ECONOMIC WELL-BEING SUB-COMMITTEE
17th of July 2026

TITLE: Freeport Gateway Project - Request to extend validity period.

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1. The purpose of the report is to request a further extension in validity period set by the Economic Well-being Sub-Committee on the 15th May 2026 to complete the Grant Funding Agreement.

2. DECISION SOUGHT

2.1. That the Sub-Committee approves the request to extend the validity period to complete the Grant Funding Agreement by three months to the 1st of October,2026.

2.2. To confirm that the Portfolio Director is authorised to take all necessary operational steps to proceed with and complete the Grant Funding Agreement within the extended validity period, subject to customary legal, financial, procurement and governance requirements.

2.3. That the approval from the Sub-Committee is valid until 1st October 2026 should the project not proceed to a completed Grant Funding Agreement by this date, it will be required to return and represent the business case to the Sub-Committee for approval.

3. REASONS FOR THE DECISION

3.1. To seek the Sub-Committee's approval to extend the review date for the Grant Funding Agreement by three months due to reasons set out in Section 4.

4. BACKGROUND AND RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

4.1 This project was approved by the-Sub Committee in October 2025 under the BJC+ single stage business case. This project was approved on the condition that the Grant Funding Agreement were completed within 6 months Validity Period of the approval date, however this was not met and a time extension period granted by the Sub-Committee in May 2026. This extension was provided for two Isle of Anglesey County Council projects – Gogledd Mon and Freeport Gateway with the date set for completing both agreements as 1st July 2026.

4.2. This was an error on the part of the Portfolio Management Office and not in line with the agreed approach with Isle of Anglesey County Council to prioritise the Gogledd Mon Agreement which would then act as a precedent for the Freeport Gateway Agreement. The Gogledd Mon Agreement was completed in line with the set validity period and work is now progressing on the Freeport Gateway agreement. The extension requested in this report is to correct the initial error and to provide time for the agreement to be completed.

5. Key Risks

5.1. Ambition North Wales considers the following as key risks which will need to be carefully managed by the Projects Sponsor due to the extended time required to complete the Grant Funding Agreement.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact Description	Mitigation / Countermeasures
Time		The key impact is delayed project start.	Timely completion of all documentation to have access to Growth Deal Funding.
Costs		The increased delay of project start means an increase in costs.	Timely completion of all documentation to have access to Growth Deal Funding.

6. Conclusions

6.1. Ambition North Wales is recommending that the Sub-Committee approves the extension to the validity period for this project to allow the Funding Agreement to be completed. This extension includes the previous delegation to the Portfolio Director in consultation with the Chair, Vice Chair, Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer to agree and complete the Grant Funding Agreement.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1. There are no financial implications arising from this decision.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1. The decision provides the legal framework for the Grant Funding Agreement to be completed.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS ***(available on request)***

- Freeport Gateway BJC and Appendices

STATUTORY OFFICERS RESPONSE:

i. Monitoring Officer:

"I have no objection to the decision sought, provided the extension is treated as an extension of the existing approval validity period only and does not amount to approval of any materially amended business case or project scope

If the Agreement is not completed by 1 October 2026, or if any material changes arise before completion, the matter should return to the Sub-Committee for further consideration and approval.

The risks identified in the report, particularly delay and cost escalation, should be actively managed and kept under review."

ii. Statutory Finance Officer:

"I do not have objections with the principle of the decision sought, but as noted in 5.1 above, key risks associated with the request to extend the validity period will need to be carefully managed".