streamlined Assurance and Approval Process was approved. The aim of the process is to move projects into delivery quicker by adopting a risk-based approach to business case requirements and Gateway Reviews.

As part of the streamlined process, projects will still be required to produce business cases in line with Better Business Case guidance and economic appraisals in line with the Green Book. However, a more flexible and tailored approach will be implemented:

- Increased use of single stage business cases:

- Business Justification Case+

Business Justification Cases+ are shorter business cases completed in line with government guidance but with additional content on procurement, finance and economic impact to enable assessment against Growth Deal requirements.

These business cases would be utilised in the following scenarios:

- For all projects under £10m total investment unless deemed high risk by the PMO.
- For projects under £25m where Growth Deal contribution represents less than 25% of the total investment unless deemed high risk by the PMO.
- For any other projects where a decision is required within a fixed timescale to enable delivery to commence within 12 months subject to agreement with UK/WG officials.

- Single Stage FBC

Single stage FBCs can be presented for projects that do not meet the BJC+ criteria in the following circumstances:

- Where procurement has been completed already in line with ANW requirements.
- Where an investment decision is required within a fixed timescale to enable delivery to commence within 12 months.

- In all other cases, the traditional OBC-FBC route would be used.

The Growth Deal committed as part of the Final Deal Agreement that every project would undertake Gateway 2 (OBC) and Gateway 5 (Benefits Realisation) reviews. This is in addition to a Portfolio/Programme PAR assurance review that takes place annually. Given the number of programmes/projects within the Growth Deal this is not considered to be a sustainable position and the assurance requirements including time/resources/cost can add considerable delays into the process.

The streamlined process is for a more risk-based approach that mirrors the internal approach of government allowing reviews to be targeted at the highest risk projects where they can make the greatest impact.

Projects complete the required Risk Potential Assessment (RPA) form with the PMO and submit to Welsh Government Assurance Hub for review. Projects with an overall summary assessment of 'Low Risk' or 'Medium Risk' would not be required to undertake a Gateway 2 Review or equivalent.

This aligns with the criteria used to determine which projects can use the streamlined BJC+ or single stage FBC business case routes.

All projects are still required to undertake Gateway 5 Benefits Realisation reviews.

The table below provides a high-level summary of the most recent Gateway Reviews undertaken for the North Wales Growth Deal:

Summary of recent North Wales Growth Deal Gateway Reviews

	Type of Review	Date	Delivery Confidence Assessment
Portfolio and Programme Reviews			
North Wales Growth Deal	Portfolio and Programme PAR	September 2023	AMBER/RED
North Wales Growth Deal	Assurance of Action Plan Review	December 2023	AMBER/GREEN
North Wales Growth Deal	Portfolio and Programme PAR	October 2024	RED
Project Reviews			
Holyhead Gateway	Gateway 2	June 2023	AMBER**
Centre for Environmental Biotechnology	Gateway 2 PAR	September 2023	AMBER
Cydnherth (Morlais)	Gateway 2	September 2023	AMBER
Deeside Anaerobic Digestion Plant	Gateway 2/3	November 2023	AMBER
Connected Key Sites and Corridors	Gateway 2	November 2023	AMBER
Holyhead Hydrogen Hub	Gateway 2	March 2024	AMBER/GREEN
Former North Wales Hospital	Gateway 3	April 2024	AMBER
Connected Campuses	Gateway 2	May 2024	AMBER
Parc Bryn Cegin	Gateway 2	September 2024	AMBER
Responsible Adventure	Gateway 2	November 2024	AMBER

* AAP - Assurance of Action Plan Review. This is a follow up review to confirm sufficient progress has been made addressing the recommendations of the initial review where a Red or Amber-Red rating was given.

** The review team highlighted a significant consenting risk outside the projects control relating to the Harbour Revision Order. This has since been approved by Welsh Government, removing the risk.

Audit

Internal and External Audit Arrangements

Cyngor Gwynedd provide internal audit services for Ambition North Wales and audit reports in relation to the Board/Committee shall be considered in accordance with its usual rules and practices. Internal Audit will undertake their work in accordance as far as is practicable with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards and the Local Government Application Note for the United Kingdom Public Sector Internal Audit Standards. For the avoidance of doubt an annual internal audit report shall be submitted by the Accountable Body Audit Manager to the Economic Ambition Board/Corporate Joint Committee. .

