



Uchelgais Gogledd Cymru  
Ambition North Wales

# North Wales Growth Deal Quarterly Performance Report

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## 2025-26 Quarter 3 (October - December 2025)



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# 01 PORTFOLIO DIRECTOR SUMMARY

During this quarter the Economic Well-being Sub-Committee approved five projects from the Reserve List to join the Growth Deal:

- Project Prince Outline Business Case
- Society 5.0 Manufacturing Capability Business Justification Case
- Gogledd Môn Sites and Premises Business Justification Case
- Freeport Gateway Business Justification Case
- Venue Cymru Futures Outline Business Case

During October a second Portfolio Review was completed, considering the projects reporting red. The Sub-Committee made decisions to:

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

This released a further £58m of funding to be reinvested by the Sub-Committee.

A change request for the Former North Wales Hospital project was approved to release funding for Phase 1 the demolition and ecological works. A change request for the Responsible Adventure was also approved to include the Betws y Coed Forest masterplan with two additional elements the enabling works and Hero nets product.

The Grant Funding Agreement for Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub was completed in November, with local company OBR Construction appointed for the construction work for Sheep Milk Wales.

It was great this quarter to bring together key stakeholders from across North Wales to two project launch events. Wrexham University officially opened the CanfodAu building on 7<sup>th</sup> November as part of its Enterprise Engineering Optics Centre project. More than 100 delegates attended the event, which included tours of the world-class hub for advanced, high-value manufacturing, showcasing how the facility drives innovation and sustainability through close collaboration between academia and industry.

Grŵp Llandrillo Menai's Academi Croeso (formerly the Tourism Talent Network project) launched at Theatr Clwyd on the 13<sup>th</sup> of November. This was a major milestone for tourism and skills and a fantastic networking opportunity.

The second drawdown for the Cydnerth project was completed in October, and construction work is underway. The Clean Energy Fund received expressions of interest across all three sub-funds.

We convened the first meeting of a regional telecommunications forum with representatives from local authorities and industry.

We appointed Dave Penrith and Nick Bennett as our Non-Executive Advisors. Together, they bring extensive industry expertise in capital projects, governance, engineering, digital transformation, and economic development to help promote sustainable growth and attract investment to the region. They will play leading roles as Chair and Vice-Chair in the formation of a new Business Advisory Board, which will represent businesses and employers across North Wales. Once established, the Board's primary purpose will be to provide independent advice and constructive challenge to Ambition North Wales.

With our Digital projects moving into delivery, we welcomed two new Engagement Managers to the team Dave Evans and Elinor Emsley. Along with Elen Wyn Owen as Corporate Support Officer. Recruitment is ongoing to the remaining roles within the team.



**Alwen Williams**

**Chief Executive  
Ambition North Wales**

# 02 PROJECT DELIVERY DASHBOARD

	Prosiectau Gweithredol (cyllid wedi neilltuo)  Projects in Delivery (funding committed)	Wedi cymeradwyo ddim eto yn weithredol (cyllid wedi neilltuo)  Approved not yet in delivery (funding committed)	Datblygu Achosion Busnes (cyllid wedi neilltuo)  Developing business cases (funding ringfenced)	O dan adolygiad (cyllid wedi glustnodi)  Under Review (funding ringfenced)	Rhestr wrth gefn (dim cyllid wedi glustnodi)  Reserve List (unallocated funding)
Nifer prosiectau Number of Projects	6	10	7	1	15
Dyranïad Cyllid Cynllun Twf Growth Deal Funding Allocation (£234.85*)	£55.84m	£67.50m	£45.83m	£3.80m	£61.88m
Cyfanswm Buddsoddiad Total Investment	£127.46m	£205.56m	£294.19m	£28.77m	£344.02**
Swyddi Jobs	723	918	1,537	20	802**

\* Growth Deal funding shown here does not include £5.15m allocated towards Portfolio Management Office costs

\*\* Figures represent the balance of the target to be met by Reserve List projects

# 02 BENEFITS DASHBOARD

Swyddi Grewyd (Targed 4,000 o swyddi newydd)  
Job Creation (Target 4,000 new jobs)



Swyddi Newydd  
New Jobs

49



Swyddi Adeiladwaith  
Construction Jobs

49



Swyddi Ddiogelwyd  
Safeguarded Jobs

0

Buddsoddiad (Targed: £1bn Cyfanswm Buddsoddiad)  
Investment (Target: £1bn Total Investment)



Buddsoddiad Cynllun Twf  
Growth Deal Investment

£26,859,319



Cyfanswm Buddsoddiad  
Total Investment

£29,189,938



Refeniw Ddiogelwyd  
Revenue Secured

£5,128,193

Buddion ehangach  
Wider Benefits

Incwm Cyfalaf wedi'i Drosodd  
Capital Income Leveraged

£81,016.80

Gofod Llwr wedi'i Ddatblygu  
Floorspace Developed

2,349m<sup>2</sup>

Unigolion wedi ymgysylltu  
Individuals engaged

3,383

Camau gweithredu i gryfhau cadwyni cyflenwi  
Actions to strengthen local supply chains

19

Myfyrwyr yn cwblhau cymhwysterau  
Students completing qualifications

51

Unigolion sy'n cwblhau cyrsiau hyfforddi CPD  
Individuals completing CPD training courses

286



# 03 DIGITAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

## Programme Aim

Deliver the step change in digital connectivity needed to ensure North Wales is able to satisfy user demand, maintain pace with the rest of the UK, unlock the potential of priority sectors and sites and underpin a flourishing innovation ecosystem.



