



Complete Agenda

Corporate Leadership Team
Council Offices
CAERNARFON
Gwynedd
LL55 1SH

Meeting

THE COUNCIL

Date and Time

1.00 pm, THURSDAY, 3RD DECEMBER, 2020

Location

Virtual Meeting - Zoom

Contact Point

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(DISTRIBUTED 26/11/20)

**Dilwyn Williams
Chief Executive**

www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru

THURSDAY, 26 NOVEMBER 2020

Dear Councillor,

MEETING OF GWYNEDD COUNCIL – THURSDAY, 3 DECEMBER 2020

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to attend a virtual Zoom meeting of **GWYNEDD COUNCIL** which will be held at **1.00 pm** on **THURSDAY, 3RD DECEMBER, 2020**, to consider the matters mentioned in the following agenda.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Dewi Iwan', written in dark ink.

Chief Executive

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. MINUTES

5 - 20

The Chairman shall propose that the minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 1st October, 2020 be signed as a true record. (attached)

3. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

To receive any declaration of personal interest.

4. THE CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

To receive any Chairman's announcements.

5. CORRESPONDENCE, COMMUNICATIONS OR OTHER BUSINESS

To receive any correspondence, communications or other business brought forward at the request of the Chairman.

6. URGENT ITEMS

To note any items which are urgent business in the opinion of the Chairman so they may be considered.

7. QUESTIONS

To consider any questions the appropriate notice for which have been given under Section 4.19 of the Constitution.

8. COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME 2021/22

21 - 26

To submit the report of the Cabinet Member for Finance (attached).

9. COUNCIL TAX: DISCRETIONARY POWERS TO ALLOW DISCOUNTS AND/OR RAISE A PREMIUM 2021/22

27 - 33

To submit the report of the Cabinet Member for Finance (attached).

10. NORTH WALES GROWTH DEAL

34 - 227

To submit the report of the Council Leader (attached).

11. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE 2019/20

228 - 242

To submit the report of the Chair of the Standards Committee (attached).

12. NOTICE OF MOTION

In accordance with the Notice of Motion received under Section 4.20 of the Constitution, Councillor Paul Rowlinson will propose as follows:-

“This Council resolves:

- (a) To write to the Welsh Government urging them to utilise any levers at their disposal to mitigate any negative impacts on animals and vulnerable people of the hosting of fireworks displays.
- (b) To write to the UK Government urging them to introduce legislation to limit the maximum noise level of fireworks to 90dB for those sold to the public for private displays.
- (c) To request the Communities Scrutiny Committee to give consideration within its work programme to reviewing what steps the Council can take to promote or encourage:
 - that all public firework displays within the local authority boundaries should be advertised in advance of the event, allowing residents to take precautions for their animals and vulnerable people.
 - a public awareness campaign about the impact of fireworks on animal welfare and vulnerable people – including precautions that can be taken to mitigate risks.
 - Local suppliers of fireworks to stock ‘quieter’ fireworks for public display.
 - People to restrict the use of fireworks to a period close to specific dates.”

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL THURSDAY, 1 OCTOBER 2020

Present: Councillor Edgar Wyn Owen (Chair);
Councillor Simon Glyn (Vice-chair).

Councillors: Craig ab Iago, Menna Baines, Dylan Bullard, Stephen Churchman, Steve Collings, Annwen Daniels, R.Glyn Daniels, Elwyn Edwards, Alan Jones Evans, Aled Evans, Dylan Fernley, Peter Antony Garlick, Gareth Wyn Griffith, Selwyn Griffiths, Alwyn Gruffydd, Annwen Hughes, John Brynmor Hughes, Louise Hughes, R.Medwyn Hughes, Judith Humphreys, Nia Jeffreys, Peredur Jenkins, Aeron M.Jones, Aled Wyn Jones, Anne Lloyd Jones, Berwyn Parry Jones, Elin Walker Jones, Eric Merfyn Jones, Gareth Tudor Morris Jones, Huw Wyn Jones, Keith Jones, Kevin Morris Jones, Linda A.W.Jones, Sion Wyn Jones, Eryl Jones-Williams, Cai Larsen, Beth Lawton, Dilwyn Lloyd, Dafydd Meurig, Dilwyn Morgan, Linda Morgan, Dafydd Owen, W.Roy Owen, Jason Parry, Nigel Pickavance, Rheinallt Puw, Peter Read, Dewi Wyn Roberts, Elfed P.Roberts, Gareth A.Roberts, John Pughe Roberts, W.Gareth Roberts, Mair Rowlands, Paul Rowlinson, Angela Russell, Dyfrig Siencyn, Mike Stevens, Gareth Thomas, Ioan Thomas, Hefin Underwood, Catrin Wager, Eirwyn Williams, Elfed Williams, Gareth Williams, Gethin Glyn Williams, Gruffydd Williams and Owain Williams.

Also in attendance: Dilwyn Williams (Chief Executive), Morwena Edwards (Corporate Director), Dafydd Edwards (Head of Finance Department), Iwan Evans (Head of Legal Service / Monitoring Officer), Geraint Owen (Head of Corporate Support Department / Head of Democracy Service), Rhun ap Gareth (Senior Solicitor / Deputy Monitoring Officer), Vera Jones (Democracy and Language Manager), Sioned E. Williams (Head of Economy and Community Department) (for item 16(a)), Gareth Jones (Assistant Head – Planning and Environment) (for item 9(2)), Dewi Jones (Council Business Support Service Manager) (for item 10) and Eirian Roberts (Democracy Services Officer).

1. ELECTION OF CHAIR

The Council was asked to elect a Chair for 2020/21.

The Monitoring Officer explained that the Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Meetings) (Wales) Regulations 2020, in response to the crisis, allowed a range of changes in the way the Council's democratic arrangements were administered, which included permission for the Council to extend the term of the current Chair and Vice-chair. Therefore, the need to appoint could be waived and the current Chair and Vice-chair could be allowed to remain in post until the 2021 Annual Meeting at the latest.

It was proposed and seconded not to proceed to appoint a Chair, and to allow the current Chair to remain in post until the 2021 Annual Meeting.

In response to a question, the proposer explained that the logic behind his proposal was that the current Chair had not been in post for a full year as a result of the pandemic, and that appointing a new chair would mean that the person would only have 6 months of chairmanship.

RESOLVED not to proceed to appoint a Chair, and to allow the current Chair to remain in post until the 2021 Annual Meeting.

2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

The Council was asked to elect a Vice-chair for 2020/21.

RESOLVED not to proceed to appoint a Vice-chair, and to allow the current Vice-chair to remain in post until the 2021 Annual Meeting.

3. APOLOGIES

Councillors: Freya Bentham, Anwen Davies, Charles W.Jones, Elwyn Jones, Dewi Owen and Cemlyn Williams.

4. MINUTES

The Chair signed the minutes of the previous meeting of the Council held on 5 March, 2020 as a true record.

Referring to item 4 of the minutes – The Chairman's Announcements, a member noted that he did not like the use of the word '*Briton*' when referring to Elfyn Evans' success in Rally Sweden, as he was a Welshman from Dinas Mawddwy.

5. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

No declarations of personal interest were received.

6. THE CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair noted that everyone had experienced a major change in their way of life over the past six months. A high number of Gwynedd families had lost loved ones. Thus far, 83 Gwynedd residents had passed away from this serious disease, a disease that was still amongst us unfortunately.

It was also noted that many members of this Council had lost loved ones since the last Council meeting, and condolences were expressed to everyone who had suffered a bereavement.

The Council stood in silence as a mark of respect and remembrance.

Best wishes were extended to Councillor Charles Wyn Jones, who was currently in hospital.

The following were congratulated:

- Councillor Craig ab Iago and family on the birth of a daughter;
- Councillor Freya Bentham and family on the birth of a daughter.

7. CORRESPONDENCE, COMMUNICATIONS, OR ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None to note.

8. URGENT ITEMS

None to note.

9. QUESTIONS

(The Cabinet Members' written responses to the questions had been distributed to the members in advance).

(1) Question from Councillor Gruffydd Williams

"Is it possible for the Council to persuade One Voice Wales to include, not only the Chair and clerk, but every Member of Town and Community Councils, in the procedure of legal advice? I am asking as the complaint often involves a dispute between the Clerk and/or Chair and Members of Town and Community Councils. Currently, it is not possible for individual Members to obtain advice from One Voice Wales regarding matters involved with Community Councils, such as maladministration on behalf of the Clerk and/or Chair."

Response from the Cabinet Member for Corporate Support, Councillor Nia Jeffreys

"Each one of the 64 Town and Community Council in Gwynedd is a corporation that is accountable and responsible for its own procedures. With the exception of the Standards Committee regarding Code of Conduct matters, Gwynedd Council has no formal overview function with regards to the running of these bodies. However, as key partners in several aspects of our work, we are eager for them to have the appropriate governance arrangements.

According to their website:

"One Voice Wales is the principal organisation for community and town councils in Wales, providing a strong voice representing the councils' interests and a range of high quality services to support their work".

There are nearly 740 Town and Community Councils in Wales. However, I understand that One Voice Wales provides a service for those Town and Community Councils that opt to pay membership to them. This is done through the usual point of contact, namely the Clerk or Chair on behalf of the Town or Community Council. Clearly, the range of services provided and what is offered by One Voice Wales is a business matter for them.

I do not have figures for the number of Community Councils that opt to join One Voice Wales. On the other hand, I can presume that providing advice and support services for approximately 8,000 Town and Community councillors in Wales involves quite a lot of resources and capacity.

Given the provisions regarding Eligible Community Councils within the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Bill 2019, it may be timely to hold the discussion regarding the nature of the support required by Town and Community Councils in future. However, in my opinion, the appropriate way of taking this matter forward would be for the Town and Community Councils and their members to make the case directly to One Voice Wales."

Supplementary question from Councillor Gruffydd Williams

"Would it not be more powerful if the question was submitted by Gwynedd Council to the Welsh Local Government Association, on behalf of the community councils?"

Response from the Cabinet Member for Corporate Support, Councillor Nia Jeffreys

"I fully acknowledge the point made by the councillor, and thank you to the town and community councils for the heroic work many of them undertake in their communities. As I say, in my opinion, the appropriate way of taking this matter forward is for the town and community councils and their members to make the case directly to One Voice Wales. However, I am happy to follow this up with Councillor Williams outside the meeting of the full Council to see whether I could do more as Cabinet Member to facilitate, assist or support this."

(2) Question from Councillor Gareth Tudor Jones

"There has recently been a substantial increase in the purchase of second homes in Gwynedd, and particularly in Morfa Nefyn / Eder. It is a 'Crisis' according to local residents, Nefyn Town Council and Councillor Craig ab Iago (on *Pawb a'i Farn*). What steps does the Council intend to take to call on Welsh Government to devolve powers with urgency to the County Council to mitigate the situation and manage second homes?"

Response from the Cabinet Member for the Environment, Councillor Gareth Griffith

"This work was commenced last year and we are in the process of gathering evidence. The work will be completed by the end of November and we will move forward with that. The written response deals with what has happened thus far and how we deal with it in the future, but this work was commenced last year."

A supplementary question from Councillor Gareth Tudor Jones

"With it being a second homes crisis, would you not agree that we should not settle on waiting a few months again for the research outcomes and that action is required now, and urgently, and that the Council has a duty to campaign seriously for powers to be devolved from the Government in Cardiff to the County Councils to control land tax rates specifically, in order for Gwynedd Council to be able to introduce emergency measures to monitor and manage the purchase of second homes?"

Response from the Cabinet Member for the Environment, Councillor Gareth Griffith

"As the response to the original question notes, we are currently undertaking this work for all communities in Gwynedd, and it deals with house prices and also how this affects our communities in Gwynedd. It is a process that will take time. It is not something that will happen overnight unfortunately. Whatever we do in future, what matters is that we have the evidence to proceed with this. I have spoken to Sian Gwenllian, AM, and she has shared with her peers in Cardiff that this work is ongoing and that support will be required in time to persuade them in Cardiff on the way forward. At the end of the day, it is up to the Welsh Government, but it is up to us to persuade them to provide the evidence at hand."

10. GWYNEDD COUNCIL ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2019/20

Submitted – a report by the Leader requesting that the Council approve and adopt Gwynedd Council's Performance Report 2019/20 as a clear, balanced and accurate picture of the Council's performance in 2019/20.

Due to the pandemic, the Leader noted that all efforts of Council departments had been directed towards the response to the crisis from mid-March, and that it was strange to look back at a normal period. He noted that the crisis had highlighted the importance of local government in providing a service for residents, and he thanked the staff of all services for their hard work in supporting the county's communities, and to the councillors for undertaking heroic work on behalf of their electors.

The Leader further noted that members had not been given the usual opportunity to scrutinise in committees this year, and he thanked them for their patience during the period. As he was aware of the gap in the usual dialogue between all members and the Executive, he also explained that he intended to arrange briefing meetings with Cabinet members and heads of department in order to update members regarding the work that had been undertaken in different fields, and to give members an opportunity to discuss and ask questions.

He thanked Bethan Richardson (Business Support Officer) and Dewi Jones (the Council's Business Support Service Manager) for preparing the report in such a coherent manner.

The Leader expressed his best wishes to Councillor Cemlyn Williams (Cabinet Member for Education) who could not be present at the meeting, as he had recently had surgery at the hospital. He then extended an invitation to all other Cabinet members to say a few words in their turn. During their presentations, Cabinet members highlighted some points from the report that were relevant to their fields of work, elaborating on the priorities of services during the next period and the challenges they faced. They also reported on how departments had made a substantial contribution towards the response to the crisis, and thanked the heads of department and staff for all their hard work.

Members were then given an opportunity to make observations and ask questions. The following matters were raised by individual members:

- All Council staff were thanked for their commendable work during the crisis, and also the councillors, local volunteers, the third sector, Mantell Gwynedd and the county's small businesses.
- Disappointment was expressed regarding the wish of Betsi Cadwaladr Health Board to remove nearly 40 nursing beds from Pen Llŷn, and the Cabinet Member for Adults, Health and Well-being was asked to raise the matter with the Health Board.
- The Cabinet Member for the Environment was thanked for recently visiting Pen Llŷn, and it was noted that it was good to see how wildlife had thrived and how pollution had reduced during the lockdown period.
- It was noted that there was concern regarding what lay ahead of us in light of the pandemic, and all the jobs that would be lost here in Gwynedd over the winter.
- The report was welcomed and it was noted that the statistics showed that the work being completed by Gwynedd led to good outcomes.
- It was noted that a massive increase had been seen in demand for housing since the start of the year, and it was asked how changes in supply and demand could be monitored, measured and responded to, not only on a county level but also on a more local level. In response, the Cabinet Member for Housing explained that it was intended to build in flexibility into the Housing Action Plan and that it was not intended to be prescriptive. He also explained

that measuring things was an important element of Ffordd Gwynedd and that the member was welcome to contact him if he had any further questions.

- It was asked what the councillors could do to assist staff during this difficult period. In response, the Chief Executive noted that members should be praised for changing their working arrangements to enable staff to undertake their work during the period, and that he did not believe that members could do any more, with the exception of continuing to support the staff. A lot of work in terms of responding to the crisis fell on the crisis system. Members were encouraged to read the report that had been submitted to the Cabinet on 13 October on Council arrangements to prepare for the possibility of a second wave of the pandemic.
- It was noted that the period had been difficult for councillors and that the majority had risen to the challenge.
- A member thanked those staff who had gone the extra mile to help him over the past few months, and especially Steffan Jones (Head of Highways and Municipal Department), Adrian Williams (Meirionnydd Area Engineer), Sion Wilkes (Highways Inspector) and Tracey Loveday-Fone (Civil Enforcement Officer).
- The local member expressed her dissatisfaction regarding the decision of Gwynedd Consultancy to withdraw from the Fairbourne Project Board and form a group themselves, without consulting with her.
- Reference was made to Gwynedd Consultancy's asset monitoring project using sensors, and it was noted that this exciting development could create the opportunity for staff to work on a cross-departmental basis by connecting the sensors together and using artificial intelligence, and to work in accordance with Ffordd Gwynedd principles. It was asked whether it would be possible for members to receive an output from the sensors as this would enable them to know whether any problems developed in their wards. In receiving this local knowledge, members could assist officers and inform the people who would be affected. In response, the Cabinet Member for Highways and Municipal noted that the provision was not yet available across the county but that it was possible to gain access in some places. He added that he would welcome a further conversation about the potential of the sensors and this could be discussed at the briefing session with members.
- Thanks was expressed for the report and it was noted that it included a lot of what the members had requested. The Leader was thanked for his willingness to always respond to questions from members, and the Chief Executive was also thanked for his willing assistance.

RESOLVED to approve the report as an accurate, balanced and clear reflection of the Council's performance in 2019/20, and to adopt it.

11. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR TO THE DEMOCRATIC SERVICES COMMITTEE

The Council was invited to appoint a chair for the Democratic Services Committee for 2020/21.

RESOLVED to elect Councillor Anne Lloyd Jones as Chair of the Democratic Services Committee for 2020/21.

12. SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2019/20

Submitted – the scrutiny annual report for 2019/20 by the Chair of the Scrutiny Forum, Councillor Beth Lawton. She thanked all members of the scrutiny committees for their work and all officers for supporting the members and drawing up the report.

She emphasised that it was important for everyone to get the opportunity to see that scrutiny was taken seriously in Gwynedd and she noted that 40 matters had been submitted to scrutinisers during the year. She added that a meeting of the Scrutiny Forum had recently been held, along with a series of meetings between Chairs and Vice-chairs of the scrutiny committees, the Cabinet members and heads of departments to identify matters to be scrutinised. She noted that there was no wish to place additional pressures on the departments in the current climate, but dates had been set to resume the scrutiny process, limiting the number of matters under consideration until everyone had adjusted to the procedure. Should any member be of the opinion that a matter needed to be addressed, she noted that they would be welcome to contact her or one of her scrutiny co-chairs.

