

Report to the Education and Economy Scrutiny Committee

Date:	21 March 2024
Title:	North Wales Growth Deal – Quarter 3 Performance Report 2023/24
Cabinet Member:	Cllr. Dyfrig Siencyn
Author:	Sioned E Williams, Head of Economy & Community Hedd Vaughan Evans, Head of Operations, Ambition North Wales
Department:	Economy & Community

1. WHY DOES IT NEED TO BE SCRUTINISED?

I

- 1.1.1 In December 2020, the Economic Ambition Board and the Welsh and UK Governments agreed the Final Deal Agreement for the North Wales Growth Deal. Quarterly reporting on progress against the North Wales Growth Deal is a requirement of the Final Deal Agreement. Following consideration by the North Wales Economic Ambition Board, the reports will be shared with Welsh Government, UK Government and the local authority scrutiny committees.
- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to present the Quarter 3 Growth Deal Report and Portfolio Risk Register for the attention of Gwynedd Council's Scrutiny Committee.

2. BACKGROUND AND RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

- 2.1 This report includes two appendices:
- North Wales Growth Deal – Quarter 3 Performance Report
 - Portfolio Risk Register – December 2023
- 2.2 North Wales Growth Deal – Quarter 3 Performance Report
- 2.2.1 The Quarter 3 performance report provides an overview of progress on the Growth Deal programmes and projects.
- 2.2.2 This quarter saw the approval of the updated Portfolio Business Case and the submission to Welsh and UK Governments as part of the annual award of funding process.
- 2.2.3 The Economic Ambition Board approved three project Outline Business Cases during the quarter. These were the Tourism Talent Network, Egni and Deeside Anaerobic Digestion Plant. The Board also approved the Full Business Case for the Enterprise Engineering and Optic Centre project, a significant milestone for the Growth Deal.
- 2.2.4 The Quarter 3 update is showing projects reporting against the revised portfolio delivery profile approved by the Board. Three projects are currently reporting as red due to either risks to the project scope or significant delays to project timescales:
- Connecting the Last Few % - Procurement activity on the project has been suspended until UK Government confirms the launch date for its new intervention, expected to

be confirmed in Q3 23/24 for launch in 2024. The new proposed intervention by UK Government is likely to meet or improve upon the project's spending objectives.

- Western Gateway, Wrexham – a review of the project is being undertaken to assess its delivery considering the recommendations from the Road Review Panel and Welsh Governments four tests for highways investment.
- Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub – planning permission is yet to be secured. Survey work is underway as requested by Natural Resources Wales and CADW.

2.5 Portfolio Risk Register – December 2023

2.5.1 The Portfolio Risk Register is updated on a regular basis by the Portfolio Management Office and reviewed by the Portfolio Board and the North Wales Economic Ambition Board on a quarterly basis.

2.5.3 The risk register has been fully updated with a number of changes recorded in the documents, including revised risk descriptions, revised scoring and mitigating actions, and the commentary has been updated for all risks.

2.5.4 While the risk profile has remained stable over the past quarter, the risk profile does remain high with a number of red residual risks including affordability, capacity, delay, planning and statutory consents, public and private sector investment, and spending objectives. The risk on economic context has increased due to the developing global issues affecting supply chains and the energy market likely to affect costs in the short to medium term. The risk on delay remains red but has decreased due to the progress made during the quarter including the OBC and FBC approvals.

3. **RECOMMENDATION**

3.1. That the Committee scrutinises Ambition North Wales Board's performance in delivering the Growth Deal and accepts that mitigation measures are in place to respond to the risks.

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1	North Wales Growth Deal – Quarter 3 Performance Report
Appendix 2	Portfolio Risk Register – January 2023
