## Annex B Regional Growth Plan Strategic Framework

1 November 2026

## Executive summary

The North Wales Regional Growth Plan (RGP) sets a ten-year direction for the regional economy from 2027 to 2037. Prepared by the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee (CJC) with the six councils, it meets the Local Growth Fund (LGF) Investment Plan requirement for a long-term regional vision and will carry the LGF Delivery Plan as an annex. It builds on the North Wales Growth Vision, the Growth Deal and the Regional Economic Framework, and is organised around the seven well-being goals of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

North Wales leads the Welsh regions on most headline measures. GVA per head was 76.8% of the UK in 2023, and real GVA grew 12.0% over 2015–23 against 7.6% for Wales. But it is two economies: Flintshire (104.3) and Wrexham (99.0) are the most productive authorities in Wales, while Gwynedd (69.9) and Conwy (67.2) rank 20th and 21st of 22. A falling working-age population, a NEET rate of 15.1% among 16–24 year olds and economic inactivity of 22.9% mean that people and skills are now the main constraints on growth.

### Vision for 2037

*By 2037 North Wales will be a confident, productive and connected region, leading the UK's clean energy and advanced manufacturing transition. A region that retains and attracts talent, promotes Welsh language and culture, and where the benefits of growth reach every community.*

The vision keeps the region's established Smart, Resilient and Connected identity and adds a fourth theme, Sustainable and rooted, reflecting the well-being economy focus of the Regional Economic Framework. It supports Welsh Government's ambition to halve the productivity gap between Wales and the rest of the UK over the next ten years, and the two LGF outcomes of higher real household disposable income and GDP per head.

### Strategic objectives

Seven objectives, one for each well-being goal, turn the vision into priorities for investment (Table ES1). Each is linked to a headline measure and to the LGF objectives it draws on, and together they form the logic model that will guide prioritisation in the LGF Delivery Plan.

Table ES1 – Strategic objectives of the Regional Growth Plan

| Objective | Well-being goal | What success looks like by 2037 |
|---|---|---|
| **O1 Productivity:** Raise productivity and close the gap within the region | A prosperous Wales | GVA per hour rising fastest in Conwy and Gwynedd, and the internal gap narrowing |
| **O2 Low carbon:** Build a low carbon economy within environmental limits | A resilient Wales | More local firms winning clean energy contracts, and more locally owned generation |
| **O3 Good work:** Secure economic and social outcomes from the | A healthier Wales | Fewer people inactive through long-term sickness |

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| health and care sector and drive down economic inactivity | | |
| **O4 Opportunity:** Extend economic opportunity to deprived places and young people | A more equal Wales | A falling NEET rate, higher household incomes and lower child poverty |
| **O5 Places:** Create well-connected, liveable places with homes for all | A Wales of cohesive communities | More households within an hour of key jobs by public transport |
| **O6 Rural and Welsh:** Grow a stronger rural, coastal and Welsh-speaking economy | A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language | The working-age population stabilising in the west |
| **O7 Global:** Compete globally through trade, innovation and fair work | A globally responsible Wales | Rising enterprise birth rates and RD&I investment |

## Key Growth Drivers

North Wales hosts a set of nationally significant projects that together could support well over 10,000 construction and permanent jobs over the decade, across North Wales.

The plan identifies five key growth drivers:

**Nuclear:** Wylfa has been chosen for the UK's first small modular reactors, with up to 3,000 local jobs at peak construction and a supply chain and skills base that will last decades.

**Offshore wind and marine energy:** Awel y Môr, Mona, Morlais tidal and the ports at Holyhead and Mostyn offer construction, operations and maintenance, and supply-chain opportunities along the coast.

**Advanced manufacturing:** already 24.5% of regional GVA and growing, anchored by Airbus Broughton, AMRC Cymru and the £160m Flintshire and Wrexham Investment Zone.

**Creative, culture and sport:** worth £639m including digital, with a distinctive Welsh-language screen base, three World Heritage Sites and an international sporting and events profile.

**Digital and AI:** the AI Growth Zone at Prosperity Parc and Trawsfynydd, with about 3,450 jobs expected, pairing data centres with clean power and supporting AI adoption across the economy.

Four foundational sectors (tourism and the visitor economy, agriculture and food, care and health, and housing and construction) employ far more people and will decide whether communities across the region share in this growth. The test for every sector is not only growth, but whether it lifts productivity in the west and connects deprived communities and young people to jobs.

The framework will be tested with partners ahead of public consultation in summer 2027.