The Chair of the Scrutiny Forum was thanked for presenting the report on behalf of the scrutiny chairs.

13. THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE STATUTORY DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES 2019/20

Submitted – the Statutory Director of Social Services submitted her annual report offering an overview of 2019/20 performance and outlining the journey in Gwynedd in providing services for individuals who needed advice, support or care from the Council.

The Director noted that she was happy with the performance of the Social Services for 2019/20 although there were some challenges to overcome. The year in question, which referred to the period pre-Covid, now felt like ages ago, and the crisis had emerged as that year ended. She sympathised with the many people who had been affected by the virus. She thanked all staff of the sector in Gwynedd for their heroic work during the last few months, and for their work over the coming months. She also thanked others who had supported this heroic effort, the volunteers, carers, members from the third sector and Council partners, and also the Council's other departments for their willingness to release staff to assist in many ways, so that departments in the care field could focus on responding to the crisis. She noted that it had been challenging for her to find the time to put the annual report together, and she thanked Sophie, Nia and Bethan for volunteering to help her with the work.

The Director took advantage of the opportunity to also thank Marian Parry Hughes (Head of Children and Families Department) and Aled Davies (Head of Adults, Health and Well-being Department) for their valiant work during the year, and she thanked Cabinet Members in the care field, Councillors Dilwyn Morgan and Dafydd Meurig for their continued support and assistance. She noted that members were welcome to contact both heads of departments after the meeting with any detailed questions.

To conclude, the Director noted that this period had enabled both departments to push forward a number of their projects and vision, and that they were eager to continue with the good work that had been undertaken in light of such a sad situation.

Members were given an opportunity to ask questions and offer observations. During the discussion the following matters were raised:

- It was noted that Welsh Government's desire to set a target as a way of ensuring that they saw a reduction in the number of looked after children conveyed the wrong message; and the fact that Gwynedd had not set a target for reducing the numbers was welcomed, as this would lead to the risk of declining standards in terms of safeguarding the most vulnerable, and run the risk of us not implementing what mattered in terms of the children.
- The fact that the dementia units were going ahead as a result of years of battling for them, was welcomed.
- It was noted that the report was commendable, which reiterated the excellent work that had been undertaken in both departments.
- The language guidance in eight languages at the beginning of the report was welcomed, and the Social Services were congratulated for being imaginative in displaying that more than one language existed in this area.
- It was noted that both departments had gone through a very difficult period and that staff had had to adjust rapidly to a different situation. However, the work had been extremely good and the doors of the Director and both heads of departments were always open to members.
- In response to a question regarding how the numbers of looked after children could be reduced safely, it was noted that what mattered was that the service did the right thing for those children, protected them and ensured that the family thrived. The aim was to keep families together, but that it was done in a safe manner. A number of looked after children now still lived at home with their parents or close family and, therefore, those children did not always realise that their situation was different to any other child.
- It was asked how a sufficient number of foster parents could be ensured. In response, it was noted that there was a number of fantastic foster parents in Gwynedd, and that a campaign held at the beginning of the pandemic in order to recruit more of them had been very successful. Such campaigns would have to continue but it was also important to have foster parents who specialised in specialist aspects of fostering.
- It was asked how dependency on specialised placements could be reduced. In response, it was noted that this was a substantial challenge as the needs of some children could be so complex, and it was important to respond to the individual and find the most suitable placement for them.

The Director was thanked for her presentation.

14. ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S POLITICAL BALANCE

Submitted – a report by the Head of Democratic Services on the Council's political balance and relevant matters.

During the discussion the following matters were raised by individual members:

- It was noted that an Individual Member would lose his/her seat on the Care Scrutiny Committee although there had been no reduction in the number of individual members. Similarly, it was noted that the Llais Gwynedd Group would lose one seat on the Education and Economy Scrutiny Committee, although no members had been lost from the Group, and that the decision of the Business Group on the balance had not been unanimous. In response, members were reminded of the main rules regarding the allocation of seats, as noted in the report.
- It was asked whether any consideration was given to allocating vacant seats on committees to other political groups. In response, it was explained that political

groups were responsible for filling the seats on a committee, but the full Council set the framework. If a group had not been appointed to a seat on a committee, it would be possible to ask the full Council to allocate that seat, and that appointment would not have to be in accordance with the political balance.

RESOLVED

- (a) **To adopt the list of committees and sub-committees to be established for the municipal year, as noted in the appendix to these minutes, and to adopt the allocation of seats in accordance with what is noted in the appendix.**
- (b) **To delegate the power to the Head of Democracy Services to make appointments to the committees based on political balance and in accordance with the wishes of the political groups.**
- (c) **To adopt the chairmanships of scrutiny committees on the basis of political balance, as follows:**

**Education and Economy Scrutiny Committee
Communities Scrutiny Committee
Care Scrutiny Committee**

**Plaid Cymru Group
Independent Group
Independent Group**

15. NON-ATTENDANCE OF A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL

Submitted – a report by the Head of Democratic Services requesting that the Council approve the absence of Councillor Charles W. Jones from meetings of the Council because of personal circumstances, in accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, enabling him to continue to be a member of Gwynedd Council.

It was noted that the Council was sending its best wishes to the member.

RESOLVED to approve the absence of Councillor Charles W. Jones from meetings of the Council for six months from this date because of personal circumstances, in accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, enabling him to continue to be a member of Gwynedd Council.

16. NOTICES OF MOTION

- (A) Submitted – the following notice of motion by Councillor Glyn Daniels, in accordance with Section 4.20 of the Constitution and it was seconded:

That Gwynedd Council, in collaboration with Snowdonia National Park, urgently investigates the possibility of charging tourists who visit parts of the Park, particularly on and around Snowdon itself.

I believe this would be advantageous in more than one way:

a) Charging a considerable fee for visiting the summit of Snowdon could boost the coffers of Gwynedd Council and the Park at a time when we are facing financial uncertainty owing to the side-effects of Covid-19.

b) Consequently, there is room to believe that such steps could contribute to reducing the serious problems of excess cars causing traffic jams and hazards on the region's roads.

During the discussion on the motion, it was noted:

- It was agreed that a discussion was required with the National Park, but there was a need to be clearer in terms of what was meant by a 'considerable fee'.
- The tourism industry was important to Gwynedd, but there was a desire to see the county benefiting from sustainable tourism, with those people visiting the area showing respect to the local environment and community.
- The motion was very timely and it was important to address this urgently, by holding a joint meeting with the National Park as soon as possible with the aim of having a fee charging system in operation by the 2021 season.
- Gwynedd had wonderful natural assets but communities were not benefiting fully from them at present.
- It was important to ensure sufficient parking provision, while giving consideration to creating a network of car parks in our communities. It was suggested that consideration could be given to the creation of a park and ride facility in Glyn Rhonwy, offering a free pass to Llanberis residents.
- Technology such as Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) and the Council's new sensor system could be used to monitor and manage parking in the area. Technology such as an advance registration system could also be used to visit the Snowdon area, with local people paying a smaller fee or being granted access for free.
- This was a problem that had become apparent across Gwynedd and Snowdon was a classic example of over-tourism.
- The Council had received many calls to respond to the situation, e.g. Llanllyfni Community Council and others had called on Gwynedd Council to arrange a conference to discuss this. Although it was difficult in light of the pandemic, it was intended to arrange a virtual event in due course.
- It was not legal to charge a fee to use public footpaths but the call to examine this further was welcomed.
- A report commissioned by the National Park on transport around Snowdon mentioned some great ideas, but there was a need to widen the discussion to include the whole of Gwynedd.
- A piece of work had been completed to examine examples of how other areas across this country, and in Europe, dealt with over-tourism, and to consider how to re-set tourism after the pandemic crisis in a way that supported the county's communities.
- It was important for any fee charging system to be enforced correctly. Should a fee be charged for walking up Snowdon, a number of questions arose such as where exactly the money would be collected? In terms of the main routes, turnstiles could be installed and young people employed to collect the money; however, not everyone followed the main routes, with some ramblers going cross-country. Another option would be to collect the money on the summit of Snowdon.
- The money collected could be used to create jobs locally.
- A cost was associated with tourism, such as the cost of clearing up litter after the visitors. The Council was required to provide these services but, ultimately, Gwynedd residents paid for them. Also, as the Sherpa service was subsidised, Gwynedd taxpayers were currently paying for visitors to go up Snowdon.
- The research was welcomed and it was greatly hoped that benefit could be brought to our residents and local environment from this.

RESOLVED to adopt the motion, namely:

That Gwynedd Council, in collaboration with Snowdonia National Park, urgently investigates the possibility of charging tourists who visit parts of the Park, particularly on and around Snowdon itself.

- (B) Submitted – the following notice of motion by Councillor Gruffydd Williams, in accordance with Section 4.20 of the Constitution, and it was seconded:

That Gwynedd Council calls on the Welsh Government to change the Planning Act in order that it is compulsory to have planning permission to convert a dwelling-house into a holiday home / holiday unit, and adapts the policy framework to allow thresholds to be set regarding the maximum numbers of holiday homes in any area to a figure that should not exceed approximately 5% of the housing stock.

At the beginning of the discussion, a member noted that a second home owner in her ward had contacted her asking what support would be available if no more than 5% of housing would be permitted to be second homes, and that she would pass the letter on to the Cabinet Member for Housing.

During the discussion on the motion, it was noted:

- The high number of second homes in Gwynedd made it impossible for young local people to buy houses.
- This was not the first time for the Council to draw this to the attention of Welsh Government.
- The problem had increased over the years and there was an opportunity to do something about the situation through the planning system. The Government had already granted the right for councils to make it compulsory to have planning permission to convert a dwelling-house into a multi-occupancy house, therefore, it should be relatively simple to introduce the same regulation in relation to holiday homes and second homes. There was also a need to differentiate between second homes and holiday homes, as holiday accommodation brought economic benefit.

If there were people failing to buy a house at all, it was further noted that no holiday home should be permitted at all, and an amendment was proposed and seconded to erase the last clause of the motion, namely '*to a figure that should not exceed approximately 5% of the housing stock*', so that the cap on allocated numbers was set at the discretion of planners and communities on a scale that would be suitable for the area in question.

The proposer of the original motion agreed to amend the motion on these lines with the Council's consent.

During the discussion on the amendment, it was noted:

- The problem was not unique to Gwynedd or this period.
- Enough was enough, and that young people were being priced out of the housing market.
- More than 5% of housing were holiday homes in some villages and the figure was up to 30% in some parts of Gwynedd.
- The suggestion that local communities should be given a voice in the decision was welcomed.
- One of the main principles of the planning system at the time of its conception was to create a fair system for all, but the current system was controlled by well-off people. The holiday homes situation was one element of what was

wrong with the planning system, namely a system that was operating under an act that had been passed in 1990, and in a different country.

- People should be warned that an application to convert a property registered as a business, such as a bed and breakfast business, back into a dwelling-house or flats on the open market could mean that the said property would revert to an affordable home.
- This was not only a linguistic matter, it was also a matter for the community.
- The villages were full of AirBnBs, with people coming there on holidays often taking up more than one parking space on the street. In addition, local people were unhappy that owners of the AirBnBs could claim a £10,000 grant for businesses that were eligible for small businesses rates relief.
- It was earlier reported at this meeting that research into second homes would take time, but it was already the eleventh hour and evidence of the harmful impact of second homes was already available.
- Welsh Government statistics regarding land tax per constituency showed that Meirion / Dwyfor was the second highest throughout Wales, with £3-£4 million coming to the Government's coffers from second homes.
- A 70% increase had been seen in the sale of houses in Gwynedd over the last few months, compared to the same period last year, and the majority were second homes.
- Llŷn villages were besieged by external developers, and tourism had reached its peak with an excess amount of caravan sites and holiday homes.
- Members of Nefyn Town Council, including Councillor Gruffydd Williams, should be thanked for proposing clear actions to improve the opportunities for young people to buy houses locally.
- We would not have "*prosperous and vibrant communities where the Welsh language thrives*" very soon, and there was a need to remind the Government of the objectives of the Well-Being Act.
- The themes of the three motions submitted to this meeting of the Council were associated with problems that had arisen as a result of all the visitors coming to the area, and that Brexit could exacerbate the problem as fewer people go on holidays abroad.
- People had now been drawing attention to the holiday home problem for half a century, and 20 years ago, a private measure submitted by Elfyn Llwyd on this exact matter had been thrown out by Tony Blair's Cabinet.
- It was hoped that we had the will to protect our communities by means of this call on the Government, and any other possible way. This was not the only answer, but it would be easy to implement if only we secured the support of Welsh Government. However, positive responses had not been received from the Government recently.
- Local people in Gwynedd failed to obtain planning permission and, therefore, there was also a need to examine our planning policies here in Gwynedd.
- It was hoped that recent research from Gwynedd would encompass every aspect of this problem so that we could say that we had done our best for our communities.
- Second home owners were converting the properties into businesses and were therefore granted Council Tax relief.
- People were migrating to the countryside as they did not feel safe in the large towns and cities.
- There were 2000 people on the waiting list for social housing in Gwynedd and there was a need to act fast on this matter.

A vote was taken on the amendment and it carried.

As the amendment was accepted, the Monitoring Officer explained that the original motion had been amended and that a further vote was needed on the wording of the amendment, rather than the wording of the original. The majority voted in favour of the motion.

RESOLVED to adopt the motion, namely:

That Gwynedd Council calls on the Welsh Government to change the Planning Act in order that it is compulsory to have planning permission to convert a dwelling-house into a holiday home / holiday unit, and adapts the policy framework to allow thresholds to be set regarding the maximum numbers of holiday homes in any area.

- (c) Submitted – the following notice of motion by Councillor Gareth Thomas, in accordance with Section 4.20 of the Constitution, and it was seconded:

That the Council calls on the UK Government to create legislation to control personal watercrafts and powerboats on the sea in the same manner as motorcycles on land. That is, that every personal watercraft and power boat has to have a licence and insurance prior to use on the sea and that every driver is given a test on his/her ability to manage the vehicle and on his/her knowledge of navigation.

During the discussion on the motion, it was noted:

- That Britain was the only country, with the exception of Egypt, that did not have control over personal watercrafts.
- That they could compare driving a personal watercraft to an inexperienced person driving a powerful motor cycle among people.
- The sale of watercrafts had increased this year as a result of Covid and, therefore, the problem was likely to be even worse next year.
- It appeared that the police could not prosecute in cases of irresponsible or aggressive driving of personal watercrafts.
- This was a problem along the Gwynedd coast and there was a real need for legislation to ensure that our beaches were safe.

It was further noted that individuals were not required to register or obtain a licence to drive powerboats either, and an amendment to include powerboats was proposed and seconded.

The proposer of the original motion agreed to amend the motion on these lines with the Council's consent.

During the discussion on the amendment, it was noted:

- There was no method to monitor whether or not the driver of a personal watercraft or powerboat had been drinking alcohol.
- Lack of control was a common theme for the three motions that had been submitted to this meeting of the Council, and the importance of devolving powers for such matters was emphasised.
- An app was available to manage the movements of boats.
- Everyone should receive training prior to driving such vehicles.

In response to a member's question regarding the situation on Council beaches, the Monitoring Officer explained that there were limited rights in terms of, for example, controlling speed in specific sections of a beach etc. which had been indicated in by-laws. However, it was not required to have insurance or to register in order to use these vehicles and this was the loophole in the law that was referred to by the motion.

A vote was taken on the amendment and it carried.

As the amendment was accepted, the Monitoring Officer explained that the original motion had been amended and that a further vote was needed on the wording of the amendment, rather than the wording of the original. The majority voted in favour of the motion.

RESOLVED to adopt the motion, namely:

That the Council calls on the UK Government to create legislation to control personal watercrafts and powerboats on the sea in the same manner as motorcycles on land. That is, that every personal watercraft and power boat has to have a licence and insurance prior to use on the sea and that every driver is given a test on his/her ability to manage the vehicle and on his/her knowledge of navigation.

The meeting commenced at 1.00pm and concluded at 4.45pm.

