Cyd-Bwyllgor Corfforedig
Gogledd Cymru
North Wales
Corporate Joint Committee

NORTH WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

20 November 2026

TITLE: Delegation to EWSC regarding the Regional Growth Plan and Local Growth Fund

AUTHOR: Alwen Williams, Chief Executive, Ambition North Wales
Iain Taylor, Strategic Programmes, Ambition North Wales

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1. The core purpose of this report is to note the scope of work and role required for the CJC and to delegate decisions set out in Section 2 below. Funding for Years 2 and 3 of the Local Growth Fund Programme requires agreement to both a Local Growth Fund Delivery Plan and a Regional Growth Plan.

1.2. The CJC is required to make decision at the 20th November 2026 meeting to allow submission of key documents to Welsh Government such that approvals and confirmations can be in place in February that allows the continuation of key revenue resources (c£1.3m) to the CJC and North Wales Local Authority delivery partners from April 2027.

2. DECISION SOUGHT

2.1. To delegate responsibility to the Corporate Joint Committee's Economic Wellbeing Sub-Committee to consider and approve the submission of a draft Local Growth Fund Delivery Plan for Year 2 and 3 (2027 – 2029) and to put in place any required further delegations to ANW officers to confirm the final Delivery Plan with Welsh Government such that it allows a LGF Grant Offer Letter to be issued in February 2027.

2.2. To delegate responsibility to the Corporate Joint Committee's Economic Wellbeing Sub-Committee to consider and approve the submission of a draft Regional Growth Plan and to put in place any required further delegations to ANW officers to confirm the basis of the Regional Growth Plan such that it allows for a LGF Grant Offer Letter to be issued in February 2027.

2.3. To delegate responsibility to the Corporate Joint Committee's Economic Wellbeing Sub-Committee to agree with Cyngor Gwynedd the regional administration arrangements for Local Growth Fund delivery in Years 2 and 3, building on the arrangements that exist in Year 1 (the current financial year) including the terms of a Partnership Agreement or Inter Authority Agreement.

2.4. To delegate responsibility to the Corporate Joint Committee's Economic Wellbeing Sub-Committee to agree with the six local authorities the arrangements for Local Growth Fund delivery in Years 2 and 3, building on the arrangements that exist in Year 1 (the current financial year) including the terms of a Partnership Agreement, Grant Funding Agreement or Inter Authority Agreement.

2.5. To delegate responsibility to the Corporate Joint Committee's Economic Wellbeing Sub-Committee to govern and manage the delivery of Local Growth Funding in Years 2 and 3, including all decisions relating to administration arrangements, funding, programmes and projects, and the completion of a Regional Growth Plan in 2027.

2.6. To approve ongoing efforts to secure delivery flexibility, including transfer of funds between years and between priority allocations to allow effective management of resources.

2.7. To authorise the Chief Executive Officer to commission additional work to inform, supplement and strengthen the North Wales Regional Growth Plan and its delivery, including joint work with the other Corporate Joint Committees to share best practice, strengthen regional delivery capability and improve outcomes for communities, within approved budgets and in accordance with applicable procurement requirements.

3. REASON FOR THE DECISION

3.1. Welsh Government require that responsibility for the LGF transfers to the CJC for the second and third years of the programme (2027/28 and 2028/29).

3.2. The request of Economic Wellbeing Sub-Committee to support the management of the Local Growth Fund from 2027/28 aligns with the Sub-Committee's responsibilities in exercising the CJCs economic well-being function.

4. BACKGROUND AND RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

4.1. The Government's Local Growth Fund (LGF) is a three year fund, administered by Welsh Government through its LGF Investment Plan. Year 1 is the current financial year with Year 2 (April 2027-March 2028) and Year 3 (April 2028-March 2029). Any funding after that depends on future Spending Reviews.

4.2. From 2027–28, Welsh Government will award funding directly to the four Corporate Joint Committees through annual grant offer letters. Each Corporate Joint Committee will then lead regional planning and portfolio selection. The indicative North Wales allocation is £41.44m in 2027–28 and £39.92m in 2028–29. Each year includes a pan-Wales capital ringfence of £5.37m for North Wales. This funding is conditional on Welsh Government sign-off.

4.3. At the 2 October Sub-Committee it was agreed that Ambition North Wales would run a 4 week 'call for evidence' from partner organisations, asking each partner to set out their strategic priorities for reducing productivity gaps, tackling inequalities in areas of deprivation and rurality across the region, and how their proposals for intervention fit within the Welsh Government's framework. The Corporate Joint Committee is bringing the outputs from this initial phase of work to the Sub Committee on the 13th November for initial review.

4.4. Further research work will support the development and delivery of the Regional Growth Plan, including collaboration with the other Corporate Joint Committees to strengthen the evidence base, share best practice and consider the roles, responsibilities and capabilities needed for effective regional economic development.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1. Use of the £200,000 LGF/RGP development funding awarded to the CJC to develop the necessary documents (including the 10 Year Regional Growth Plan) and approach to managing the LGF funds in Years 2 and 3.

5.2. Further development work is required to identify and agree the precise allocations of the 4% administration resources to be split between the CJC, Cyngor Gwynedd to support programme administration and the 6 partner Councils.

5.3. The CJC is financially responsible for the programme. The expectation is that payments will be made directly from the CJC to delivery partners, with the schedule of payments and backup to be provided by Cyngor Gwynedd.

5.4. The scale of LGF funding for North Wales for the second two years of the programme c£40m in year of the two years, an increase of c£10m on Year 1.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1. The CJC will be required to enter into a Grant Offer Letter with Welsh Government, the terms of which we understand to be consistent with previously received Grant Offer Letters from Welsh Government.

6.2. The CJC will enter into a Partnership Agreement (or Inter Authority Agreement) with Cyngor Gwynedd for the regional administration and coordination functions and the necessary agreements with each of the 6 part Councils, which could be in for form of Partnership Agreement, Inter Authority Agreement or Grant Funding Agreement.

6.3. The CJC will enter into Grant Funding Agreements for programmes and projects and undertake relevant assurance and Subsidy Control processes.

STATUTORY OFFICERS RESPONSE:

i. Monitoring Officer:

"The proposed delegation to the Economic Well-being Sub-Committee is consistent with the CJC's economic well-being function and provides an appropriate governance route for progressing the Local Growth Fund and Regional Growth Plan within the required timetable. Members should note the breadth of the proposed delegation being sought, in particular the governance and management delegation contained in paragraph 2.4."

ii. Statutory Finance Officer:

"Whilst there are clear financial implications for Ambition North Wales from the Local Growth Fund programme, the decision sought through this report is to delegate key decisions to the Economic Well-being Sub-Committee. There are no reasons from a financial perspective to oppose this proposal."