RAG Status	Programme Manager Commentary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Recruitment for the Connected Campuses project manager is complete, and the new officer is due to start in the role in January.</li><li>The first 4G small cells to be deployed using local authority owned infrastructure using open access agreements are now commissioned and providing service in Flintshire. Four agreements have been signed so far across the region with more expected in Q4. Further small cell deployments are in planning and due to be commissioned in early 2026.</li><li>The first meeting of the regional telecommunications forum was held this quarter with representation from local authorities and industry</li><li>Sixteen farms are now receiving support to pilot LoRaWAN technology through the SPF project with installation of networks scheduled to be completed in January.</li></ul>



Cllr. Nia Jeffreys  
Lead Member



Ian Jones  
Senior Responsible  
Owner



Stuart Whitfield  
Programme  
Manager



Delivering to Plan with only minor issues to address (no action required)



Delivery behind schedule and /moderate issues to address (management action in place)



Delivery significantly behind schedule and/or significant issues to address (urgent action required)

# 03 DIGITAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Project (Project Sponsor)		Project Stage	Key Milestones (this quarter)	Key Milestones (next quarter)	RAG Status	RAG Rationale
<b>Digital Signal Processing Centre</b> Bangor University		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project in Delivery</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>50% of expenditure for the final phase of equipment is complete with remaining items due by March 2026.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delivery of further equipment.</li> <li>Launch of structured regional business engagement.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Final phase of purchasing underway.</li> <li>Project is behind target on additional grant capture.</li> </ul>
<b>Connected Key Sites and Corridors</b> Ambition North Wales	4G+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approved not yet in delivery</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recruitment of second Engagement Manager role.</li> <li>Completion of Grant Scheme design and scheme launch.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completion of Grant Scheme design and scheme launch.</li> <li>Second small cell deployment to be commissioned</li> <li>Second telecoms forum meeting to be held</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First installation of small cell infrastructure has completed and commissioned with a second deployment now being planned for installation by end of Q4</li> </ul>
<b>Connected Campuses</b> Ambition North Wales	Advanced Wireless	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approved not yet in delivery</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recruitment of Project Manager and Engagement Manager.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finalisation of Grant Scheme design and scheme launch.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recruitment completed</li> </ul>
	LPWAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approved not yet in delivery</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initial purchases and installation of gateways.</li> <li>Further LoRaWAN deployment plans to be submitted.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Further purchases of gateways by participating councils</li> <li>Promotional activity to begin</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LPWAN deployments have started with further deployment plans to be approved in Q4 followed by more installations.</li> </ul>

# 04 LOW CARBON ENERGY PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

## Programme Aim

To unlock the economic benefits of transformational low carbon energy projects and position North Wales as a leading UK location for low carbon energy generation, innovation and supply chain investment.



RAG Status	Programme Manager Commentary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cydnerth - The second drawn completed in October and construction works underway.</li><li>• Smart Local Energy (Clean Energy Fund) - Expressions of interest received across all 3 sub funds</li></ul>



Cllr Gary Pritchard  
Lead Member



Dylan Williams  
Senior Responsible  
Owner



Meghan Davies  
Programme  
Manager



Delivering to Plan with only minor issues to address (no action required)



Delivery behind schedule and /moderate issues to address (management action in place)



Delivery significantly behind schedule and/or significant issues to address (urgent action required)



# 04 LOW CARBON ENERGY PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Project (Project Sponsor)	Project Stage	Key Milestones (this quarter)	Key Milestones (next quarter)	RAG Status	RAG Rationale
<b>Cydnherth (Morlais)</b> Menter Môn	Project in delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Second loan drawdown completed in October</li> <li>Construction work underway</li> <li>Benefits monitoring underway</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Third loan drawdown of funding planned for January 2026.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project has moved into delivery and is progressing well.</li> </ul>
<b>Egni</b> Bangor University	Developing the Full Business Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completion and presentation of RIBA stage 4 design work</li> <li>Continued development of Full Business Case</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submission of Full Business Case</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project is amber due to delay while waiting for a decision on Freeport UK Government funding. Work is now progressing on the Full Business Case.</li> </ul>
<b>Smart Local Energy</b> Ambition North Wales	Project in delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fund launched and open for Expressions of Interest across all 3 sub funds</li> <li>Full applications received for voluntary sub fund</li> <li>Promotional events and engagement, including podcast broadcast</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promotional events and engagement</li> <li>Progression of applications through to award.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project is green as Full Business Case has been approved and the fund launched.</li> </ul>
<b>Holyhead Hydrogen Hub</b> Menter Môn	Project under review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project reviewed and remains within the programme for further 6 months</li> <li>Ongoing discussion between Ambition North Wales, Welsh Government and Department for Energy Security and Net Zero moving closer to an outcome on securing and transferring £4.8m Department for Energy Security and Net Zero funds.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Menter Môn continued engagement to attract offtakers</li> <li>Potential confirmation from DESNZ re. £4.8m</li> <li>Preparation of Outline Business Case</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RAG status remains red while key outstanding matters assist resolution: Department for Transport, Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation; Department for Energy Security and Net Zero £4.8m.</li> </ul>