CHAIR

APPENDIX – ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES

A	Plaid Cymru	Independent	Llais Gwynedd	The National Party	United Independent Group for Gwynedd	Individual Member	Total
Education and Economy Scrutiny Committee	10	5	1 (down from 2)	1	1	0	18
Communities Scrutiny Committee	10	5	2		0	1	18
Care Scrutiny Committee	10	5	1	1	1	0 (down from 1)	18
Audit and Governance	10	5	1		1	1	18

B	Plaid Cymru	Independent	Llais Gwynedd	The National Party	United Independent Group for Gwynedd	Individual Member	Total
Democratic Services	8	4 (down from 5)	1	1	1		15
Planning	8	4	1		1	1	15
Central Licensing	8	4	1		0	2	15
Language	8	5	1		1		15
Chief Officers Appointment	8	4 (down from 5)	2	1	0		15
Employment Appeals	4	2	1		0		7
Number of seats	84	43	12	4	6	5	154

C	Plaid Cymru	Independent	Llais Gwynedd	The National Party	United Independent Group for Gwynedd	Individual Member	Total
Pensions	4	2	0		0	1	7
Local Joint Consultative Committee	6	3	1		1		11
SACRE	4	2 (down from 3)	0	1	0		7
Joint Planning Policy Committee	5	2	1		0		8

Total seats	103	52	14	5	7	6	187
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In accordance with the previous decision of the Council, the higher salaries are paid as follows:

- Leader
- Deputy Leader
- 8 other Cabinet members
- The Leader of the largest Opposition
- Committee Chairs
 - Scrutiny Committee (x3)
 - Audit and Governance Committee
 - Planning Committee
 - Licensing Committee (Central and General count as one Committee)
 - Pensions Committee

MEETING:	Full Council
DATE:	3 December 2020
CABINET MEMBER:	Councillor Ioan Thomas, Finance Cabinet Member
TITLE:	COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME 2021/22
OBJECTIVE:	Confirm the continuation of the current Local Scheme for providing assistance towards paying Council Tax for the year beginning 1 April 2021
CONTACT OFFICER:	Dewi Morgan, Assistant Head of Finance (Revenues and Risk)

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present arrangements for the implementation of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme and to approve it for 2021/22.
- 1.2 On 1 April 2013, as part of the UK Government's welfare reform programme, Council Tax Benefit was abolished and replaced by the Council Tax Reduction Scheme.
- 1.3 In accordance with the Council Tax Reduction Schemes and Prescribed Requirements (Wales) Regulations 2013 (2013/3029), every local authority must make a scheme in order to determine which reductions will be available as support towards paying the Council Tax. Gwynedd Council's current local scheme (i.e. for 2020/21) was adopted by the Full Council on 19 December 2019.
- 1.4 The Regulations insist that the Full Council must adopt the local Scheme every year, and must do so by 31 January before the start of the relevant financial year.
- 1.5 Under the local scheme, qualifying taxpayers may continue to receive a reduction up to 100% of their Council Tax bill (where in receipt of certain benefits).
- 1.6 **The recommendations below are that the Gwynedd Council Local Scheme continues without revisions for 2021/22.** Detailed explanations and reasons behind the subsequent recommendations follow in the body of this report.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The full Council is asked to resolve formally:

- 2.1 To continue the Council's Local Scheme for the year commencing 1 April 2021 as it was during 2020/21. Therefore, the following conditions (a – c below) regarding the discretionary elements will continue:**
- a) To apply a 100% disregard for war disablement pensions, war widows' pensions and war widowers' pensions, for both pensioners and working age claimants.**
 - b) Not to increase the extended reduction periods for pensioners and working age claimants from the standard four weeks in the Prescribed Scheme.**
 - c) Not to increase the backdate period for pensioners and working age claimants from the standard three months contained within the Prescribed Scheme.**
- 2.2 Where appropriate, to delegate powers to the Head of Finance, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance, to make minor amendments to the scheme for 2021/22, on condition that it will not change the substance of the scheme.**

3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1** In accordance with the Welfare Reform Act 2013, since 1 April 2013, the responsibility for arranging support towards paying Council Tax, and the associated funding, has transferred from the DWP to local authorities in England, and to the Scottish Government and the Welsh Government.
- 3.2** The Council Tax Reduction Schemes and Prescribed Requirements (Wales) Regulations 2013 (SI 2013/3029) allow support up to 100% for claimants and the financing of some of the relevant cost.
- 3.3** The Gwynedd Council Local Scheme for 2020/21 was approved by the Full Council on 19 December 2019. The Regulations control the implementation of reduction schemes across the whole of Wales and are designed to ensure that each local authority consistently provides support for Welsh taxpayers.

4. 2021/22 REDUCTION SCHEME

- 4.1 The Regulations (Regulation 18) state that **for each financial year, an authority must consider whether to revise its scheme** or to replace it with another scheme; the authority must make any revision to its scheme, or any replacement scheme, **no later than 31 January** in the financial year preceding that for which the revision or replacement scheme is to have effect.
- 4.2 The Regulations (Regulation 12) state that the function of making the scheme cannot be delegated to the Cabinet, and it **must be decided by the full Council**.
- 4.3 Therefore, the purpose of this report is to satisfy the requirement for the Council to consider whether to revise its local scheme.
- 4.4 There is limited discretion under the Prescribed Scheme for councils to consider the following 3 specific discretionary elements. Discretion can be used to make these elements more generous than the national scheme, but not less generous.

War disablement pensions, war widows' pensions and war widowers' pensions (*recommendation 2.1(a) above*)

- 4.5 There is discretion to increase the disregard for war disablement pensions, war widows' pensions and war widowers' pensions, for both pensioners and working age.

Presently, regulations provide that the first £10 of a weekly war disablement pension, war widows' pension and war widowers' pension are disregarded. However, local authorities have discretion to disregard up to 100% of the actual amount above the first £10. Since 1 April 1996 Gwynedd Council, as have the majority of other Welsh Authorities, resolved to disregard 100% of the war pensions above the £10. As a result, this sum has already been included within the base budget and in the 2020/21 Financial Strategy. In November 2020, there were 32 claimants benefitting from this discretion.

It is recommended that this local discretion in Gwynedd continues.

Extended payment period for working age persons (*recommendation 2.1(b) above*)

- 4.6 There is discretion to increase the standard extended payment period of 4 weeks given to people after they return to work, when they have been in receipt of a relevant qualifying benefit for at least 26 weeks.

There is no limit on the maximum period they may be extended to, but to extend this period would have financial implications. The estimated expenditure in respect of the standard 4 week extended payments in 2020/21 will be approximately £1,000. In 2020/21 up to mid-November, there were 29 cases where "extended payments" had been awarded pursuant to the Prescribed Scheme.

It is recommended that the standard four week extended payment period contained within the Prescribed Scheme remains unaltered.

Backdating late applications
(*recommendation 2.1(c) above*)

- 4.7 There is discretion to increase backdates for late applications beyond the standard three months. There is no limit on the maximum period they may be extended to. The cost of granting backdated claims (3 months) for 2019/20 is estimated at £17,700, with 162 claims having been backdated to some extent in 2020/21 up to mid-November.

The current Council Tax Reduction Scheme only allows backdating for a maximum period of 3 months. Extending this period would increase the cost of the Scheme.

It is recommended that there should be no increase in the backdate period from the standard 3 months contained within the Prescribed Scheme.

- 4.8 The recommendations above for 2021/22 are in line with current arrangements in 2020/21.**

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 Should the Council wish to revise its local scheme – in effect to amend the 3 areas of discretion described in paragraphs 4.5 to 4.7 – it would need to consult with “any persons who would have an interest”.
- 5.2 In accordance with Regulation 18(6), further consultation is not necessary as there is no intention to change the Local Scheme this year.

6. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 6.1 As noted in Part 4 of this report, in the context of the Prescribed Scheme that is in place for Council Tax Reduction across the whole of Wales, the local discretion available to local authorities is very limited apart from three very specific areas.
- 6.2 The Welsh Government has undertaken a detailed regulatory impact assessment, which includes equality impact assessment. A local Equalities Impact Assessment study was conducted in 2013, when the arrangements changed from Council Tax Benefit to the Council Tax Reduction Scheme, and at that time the decision to introduce the local scheme was taken whilst recognising that this is a prescribed scheme with the burden being borne by all groups.
- 6.3 The Council needs to consider, is if the decisions sought in 2.1 a) – c) effect anyone with one or more of the protected equality characteristics in a way that is different to the general population. Other than funding at Council level, the scheme proposed for 2021/22 does not contain any significant changes from the scheme which is operational since 2013. An assessment undertaken when preparing this report suggests that the conclusions of the 2013 assessment remain valid and that these limited decisions that are sought will not effect any of the protected groups in a way that is different to the general population.

7. RESOURCES

- 7.1 The costs of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme have been included in the grant 'settlement' to local authorities by the Welsh Government, but it should be noted that this settlement does not meet the whole costs of the Reduction Scheme.
- 7.2 The Council funds a proportion of the Scheme costs, which is the balance above the contribution included in the settlement, as well as inflation, which is not funded by the Government. In terms of inflation, the cost of support will increase in proportion with the increase in Council Tax.
- 7.3 Whilst local authorities receive a contribution towards the costs of the Scheme within the annual settlement, since the establishment of the scheme in 2013, the settlement has not reflected the full actual cost. The notional cost of Council Tax Reductions in Gwynedd in 2021/22 (according to notional allocation of the total Standard Spending Assessment (SSA) between services in the conditional settlement's tables) will not be known until the draft settlement is announced on 22 December.
- 7.4 The notional cost of Council Tax Reductions in Gwynedd in the settlement for 2020/21 was £8.728m, but at the start of the financial year it was estimated that the actual expenditure would be approximately £9.5m. As a result of the global pandemic and its damaging effect on the economy, there was a significant increase in the number of claimants between 31 March 2020 and the end of the first quarter of the current financial year on 30 June. By the end of the second quarter the numbers had decreased slightly, but a further increase is expected during the third quarter.

	Caseload	Expenditure (full year effect)
31 March 2020	8,978	£9,516,565
30 June 2020	9,382	£10,030,413
30 September 2020	9,283	£10,006,243

- 7.5 That is, there was an increase of around £500,000 in the year's expenditure commitment early in the financial year, but the situation has stabilised since then. Welsh Government has awarded one-off additional funding to mitigate the impact of this increase in quarters 1 and 2 this year.
- 7.6 There is no choice other than to face the continuing cost of the Scheme, and the matter will be considered appropriately when drawing up the budget for 2021/22.

Local member's views

Not relevant

Opinion of the Statutory Officers

Monitoring Officer:

No observations to add from a propriety perspective.

Head of Finance:

I have collaborated with the Cabinet Member in the preparation of this report and I confirm the content.

MEETING:	Full Council
DATE:	3 December 2020
CABINET MEMBER:	Councillor Ioan Thomas Cabinet Member for Finance
TITLE:	COUNCIL TAX: DISCRETIONARY POWERS TO ALLOW DISCOUNTS AND/OR RAISE A PREMIUM
OBJECTIVE:	Formal ratification for 2021/22 of previous decisions not to allow any discounts for second homes and to disallow discount on empty properties, and to raise a Premium of 50% on relevant properties.
AUTHOR:	Dafydd L Edwards, Head of Finance

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The Local Government Finance Act 1992 provides the Council with the discretion to charge full Council Tax, allow a discount of up to 50%, or to charge a Premium of up to an additional 100% on the Council Tax of certain classes of **second homes** and **long-term empty properties**.
2. The Council has resolved annually since 1998 to allow NO discounts to second homes.
3. The Council has resolved annually since 2009 to allow NO discounts in respect of properties that have been empty for 6 months or more.
4. Section 139 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 added Sections 12A and 12B to the Local Government Finance Act 1992 to include a discretionary right for Councils to raise an additional "Premium" of no more than 100% on dwellings that have been empty for 12 months or more (Section 12A) and relevant second homes (Section 12B).
5. On 8 December 2016, the Council resolved to raise a Premium of 50% on the Council Tax of relevant second homes and long-term empty dwellings for the 2018/19 financial year. The Council had to make its first determination to raise a "second homes Premium" at least one year before the start of the financial year to which it relates, but any subsequent determination only needs to be made before the start of the relevant financial year. Since then, in December 2018 and December 2019, the Council has resolved to continue with the scheme with no change for 2019/20 and 2020/21 respectively.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council makes no change to the scheme for 2021/22. That is, for 2021/22:

- That Gwynedd Council allows NO discount on class A second homes, under Section 12 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
- That Gwynedd Council allows NO discount and RAISES A PREMIUM OF 50% on class B second homes, under Section 12B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
- That Gwynedd Council allows NO discount on homes that have been empty for 6 months or more and RAISES A PREMIUM OF 50% on homes that have been empty for 12 months or more, under Section 12A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND

6. Councils have a discretion under Section 12 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 to grant discount, or not, to two classes of second homes (classes A and B) and to long term empty dwellings (class C). The discount can be 50%, a reduced percentage or no discount.
7. Section 139 of the Housing (Wales) Act added Sections 12A and 12B to the 1992 Act to include a discretionary right for Councils to raise an additional “Premium” of no more than 100% on dwellings that have been empty for 12 months or more (Section 12A) and second homes (Section 12B).
8. In the Council Tax (Prescribed Classes of Dwellings) (Wales) Regulations 1998 (SI 1998/105), 'second homes' have been categorised into two classes, A and B, while class C refers to empty properties:
 - ❑ **Class A** – A dwelling of which there is no resident, which is substantially furnished and the occupation of which is prohibited by law for a continuous period of at least 28 days in the relevant year;
 - ❑ **Class B** – A dwelling of which there is no resident, which is substantially furnished, and there is no limit on occupation by law.
 - ❑ **Class C** – A dwelling which is unoccupied and which is substantially unfurnished.
9. A “resident” in relation to any dwelling means an individual who has attained the age of 18 years and has their sole or main residence in the dwelling (Section 6(5) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992).
10. The Council Tax (Exceptions to Higher Amounts) (Wales) Regulations 2015 (SI 2015/2068) exempts Class A second homes from paying the Premium.

CURRENT POLICY AND INTENTION

11. The Council had resolved to allow NO discounts to second homes (classes A and B) in every year since receiving discretionary powers for these classes under the 1998 Regulations, and had also resolved to allow NO discounts for class C (empty properties) in every year since those regulations were amended for 2009/10.
12. Due to the changes that came into force as a result of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014, the matter was considered by the Full Council on 8 December 2016, which resolved to raise a Premium of 50% on class B second homes and on class C long-term empty properties (empty for 12 months or more) in 2018/19.
13. All background papers in relation to the first determination to raise a Premium are to be found on the Gwynedd Council website:
<https://democracy.cyngor.gwynedd.gov.uk/ielistdocuments.aspx?cid=130&mid=1656&ver=4>
14. The Local Government Finance Act 1992 states that any determination with regards to Sections 12, 12A and 12B must be made annually, by the full Council.
15. The Council had to make its first determination to raise a "second homes Premium" (class B) at least one year before the start of the financial year to which it relates. The “year’s notice” clause does not relate to long-term empty dwellings, nor to any determination on the second home Premium after the first determination.
16. The financial strategy for 2021/22, and the Council’s grant settlement from the Welsh Government, is based on continuation of the policy to allow NO discounts, and any change to that policy would need to be funded by the Council in 2021/22.

17. The regulations for setting the tax base have been written so that a decision to raise a Premium does not effect the Council's grant settlement from the Welsh Government.
18. A public consultation was undertaken in 2016 before making the first determination to raise a Premium. Since the proposal is not to change the arrangements for 2021/22, a further consultation at this stage is not necessary.
19. If Council members wish to amend the level of Premium up to the maximum permitted under the legislation, they must be aware of the risks associated with that:
 - The next part of the report, "Second Homes", shows how the transfer of properties from the Council Tax regime to business rates has accelerated since the first decision to introduce the 50% Premium was taken. There is a risk that this would accelerate again if taxation increases further as the tolerance of some taxpayers ceases and they will look for ways to avoid paying the higher taxes.
 - Any decision to raise or adjust the Premium must be made in accordance with legal requirements. Statutory guidance states expressly that a local authority must give due consideration to its statutory duties to carry out equality impact assessments under the Equality Act 2010 and the Welsh Public Sector Equality Duties 2011 and to all other relevant considerations. A local authority should also give consideration to engagement and consultation with key stakeholders, including the local electorate, before taking a decision as to whether or not to charge one or both of the premiums. A decision to increase the level of the Premium without following the required steps, which include undertaking a meaningful public consultation, would leave the Council open to challenge in the courts. A successful challenge could result in the decision taken by the Council being judged to be unlawful and set aside. This could mean not only that the Premium could not be charged in 2021/22, but second home owners would also have to be given a 50% discount for the year.

SECOND HOMES

20. When resolving in December 2016 to raise a Premium of the Council Tax of second homes in 2018/19, attention was given to detailed studies that had been undertaken on the effect of second homes on Gwynedd's communities. The result of that work was that second homes were having an adverse effect on communities. There is no evidence that the situation has changed since then.
21. The Gwynedd and Anglesey Joint Local Development Plan 2011-2026 notes (in part 6.4.96) that "*affordability is an issue across the Plan area*" and that "*evidence suggests that affordable need is greater in coastal villages particularly within the AONBs and along the Meirionnydd coast*". These are the areas with the greatest concentration of second homes.
22. There is no evidence either that raising the Premium has had any effect on the tourist industry in 2018 and 2019. Of course, 2020 was an exceptional year, but during late summer when the travel restrictions had been relaxed somewhat, there is evidence that the tourism industry was busy in Gwynedd.
23. Statistics were published by the Welsh Revenue Authority in August 2020 which showed that 830 out of 2210 (37.6%) of sales in 2019/20 had attracted Land Transaction Tax at the "higher rate". This higher rate is raised at any time when a house is sold to someone who already owns another property, so in addition to second homes, the figure also includes individuals who buy houses in order to rent them out and also someone who has been able to buy a property while trying to sell their original home. It would not be correct, therefore, to assume that all of these properties would be subject to a Premium.

24. When the initial determination to raise the Premium was made, the risk was identified of an acceleration in the number of properties transferring to being self-catering units, that are subject to non-domestic rates, because the Valuation Office Agency has judged that they reached the necessary criteria. The transfer has accelerated, and the majority of properties that are transferring receive full Small Business Rates Relief, meaning that no tax is payable on them.
25. Since 1 April 2014, a total of **1,967** Gwynedd properties have been transferred from the Council Tax list to Non-Domestic Rates by virtue of being classified by the Valuation Office Agency as being Self-Catering Accommodation pursuant to Section 66(2BB) of the Local Government Finance Act 1988.
26. The number of these transfers has increased year-on-year:

Financial Year	Number of transfers
2020-21 (to 31/10/2020)	280
2019-20	397
2018-19	454
2017-18	282
2016-17	199
2015-16	167
2014-15	188
Total	1,967

27. This is an increase of 450 (30%) since December 2019.
28. Council members and officers continue, as they have for several years, to correspond regularly with ministers and officials in Welsh Government to press the case for acting to change to law, since this is eroding the public purse substantially. One issue that was specifically addressed during 2020/21 was that property owners who had transferred were eligible for Covid-10 grants of £10,000 each. The Welsh Government changed the guidance a few weeks into the scheme to ensure that such grants were paid only to true businesses, by tightening up the requirements further than is necessary to transfer in the first place.
29. Despite this, the Council's members and officers continue to await proposals by Welsh Government, and the unrelenting continuation of the transfer has been recorded on the Council's corporate risk register. We aim to ensure a meeting with the Minister to put pressure on the Government to change legislation relating to holiday homes, and to run a wider campaign to promote that.

