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**REPORT TO THE ECONOMIC WELL-BEING SUB-COMMITTEE**  
**11<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

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**TITLE:** Appointment of Growth Deal SRO

**AUTHOR:** Alwen Williams, Portfolio Director

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1. The purpose of the report is to present the nomination for the new Senior Responsible Owner (SRO) for the Growth Deal.

**2. DECISION SOUGHT**

- 2.1. That the Sub-Committee appoint Dylan Williams, Chief Executive of Isle of Anglesey County Council as the new Senior Responsible Owner (SRO) for the Growth Deal.
- 2.2. That the Sub-Committee agree to review the arrangements in 12 months' time.

**3. REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

- 3.1. To seek confirm the appointment of Growth Deal SRO in line with the decisions taken by the Economic Ambition Board in February 2025 to separate the role of SRO and Portfolio Director in response to the new requirement from government.

**4. BACKGROUND**

- 4.1. The North Wales Growth Deal is an agreement between the UK Government, Welsh Government and Ambition North Wales to deliver a transformational £1billion investment in the North Wales economy. The aim of the Growth Deal is to build a more vibrant, sustainable and resilient economy in North Wales, building on our strengths to boost productivity while tackling long-term challenges and economic barriers to delivering inclusive growth.
- 4.2. As per the Final Deal agreement, a portfolio, programme and project management governance structure has been put in place to oversee the delivery of the Growth Deal. This includes having a Senior Responsible Owner (SRO) for the Growth Deal and Lead Members across the programmes.
- 4.3. The Corporate Joint Committee is ultimately accountable for the delivery of the North Wales Growth Deal objectives, delivering the projected outcomes and realising the required benefits. The SRO is accountable to the Corporate Joint Committee for the delivery of the agreed portfolio scope and objectives.

## 5. SENIOR RESPONSIBLE OWNER (SRO)

- 5.1. The role of SRO has been undertaken by Alwen Williams since the start of the Growth Deal alongside her Portfolio Director responsibilities. New requirements set out by Welsh Government and UK Government as funders of the Growth Deal now require these roles to be separated and undertaken by different individuals to increase accountability and provide additional leadership capacity.
- 5.2. In February 2025, the Economic Ambition Board approved a decision to separate the roles and to seek a nomination from one of the six local authority Chief Executives to act as Senior Responsible Owner (SRO) for the North Wales Growth Deal.
- 5.3. The local authority Chief Executives have considered the proposal and have nominated Dylan Williams, Chief Executive of Isle of Anglesey County Council to take up the SRO role. This proposal is seen as a natural extension of the current informal Lead Chief Executive role that Dylan Williams has been undertaking to support the Portfolio Director.
- 5.4. The SRO and Portfolio Director are accountable to the Corporate Joint Committee for the delivery of the North Wales Growth Deal.

## 7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. There are no financial implications relating to this paper.

## 8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1. The Economic Ambition Board resolved in February 2025 to separate the roles of Portfolio Director and Senior Responsible Owner for the Growth Deal. This was in response to a clear government requirement to have a separate SRO and Portfolio Director. With the transfer of the delivery of the Growth Deal to the Corporate Joint Committee on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025 the responsibility for implementing the decision and appointing the SRO now falls within the delegated functions of the Sub- Committee.

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### STATUTORY OFFICERS RESPONSE:

#### i. Monitoring Officer:

"As of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025, responsibility for delivery of the North Wales Growth Deal was transferred to the North Wales CJC. With the completion of the transfer the Economic Ambition Board ("EAB") was wound up. However, it's decisions as they relate to the Growth Deal remain in effect. The CJC has delegated functions which reflect those of the EAB to the sub- committee. The decision on the appointment of the SRO is for the sub-committee to make."

#### ii. Statutory Finance Officer:

“No objections from the perspective of financial propriety.”