# 05 LAND AND PROPERTY PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

## Programme Aim

To address the shortage of suitable land and properties for business growth and to bring forward sites for housing development. To deliver improvements that stimulate investment in sites and premises in the Port of Holyhead and the wider region. Enables other programmes by ensuring the right land and property infrastructure is available.



RAG Status	Programme Manager Commentary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Parc Bryn Cegin, Bangor</b> – The invitation to tender for the main contractor completed at the end of October and Welsh Government appointed Read Construction Ltd in December.</li><li>• <b>Former North Wales Hospital, Denbigh</b> – The Sub Committee approved the release of £2m with the option to release a further £1m to the Council to deliver package of demolition and remediation works. A new package of enabling works linked into the main demolition and remediation works package commenced in November. The package of ecological mitigation works has continued and is on programme for completion in March 2026.</li><li>• <b>Programme</b> – The Project mix within the Programme changed substantially within the Quarter with five new projects being approved (Freeport Gateway, North Anglesey Sites and Premises, Port of Mostyn Expansion Project, Albert Gubay Business School and Padeswood Rail Enhancement Project) and three projects moved to the reserve list (Western Gateway, Wrexham and Holyhead Gateway) or the Wrexham and Flintshire Investment Zone (Warren Hall).</li></ul>



Cllr Jason McLellan  
Lead Member



David Fitzsimon  
Senior Responsible  
Owner



David Mathews  
Programme  
Manager



Delivering to Plan with only minor issues to address  
(no action required)



Delivery behind schedule and /moderate issues to address  
(management action in place)



Delivery significantly behind schedule and/or significant issues  
to address (urgent action required)

# 05 LAND AND PROPERTY PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Project (Project Sponsor)	Project Stage	Key Milestones (this quarter)	Key Milestones (next quarter)	RAG Status	RAG Rationale
<b>Former North Wales Hospital, Denbighshire</b> Jones Bros (Ruthin) Limited / Denbighshire County Council	Approved not yet in delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ecological Mitigation Works contract continues to make good progress.</li> <li>Enabling Works to allow access for the commencement of Site Clearance Works commenced on the 24th of November.</li> <li>ANW have reviewed the Grant Funding Agreement for Phase 1 works with DCC</li> <li>DCC's cabinet approved the award of a contract to carry out the first phase of demolition, asbestos removal and site clearance enabling works to local civil engineering company Jones Bros during this week's cabinet meeting held on 18 November.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enabling Works will have been completed.</li> <li>Site clearance Works Contract to commence.</li> <li>Grant Funding Agreement for Phase 1 works to be completed and signed.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Risk rating remains amber due to the health and safety issues on site due to the condition of the buildings. There is still uncertainty over costs due to the challenging work environment and the difficulty of accurately assessing cost and scope of works.</li> </ul>
<b>Parc Bryn Cegin, Bangor</b> Welsh Government / Ambition North Wales	Approved not yet in delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Following the Procurement process in October to appoint a Main Contractor, Welsh Government have a preferred bidder who will be formally appointed in December.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contractor appointed and pre commencement planning conditions and final design approved.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RAG status is assessed as green, project on track for delivery commencing on site in April 2026.</li> </ul>
<b>Wrexham Gateway</b> Wrexham County Borough Council	Developing the Outline Business Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outline Planning Application submitted and a solution to the Phosphates issue is expected in 2026.</li> <li>Discussions ongoing with landowners re land assembly.</li> <li>Terms letter issued to potential major occupier of proposed office building.</li> <li>Draft OUTLINE BUSINESS CASE received in December for PMO review.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outline planning consent.</li> <li>Outline Business Case approval.</li> <li>Heads of Terms for pre-lets to public and private sector occupiers.</li> <li>Carbon and bio-diversity approach agreed.</li> <li>Land Owner Agreements.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Risk rating as green given project is progressing to Outline Business Case/Outline Planning application stage.</li> </ul>
<b>Gogledd Môn Sites and Premises</b> Isle of Anglesey County Council (IoACC)	Approved not yet in delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BJC approved by Sub-Committee in October.</li> <li>Heads of Terms for funding shared with IoACC.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Subsidy Control Assessment</li> <li>Completion of Procurement and appointment of Main Contractor.</li> <li>Completion of Joint Venture with Welsh Government.</li> <li>Completion of Transforming Towns documentation for the Marine Terminal Building.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Risks all deemed within acceptable parameters with planning and land ownership resolved.</li> </ul>