EMPTY PROPERTY

30. In terms of empty houses, the Council states "*Houses that stand empty can cause nuisance and damage to neighbouring houses. They are also a waste because they could be used as homes*".
31. Since April 2009, long term empty dwellings have been charged 100% council tax, following either an exempt period of 6 months, or an extended 12 month period of exemption if undergoing major renovation. Since April 2018, this has increased to 150% council tax for properties that have been empty for 12 months or more. Revoking the Premium, or allowing a discount, would provide an unfortunate incentive for owners to keep dwellings empty. The Empty Property Strategy includes the Council exercising its discretion to charge at least 100% council tax on long term empty dwellings, as an incentive for these dwellings to be reoccupied.

32. One of the Council's main priorities (Improvement Priority 4) is "Access to a suitable home". This includes a programme within the Council's Plan 2018-23 to improve the provision of suitable and affordable housing.

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

33. As with all far-reaching decisions, the Council must give due consideration to its statutory duties to carry out equality impact assessments under the Equality Act 2010 and the Welsh Public Sector Equality Duties 2011 and to all other relevant considerations.
34. The initial decision to introduce a Premium was made in December 2016, following consideration of an Equality Impact Assessment that had been carried out in accordance with the statutory requirements on the Council. This assessment is reviewed when the annual decision regarding the premium is made. We do not believe that there are specific equality issues that need to be brought to the attention of the Council when considering this issue, and are of the opinion that the EIA remains valid.
35. The Equality Impact Assessment that was completed at the time of originally introducing the Premium is found here:

<https://democracy.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/documents/s8778/Council%20Tax%20Premium%20-%20Appendix%204.pdf>

WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS (WALES) ACT 2015

36. There is a duty to act in accordance with the sustainable development principle, which is to try to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. When acting in accordance with this general duty the Council needs to consider the importance of the long term impact, being integrated and inclusive, collaboration and prevention in developing and implementing the proposal.
37. In accordance with the requirement of the Act, Gwynedd Council (in collaboration with Isle of Anglesey County Council) has developed well-being objectives. These are:
- Communities which thrive and are prosperous in the long-term
 - Healthy and independent residents with a good quality of life
38. When the original decision to raise a Council Tax Premium was made in 2016, assurance was given that consideration had been given to these matters. The contents of that report showed that the recommendation to raise a Premium had been made in the context of a proactive approach to strengthening the sustainability of those communities within Gwynedd with high number of second homes and long-term empty properties. The substantial research work that had been made in the years before the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 came into force, and then before the initial decision to raise the Premium, showed that introducing the Premium on second homes and long-term empty properties would contribute to realising the objective of having Communities which thrive and are prosperous in the long-term. It is noted in particular that the decision to raise a Premium was made in the context of responses to public consultation and in order to take steps to reduce depopulation in many communities within Gwynedd.

USE OF THE PREMIUM YIELD

39. The Budget for 2020/21 was approved by the full Council on 5 March 2020. In doing so, the Council resolved to continue to earmark the Council Tax Premium yield in 2020/21 in a specific reserve to be used to finance the Council's Housing Strategy, which aims to provide housing for young people in our communities. It is estimated that £2.7m of additional income in 2021/22 by charging the Premium.

40. The full Council will consider the 2020/21 Budget on 4 March 2021, which will include further information on the use of this Council Tax Premium Fund.

Local member's views

Not relevant

Opinion of the Statutory Officers

Monitoring Officer:

As set out in the report, the Council needs to make a determination for the forthcoming financial year. That has to be done within the statutory requirements, which also states that regard must be had to the statutory guidance. It is appropriate that the decision in relation to Council Tax Discounts and Premiums are considered by the full Council.

Head of Finance:

I have collaborated with the Cabinet Member in the preparation of this report and I confirm the content.

GWYNEDD COUNCIL



Report to a meeting of Gwynedd Council

Date of meeting: 3 December 2020
Cabinet Member: Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn
Contact Officer: Sioned Williams/Alwen Williams
Contact Telephone Number: Ext.32547
Title of Item: North Wales Growth Deal

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to present the key documents required to reach Final Deal Agreement for the North Wales Growth Deal with the UK Government and Welsh Government.
- 1.2. These key documents include the following:
- Overarching Business Plan
 - Draft Final Deal Agreement
 - Governance Agreement 2

2. DECISION SOUGHT

2.1 It is recommended that Council

- Approves the Overarching Business Plan as the document that sets out the arrangements to deliver the North Wales Growth Deal as the basis for entering into the Final Deal Agreement and acceptance of the Grant Funding Letter with the UK and Welsh Governments.
- Approves the provisions of Governance Agreement 2 relating to non-executive functions and specifically adopts the arrangements for Scrutiny set out in "*Governance Agreement 2: Schedule 3*" thereof as the basis for completing the Final Deal Agreement and acceptance of the Grant Funding Letter with the UK and Welsh Governments.

- Subject to completion of Governance Agreement 2 that Gwynedd Council agrees to act as the Host Authority and Accountable Body and signs the Grant Offer Letter on behalf of the Partners through the Chief Finance Officer.
- Recommends approval of the method used to calculate the cost of borrowing notionally required to facilitate the negative cash flow for the Growth Deal, and to include a provision within the Council's budget to pay this contribution and the established core and supplementary contributions as set out in GA2 (and in paragraphs 5.5 - 5.7 below).
- Delegates authority to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader, Monitoring Officer and Section 151 Officer to agree minor changes to the documents with the Partners as necessary to complete the agreement.

3. REASONS FOR THE DECISION

- 3.1. In 2016 the North Wales Economic Ambition Board adopted A Growth Vision for the Economy of North Wales. Based on the Growth Vision Strategy, a Growth Deal was prepared and agreed by all the partners working with both the UK and Welsh Government and the private sector in October 2018. In November 2019 the NWEAB and the Welsh and UK Governments agreed the Heads of Terms, for a Final Deal Agreement to be completed in 2020.
- 3.2. The NWEAB are committed to achieving Final Deal Agreement with both Government before the end of December 2020.
- 3.3. The Portfolio Management Office have developed the documentation required to submit to both Governments to reach Final Deal Agreement. The contents of these documents are outlined within this report, and copies of the documents attached as appendices.
- 3.4. In its meeting 24 November 2020, Gwynedd Council's Cabined decided:
- That Cabinet formally endorses and recommends that the Council approves the Overarching Business Plan as the document that sets out the arrangements to deliver the North Wales Growth Deal as the basis for entering into the Final Deal Agreement and acceptance of the Grant Funding Letter with the UK and Welsh Governments.
 - That the Cabinet formally endorses the provisions in Governance Agreement 2 relating to executive functions and recommends that the Council approves the provisions relating to non-executive functions, and that it (*the Cabinet*) specifically adopts the delegations and Terms of Reference in "Governance Agreement 2: Appendix 1" thereof as the basis for completing the Final Deal Agreement and acceptance of the Grant Funding Letter with the UK and Welsh Governments.
 - Subject to completion of Governance Agreement 2 that Gwynedd Council agrees to act as the Host Authority and Accountable Body and signs the Grant Offer Letter on behalf of the Partners through the Chief Finance Officer

- That the Cabinet formally endorses and recommends that the Council approves the method used to calculate the cost of borrowing notionally required to facilitate the negative cash flow for the Growth Deal, and to include a provision within the Council’s budget to pay this contribution and the established core and supplementary contributions as set out in GA2 (and in paragraphs 5.5 - 5.7 below).
- That the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader, Monitoring Officer and Section 151 Officer be granted delegated authority to agree minor changes to the documents with the Partners as necessary to complete the agreement.

4. BACKGROUND AND RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1. The North Wales Growth Deal is a portfolio consisting of 5 programmes to be delivered over the next 15 years. It is to be delivered by the Portfolio Management Office on behalf of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board.
- 4.2. The Growth Deal is seeking to deliver a total investment of up to £1.1bn in the North Wales economy (£240m from the Growth Deal), to create 3,400 – 4,200 net additional jobs and generate £2.0- £2.4 billion in net additional GVA.
- 4.3. The five programmes include 14 projects, which have been carefully designed and developed with stakeholders to address specific market failures and barriers to economic growth. Individual project business cases will be developed and will be presented to the NWEAB for approval from January 2021 onwards.

4.4. Covid-19

- 4.4.1. Covid-19 has had an immense economic impact on North Wales as in other parts of the UK and globally. The NWEAB has worked closely with the six local authorities, UK and Welsh Governments and private sector representatives to co-ordinate the regional response to economic recovery. The longer term effects of Covid-19 on the regional economy at this stage is still unknown.
- 4.4.2. The Growth Deal is designed to address structural, long-term barriers to economic growth. However, the Board is fully aware that in the short-term a range of actions will be needed to facilitate recovery and alignment between those short term measures and the Growth Deal is key.
- 4.4.3. The Growth Deal on its own cannot address all the challenges facing the North Wales economy, particularly in light of Covid-19. However, such a significant injection of capital investment into the North Wales economy through the Growth Deal will be a boost to the construction and related sectors at a time when there is likely to be spare capacity in the economy.

4.5. Final Deal Agreement Process

- 4.5.1. To agree the Final Deal with both Governments, the NWEAB have prepared a suite of documents, namely the Overarching Business Plan, Portfolio Business Case, Draft Final Deal Agreement and Governance Agreement 2.

4.6. Overarching Business Plan

- 4.6.1. The Overarching Business Plan developed by the Portfolio Management Office sets out the arrangements for delivering the North Wales Growth Deal, including an overview of the programmes and projects and to seek approval from each partner for the financial implications of delivering the deal.
- 4.6.2. A copy of the Overarching Business Plan is available in **Appendix 1**.
- 4.6.3. The overarching business plan summarises the contents of the Portfolio Business Case and 5 Programme Business Cases. The portfolio business case provides a summary investment proposal for the North Wales Growth Deal, and the Programme Business Cases set out the detail for the programmes. These documents will be presented to both Governments for approval of the Final Deal Agreement.
- 4.6.4. The portfolio and programme business cases once approved will be live documents used to manage the delivery of the Growth Deal on an ongoing basis and updated regularly as the programmes and projects develop.

4.7. Final Deal Agreement

- 4.7.1. The Heads of Terms Agreement was agreed by the NWEAB, Welsh Government and UK Government in November 2019, with the aim for Final Deal Agreement to be completed in 2020.
- 4.7.2. The Draft Final Deal Agreement was developed collaboratively between the NWEAB and both Governments.
- 4.7.3. The Final Deal Agreement is the contract between the NWEAB, UK Government and Welsh Government for the delivery of the North Wales Growth Deal.
- 4.7.4. The Final Deal will be signed on the basis of the portfolio business case and five programme business cases.
- 4.7.5. A copy of the Draft Final Deal Agreement is included in **Appendix 2**.

4.8. Governance Agreement 2

- 4.8.1. Governance Agreement 2 has been developed by the regional Heads of Legal with expert and independent advice by legal advisers Pinsent Masons.

- 4.8.2. Governance Agreement 1 was adopted into in order to take forward the formal offer of funding to both Governments. Government Agreement 2 will take the partnership into the implementation stage of the Growth Deal. The agreement is a partnership agreement between the 6 Local Authorities and the Partner University and College bodies. It continues the governance model adopted in GA1 namely a Joint Committee supported by a host authority and provides for the commitments and responsibilities of the Partners to the partnership. It also defines the relationship between the Board and its constituent Partner organisations, the limits of delegation and accountability.
- 4.8.3. Governance Agreement 2 is a necessary element for implementing the Growth Deal. It provides assurance to the Governments as to the governance of the partnership. It establishes a legally binding commitment by and to the Partners and Accountable Body which is necessary to enable the Growth Deal Final Agreement and Grant Letter to be agreed. Without that assurance the Final Deal Agreement and the Grant Offer Letter could not be entered into on behalf of the Partners.
- 4.8.4. A more detailed explanatory summary of Governance Agreement 2 is provided in **Appendix 3** and a copy of Governance Agreement 2 is included in **Appendix 4**.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. There is a medium-term temporary funding gap between the expected expenditure profile of the Growth Deal and the expected profile of government funding received over 15 years. The NWEAB, through the host authority, will be responsible for managing this negative cash flow, and have worked with Arlingclose to model the cost of borrowing notionally required to facilitate the negative cash flow for the Growth Deal, and the corresponding annual partner contributions required to meet this cost.
- 5.2. With a range of assumptions to consider, the NWEAB have forecasted a range of figures, modelled as the best case scenario (Version 1) and the worst case scenario (Version 2), to reflect the timing of finalising the Growth Deal and consequent timing of government grant funding. The difference between the best and worst case scenarios highlights the importance of finalising the Growth Deal by the end of the calendar year. In both versions the other variables, i.e. interest rate and business rates income have remained the same. The interest rate used was 2.2% and is considered to be a prudent assumption. The NWEAB intends to utilise its business rates yield grant from Welsh Government to offset against the negative cash flow, with the net total cost (£12.46m - £17.73m) met by the local authorities (proportional to population) for regional NWEAB projects, and with project lead sponsors responsible for the cost in relation to their projects.
- 5.3. Any changes to the projects, will result in a reserved matter if it means increasing partner contributions (e.g. change from project lead sponsor to NWEAB, lower business rates yield, higher cost, earlier spend profile).

- 5.4. With capital projects, there is always a risk of overspending, and controls will be put in place to limit overspending costs on specific projects. For regional projects, the Portfolio Management Office would be responsible for controlling expenditure and ensuring sufficient contingency budgets are included in the project business cases. Overspend would be a matter for the Lead Sponsor to deal with in relation to their projects.
- 5.5. The table below shows the total (15 years) partner contributions to cover the cost of 'borrowing' notionally required to facilitate the negative cash flow.

Version	Bangor University	Glyndwr University	Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	Coleg Cambria	Other Commerical Partners	Conwy	Denbighshire	Flintshire	Gwynedd	Isle of Anglesey	Wrexham	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
1	1.40	0.51	0.75	0.52	2.29	1.17	0.96	1.56	1.24	0.70	1.36	12.46
2	1.99	0.73	1.07	0.74	3.24	1.67	1.36	2.22	1.77	1.00	1.94	17.73

- 5.6. The table below shows the **annual partner contributions** to cover the cost of 'borrowing' notionally required to facilitate the negative cash flow.

Version	Bangor University	Glyndwr University	Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	Coleg Cambria	Other Commerical Partners	Conwy	Denbighshire	Flintshire	Gwynedd	Isle of Anglesey	Wrexham	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1	93,330	34,000	50,000	34,670	152,660	78,010	64,000	104,000	82,670	46,670	90,670	830,680
2	132,670	48,670	71,330	49,330	216,000	111,340	90,670	148,000	118,000	66,670	129,340	1,182,020

- 5.7. These annual partner contributions above are in addition to the established 'core' and 'supplementary' annual contributions below.

Contributions	Bangor University	Glyndwr University	Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	Coleg Cambria	Conwy	Denbighshire	Flintshire	Gwynedd	Isle of Anglesey	Wrexham	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Core	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	400,000
Supplementary	0	0	0	0	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	240,000

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. The report explains relevant provisions of Governance Agreement 2 (GA2), The Overarching Business Plan ("OBP") and the Final Deal Agreement. They form part of the legal implications, but in order to avoid duplication are not repeated in this section.
- 6.2. The recommendations in the report are made pursuant to the powers conferred on the Councils under sections 101, 102, 111 and 113 of the Local Government Act 1972, section 1 of the Local Authority (Goods & Services) Act 1970, section 25 of the Local Government (Wales) Act 1994, section 2, 19 and 20 of the Local Government Act 2000, section 9 of the Local Government Wales Measure 2009 and all other enabling powers now vested in the Councils.

- 6.3. The provisions of the Local Government and Elections Bill (Wales) 2019 in relation to proposed Corporate Joint Committees (CJC's) and the recent publication of a consultation document on the proposed regulations are clearly of relevance to the matters addressed in this report. However, the North Wales Economic Ambition Board has been in operation as a formal Joint Committee since January 2019. GA2 does not change this basic governance model but is a necessary component to enable the Partners to commit to the Growth Deal within the given time frame. As a result there is no proposal to make any changes to the recommendations pending the advent of CJC's although GA2 does acknowledge the provisions of the Bill and the possibility of future review.
- 6.4. The OBP is a key document in relation to the delivery of the Growth Deal. The content of the Plan serves to create a legitimate expectation that the Programmes will be progressed as set out in the Plan. Accordingly, it is important that each Partner is content with the content of the OBP. Decisions relating to the delivery of the programmes and projects will need to be considered in accordance with the provision set out in GA2 at which stage any legal issues raised in relation to a specific project can be considered and detailed legal advice provided.
- 6.5. In considering this matter regard should be had, amongst other matters, to the Councils duties under the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. In summary the Act places a duty on public bodies in to act in accordance with the principle of sustainable development so as to ensure that the needs of the present can be met without undermining the ability of future generations to meet their needs. This is in order to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The OBP explains that the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 will be intrinsic to the development and implementation of the Growth Vision and Growth deal.
- 6.6. A Well-being and Equality Assessment has been undertaken and is included in **Appendix 5**. Regard should be had to the same in reaching a decision on this matter.
- 6.7. Regard has been given to public sector duties under the Equalities Act 2010 (including specific Welsh public sector duties). Pursuant to these legal duties Councils must in making decisions have due regard to the need to:
- a. eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct that is prohibited by that Act;
 - b. advance equality of opportunity between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not;
 - c. foster good relations between people who and share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 6.8. In Wales, public sector bodies listed are required to take certain steps in order to demonstrate that they have due regard to the public sector equality duty. These Welsh specific equality duties include assessing the impact of policies and procedures on equality (often called Equality Impact-Assessment).

