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## NORTH WALES ECONOMIC AMBITION BOARD 11/12/20

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Present:

Voting Members - Councillors:- Hugh Evans (Denbighshire Council), Llinos Medi Huws (Isle of Anglesey County Council), Dafydd Meurig (Gwynedd Council), Mark Pritchard (Wrexham County Borough Council), Ian B.Roberts (Flintshire Council) and Sam Rowlands (Conwy County Borough Council).

Advisors – Dafydd Evans (Grŵp Llandrillo Menai), Maria Hinfelaar (Glyndŵr University), Askar Sheibani (Business Delivery Board) and Prof. Iwan Davies (Bangor University).

Chief Officers - Annwen Morgan (Isle of Anglesey County Council), Iwan Davies (Conwy County Borough Council), Colin Everett (Flintshire Council), Judith Greenhalgh (Denbighshire Council), Ian Bancroft (Wrexham County Borough Council) and Dilwyn Williams (Gwynedd Council).

Officers in attendance - Dafydd Edwards (Statutory Finance Officer - Host Authority), Iwan Evans (Monitoring Officer - Host Authority), Alwen Williams (Portfolio Director), Hedd Vaughan-Evans (Operations Manager), Jane Richardson (Chair of the Executive Officers Group), Nia Medi Williams (Senior Operational Officer) and Eirian Roberts (Democracy Services Officer).

The meeting was chaired by the Vice-chair, Councillor Mark Pritchard (Wrexham County Borough Council) in the absence of the Chair, Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn (Gwynedd Council).

The Chair welcomed Councillor Dafydd Meurig (Gwynedd Council) to the meeting to deputise on behalf of Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn.

**1. APOLOGIES**

Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn (Gwynedd Council).

**2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST**

No declarations of personal interest were received.

**3. URGENT ITEMS**

None to note.

**4. MINUTES**

The Chair signed the minutes of the previous meeting of the NWEAB held on 23 October, 2020 as a true record.

**5. FINAL DEAL - SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENTS**

The report was submitted by Alwen Williams, Portfolio Director and Hedd Vaughan-Evans, Operations Manager.

**RESOLVED to adopt the supplementary documents to the report submitted to the Board, namely the Risk Register, Monitoring and Evaluation Plan, Benefits**

## **Realisation Strategy and Change Management Strategy for the North Wales Growth Deal.**

### **REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

The NWEAB was committed to achieving the Final Deal Agreement with both Governments before the end of December 2020.

The Portfolio Management Office had developed the documents that needed to be submitted to both Governments in order to reach a Final Deal.

The Portfolio Management Office needed to have effective management arrangements in place in order to ensure the successful delivery of the North Wales Growth Deal.

### **DISCUSSION**

Submitted - the report which updated the Board on the Final Deal Agreement process and included the supplementary documents that were needed in order to reach Final Agreement for the North Wales Growth Deal with UK Government and Welsh Government. It was noted that the intention was to continue to develop and refine these documents over the course of the next 6-12 months.

Details were provided about the background and relevant considerations and the consultations held.

The Chair noted that all partners had now approved the key documents needed in order to reach Final Agreement for the North Wales Growth Deal with UK Government and Welsh Government. He thanked everyone for their outstanding work and noted that what the six authorities had achieved, working jointly across north Wales with their partners and chief executives, was incredible.

It was further noted that the Welsh Cities and Growth Deals Implementation Board had approved the portfolio business case. Advice was being prepared for the ministers and arrangements were underway to hold a virtual ceremony to sign the Final Deal on 17 December. Everyone was encouraged to publicise this event to allow more partners and residents of north Wales to join in the celebration.

During the discussion, it was noted that:-

- The framework was robust and the quality of the reports was excellent. The Team was congratulated for all their work.
- Given the situation in relation to Brexit, and the risk around economic changes, it was good to see emphasis on logic and assumptions modelling, so that it would be clear if the circumstances changed, or if anything were to affect the projects that we were working on. It was good to receive documents in real time to allow us to analyse whether the benefits were being realised, or if a different course of action was needed as a result of potential changes in circumstances, such as Brexit.

The meeting commenced at 1.00 pm and concluded at 1.20 pm

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**CHAIRMAN**