# 05 LAND AND PROPERTY PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

<b>Freeport Gateway</b> Isle of Anglesey County Council	Approved not yet in delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BJC approved by Sub-Committee in October.</li> <li>• Heads of Terms for funding shared with IoACC.</li> <li>• IoACC approved acquisition of Peboc site in September.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Subsidy Control Assessment</li> <li>• Completion of Procurement and appointment of Main Contractor.</li> <li>• Completion of the purchase of the Peboc Site.</li> <li>• Completion of the MoU with UK and Welsh Government for Freeport seed capital funding.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risks all deemed within acceptable parameters, planning and land ownership resolved subject to completion of the transfer of land title.</li> </ul>
<b>Padeswood</b> Transport for Wales (TfW)	Developing the Full Business Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OBC approved by Sub-Committee in December.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MoU between Network Rail and Heidelberg Materials.</li> <li>• Agreed approach with TfW to move towards Full Business Case and transfer of project to Network Rail.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risks all deemed within acceptable parameters Planning to be confirmed, no land ownership concerns.</li> </ul>
<b>Albert Gubay Business School</b> Bangor University	Developing the Full Business Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OBC approved by Sub-Committee in December.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Full planning consent expected in February 2026.</li> <li>• Full Business Case approval expected in March 2026.</li> <li>• Project commencement due in March 2026.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Major project risks are all assessed as acceptable at present. Project rating is green subject to completion of planning and Full Business Case approval. Commencement scheduled in Spring 2026.</li> </ul>
<b>Port of Mostyn</b> Port of Mostyn	Approved not yet in delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BJC approved by Sub-Committee in December.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Procurement due to complete by the end of February.</li> <li>• Agreed bespoke approach to carbon and biodiversity.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Major project risks are all assessed as acceptable at present. Project rating is green subject to completion of procurement and bespoke approach for carbon assessment.</li> </ul>

# 06 AGRI-FOOD AND TOURISM PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

## Programme Aim

The Agri-food and Tourism Programme will optimise employment and training opportunities in North Wales by providing support facilities to ensure that the region has the skills needed to excel and become world leading. The Programme will also ensure prosperity through sustainably maximising our environment and landscape.



RAG Status	Programme Manager Commentary
Amber	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Responsible Adventure</b> - The project presented a change request to the board to consider following removal of the e-bus. The request was approved by the Sub-committee to include the Betws Y Coed Forest masterplan which will see two additional elements to the project 1. Enabling works 2. Hero Nets product. Planning Consent was given to the Swing at the Penrhyn site.</li><li><b>Academi Croeso</b> previously known as Tourism Talent Network, the official launch of the new brand for the project was held as a celebratory event at Theatr Clwyd in November, where critical stakeholders came together to discuss and support the launch of the new project. Portmeirion build is at final construction stages.</li><li><b>Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub</b> - The signing of the Grant Funding Agreement was made in November between Ambition North Wales and Grŵp Llandrillo Menai. The appointment of the construction work for the Sheep Milk Wales element was confirmed to a local company, OBR Construction.</li><li><b>Venue Cymru Futures</b> - The Outline Business Case of a new project led by Conwy County Borough Council was presented and was fully endorsed by the Sub - Committee members in October. The Project will see upgraded facilities and a new Cultural Hub at Venue Cymru in Llandudno,</li></ul>



Vacant  
Lead Member

Sioned Williams  
Senior Responsible  
Owner



Elliw Hughes  
Programme Manager



Delivering to Plan with only minor issues to address  
(no action required)



Delivery behind schedule and /moderate issues to address  
(management action in place)



Delivery significantly behind schedule and/or significant issues  
to address (urgent action required)