6.9. The Well-being and Equalities Assessment demonstrates that the detail contained in the preparation of and in the draft OBP demonstrates compliance with the well-being 5 ways of working, supports the well-being goals and identifies that the Growth Vision and Growth Deal will a positive impact on all groups and people with protected characteristics.

7. STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

7.1. None.

8. IMPACT ON EQUALITIES

8.1. Copies of the impact assessments are included in **Appendix 5-7**.

9. CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN

9.1. A report and the relevant documents have been circulated for approval by all partners. A covering report and appendices will be presented to all six Local Authority Scrutiny, Cabinet and Full Council meetings.

9.2. On 5 November 2020, the contents of this report by Gwynedd Council Education and Economy Scrutiny Committee.

9.3. A report and the relevant documents were presented to the NWEAB on 23rd October, 2020. Please find a copy of the Covering Report in **Appendix 8** and the complete documentation is available [HERE](#).

Views of the Statutory Officers:

The Monitoring Officer:

I have had a direct input into the preparation of the report and Appendices. In addition Governance Agreement 2 has been prepared by specialist solicitors who are advising the Partnership. It should also be emphasised that this work has been the subject of professional input across all Partners. It is highlighted in the report that Gwynedd has a specific role in the Partnership as Host Authority and Accountable Body. This means that the Council acts as the legal entity on behalf of the Partnership but also has a central role in the administration of the Growth Deal Grant. Governance Agreement 2 is a comprehensive agreement which provides for this and gives protection for Gwynedd through conditions and indemnities by the Partners. This provides the necessary assurance to enable Gwynedd to agree to assume these roles. I am therefore content that the recommendations may be appropriately adopted.

Head of Finance:

I have contributed to the financial aspects of this paper and support the decision sought. As discussed at the Education and Economy Scrutiny Committee on 5th of November, prudent assumptions were used in spreading borrowing costs over 15 years to make the commitment affordable to the partners. With that in mind, it is crucial that 'Governance Agreement 2' protects the interests of the host authority and other partners, to the extent that partners can leave the partnership, but would still have to contribute financially for the full 15 years. Following Cabinet ratification and full Council approval, I will include sufficient cost budgets (contained in paragraphs 5.5 - 5.7 above) in the Council's 2021/22 budget.

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1	Overarching Business Plan*
Appendix 2	Draft Final Deal Agreement*
Appendix 3	A summary of Governance Agreement 2*
Appendix 4	Governance Agreement 2*
Appendix 5	Future Generations Impact Assessment
Appendix 6	Welsh Language Impact Assessment
Appendix 7	Equality Impact Assessment
Appendix 8	NWEAB Report

**subject to final edit and proof read*

NORTH WALES GROWTH DEAL OVERARCHING BUSINESS PLAN

2020-25

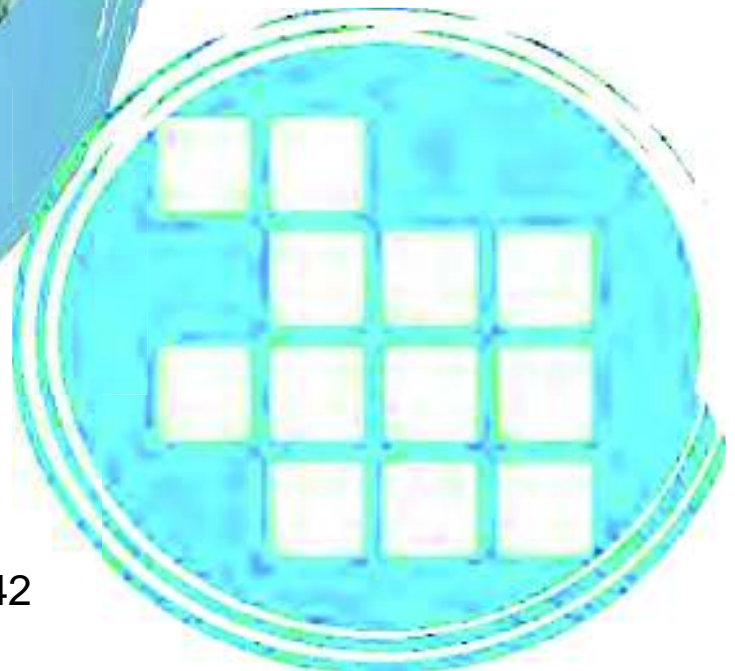


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Foreword

The **Growth Deal** has been developed through close collaboration and commitment, from partners across all sectors including the UK and Welsh Governments, to deliver long-lasting positive investment and change that will enable economic and employment growth for the long-term.

Over the next fifteen years, the deal empowers us to work together and take control of how we invest in our future.

It's a unique opportunity to de-centralise government investment, make those investment decisions locally and demonstrate the value this brings. Ultimately, as part of a broader programme of investment, the Growth Deal will enable us to build a more vibrant, sustainable and inclusive economy for us all in North Wales.

We will be **smart** with our investment - building on our strengths to boost productivity, foster innovation and be competitive in the markets we serve. We already have well-established research and innovation hubs, which are helping us to push the boundaries in discovering new growth areas for our high value manufacturing business. We will invest further to create centres of excellence to enhance our reputation and enable growth in this important industry.

We will tackle the long-term market failure that has been a barrier for commercial investment - making North Wales more investable and unlocking the potential for new high-value skilled jobs, for young people and our future generations to thrive. We'll address the shortage of suitable land and property for business growth and to bring forward sites to provide the employment land and housing we need.

By investing now, we build our **resilience** for the future.

We are **connected** as a region. Our partnership across the six local authorities, universities, colleges and the private sector is well established and growing in strength. We're also driving a step change in digital connectivity by balancing investment in infrastructure and technology. We address those areas most in need of faster and more reliable broadband connections and exploit the potential of 5G access and new digital innovation. Opportunities also lie in our close connections with our neighbouring economies such as the Northern Powerhouse, Ireland and Mid-Wales. We can build stronger economies by working together.

We will strengthen our reputation as a cohesive region; leveraging our partnerships to promote growth in the economy that is scalable, sustainable and inclusive. Our Investment in low-carbon energy projects enable us to contribute directly to the climate change emergency, not only helping to make North Wales a cleaner, greener environment, but also positioning ourselves as one of the leading UK locations within the low carbon energy sector. Not forgetting our foundation economies in agriculture and tourism, we will help to

enable and encourage diversification to improve the long-term future of these key industries, ensuring they have opportunity to develop sustainably and thrive.

We will invest in a way that promotes social value and builds wealth in our communities. We recognise and value our obligation to deliver the Growth Deal in a way that improves and enhances our social, cultural, environmental and economic well-being.

We look forward to leading this important investment in our home and our region, North Wales.



Dyfrig Siencyn,
Cadeirydd | Chair,

Bwrdd Uchelgais Economiadd Gogledd Cymru |
North Wales Economic Ambition Board



Mark Pritchard,
Is-gadeirydd | Vice Chair,

Bwrdd Uchelgais Economiadd Gogledd Cymru |
North Wales Economic Ambition Board



Alwen Williams,
Cyfarwyddwr Rhaglen | Programme Director,
Bwrdd Uchelgais Economiadd Gogledd Cymru |
North Wales Economic Ambition Board

The North Wales Growth Deal is a crucial package of capital investments for our region and will bring a substantial boost to the North Wales economy at a time when major market changes such as Brexit and global events including the Covid-19 pandemic, continue to impact our Communities and Economy. The North Wales Mersey Dee Business Council as the regional umbrella body for the private sector in North Wales has from the inception of the developing Growth Deal in partnership with the NWEAB, worked exceptionally hard to ensure that the investments proposed in the Deal are distributed across the region and our sectors to provide the maximum benefit to our businesses.

A Growth Deal that delivers on supporting business and productivity growth for both our home grown SME's and the International businesses based in North Wales in our key sectors e.g. Manufacturing, Tourism & Hospitality, Agriculture and Energy, has the potential to make a once in a lifetime positive impact for us all. It is imperative though that the proposed projects and programmes not only provide the catalyst for growth but with the fundamental tenet that they do so whilst contributing to the region's journey towards a Net Zero Carbon and Circular economy. We look forward to continuing meaningful engagement with the NWEAB on this key investment package.



Jim Jones,
Cadeirydd | Chair,

Cyngor Busnes Gogledd Cymru Merswy Dyfrdwy |
North Wales Mersey Dee Business Council



Ashley Rogers,
Cyfarwyddwr Masnachol | Commercial Director,
Cyngor Busnes Gogledd Cymru Merswy Dyfrdwy |
North Wales Mersey Dee Business Council

North Wales has a unique and powerful coalition of private and public sector leaders who, through the North Wales Economic Ambition Board and the Business Delivery Group have been working as united partners to make sure that the Growth Deal leverages a substantial return on investment.

Members on the Business Delivery Group predominately entrepreneurs, have an independent voice with well-established track records within their sectors and industries which is recognised internationally. Members have influential and extensive business networks in Wales, UK and beyond and very importantly, they have a real passion for North Wales, which is where the majority call home.

To the East we're fortunate to be situated close to two major cities; Liverpool and Manchester, home to two international airports connecting us to the global market, whilst London is just a couple of hours away by train. To the West, the port of Holyhead facilitates our trade via sea-freight and opens up the path to international tourism and Ireland. Every inch of North Wales has a great history, rich culture, fantastic castles and beaches, unique tourist attractions, amazing wildlife and, irrefutably, the most breath-taking natural landscapes on planet Earth.

The Growth Deal programmes are concentrated on areas of the economy in which we have long-established experience and strong expertise; such as Advanced Manufacturing, Renewable Energy and Tourism. As an example, Morlais, the tidal power project on Anglesey has the potential to make North Wales one of the world leaders in tidal energy. There are very few places in the world that are suitable and the investment could put North Wales in the top three biggest tidal power generators in the world.

The Growth Deal also invests in the regions digital infrastructure. This is essential and underpins economic growth. Accessible and reliable high-speed fibre broadband and 5G capability is throughout the whole of North Wales is essential.

Throughout history, North Wales has demonstrated its resilience to combat all past economic shocks and come out battle-hardened and stronger. This recent pandemic has created a devastating social and economic earthquake.

I firmly believe that, North Wales, with a credible economic plan, investment in skills and education, and with determined, well-resourced local leadership, has a great opportunity and the potential to re-establish itself as a powerful economy in Wales, which will be greatly supported by the Growth deal investment over the next 15 years and beyond.



Askar Sheibani,
Cadeirydd | Chair,

Grŵp Cyflwyni Busnes | Business Delivery Group

1. Executive Summary

1.1 The aim of the North Wales Growth Deal (*hereafter referred to as 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. Our approach is to promote growth in a scalable, inclusive and sustainable way in line with the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

1.2 The Growth Deal is a partnership between the public sector and the private sector, supported by funding from UK Government and Welsh Government. The UK Government and Welsh Government are investing £240million into the North Wales Growth Deal over the next 15 years. The Growth Deal is seeking to deliver a total investment of up to £1.1bn in the North Wales economy (£240m from the Growth Deal), to create 3,400 – 4,200 net additional jobs and generate £2.0- £2.4 billion in net additional GVA.

Spending Objective 1 - Jobs	To create between 3,400 and 4,200 net new jobs in North Wales through the Growth Deal by 2036.
Spending Objective 2 - GVA	To support a net additional GVA uplift of between £2.0 billion and £2.4 billion for the North Wales Economy through the Growth Deal by 2036.
Spending Objective 3 - Investment	To deliver a total investment of up to £1.1 billion in the North Wales Economy through the Growth Deal by 2036.

1.3 This Overarching Business Plan (OBP) is the basis on which Partners are entering into the North Wales Growth Deal (*hereafter referred to as the Growth Deal*). It provides an overview of the deal including the programmes and projects to be delivered. It sets out what the Growth Deal will deliver in terms of outputs and benefits for the region, the financial contributions of each partner and the governance and performance management arrangements to ensure the Growth Deal is delivered.

The Case for Change

1.4 North Wales is home to nearly 700,000 residents and contributes £14.2 billion to the UK economy each year,¹ representing 22% of the Welsh economy.² However, there remains a persistent and growing productivity gap between North Wales and the UK with wide variations in GVA (Gross Value Added) average per person across the region. **Addressing this disparity is an important priority for the Growth Deal.**

1.5 North Wales has a diverse economy with key sectors being manufacturing, energy and tourism as well as public sector jobs. Some of the productivity gap is accounted for by the sectoral structure of the North Wales economy with some areas particularly reliant on relatively low paid sectors including tourism and retail. At the same time, there are

¹ Measured by Gross Value Added (GVA). Source: ONS, 2018 data.

² <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Business-Economy-and-Labour-Market/Regional-Accounts/Gross-Value-Added-GDP/qva-by-measure-welsh-economic-region-year>

areas of strength, with 64,000 people employed in high value sectors, defined as manufacturing; information and communication; and professional, scientific and technical activities.

1.6 Supporting high value sectors and addressing long-term barriers to growth is at the heart of the North Wales Growth Deal. Key challenges and opportunities have been identified as follows:

- Improving productivity
- Supporting innovation and Research and Development (R&D)
- Supporting the low carbon agenda and driving low carbon growth
- Supply chain integration
- Meeting skills needs
- The need for modern employment floorspace and serviced residential land
- Addressing the digital divide
- Expanding digital research capacity.

1.7 A logic model is a way of articulating the context for change and investment. A summary logic model for the Growth Deal is set out in Figure 1.1 below and provides an overview of the strategic drivers, objectives, inputs and impact of the Growth Deal.

Figure 1.1 Portfolio Logic Model



Source: Hatch

COVID-19 Recovery

- 1.8 Covid-19 has had an immense economic impact on North Wales as in other parts of the UK and globally. The Economic Ambition Board works closely with the six local authorities, UK and Welsh Governments and private sector representatives to co-ordinate the regional response to economic recovery. The longer term effects of Covid-19 on the regional economy at this stage is still unknown.
- 1.9 The Growth Deal is designed to address structural, long-term barriers to economic growth. However, the Board is fully aware that in the short-term a range of actions will be needed to facilitate recovery and alignment between those short term measures and the Growth Deal is key.
- 1.10 The Growth Deal on its own cannot address all the challenges facing the North Wales economy, particularly in light of Covid-19. However, such a significant injection of capital investment into the North Wales economy through the Growth Deal will be a significant boost to the construction and related sectors at a time when there is likely to be spare capacity in the economy.

The Growth Deal Programmes

- 1.11 The Growth Deal is based on the delivery of 14 transformational projects across 5 programmes. The programmes have been defined as either high growth programmes or enabling programmes. The programmes have been defined as either high growth programmes or enabling programmes.

High growth sectors to drive productivity in the region

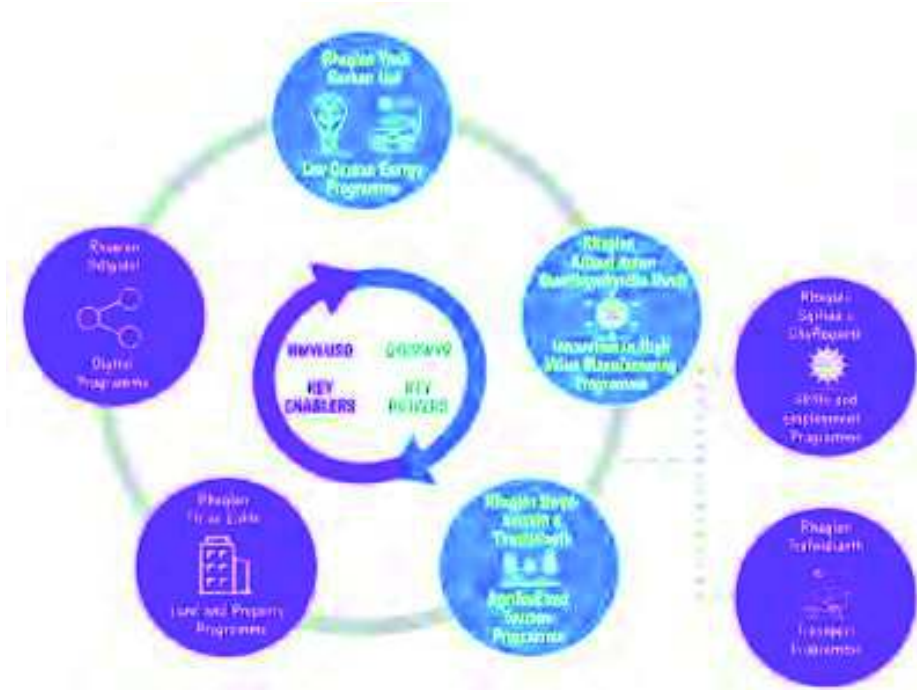
- 1.12 The projects within the Growth Deal aimed at increasing the value and impact of high growth sectors will be focused on three key programmes:
 - **Low carbon energy**
 - **Innovation in high value manufacturing**
 - **Agri-food and tourism**

Addressing key barriers to enable and achieve economic growth

- 1.13 We have identified enabling sectors through the Growth Deal to tackle key economic barriers and address structural issues that have impacted on productivity and jobs. Delivery in these sectors will create the appropriate conditions for businesses to invest in the region and for the labour market to take advantage of new employment opportunities. A strategic approach will be taken with our investments, ensuring that they are well-targeted in order to enable economic and employment growth across the region. This will be done in partnership with key partners, especially the UK and Welsh Governments.
- 1.14 The projects within the Growth Deal to address key barriers to growth will be focused on two key programmes:
 - **Land and Property**