External Audit services are provided through Audit Wales who will review and comment the financial aspects of Corporate Governance which include the legality of financial transactions, financial standing, systems of Internal Financial Control and standards of financial conduct and fraud and corruption.

Risk Management

Ambition North Wales has adopted a Risk and Issues Framework for the delivery of the North Wales Growth Deal. The Framework sets out how risks and issues will be managed at the appropriate level across the portfolio with clear escalation processes in place.

The Portfolio's approach to risk management is outlined in the Growth Deal Risk and Issues Management Strategy and User Guide. This document defines and articulates the risk management principles, concepts, structures, processes, tools and associated roles and responsibilities implemented to ensure that risks to Programme objectives are effectively managed.

The key principles and concepts outlined in this strategy are drawn from OGC Management of Risk literature. These principles and concepts have been appropriately tailored to the requirements of the North Wales Growth Deal.

The Risk and Issues Management Strategy is owned by the Portfolio Management Office and stored in their document management system. Each project will be required to set out their risk management strategy as part of the project business cases.

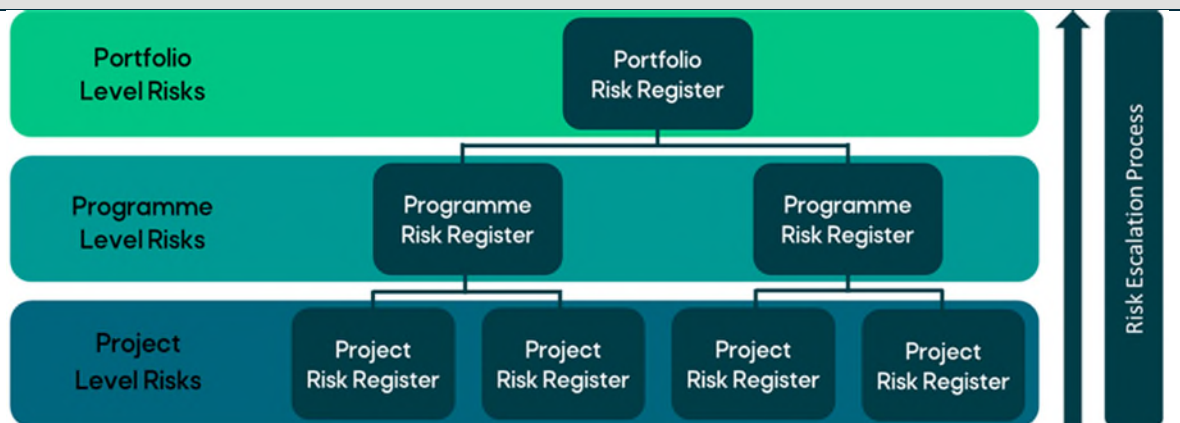
The Strategy sets out the three levels of risk associated with the delivery of the Growth Deal with a clear escalation process in place between the three levels.

Portfolio Level Risks – A portfolio risk is an uncertain event or condition that, if it occurs has an effect on one or more of the strategic goals of the Growth Deal portfolio.

Programme Level Risk – A programme risk is an uncertain event or condition that, if it occurs, has an effect on at least one programme benefit.

Project Level Risks – A project risk is an uncertain event or condition that, if it occurs, has an effect on at least one project objective.

Figure 1.1 Risk Escalation Process



Source: Ambition North Wales

Summary and Conclusion

The governance and assurance arrangements in place are robust, transparent and based on best practice. As the Growth Deal matures and enters the delivery phase, it is important that the arrangements and processes are continuously reviewed and adapted to maintain best fit with the relevant phase of the Deal. It will become increasingly important to ensure flexibility and agility within the agreed processes to continue with progressing the existing projects along with reserve list projects into delivery.

During the transition into the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee and its new governance structure, the arrangements and processes have been adapted to ensure continuity, accountability and effective oversight. The Corporate Joint Committee, through its Economic Wellbeing Sub-Committee, now provides the framework for governance, ensuring that the Growth Deal continues to be delivered with integrity, transparency and in the best interests of the region.