# 06 AGRI-FOOD AND TOURISM PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Project (Project Sponsor)	Project Stage	Key Milestones (this quarter)	Key Milestones (next quarter)	RAG Status	RAG Rationale
<b>Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub</b> Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	Approved not yet in delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grant Funding Agreement (GFA) signed and sealed.</li> <li>Contract awarded to OBR construction for the Sheep Milk Wales (SMW) element.</li> <li>Public Planning Consultation took place for the new Rural Hub,</li> <li>Dairy Development draft Business Justification Case.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remaining Procurement work for Sheep Milk Wales element</li> <li>Procurement process for Sustainable Dairy element.</li> <li>Present Sustainable Dairy Development Business Justification Case to boards.</li> <li>Planning for Hub to be submitted.</li> <li>Full Business Case for the whole project.</li> <li>First Claim to be submitted.</li> <li>Spade in the Ground event for Sheep Milk Wales</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grant Funding Agreement signed</li> <li>Feedback on planning results in low level risk</li> <li>Healthy contingency pot for any unexpected costs.</li> <li>OBR construction appointed.</li> <li>Procurement process delays</li> <li>Financial implications of rising costs</li> </ul>
<b>Tourism Talent Network</b> Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	Project in delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Claims continued to be processed.</li> <li>Builds nearing completion at Portmeirion</li> <li>Final spoke discussions progressing</li> <li>Academi Croeso official launch held at Theatr Clwyd 13.11.25</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Signing of Memorandum of Understanding with National Trust</li> <li>Signing of back-to-back Funding Agreement with Zip World</li> <li>Completion of the build at Portmeirion</li> <li>Celebratory event at Portmeirion – date TBC.</li> <li>Progression on the Replacement Spoke for the project.</li> </ul>		<p>Amber rating due to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pending Back-to-back agreement sealant with Zip World.</li> <li>Delayed progression with the potential replacement spoke.</li> <li>Possible re-profile of budget will need to be completed.</li> </ul>
<b>Responsible Adventure</b> Zip World	Developing BJC/Full Business Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Swing planning consent given</li> <li>Approval of the Change request to include Betws y Coed Masterplan</li> <li>Continued stakeholder engagement</li> <li>Substantial negotiations and optioneering following procurement of the design for the swing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submission of Planning app for slate explorer</li> <li>Procurement for Betws-y-Coed masterplan</li> <li>Decision on design for the Swing at Penrhyn,</li> <li>Business Justification Case for Betws-y-Coed Masterplan</li> <li>Business Justification Case for the Slate Explorer.</li> <li>Further stakeholder engagement</li> </ul>		<p>Amber rating due to the following risks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planning consent challenges</li> <li>Specialised project – vulnerability to market.</li> <li>Timescales delays</li> </ul>
<b>Venue Cymru Futures</b> Conwy County Borough Council	Developing the Full Business Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outline Business Case approval by Sub-Committee</li> <li>Start Procurement process (outside Growth Deal funds)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Obtain Planning Consent</li> <li>Finalise drawings</li> <li>Present Full Business Case</li> </ul>		<p>Amber rating due to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planning consent – low risk</li> <li>Funding model is all public funds</li> <li>Procurement process</li> </ul>



# 07 INNOVATION IN HIGH VALUE MANUFACTURING PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

## Programme Aim

To consolidate North Wales position as a powerful and innovative high value manufacturing cluster, building on existing specialisms and leading expertise to create a higher value, more diverse economic base that supports the transition to a low carbon economy.



RAG Status	Programme Manager Commentary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Enterprise Engineering and Optics Centre project is nearing completion. The celebratory official opening of the CanfodAU building was held in November. Completion of procurement process for the CanfodAU equipment.</li><li>• The Centre for Environmental Biotechnology project identified an underspend and submitted a change request which was approved, the budget will see upgrading of a building for collaboration work with businesses and training facilities along side additionality of research and development facilities.</li><li>• Society 5.0 project Business Justification Case was presented and approved by Sub-Committee member, this new project will see further investment in specialist equipment to expand on the offering of the CanfodAU R&amp;D offering.</li><li>• Knauf, Project Prince is a new project that will see a £180m Investment for a Rock Wool Insulation Manufacturing facility in Shotton, it will create nearly 270 jobs for the region. The project presented an Outline Business Case to the subcommittee and full support was given by the members.</li></ul>



Cllr David Hughes  
Lead Member



Tony Ward  
Senior Responsible  
Owner



Elliw Hughes  
Programme Manager



Delivering to Plan with only minor issues to address (no action required)



Delivery behind schedule and /moderate issues to address (management action in place)



Delivery significantly behind schedule and/or significant issues to address (urgent action required)

# 07 INNOVATION IN HIGH VALUE MANUFACTURING PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Project (Project Sponsor)	Project Stage	Key Milestones (this quarter)	Key Milestones (next quarter)	RAG Status	RAG Rationale
<b>Enterprise Engineering and Optics Centre</b> Wrexham University	Project in delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Official opening ceremony of CanfodAU.</li> <li>Completion of procurement activity for CanfodAU equipment</li> <li>Draft BJC submitted to Portfolio Management Office.</li> <li>Start of the Optic Centre refurb</li> <li>Hydrogen Lab planning consent granted</li> <li>Design optioneering for hydrogen lab</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approval of Business Justification Case for Plas Coch equipment.</li> <li>Hydrogen lab procurement process</li> <li>Procurement for hydrogen lab</li> <li>Procurement for optic equipment.</li> <li>Start of Optic refurbishment.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project in delivery and on track</li> <li>No significant issue within project, project progressing well. Slight delay to project due to procurement/contract finalisation</li> </ul>
<b>Centre for Environmental Biotechnology</b> Bangor University	Project in delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Change request approved by Programme SRO and Portfolio Management Office due to scale and nature.</li> <li>Process Claim – on profile.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Procurement activity for underspend</li> <li>Claim</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project nearing completion of delivery stage.</li> <li>Underspend identified within project, management process in place of underspend.</li> <li>Claims on profile.</li> </ul>
<b>Society 5.0</b> Wrexham University	Approved not yet in delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Business Justification Case was approved for the project..</li> <li>Procurement Process completed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Business Justification Case delegated approval completion</li> <li>Grant Funding Agreement signed.</li> <li>Procurement for remaining equipment</li> <li>Claim full expenditure of project.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Equipment only project</li> <li>Ample testing of market conducted for remaining equipment.</li> <li>Short project life span from start to completion of delivery.</li> </ul>
<b>Project Prince</b> Knauf	Developing the Full Business Case.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Outline Business Case was fully supported and approved by Sub Committee members</li> <li>Stakeholder engagement and support provided by Ambition North Wales and Flintshire County Council with Planning issues.</li> <li>Knauf match investment of £166m confirmed by company.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Full Business Case development</li> <li>Submission of Planning Applications</li> <li>Continued work with planning stakeholders.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complex Planning and Environmental process to obtain consent, but ample stakeholder engagement being made to mitigate as much risk.</li> </ul>