- Digital

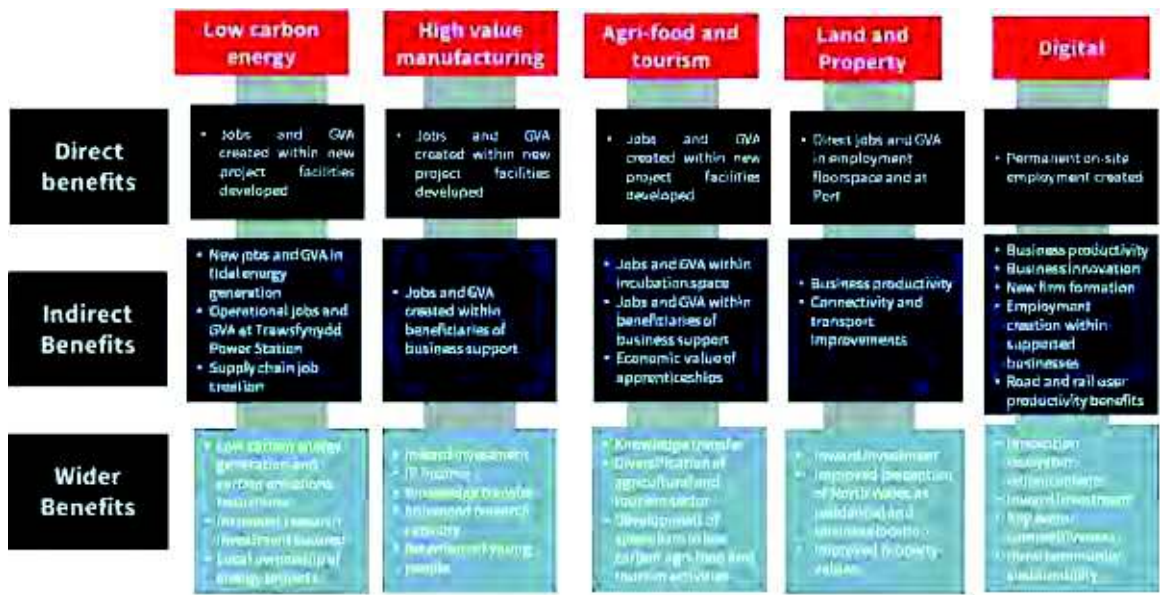
Figure 1.2. The Growth Deal Programmes



Source: North Wales Economic Ambition Board

- 1.15 The Skills and Employment and Strategic Transport programmes sit outside the Growth Deal. The programmes remain key to delivering the wider vision for North Wales and the Economic Ambition Board is working with the Regional Skills Partnership and through its Transport Sub-Board to identify and secure alternative funding sources to deliver these programmes.
- 1.16 All of the programmes and projects contribute to achieving the three key spending objectives. They also generate a set of additional benefits that have been classed as direct, indirect and wider benefits. These are set out in Figure 1.1 below.

Figure 1.3. Benefits Framework



Source: Hatch

Growth Deal Funding Profile

1.17 The capital funding profile for each programme is summarised in the table 1 below.

Table 1 : North Wales Growth Deal Financial Summary

Programme Area	Government Contribution (£m)	Public Contribution (£m)	Private Contribution (£m)	Total Programme Costs (£m)
Innovation in High Value Manufacturing	13.0	26.5	0.0	39.5
Digital Connectivity	37.0	3.1	1.6	41.7
Agrifood and Tourism	24.5	12.4	4.4	41.3
Land and Property	79.1	1.9	274.4	355.4
Low Carbon Energy	86.4	140.4	441.7	668.5
Total	240.0	184.3	722.1	1,146.4

North Wales Economic Ambition Board Partner Contributions

- 1.18 No revenue funding is provided through the Growth Deal for the delivery of the projects or the operational running costs of the project once completed. Revenue funding to support the Portfolio Management Office is provided through NWEAB partner contributions (including supplementary local authority contributions) and additional ESF funding has also been secured for the first three years of operation (from May 2020). An amount equivalent to the ‘top slice’ of the annual government grant at 1.5% can also be used to fund this, subject to Welsh Government flexibility to manage funding.
- 1.19 The annual partner contributions towards the Portfolio Management Office (PMO) costs are set out in the table below:

Table 2 : Annual partner contributions towards the PMO costs			
	Local Authority Contribution	HE/FE Annual Contributions	Total Annual Contribution
Annual Core Contributions	£50k per LA	*£25k per partner	£400k
Annual Supplementary Contribution*	£40k per LA	0	£240k

* this is set at 50% of the Local Authority core contribution as agreed in GA1 (to be succeeded by GA2)

** this contribution is a supplementary contribution agreed by the Councils only

- 1.20 The Growth Deal funding (£240m) grant contribution to the North Wales Growth Deal is provided by the UK and Welsh Government in annual instalments over a 15 year period. The nature of these government grant payments results in a medium term funding gap between the expected expenditure profile of the Growth Deal and the government funding received.
- 1.21 The North Wales Economic Ambition Board, through Gwynedd Council as the host authority will be responsible for managing this negative cash flow. This will be met by the local authorities (proportional to population) for regional NWEAB projects, and with project sponsors responsible for the cost in relation to their projects.
- 1.22 The total (15 year) contributions that will be required from the North Wales Economic Ambition Board partners, to enable the delivery of the Growth Deal, are set as a range for each partner. The best (version 1) and worst (version 2) case scenario below for the partners reflect the timing of finalising the Growth Deal and consequent timing of government grant funding. Any proposed increase in agreed contributions would need to be approved as a reserved matter. The table below shows the total contributions over the 15 year period. Annual contributions are shown in the main report in section 10.7.

Version	Bangor University	Glyndwr University	Gŵp Llandrillo Menai	Coleg Cambria	Other Commerical Partners	Conwy	Denbighshire	Flintshire	Gwynedd	Isle of Anglesey	Wrexham	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
1	1.40	0.51	0.75	0.52	2.29	1.17	0.96	1.56	1.24	0.70	1.36	12.46
2	1.89	0.73	1.07	0.74	3.24	1.67	1.36	2.22	1.77	1.00	1.94	17.73

Growth Deal Governance

- 1.23 Having Secured the Growth Deal the Partners have agreed to enter into a second Governance Agreement (GA2) which will support the partnership into the next Growth Deal implementation phase and further development of the Growth Vision.
- 1.24 The agreement, which is a legally binding document, defines the role and function of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board and its delegated powers. It also provides for its decision making structures and democratic accountability. Provision is made for the commitments of the partners to the projects and how these are managed and apportioned. GA2 provides assurance for Gwynedd Council, the host authority, in assuming that role. The underlying arrangements providing for legal and compliance matters within the partnership and the governance of the Portfolio Management Office are also addressed.
- 1.25 GA2 is a key document, providing a clear structure and foundation, for taking the implementation of the Growth Deal forward.
- 1.26 The North Wales Economic Ambition Board has adopted a delivery model based on a best practice approach to portfolio, programme and project management delivery and has established a Portfolio Management Office to deliver the Growth Deal.
- 1.27 Programme and project performance will be monitored on a monthly basis through the relevant programme and project boards with formal quarterly reports submitted to the North Wales Economic Ambition Board, their partners, UK and Welsh Government.

2. Purpose

- 2.1 This Overarching Business Plan (OBP) is the basis on which Partners are entering into the North Wales Growth Deal (*hereafter referred to as the Growth Deal*). It provides an overview of the deal including the programmes and projects to be delivered. It sets out what the Growth Deal will deliver in terms of outputs and benefits for the region, the financial contributions of each partner and the governance and performance management arrangements to ensure the Growth Deal is delivered.

3. North Wales Economic Ambition Board

- 3.1 The North Wales Economic Ambition Board (hereafter referred to as Economic ambition Board or the Board) was established in 2012 as a partnership between the

six local authority areas of North Wales comprising the councils of Gwynedd, Anglesey, Conwy, Denbighshire, Wrexham and Flintshire. The Board also includes Bangor University, Glyndwr University, Coleg Cambria and Grŵp Llandrillo Menai.

- 3.2 In early 2019, the North Wales Economic Ambition Board was formally established as a joint committee following the adoption of Governance Agreement 1 (hereafter referred to as GA1) by the partnership. GA1 set out the framework through which the Board would operate in order to secure the Growth Deal.

Figure 3.1 Map of North Wales and NWEAB Partners



- 3.3 The Growth Deal is a partnership between the public and private sectors. The private sector has been strongly represented by the North Wales Mersey Dee Business Council, who, as a founding member of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board, have worked in close collaboration with partners and regional public and private sector stakeholders to shape and influence the Growth Deal proposition. Representing various member organisations including the Chamber of Commerce, Confederation of British Industry (CBI) and the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB), their active involvement in shaping the deal has been invaluable. As of August 3rd 2020, due to challenges caused by Covid-19, the Business Council withdrew membership. The Business Council remain a key stakeholder and will be an integral, more strategic and less operational, partner moving forward.
- 3.4 The private sector remains strongly represented in the Growth Deal through the Business Delivery Group who act as an independent advisory body to the Economic Ambition Board.

4. Background to the North Wales Growth Deal

4.1 Growth Deals first emerged from the 2010-2015 coalition government in Westminster as part of its long-term plan to boost local economies. The purpose of City and Growth Deals is to support cities and regions to deliver responsive and flexible local strategies. They are designed to promote decentralisation and stimulate local economic growth by giving more power and flexibility to regions, to make the case for investment, to drive inclusive economic activity and growth.

4.2 In response to this policy, partners across North Wales established the Board in 2012 to develop a regional approach to economic growth and to address the challenges and barriers facing the North Wales economy.

4.3 In 2016 the Economic Ambition Board's partners adopted a Growth Vision for the Economy of North Wales (the Growth Vision).

4.4 The adopted vision is to develop "a confident, cohesive region with sustainable economic growth, capitalising on the success of high value economic sectors and our connection to the economies of the Northern Powerhouse & Ireland."

4.5 The Growth Vision was founded on three key principles:

- **Smart North Wales** – with a focus on innovation and high value economic sectors to advance economic performance.
- **Resilient North Wales** – with a focus on retaining young people, increasing employment levels and skills to achieve inclusive growth.
- **Connected North Wales** – with a focus on improving transport and digital infrastructure to enhance strategic connectivity to and within the region.

4.6 In the 2017 Autumn Budget the UK Government stated that it would begin negotiations to agree a Growth Deal for North Wales. Following this statement the Economic Ambition Board worked collaboratively with Welsh Government, UK Government and representatives of the public and private sector to develop the North Wales Growth Deal, which was outlined in the Proposition Document

4.7 Based on the Growth Vision strategy, the Proposition Document was agreed by the Economic Ambition Board's partners in October 2018. This set out a proposed package of 24 transformational projects across 9 strategic programmes, seeking £334.5m in capital funding plus £8m in revenue funding from the Growth Deal. The programmes were defined as a group of related projects managed in a co-ordinated way to obtain benefits and to deliver the overall vision and aims.

4.8 In the Autumn Budget 2018, the then Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rt Hon Phillip Hammond MP, announced £120 million in capital funding for the North Wales Growth Deal. The Welsh Government confirmed that it would match the UK Government's financial contribution to the North Wales Growth Deal, securing commitment for £240m as a grant contribution in capital funding from governments.

4.9 Following this announcement and in response to the UK Government's desire to see a consolidated portfolio of ambitious projects, and because the funds committed were

less than the proposition's original scope and capital funding only, the Economic Ambition Board developed and agreed a Draft Implementation Plan, setting out a streamlined package of 14 transformational projects, which was submitted to both governments in March 2019.

- 4.10 The Draft Implementation Plan became the basis for the Heads of Terms agreement signed by both governments in November 2019, and securing, in principle, £240m of capital funding for the North Wales Growth Deal. The Heads of Terms committed all parties to complete a Final Deal Agreement (FDA) within 12-15 months, which, once achieved would see funding released from governments to the region. This overarching business plan forms part of the agreed process to achieve the FDA.

5. The Case for Change

The North Wales Economy

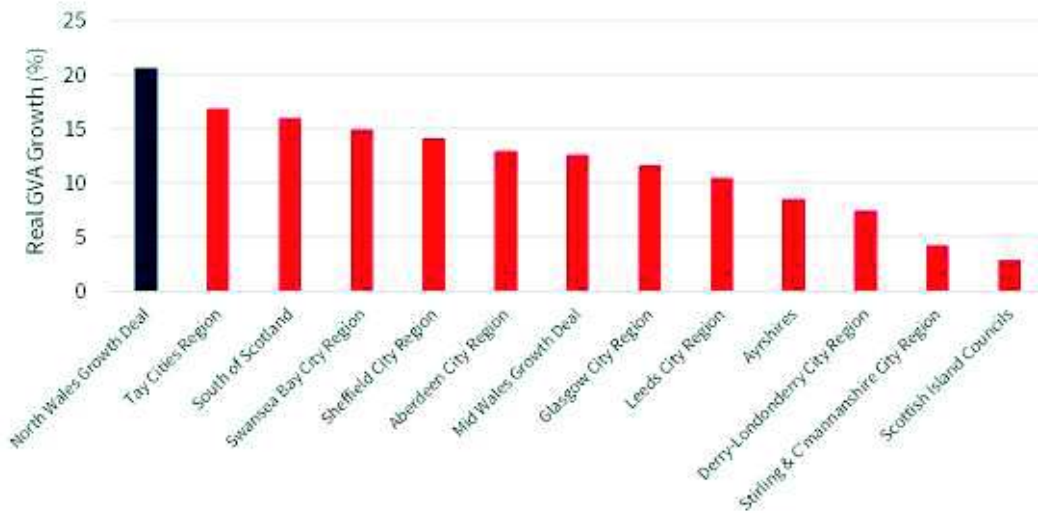
- 5.1 There remains a persistent and widening productivity gap between North Wales and the UK with wide variations in GVA (Gross Value Added) average per person across the region. Addressing this disparity is an important priority for the Growth Deal.
- 5.2 North Wales is home to nearly 700,000 residents and contributes £14.2 billion to the UK economy each year,³ representing 22% of the Welsh economy.⁴ Economic performance has been resilient following the financial crisis and during the period of austerity, with real⁵ GVA increasing by 20% since 2009. This is compared to 14.9% increase in the Swansea Bay City Region and 12.6% increase in the Mid-Wales Growth Deal area.

³ Measured by Gross Value Added (GVA). Source: ONS, 2018 data.

⁴ <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Business-Economy-and-Labour-Market/Regional-Accounts/Gross-Value-Added-GDP/gva-by-measure-welsheconomicregion-year>

⁵ i.e. inflation-adjusted.

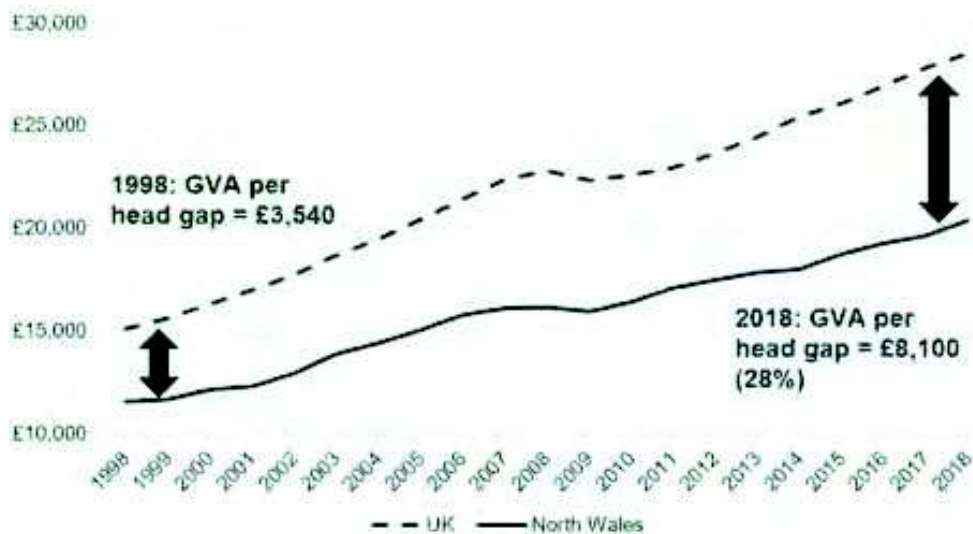
Figure 5.1 Real GVA Growth since 2009 in selected Locations in the UK



Source: Regional GVA, ONS, 2018

5.3 Nonetheless, there remains a persistent and widening productivity gap on the UK. GVA average per person is around 28% below the UK average, at £20,400 per annum. If London and the South East are removed, this gap is reduced but remains at 16%.