Ambition North Wales remains committed to maintaining strong governance and assurance arrangements, and to keeping these under regular review so that they continue to support collaboration, value for money, and the successful delivery of the North Wales Growth Deal.

Signed on behalf of Ambition North Wales



Councillor Mark Pritchard
Chair of the Corporate Joint Committee



Alwen Williams
Chief Executive

Proposed Audit Report

The report of the Auditor General for Wales to the members of North Wales Corporate Joint Committee

Opinion on financial statements

I have audited the financial statements of North Wales Economic Ambition Board Joint Committee for the year ended 31 March 2025 under the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004.

North Wales Economic Ambition Board Joint Committee's financial statements comprise the Expenditure and Funding Analysis, the Movement in Reserves Statement, the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and the related notes, including the material accounting policies.

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and UK adopted international accounting standards as interpreted and adapted by the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2024-25.

In my opinion, in all material respects, the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of North Wales Economic Ambition Board Joint Committee as at 31 March 2025 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with legislative requirements and UK adopted international accounting standards as interpreted and adapted by the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2024-25.

Basis of opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing in the UK (ISAs (UK)) and Practice Note 10 'Audit of financial statements and regularity of public sector bodies in the United Kingdom'. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of my report.

My staff and I are independent of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board Joint Committee in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in the UK including the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standard, and I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, I have concluded that the use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

I note that the North Wales Economic Ambition Board formally ceased operations on 31 March 2025, with its functions and services transferred to the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee. In line with Practice Note 10, the continued provision of service approach applies in the public sector context, whereby the going concern basis remains appropriate if the underlying services are expected to continue, even if the entity itself ceases to operate.

My responsibilities and the responsibilities of the responsible financial officer with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other Information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and my auditor's report thereon. The Responsible Financial Officer is responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in my report, I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

My responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or knowledge obtained in the course of the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If I identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, I am required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact.

I have nothing to report in this regard.

Opinion on other matters

In my opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of my audit:

- the information contained in the Narrative Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements and is in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2024-25; and
- the information given in the Governance Statement for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements and is in accordance with guidance.

Matters on which I report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of North Wales Economic Ambition Board Joint Committee and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, I have not identified material misstatements in the Narrative Report or the Governance Statement.

I have nothing to report in respect of the following matters, which I report to you, if, in my opinion:

- I have not received all the information and explanations I require for my audit;
- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for my audit have not been received from branches not visited by my team; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns.

Responsibilities of the responsible financial officer for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts, the responsible financial officer is responsible for:

- the preparation of the statement of accounts which give a true and fair view and comply with proper practices;
- maintaining proper accounting records;
- internal controls as the responsible financial officer determines is necessary to enable the preparation of statements of accounts that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error;
- assessing the North Wales Economic Ambition Board Joint Committee's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the responsible financial officer anticipates that the services provided by the North Wales Economic Ambition Board Joint Committee will not continue to be provided in the future.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

My responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004.

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. I design procedures in line with my responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud.

My procedures included the following:

- enquiring of management, the Head of Internal Audit, Cyngor Gwynedd and those charged with governance, including obtaining and reviewing supporting documentation relating to North Wales Economic Ambition Board Joint Committee's policies and procedures concerned with:
 - identifying, evaluating and complying with laws and regulations and whether they were aware of any instances of non-compliance;
 - detecting and responding to the risks of fraud and whether they have knowledge of any actual, suspected or alleged fraud; and
 - the internal controls established to mitigate risks related to fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- considering as an audit team how and where fraud might occur in the financial statements and any potential indicators of fraud. As part of this discussion, I identified potential for fraud in management override;
- obtaining an understanding of North Wales Economic Ambition Board Joint Committee's framework of authority as well as other legal and regulatory frameworks that North Wales Economic Ambition Board Joint Committee operates in, focusing on those laws and regulations that had a direct effect on the financial statements or that had a fundamental effect on the operations of North Wales Economic Ambition Board Joint Committee; and
- obtaining an understanding of related party relationships.