# 08 PROJECT PROGRESS TRACKER

Project		Consenting Stage				Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4	Stage 5	Stage 6	Stage 7	Stage 8
		Pre-application stage	Outline planning / Consent	Full planning / Consent	Conditions discharged	Determine the Project context	Preparing the Strategic Outline Case	Preparing the Outline Business Case	Approval of the Outline Business Case	Preparing the Full Business Case	Approval of the Full Business Case	Project implementation and monitoring	Project Evaluation
Digital Signal Processing Centre		No planning required				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Connected Key Sites and Corridors	4G+	Consenting requirements TBC				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	🕒	
Connected Campuses	LPWAN	No consenting requirements				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	🕒	
	Advanced	No consenting at grant scheme level				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	🕒	
Cydnherth (Morlais)		✓	✓	✓	🕒	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Egni		✓	✓	🕒		✓	✓	✓	✓	🕒			
Smart Local Energy		No consenting required at fund level				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Holyhead Hydrogen Hub		✓	✓	🕒		Project under review							
Former North Wales Hospital		✓	✓	✓	🕒	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Parc Bryn Cegin, Bangor		✓	✓	✓	🕒	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Wrexham Gateway		✓	🕒			✓	✓	🕒					
Gogledd Môn Sites and Premises		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Freeport Gateway		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Padeswood		No consenting requirements (TBC)				✓	✓	✓	✓	🕒			
Albert Gubay Business School		✓	✓	🕒		✓	✓	✓	✓	🕒			
Port of Mostyn		No planning consent required.				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub		✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	🕒		
Tourism Talent Network		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Responsible Adventure		✓	🕒			✓	✓	✓	✓	🕒			
Venue Cymru Futures		🕒				✓	✓	✓	✓	🕒			
Centre for Environmental Biotechnology		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Enterprise Engineering and Optics		✓	✓	✓	🕒	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Society 5.0		No planning required				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	🕒	
Project Prince		🕒				✓	✓	✓	✓	🕒			

# 10 OBJECTIVE TRACKER - OVERVIEW OF DELIVERY

			Portfolio Business Case 2025 Targets		Approved Project Business Case Targets			Actual	
			Jobs Created (net)	(£M) Total Investment*	OBC/ FULL BUSINESS CASE*	Jobs Created (net)	(£M) Total Investment*	Jobs Created (net)	(£M) Total Investment*
Digital	Digital Signal Processing Centre (DSP)		40	3.08	FBC	40	2.96	25	2.76
	Connected Key Sites and Corridors	4G+	38	8.19	FBC	29	10.15	0	0.05
	Connected Campuses	LPWAN	20	1.14	BJC	20	1.14	0	0
		Advanced Wireless	173	30.31	FBC	200	37.6	0	0
Low Carbon Energy	Cydnerth (Morlais)		253	15.99	FBC	230	13.8	5	6.94
	Egni		60	10.01	OBC	49	3.94	n/a	n/a
	Smart Local Energy		186	102.50	FBC	193	70	2	0.18
	Holyhead Hydrogen Hub		20	16.22	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Former North Wales Hospital, Denbigh		70	85.85	FBC	70	74.34	0	0
	Parc Bryn Cegin, Bangor		54	7.11	FBC	54	17.91	0	0
	Wrexham Gateway		697	27.00	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Gogledd Môn Sites and Premises		95	10.44	BJC	95	10.44	0	0
	Freeport Gateway		223	19.09	BJC	223	19.09	0	0
	Albert Gubay Business School		90	20.45	OBC	90	20.45	n/a	n/a
	Padeswood		64	42	OBC	64	42	n/a	n/a
	Port of Mostyn		299	14.7	BJC	300	14.7	0	0
Agrifood and Tourism	Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub		106	19.29	BJC (partial)	106	19.29	0	0
	Tourism Talent Network		68	19.28	FBC	68	19.03	0	3.85
	Responsible Adventure		291	16.66	OBC	290	16.7	n/a	n/a
	Venue Cymru Futures		59	19.78	OBC	59	19.78	0	0
Innovation in High Value Manufacturing	Enterprise Engineering and Optics Centre		109	18.82	FBC	90	18.12	2	10.74
	Centre for Environmental Biotechnology		67	3.46	BJC	180	3.46	8	2.22
	Society 5.0		19	3.0	BJC	19	3.0	0	0
	Project Prince		268	180.20	OBC	269	180	n/a	n/a
RESERVE LIST (Medium Case)			738	216.00					
Portfolio Management Office Costs				5.15			5.15	7	2.44
Growth Deal Portfolio Total			Targets		6 OBC 16 FBC	Approved		Delivered	
			4,114	915.73		2,738	623.05	49	29.18

\* Total investment shown here includes Portfolio Management Office costs but not the reserve list project

\*\* OBC - Outline Business Case, FULL BUSINESS CASE - Full Business Case

\*\*\*Data includes OBC and FULL BUSINESS CASE approved information.