Figure 5.2 GVA per Head (£) 1998-2018

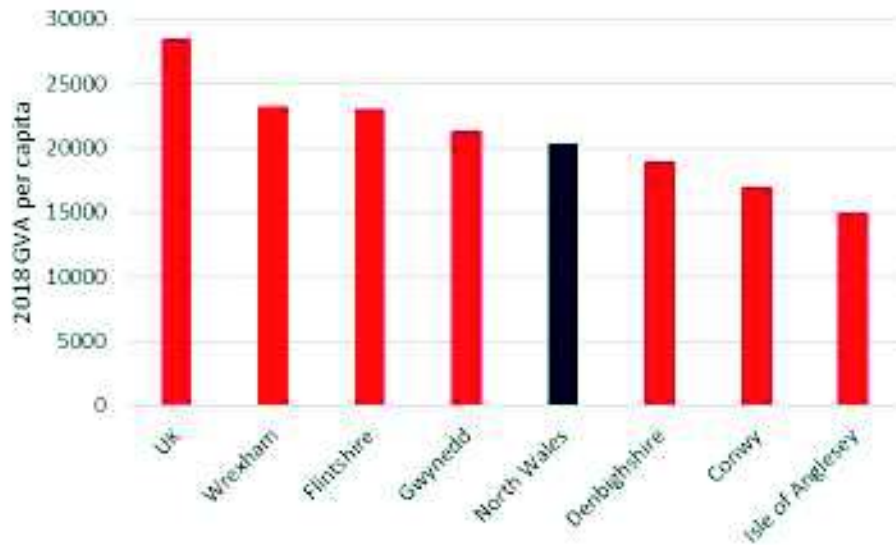


Source: Regional GVA, ONS, 2018

5.4 Within North Wales there are wide variations in GVA per capita, with particularly weak productivity in the Isle of Anglesey (53% of the UK average) but stronger performance in Flintshire and Wrexham (both of which are 81% of the UK average).⁶ This is also reflected in average earnings, which lag behind the UK average. Indeed, some local authorities in the West have the lowest earnings in Wales and the UK.

⁶ <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Business-Economy-and-Labour-Market/Regional-Accounts/Gross-Value-Added-GDP/qvaperhead-by-area-year>

Figure 5.3 GVA per Head (£), 2018

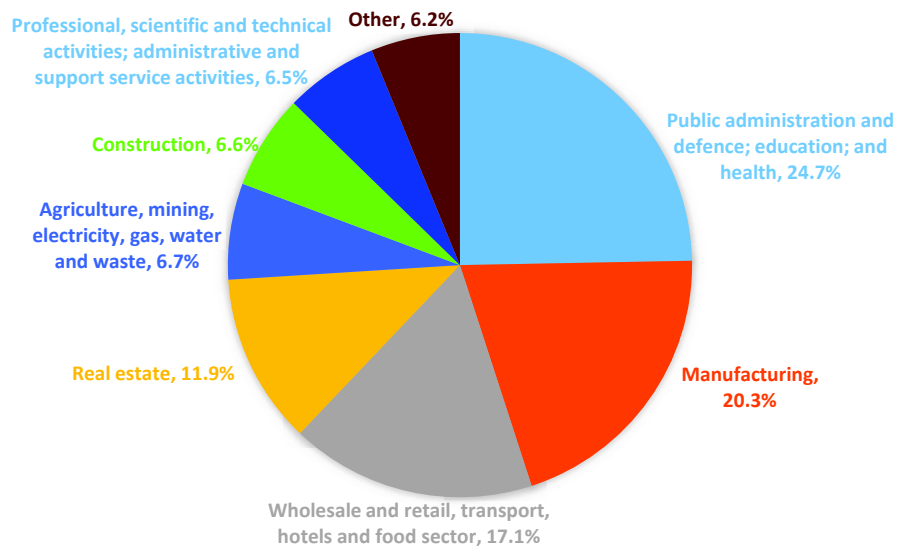


Source: Regional GVA, ONS, 2017

- 5.5 As a consequence of the lower productivity in Anglesey, Gwynedd, Conwy and Denbighshire, these areas have previously qualified for the highest level of EU structural funding intervention.

Key Sectors

- 5.6 **Supporting high value sectors and addressing long-term barriers to growth is at the heart of the North Wales Growth Deal.**
- 5.7 North Wales has a diverse economy with key sectors being manufacturing, energy and tourism as well as public sector jobs. The public sector accounts for nearly a quarter (24.7%) of the region's GVA. A fifth (20.3%) of the economy is accounted for by manufacturing, which is significantly more important in North Wales than in Wales as a whole (where it accounts for 17% of GVA). Wholesale and retail, transport, hotels and food sector accounts for 17% of the economy of North Wales. The chart below shows the breakdown of industry contribution to 2018 GVA in North Wales.



5.8 A portion of the productivity gap is accounted for by the sectoral structure of the North Wales economy, with some areas particularly reliant on relatively low paid sectors including tourism and retail. At the same time, there are areas of strength, with 64,000 people employed in high value sectors, defined as manufacturing; information and communication; and professional, scientific and technical activities.

5.9 In particular, the Economic Ambition Board recognise the significant potential offered by high value and foundation sectors including:

- **Advanced manufacturing:** 36,000 people work in advanced manufacturing in North Wales, with particular strengths in aerospace, automotive, chemicals and pharmaceuticals, engineering, opto-electronics, food and drink, and metal and steel.⁷ This includes anchor employers such as Airbus and Toyota, and areas of research and innovation excellence within the region’s universities. The AMRC (Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre) Cymru, a £20m state-of-the-art R&D facility, recently opened in Broughton and has been described by Welsh Government ministers as a “game changer” for the region.
- **Low carbon energy:** An estimated 16,750 people worked in specialist energy and environmental companies in North Wales in 2016. Wales has committed to a 95% reduction in carbon emissions by 2050. North Wales is already a hub for low carbon energy generation, with the equivalent of 82% of its electricity consumption already coming from local renewable sources. The region hosts over a third of Wales’ renewable energy capacity and also has two nuclear licensed sites, Wylfa and Trawsfynydd. The region’s geography, natural resources and heritage of energy production allow unique opportunities to deploy a broad range of low carbon energy technologies, with resources to scale-up offshore and on shore wind generation, tidal stream energy, tidal range energy, hydro-power, solar and new nuclear generation. This is supported by significant research and innovation capabilities including the Nuclear Futures Institute at Bangor University.

⁷ Source: North Wales Regional Skills Partnership

- **Agri-food:** Agri-food is a pillar for the North Wales economy, employing an estimated 20,900 people and contributing £370m in GVA.⁸ A fifth of all businesses in Gwynedd and Môn are in agriculture. The Welsh Government planned to grow sales in the Food and Drink industry by 30% to £7 billion by 2020⁹. The revised Action Plan is currently going through a consultation process however, the new Action Plan sets ambitious targets for the Food and Drink sector. This includes ensuring the turnover of the Food and Drink Sector will grow annually to match the change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI), plus an additional 2%.
- **Tourism:** Tourism is another well-established and vital sector for the North Wales economy, with around 37,200 people working in tourism and hospitality in the region, representing 12% of the workforce. The sector has seen increases in visits and expenditure in recent years, with a 4% increase in trips and a 10% increase in expenditure between 2013-2015 and 2014-2016.¹⁰ There has been a welcome growth in adventure tourism, capitalising on the post-industrial landscape and the area's natural assets. According to the latest available STEAM summary data for North Wales the total economic impact of tourism to the North Wales economy is now £3.69billion.
- **Digital:** the deepening effect of digitalisation means that technology is increasingly disruptive and valuable to the North Wales economy, being a driver of both productivity and competitiveness. Whilst the digital sector has established itself as an important generator of employment and economic output, in reality, a much broader base of sectors have been shaped by digital technologies and processes. This is reflected in national policy – the sector has the backing of the UK and Welsh Governments, within respective Digital Strategies, aligning with the opportunity to exploit digital growth as set out in the UK Industrial Strategy. Ensuring that businesses, households and communities, have access to the very best digital connectivity, is seen as key to unlocking North Wales' and growth potential.

Population and labour market

5.10 Investing in skills that match the needs of the region's new employment opportunities is fundamental to the future economic health of North Wales.

5.11 There is an ageing population in the region and a net outward migration of talent from the region. Whilst the population of North Wales is expected to increase to 722,317 by 2039, the share of the population aged 65 or above is expected to increase from 23.6% to 29.8%. This means a smaller share of working age people, which may place pressures on the supply of skills.

5.12 The employment rate amongst working age residents in North Wales stood at 75.9% at March 2020, which was the same as the UK. Over 5 years, between March 2015 and March 2020, 18,300 jobs were added to the economy, a growth of 6.2% for the region.

⁸ Source: North Wales Regional Skills Partnership; Labour Market Insights, June 2020

⁹ Source: Welsh Government Action Plan for Food and Drink

¹⁰ Source: Welsh Government August 2018 'Tourism Profile- North Wales (2014-2016)'

The specific impacts of Covid-19 on the North Wales economy and the Growth Deal are set out in section 4.21-4.23.

Sites and premises

5.13 The Growth Deal programme will address the shortages of sites and premises in the region and invest to enable the growth of Holyhead Port.

5.14 Recent research has identified a lack of modern industrial and employment space across the region. Whilst there are business parks located along the A55 with land available for development, planning restrictions and plot sizes together with the lack of development funding and property values that are lower than build costs, has meant these have seen limited new development since 2008. A recent review by Jones Lang LaSalle (JLL, a leading property consultancy) for Welsh Government found that there was relatively weak and fragmented network of readily developable strategic sites, capable of supporting both local business growth and inward investment.¹¹ The SQW report for Welsh Government completed in March 2020 confirms the conclusions of the JLL report.

Holyhead Port

5.15 Holyhead Port is of strategic and economic significance both for North Wales and the UK. The Port is the second busiest Roll on – Roll off ferry port in the UK: in 2018 the Port handled 75% of passengers, 71% of passenger vehicles and 81% of freight vehicles passing through Welsh ports to Ireland¹². The port has the second highest number of short sea ferry crossings by total number of passengers in the UK.¹³ The Port is owned and operated by Stena Line Ports Limited who are also the statutory Port Authority.

5.16 The Holyhead-Dublin route is the principal ferry link to the Republic of Ireland from the UK and serves primarily the North Wales and Central and Northern England markets and is currently operated by Stena Line and Irish Ferries. The ports usage by cruise ships has increased substantially over the past decade from 18 visits in 2013 to 51 in 2018¹⁴, in the same period passenger visits have increased from 15,000 to 50,000¹⁵.

5.17 The Holyhead Gateway scheme is a series of targeted investments to address life expired assets essential to the operation of the port and to increase capacity for both vehicle and ship movements for both passenger and freight traffic.

Digital Connectivity

5.18 Enhancing digital connectivity is an important priority for unlocking economic growth.

¹¹ Source : JLL (2017) Priority Property Interventions for Economic Development Report.

¹² DfT Port Freight Stats 2019

¹³ DfT Port Freight Stats 2019

¹⁴ Stena Line Ports, 2018

¹⁵ Stena Line Ports, 2018

- 5.19 Demand for high-speed broadband and mobile connectivity in North Wales has kept pace with supply. However, the infrastructure in the region has historically lagged behind the rest of the UK in terms of coverage and capacity.
- 5.20 With the emergence of commercially available fibre optic technology towards the end of the 20th century, the widening of the 'digital divide' now has the potential to increase exponentially. Especially as the difference in affordable bandwidth can now be typically 100s of Megabits per second compared to other regions (e.g. 4.9% premises in Denbighshire with availability of ultrafast at >100Mbps compared to 49% in North West England). All four counties in North West Wales rank in bottom 25% of UK areas for Superfast (>30Mbps) broadband coverage.

The economic impact of Covid-19

- 5.21 Covid-19 has had an immense economic impact on North Wales as in other parts of the UK and globally. The Economic Ambition Board works closely with the six local authorities, UK and Welsh Governments and private sector representatives to co-ordinate the regional response to economic recovery. The longer term effects of Covid-19 on the regional economy at this stage is still unknown.
- 5.22 Work is underway to define a situational analysis to describe the state of the economy in North Wales during what has been a volatile and challenging period for businesses and employees across many sectors. This period of uncertainty caused by the pandemic is ongoing and with the transition period for leaving the EU ending on the 31 December the outlook for winter is bleak. In terms of strengthening the economy in the long term, the Growth Deal will be a welcomed source of hope and investment for the citizens of North Wales.
- 5.23 Interventions already undertaken and planned to create a reliable and evidence based approach to the situational analysis include a regional survey of businesses which attracted over 1,800 responses. A commissioned report on tourism to identify the strengths, weaknesses and opportunities to preserve and revive and develop the tourism economy sustainably. The appointment of an independent economic partner to co-develop the situational analysis and framework for recovery planning for North Wales. Looking initially at the near-term economic recovery post-Covid but also recognising the need to measure and evaluate the impact of the Growth Deal investment on the North Wales economy in the long term throughout the lifetime of the deal.
- 5.24 The Growth Deal is designed to address structural, long-term barriers to economic growth. However, the Board is fully aware that in the short-term a range of actions will be needed to facilitate recovery and alignment between those short term measures and the Growth Deal is key.
- 5.25 The Growth Deal on its own cannot address all the challenges facing the North Wales economy, particularly in light of Covid-19. However, such a significant injection of capital investment into the North Wales economy through the Growth Deal will be a significant boost to the construction and related sectors at a time when there is likely to be spare capacity in the economy.

6. The Growth Deal Programmes

6.1 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. Our approach is to promote growth in a scalable, inclusive and sustainable way in line with the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The Growth Deal is based on the delivery of 14 transformational projects across 5 programmes. The programmes have been defined as either high growth programmes or enabling programmes.

High growth sectors to drive productivity in the region

6.2 The projects within the Growth Deal aimed at increasing the value and impact of high growth sectors will be focused on three key programmes:

- **Low carbon energy**
- **Innovation in high value manufacturing**
- **Agri-food and tourism**

Addressing key barriers to enable and achieve economic growth

6.3 We have identified enabling sectors through the Growth Deal to tackle key economic barriers and address structural issues that have impacted on productivity and jobs. Delivery in these sectors will create the appropriate conditions for businesses to invest in the region and for the labour market to take advantage of new employment opportunities. A strategic approach will be taken with our investments, ensuring that they are well-targeted in order to enable economic and employment growth across the region. This will be done in partnership with key partners, especially the UK and Welsh Governments.

6.4 The projects within the Growth Deal to address key barriers to growth will be focused on two key programmes:

- **Land and Property**
- **Digital**

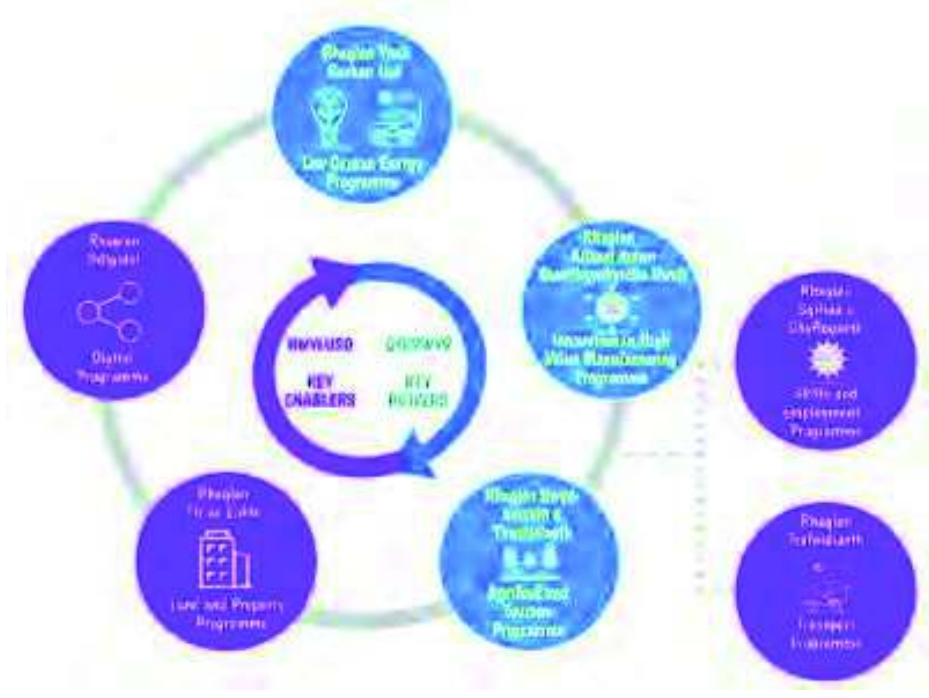
6.5 By focusing delivery on these programmes collectively, the Growth Deal will achieve a greater impact in terms of our ambition and use of resources rather than delivering them in isolation.

6.6 Two further enabling programmes sit outside the scope of the North Wales Growth Deal due to funding constraints:

- **Skills and Employment** - This programme aims to tackle economic inactivity and deliver a co-ordinated and integrated skills and employment approach in the region.
- **Strategic Transport** - This programme aims to enable improved accessibility and connectivity, to and within the region.

6.7 The programmes remain key to delivering the wider vision for North Wales and the Economic Ambition Board is working with the Regional Skills Partnership and through its Transport Sub-Board to identify and secure alternative funding sources to deliver these programmes.

Figure 6.1 The Growth Deal Programmes



Source: North Wales Economic Ambition Board

6.8 All programmes and projects within the Growth Deal will contribute to the achievement of the Growth Vision and the delivery of benefits for North Wales. The benefits from the Growth Deal will support sustainable and inclusive growth across the region – in accordance with the Growth Vision as well as the priorities of the Well-Being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

Summary of the Programmes

6.9 The strategic aims to address in each programme, and the types of intervention they are intended to facilitate, are summarised below.

<p>Low carbon energy</p> <p>Strategic aims: To unlock the economic benefits of transformational low carbon energy projects and position North Wales as a leading UK location for low carbon energy generation, innovation and supply chain investment.</p> <p>Types of intervention: Enabling works for new low carbon energy generation, enhancing research and innovation facilities for low carbon energy sectors, transport decarbonisation and support for local energy projects.</p>
<p>Innovation in high value manufacturing</p>

Strategic aims: To consolidate North Wales' position as a powerful and innovative high value manufacturing cluster, building on existing specialisms and leading expertise to create a higher value, more diverse economic base that supports the transition to a low carbon economy

Types of intervention: Industry and research collaborations along with the establishment of centres of excellence in targeted technologies to help overcome barriers and market failures in the research commercialisation process.