In addition to the above, my procedures to respond to identified risks included the following:

- reviewing the financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with relevant laws and regulations discussed above;
- enquiring of management and North Wales Economic Ambition Board Joint Committee about actual and potential litigation and claims;
- reading minutes of meetings of those charged with governance;
- in addressing the risk of fraud through management override of controls, testing the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments;
- assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and
- evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.

I also communicated relevant identified laws and regulations and potential fraud risks to all audit team members and remained alert to any indications of fraud or non-compliance with laws and regulations throughout the audit.

The extent to which my procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is affected by the inherent difficulty in detecting irregularities, the effectiveness of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board Joint Committee's controls, and the nature, timing and extent of the audit procedures performed.

A further description of the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is located on the Financial Reporting Council's website www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. This description forms part of my auditor's report.

Other auditor's responsibilities

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

Certificate of completion of audit

I certify that I have completed the audit of the accounts of North Wales Economic Ambition Board Joint Committee in accordance with the requirements of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 and the Auditor General for Wales' Code of Audit Practice.



Adrian Crompton
Auditor General for Wales
1 December 2025

1 Capital Quarter
Tyndall Street
Cardiff, CF10 4BZ

The maintenance and integrity of Cyngor Gwynedd's website is the responsibility of the Head of Corporate Services and the Head of Operations for Ambition North Wales' website; the work carried out by auditors does not involve consideration of these matters and accordingly auditors accept no responsibility for any changes that may have occurred to the financial statements since they were initially presented on the website.

Glossary

Actuarial Gains and Losses - For a defined benefit pension scheme, the changes in actuarial surpluses that arise because events have not coincided with the actuarial assumptions made for the last valuation (experience gains and losses) or the actuarial assumptions have changed.

Asset - Items of worth that are measurable in terms of value.

- A current asset will be consumed or will cease to have material value within the next financial year.
- A non-current asset provides benefit to the Joint Committee and to the services it provides for a period of more than one year.

Balances (or Reserves) - These represent accumulated funds available to the Joint Committee. Some balances (reserve) may be earmarked for specific purposes for funding future defined initiatives or meeting identified risks or liabilities.

Capital Adjustment Account - A reserve set aside from revenue resources or capital receipts to fund capital expenditure or the repayment of external loans and certain other capital financing transactions.

Capital Expenditure - Expenditure on the procurement of a non-current asset, which will be used in providing services beyond the current accounting period or expenditure that adds to, and not merely maintains, value of an existing non-current asset.

Capital Financing - Funds obtained to pay for capital expenditure. There are various methods of financing capital expenditure including borrowing, leasing, direct revenue financing, usable capital receipts, capital grants, capital contributions, revenue reserves and earmarked reserves.

CIPFA (Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accounting) - The professional institute for accountants working in the public sector.

Creditors - Amounts owed by the Joint Committee for work done, goods received or services rendered, for which payments have not been made by the end of that accounting period.

Current Service Cost - The increase in the present value of a defined benefit pension scheme's liabilities expected to arise from employee service in the current period.

Debtors - Amount owed to the Joint Committee for work done, goods received or service rendered within the accounting period, but for which payment has not been received by the end of that accounting period.

Defined Benefit Scheme - A pension or other retirement benefit scheme other than a defined contribution scheme.

Defined Contribution Scheme - A pension or other retirement benefit scheme into which an employee pays regular fixed contributions as an amount or as a percentage of pay, and will have no legal or constructive obligation to pay further contributions if the scheme does not have sufficient assets to pay all employees benefits relating to the employee Service in the current and prior periods.

Depreciation - A measure of the cost of the economic benefits of the tangible fixed assets consumed during the period.

Fair Value - The price that would be received to sell an asset, or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date.

General Fund - This is the main revenue fund of the Joint Committee and it includes the net cost of all services financed by partners' contributions and Government grants.

International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) - A suite of accounting standards used across the world. They must be applied by all reporting entities to all financial statements in order to provide a true and fair view of the entity's financial position, and a standardised method of comparison with financial statements of the other entities.

Liability - Amounts due to individuals or organisations which will have to be paid at some time in the future.

Related Parties - Parties are considered to be related if one party has the ability to control the other party or exercise significant influence over the other party in making financial or operating decisions.