# 09 GROWTH DEAL GRANT EXPENDITURE PROFILE

Programme	Project	Project Sponsor	Profile 25/26 (£m)	Actual YTD (£m)	Variance (£m)*	Rationale
Digital	Digital Signal Processing Centre	Bangor University	0.65	0.43	-0.22	Claim received for DSP received and awaiting payment. 4G+ have started spend on the project.
	4G+ - Connected Key Sites and Corridors	Ambition North Wales	0.29	0.05	-0.24	
	LPWAN	Ambition North Wales	0.15	0.00	-0.15	
Low Carbon Energy	Cydnherth (Morlais)	Menter Môn	8.87	6.94	-1.93	Two loan drawdowns on Cydnherth received, and the final expected before the end of the financial year. The Smart Local Energy project launched in July and started claiming.
	Smart Local Energy	Ambition North Wales	1.83	0.18	-1.65	
Land and Property	Former North Wales Hospital, Denbigh	Ambition North Wales	0.50	0.00	-0.5	The Former North Wales Hospital and Parc Bryn Cegin projects are moving into delivery and will start claiming in 2025/26.
	Parc Bryn Cegin, Bangor	Ambition North Wales	0.15	0.00	-0.15	
Agri-food and Tourism	Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub	Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	1.00	0.00	-1.00	The Sheep Milk Wales BJC has been approved. The Tourism Talent Network have started
	Tourism Talent Network	Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	2.00	1.20	-0.80	
Innovation in High Value Manufacturing	Enterprise Engineering and Optics Centre	Wrexham University	2.18	0.93	-1.25	Claims submitted for the EEOC and CEB project.
	Centre for Environmental Biotechnology	Bangor University	1.68	1.14	-0.54	
	Society 5.0	Wrexham University	1.5	0.00	-1.5	
Portfolio Management Office Costs			1.35	0.67	-0.68	
Total			22.15	11.54	-10.61	

\*Profile 2025/26 – Approved by the Economic Well-being Sub-Committee

\*\*Only includes project profiled or expected to spend during the financial year

# APPENDIX A - PROJECTS SUMMARY

## Growth Deal Projects Summary

	Project	Sponsor	Summary
Digital	Digital Signal Processing Centre (DSP)	Bangor University	The project will allow the DSP Centre to expand its presence and remit, integrating fully with the National Strategy Project (NSP) and enable the scaling of key assets including a 5G testbed, research capacity and state-of-the-art equipment.
	Connected Key Sites and Corridors	Ambition North Wales	This project aims to enhance the reliability and quality of mobile services on the main roads and rail routes in North Wales, enabling full-fibre services to key commercial sites across the region. Focussing on developing fibreoptic networks, which are essential for delivering 4G, 5G and gigabit capable broadband.
	Connected Campuses	Ambition North Wales	The project will accelerate the development of a range of digital connectivity options with a current focus at 18 key regional economic sites.
Low Carbon Energy	Cydnherth (Morlais)	Menter Môn	Investing in infrastructure to connect to the National Grid network and monitor marine environmental effects. This will enable an increase in the deployment of turbines by tidal developers and the generation of renewable energy.
	Egni (Low Carbon Energy Centre of Excellence)	Bangor University	Investing in the development of facilities at Bangor University and Menai Science Park, enhancing the North Wales and UK capabilities for innovation in low carbon energy and related areas, helping to create the conditions for new inward investment and business growth in the low carbon energy supply chain in North Wales.
	Smart Local Energy	Ambition North Wales	To help achieve renewable energy, decarbonisation and local ownership targets, the project will support innovative enabling projects and demonstrators that overcome market failures and unlock private and community sector investments in smart local energy solutions.
	Holyhead Hydrogen Hub	Menter Môn	This project will build a green hydrogen production facility at Parc Cybi, Holyhead, producing around 2000+kg/day of green hydrogen, supplying road, maritime and rail transport customers across North Wales.
Land and Property	North Anglesey Sites and Premises	Isle of Anglesey County Council	Delivering 2,200sqm of business space in North Anglesey creating at least 59 jobs, and leveraging the Freeport and low-carbon energy growth.
	Freeport Gateway	Isle of Anglesey County Council	Unlocking 6,750sqm of business space in Llangefni, creating at least 186 jobs and maximising benefits of the Anglesey Freeport.
	Port of Mostyn	Port of Mostyn	Upgrading berth and regeneration of former industrial site.
	Albert Gubay Business School	Bangor University	Construction of the Albert Gubay Business School at Bangor University.
	Padeswood	Transport for Wales	Rail line enhancements to remove constraints and address access/egress for rail freight into the Padeswood Cement Works
	Parc Bryn Cegin, Bangor	Ambition North Wales	Provide industrial floor space to meet known demand for units.
	Former North Wales Hospital, Denbigh	Ambition North Wales	The Growth Deal funding will assist in the delivery of a cleared and remediated site with primary services to bring forward a mixed-use commercial and residential development
Agri-food and Tourism	Wrexham Gateway	Wrexham County Borough Council	This project is a sustainable development of a vibrant regenerated area, creating a focal point to support business investment and a multi-modal transportation hub with links to active travel.
	Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub	Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	The vision is to create a distinctive, world-class Rural Economy Hub at Glynllifon, offering a range of facilities and services to strengthen and enhance the regional economy, specifically through growing the food and drink sector.
	Tourism Talent Network	Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	Future-proofing the pipeline of skills provision and increase commercial benefits from one of the most established sectors in the region. The talent network will stimulate public-private collaboration to coordinate action on skills and product development to transform and accelerate the growth of the tourism and hospitality sector in the region.
	Responsible Adventure	Zip World	A multi-element project as part of a sustainable and eco-tourism package including a new sustainable Cable Car, Slate Explorer including visitor viewing platform, Swing and an eBus Network.
Innovation in High Value Manufacturing	Venue Cymru Futures	Conwy County Borough Council	A project that will expand facilities at Venue Cymru, boost jobs, cut carbon, and attract major shows, conferences, and cultural investment.
	Centre for Environmental Biotechnology (CEB)	Bangor University	The Centre for Engineering Biotechnology will be a world-leading centre in the discovery and characterisation of novel extremophilic enzymes of industrial relevance. The Centre for Engineering Biotechnology will provide a strong foundation for attracting world-leading researchers, significant public and commercial research funding, and inward investment to Wales.
	Enterprise Engineering & Optics Centre	Wrexham University	The Enterprise Engineering & Optics Centre will provide facilities targeted to boost high-level skills development for the region and enable Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME's) and large businesses to work in partnership with Wrexham Glyndwr University on commercially driven research and development in optics, composites and hydrogen fuel cells.
	Society 5.0 Manufacturing & Capability Project	Wrexham University	Enhance the Enterprise Engineering and Optics Centre to enable industry to access further world-class high precision engineering resources.
	Project Prince	Knauf	Construction of 110kt rock mineral wool plant with submerged arc furnace (SAF), primarily to serve the UK and Ireland markets.



