



ECONOMIC WELL-BEING SUB-COMMITTEE

11th July, 2025

TITLE: Annual Report 2024-25

AUTHOR: Alwen Williams, Chief Executive

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1. The purpose of the report is to present the Annual Report for 2024-25.
- 1.2. Quarterly and annual reporting on progress against the North Wales Growth Deal is a requirement of the Final Deal Agreement. Following consideration by the Economic Well-being Sub-Committee, the reports will be shared with Welsh Government, UK Government and the local authority scrutiny committees.

2. DECISION SOUGHT

- 2.1. That the Board consider and note the Annual Report for 2024-25.
- 2.2. That the Board approves the submission of the Annual Report for 2024-25 to Welsh Government and UK Government as well as the local authority scrutiny committees.

3. REASON FOR THE DECISION

- 3.1. As stated in the report.

4. BACKGROUND AND RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1. The Annual Report looks back on the progress made over the last year by Ambition North Wales. The report mainly focussed on the Growth Deal, but also reports on the Corporate Joint Committee, Regional Skills Partnership, and other funding streams including Shared Prosperity and Local Area Energy Plans.
- 4.2. The report provides an overview of the Growth Deal and the progress made in delivering the projects as well as other key milestones achieved during the year, including:
 - Approval of 3 Outline Business Cases, namely Cydnerth, Advanced Wireless and Responsible Adventure.
 - Approval of 6 Full Business Cases (or Business Justification Cases), namely Former North Wales Hospital, LPWAN (BJC), Centre for Environmental Biotechnology (BJC), Tourism Talent Network, Parc Bryn Cegin, Cydnerth.
 - Work on both projects within the Innovation in High Value Manufacturing Programme progressing well and on schedule.

- The withdrawal of the Deeside Anaerobic Digestion Plant project from the Growth Deal, following securing additional private sector investment to deliver the project as a direct result of close collaboration between Ambition North Wales and The Circular Economy Development.
- The appointment of two advisors to deliver the Clean Energy Fund – the WCVA in partnership with Community Energy Wales leading on the voluntary sector sub-fund, and Umi on the private sector sub-fund.
- Successful delivery and completion of the Shared Prosperity Fund project, including the launch of the North Wales Skills and Employability Portal.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. There are no financial implications arising directly from approving the decision sought in this report.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. There are no direct legal implications arising from the report. Regular reporting on Growth Deal performance is part of the agreed governance framework and a key requirement of the Final Deal agreement.

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1 Annual Report 2024-25

STATUTORY OFFICERS RESPONSE:

i. **Monitoring Officer:**

“No observations to add in relation to propriety”

ii. **Statutory Finance Officer:**

“The decision sought will not create a new spending commitment. I am satisfied that the Annual Report is a true and fair reflection of all the work and progress of Ambition North Wales during 2024/25.”