# APPENDIX B – RESERVE LIST PROJECTS SUMMARY

Project	Sponsor	Summary
Property Fund	Ambition North Wales	A Commercial Property Development Grant to close viability gaps for private sector developers of industrial and office property, with funding also available for similar public sector developments on a Joint Venture Agreement basis.
Business Gateway	Wrexham University	Serving as a bridge between Wrexham University and local industry, fostering collaboration, innovation, job creation and inclusive economic growth.
Parc Bryn Cegin Phase 2	WG/ANW	The delivery of a further 20,000 sq ft of employment units at Parc Bryn Cegin.
Innovation and Growth Fund	Ambition North Wales	To support North Wales businesses in agri-food, tourism, and high-value manufacturing to boost innovation, adopt new tech, and grow regional competitiveness.
Adventure Parc Snowdonia	Global Shred Ventures	Deliver a nationally significant new visitor experience on the site of the former Adventure Parc Snowdonia facility.
Queens Market Hotel Development	Denbighshire County Council	Provision of mid-range, mid size hotel - a key part of a wider masterplan that is currently being developed for the area.
Move on accommodation St Asaph Business Park	Denbighshire County Council	Development of high-tech industrial units on St. Asaph Business Park.
Bangor Health Hub	Cyngor Gwynedd	To develop an integrated Health and Wellbeing Hub in a vacant former shopping centre in the heart of Bangor city centre.
Quarry Battery	Quarry Battery Co.	A £300m Pumped Storage Hydro / BESS Hybrid scheme in North Wales.
Wrexham Gateway	Wrexham County Borough Council	To address viability and support delivery of the evolving Wrexham Gateway project.
Trawsfynydd	Cwmni Egino / Cyngor Gwynedd	A scheme which will include a building to include office spaces, laboratory spaces (exact specification to be confirmed) and ancillary facilities (meeting space, café/canteen etc), to support the nuclear and low carbon energy industry together with the scientific community, located on Trawsfynydd Site.
New-H2	Wales and West Utilities	This project will help kick-start the hydrogen economy in North Wales by supporting and delivering a hydrogen hub to include the supply and use of hydrogen.
Kinmel Studios	Roger Morris	A project to support the film industry in North Wales.
Western Gateway, Wrexham	Ambition North Wales	Delivery of primary services to enable the site to be brought to the market for sale and development.
Holyhead Gateway	Stena Line	Future proof the Holyhead Port by providing new deep-water heavy loading and cruise facilities, improved vehicular access, guaranteeing the future of the breakwater and providing for the demands of regional energy projects.
<b>Flintshire and Wrexham Investment Zone</b>		
Warren Hall, Broughton	Ambition North Wales	Delivery of primary services to enable the 65-hectare mixed use site to be bought to the market for sale and then development by the private sector.