Agri-food and tourism

Strategic aims: To build a more sustainable, vibrant and resilient foundation economy within the region, optimising opportunities for employment and prosperity through our environment and landscape.

Types of intervention: Introducing new technologies & innovation, skills and practices to these sectors, via business support and upskilling.

Land and property

Strategic aims: To address the shortage of suitable land and properties for business growth and to bring forward sites for housing development and to deliver improvements that stimulate investment in the Port of Holyhead and the wider region. These projects will play an enabling role for the other programmes by ensuring that serviced sites are available for investors and developers.

Types of intervention: The provision of primary services and enabling works to bring forward commercial and housing development sites, delivery of employment floor space and future proofing and capacity enhancement works to the port of Holyhead.

Digital

Strategic aims: To deliver the step change in digital connectivity needed to ensure North Wales is able to satisfy user demand, maintain pace with the rest of UK, unlock the growth potential of priority sectors and sites and underpin a flourishing innovation ecosystem. Plays an enabling role for other programmes to deliver maximum benefit.

Types of intervention: The programme has identified a need to which balance investment in infrastructure and technology, through enhanced fixed broadband footprint at key sites in rural areas, unlocking applications through 5G access, and furthering digital innovation.

7. The Projects

7.1 The Growth Deal is based on 14 transformational projects to be delivered across 5 programmes. These projects have been identified by the Economic Ambition Board on the basis that they:

- deliver against the North Wales Growth Vision and are aligned with relevant Wales and UK strategies;
- are spatially targeted across the whole region;
- deliver benefits that will have a positive impact on as many communities as possible across the region;
- are enablers for economic growth;
- support growth and attract private sector investment;
- promote innovation.

Table 4: Summary of North Wales Growth Deal Projects

Programme	Project	Project Sponsor	Project Summary
Innovation in High value manufacturing	Centre for Environmental Biotechnology (CEB)	Bangor University	The Centre for Engineering Biotechnology will be a world-leading centre in the discovery and characterisation of novel extremophilic enzymes of industrial relevance. The Centre for Engineering Biotechnology will provide a strong foundation for attracting world-leading researchers, significant public and commercial research funding, and inward investment to Wales, building on an initial £5mERDF investment into research capacity. The project also aims to draw companies in the biocatalysis sector to North Wales to take advantage of clustering and agglomeration benefits the regions offers due to its well-established specialism in bioengineering.
	Enterprise Engineering & Optics Centre	Glyndwr University	The Enterprise Engineering & Optics Centre will provide facilities (in Wrexham and St. Asaph) targeted to boost high level skills development for the region and enable SME's and large businesses to work in partnership with Wrexham Glyndwr University on commercially driven research and development.
Agri-food and tourism	Tourism TALENT Network	Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	The Tourism Talent Network sets out ambitious plans to future-proof skills provision and increase commercial benefits from one of the most established and fastest growing sectors in the region. The North Wales Tourism Talent Network aims to stimulate public-

Programme	Project	Project Sponsor	Project Summary
	Glynlifon Rural Economy Hub	Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	private collaboration to coordinate action on skills and product development to transform and accelerate the growth of the tourism and hospitality sector in the region.
	The Llysfasi Carbon Neutral Centre	Coleg Cambria	The vision is to create a distinctive, world-class Rural Economy Hub at Glynlifon, offering a range of facilities and services to strengthen and enhance the regional economy, specifically through growing the food and drink sector. Llysfasi Carbon Neutral Centre aims to lead North Wales to a resilient future where carbon neutral land management is at the centre of a developing renewable energy sector supporting a sustainable, thriving and healthy community covering the rural/urban mix of the region.
Land and property	Holyhead Gateway	Stena Line	Future proof the Holyhead Port by providing new deep-water heavy loading and cruise facilities, improved vehicular access, guaranteeing the future of the breakwater and providing for the demands of regional energy projects.
	Regional Land and Property	North Wales Economic Ambition Board	Comprised initially of five development sites: Denbigh Hospital Site-A planning application has been submitted to bring forward a mixed use commercial and residential development. The Growth Deal funding will assist in the delivery of a cleared and remediated site with primary services. Bodelwyddan Strategic Site-A mixed use commercial and residential development site of 137 hectares. The Growth Deal funding will provide the primary services to enable the site to be bought to the market for development. Parc Bryn Cegin Strategic Site- Provide industrial floor space to meet known demand for units. Wrexham Gateway- Growth Deal funding will provide the necessary statutory consents and deliver primary services to enable the site to be bought to the market for sale and development. Warren Hall Strategic Site- Growth Deal funding will provide the necessary statutory consents and deliver primary services to enable the 65-hectare mixed use site to be bought to the market for sale and then development by the private sector.
Digital	Digital Connectivity Project	North Wales Economic Ambition Board	Comprises of four elements: Full fibre - This project seeks to deliver full fibre connectivity (gigabit capable) to 28 key business sites across NWEAB. The focus of the project is to provide access to full fibre services that are more affordable, scalable and able to service the needs of SMEs, in lieu

Programme	Project	Project Sponsor	Project Summary
			<p>of and complementing more expensive leased line circuits. Some 4,100 business premises and 450 residential premises able to access gigabit capable full fibre broadband once complete.</p> <p>Connected Campus This project aims to accelerate the development of Connected Campuses at 19 key regional economic sites. It will target key sites which present uses cases for 5G and low power Wi-Fi networks in the context of heavy industry, light industry, research sites, commercial sites and across a much larger rural campus (encompassing thousands of farms and agricultural clusters). It is estimated some 2,600 business premises will have access to high bandwidth 5G and low power Wi-Fi services once complete.</p> <p>Connected Corridor - This project aims seeks to respond to industry demand and technology drivers by supporting the more efficient operation of supply chains, and major transport operations (such as ports). In total, 156km of road and rail corridor will be connected to 5G/Low Power Wireless Access Networks, along the A55 corridor and adjacent mainline rail route. It is estimated that up to 1.57 million rail journeys and 1.3 million road journeys will benefit from enhanced 5G connectivity once complete.</p> <p>Connecting the last few % - This project targets universal superfast coverage across North Wales, which have yet to be served by other means and cannot obtain speeds of at least 30Mbps (download).</p> <p>A lack of reliable and in some cases basic broadband (Ofcom defines as 10Mbps download) is an established and growing challenge facing rural businesses and communities. A widely acknowledged 'digital divide' is affecting residents' access to online services and preventing SMEs from developing and sustaining trade. The growing trend of working from home is also restricted by poor connectivity.</p> <p>Up to 10,100 residential and 4,300 business premises with will access to superfast broadband once complete.</p>

Programme	Project	Project Sponsor	Project Summary
	Digital Signal Processing Centre Project (DSP)	Bangor University	The project will bring together Bangor University researchers to work alongside high-profile international companies and Welsh SMEs enabling them to work together to explore disruptive solutions for 5G. The project will allow the DSP Centre to expand its presence and remit, integrating fully with the National Strategy Project (NSP) and enable the scaling of key assets including a 5G testbed, research capacity and state-of-the-art equipment. The project is expected to create 160 jobs in total.
Low carbon energy	Morlais	Menter Môn	Constructing the infrastructure that connects the Morlais Zone with the electricity grid system, readying the site for private sector developers investing to lease parts of the zone for deploying tidal energy technologies. This would position the zone as the first consented, expandable and technology-agnostic site in the world with up to 180 MW of potential.
	Trawsfynydd Power Station	Cwmni Egino	The Trawsfynydd site is uniquely placed for a 'First of A Kind' deployment of a Small Modular Reactor (SMR) or Advanced Modular Reactor (AMR) due to its status as a publicly owned asset, its highly skilled workforce, and the supportive community. In combination with the public and private sector, the Growth Deal will contribute funding towards enabling infrastructure for this development, helping to secure jobs as well as position North Wales at the cutting edge of innovation and R&D in a technology that has significant potential for deployment across the UK.
	Low Carbon Energy Centre of Excellence	Bangor University	Developing infrastructure at Bangor University and Menai Science Park, enhancing the North Wales and UK capabilities for innovation in low carbon energy and related areas, helping to create the conditions for new inward investment and business growth in the low carbon energy supply chain in North Wales
	Smart Local Energy	North Wales Economic Ambition Board	To help achieve renewable energy, decarbonisation and local ownership targets, the project will support innovative enabling projects and demonstrators that overcome market failures and unlock private and community sector investments in smart local energy solutions.
	Transport Decarbonisation	North Wales Economic Ambition Board	Support delivery of a demonstrator project involving the production of green hydrogen from low carbon energy sources and its use within regional transport networks.

8. Economic Impact

Spending Objectives

8.1 The Heads of Terms agreement set out that the Government investment would be used to create up to 4,000 new jobs, support 5% GVA uplift and secure £500million in private sector investment over the 15-year period. In the development of a portfolio and five programme business cases to secure the Final Deal agreement with Welsh and UK Government these have been refined into the following spending objectives for the North Wales Growth Deal. All the programmes and projects within the Growth Deal contribute to these overall objectives.

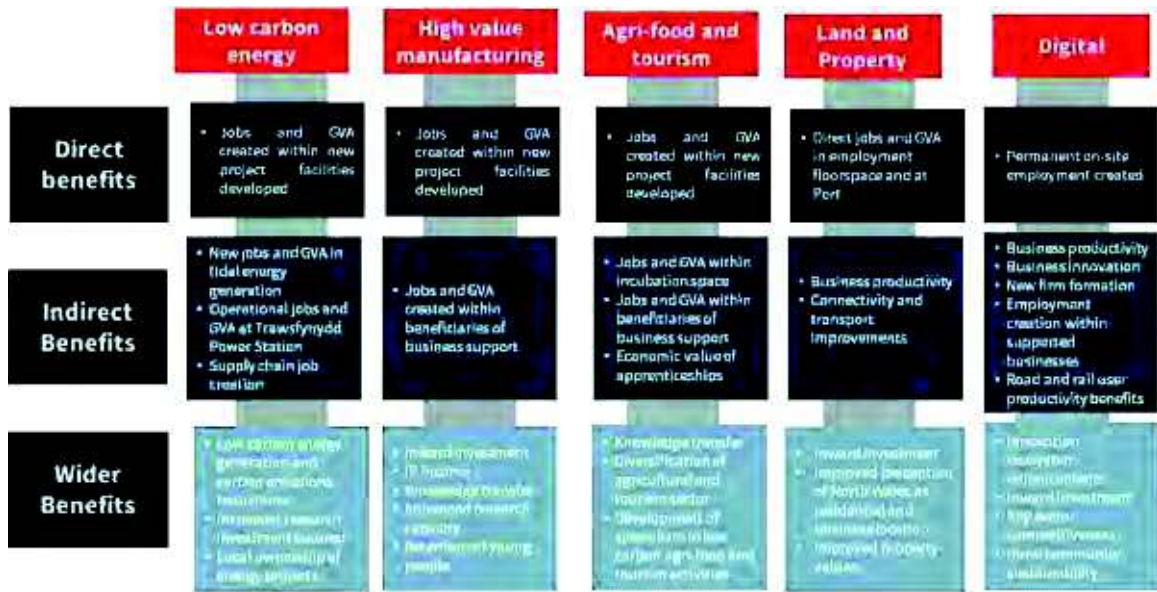
Spending Objective 1 - Jobs	To create between 3,400 and 4,200 net new jobs in North Wales through the Growth Deal by 2036.
Spending Objective 2 - GVA	To support a net additional GVA uplift of between £2.0 billion and £2.4 billion for the North Wales Economy through the Growth Deal by 2036.
Spending Objective 3 - Investment	To deliver a total investment of up to £1.1 billion in the North Wales Economy through the Growth Deal by 2036.

Benefits Summary

8.2 In developing each of the five programmes for the Final Deal, a high-level assessment of the relevant economic benefits has been produced. Each of the programmes will generate a set of benefits that have been classed as direct, indirect and wider benefits. The precise nature of these vary between the programmes. The key types are summarised below, by programme.

8.3 The core measures across all programmes and projects are jobs and Gross Value Added (GVA) created, reflecting the core spending objectives of the Growth Deal. Growth in GVA is a function of both sectoral growth (with accompanying growth in jobs) and productivity enhancements (e.g. generated by investments in digital infrastructure).

Figure 1.2 Benefits Framework



Source: Hatch

Net additional benefits

- 8.4 After taking account of likely levels of additionality within the projects and programmes, the Growth Deal programmes are expected to generate a total of **£1.97 to £2.41 billion** in net additional GVA, and **3,400 to 4,200 net additional FTE jobs** per annum at steady state.
- 8.5 A breakdown across all of the projects is provided in Appendix B.

Table 5: Net Additional Economic Benefits (GVA is cumulative to 2036 and expressed in 2020/21 prices, undiscounted; jobs are annual at steady state)

	GVA (£m)	Jobs Created (FTEs)
Low carbon energy	430 - 530	800 – 980
Innovation in high value manufacturing	90 – 110	150 – 180
Agri-food and tourism	230 – 280	310 – 380
Land and property	1,060 – 1,290	1,870 – 2,280
Digital	150 – 190	310 – 380
Total, North Wales Growth Deal	1,970 – 2,410	3,440 – 4,210

Source: Hatch calculations based on project level data. Rounded to the nearest £10m/10 FTEs. Ranges apply a ± 10% margin of error.

Benefit-cost ratio

- 8.6 Drawing the analysis together, the Growth Deal Programme has an estimated benefit-cost ratio of between **2.8:1 and 3.4:1**, i.e. for every £1 in public sector investment (after Optimism Bias*) the Growth Deal is expected to return net additional economic benefits of between £2.80 and £3.40. This rises to between £4.90 and £6.00 for every £1 of Growth Deal investment only.
- 8.7 This places the overall Growth Deal into the category of “high” value for money, as defined by Central Government.¹⁶

	Based on Total Public Sector Cost	Based on Growth Deal cost only
Discounted net additional benefits	£1,370m - £1,670m	
Discounted costs, after optimism bias	£488m	£273m
Net Present Social Value	£930 – £1,140	£1,120 - £1,370
BCR	2.8:1 - 3.5:1	5.0:1 - 6.1:1

Source: Hatch calculations based on project level data

Optimum Bias Note: Prior to calculating the final Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR), we have discounted all costs and benefits at 3.5%, in line with HM Treasury Green Book Guidance

9. Growth Deal Funding Profile

- 9.1 The Growth Deal is based on the delivery of fourteen projects across five programmes with an anticipated total capital expenditure of £1.1billion of which £240million is derived from the Growth Deal with the remainder provided by public and private sector partners.
- 9.2 A breakdown of capital expenditure per project is provided in the table below:

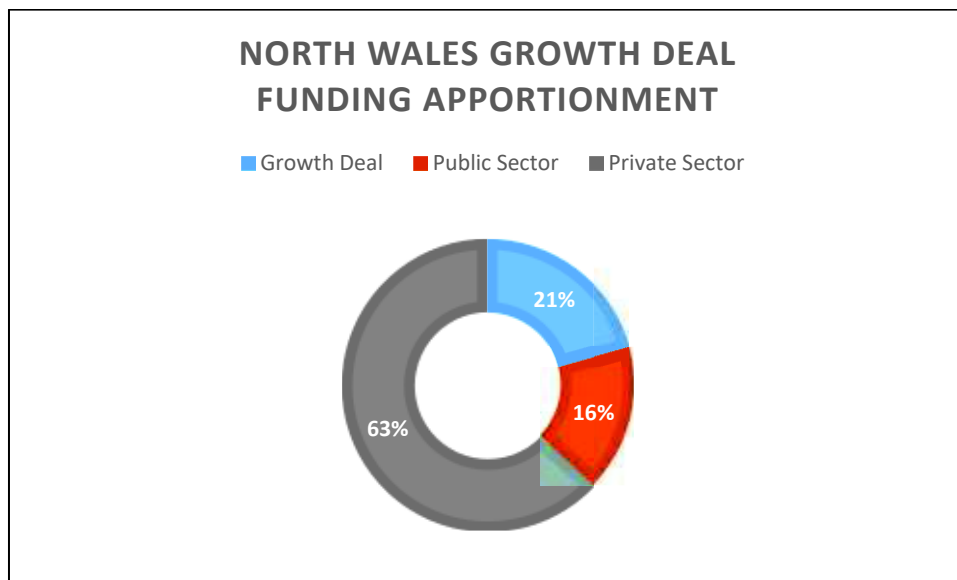
Project	Project Sponsor	Growth Deal Investment (£m)	Other Public Sector Investment (£)	Private Sector Investment (£)	Total Capital Investment (£)
Digital Programme					
Digital Signal Processing Centre Project	Bangor University	3.0	3.1	1.1	7.3
Digital Connectivity Project	Full Fibre at key sites	6.8	-	0.411	7.2
	Connected Corridor	2.2	-	-	2.2

¹⁶ See, for example, https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/918481/value-for-money-supplementary-guidance-on-categories.pdf

Project		Project Sponsor	Growth Deal Investment (£m)	Other Public Sector Investment (£)	Private Sector Investment (£)	Total Capital Investment (£)
	Advanced Connectivity ('Connected Campus')	Economic Ambition Board	21.0	-	-	21.0
	Last few %	Economic Ambition Board	4.0	-	-	4.0
Low Carbon Energy Programme						
	Morlais	Menter Môn	9.0	27.0	-	36.0
	Low Carbon Energy Centre of Excellence	Bangor University	21.0	75.7	1.0	97.7
	Trawsfynydd Power Station	Welsh Government	20.0	20.0	360.0	400.0
	Transport Decarbonisation	Economic Ambition Board	11.4	11.45	5.7	28.6
	Smart Local Energy	Economic Ambition Board	25.0	6.2	75	106.2
Land and Property Programme						
	Holyhead Gateway	Stena Line	35.0	-	45.0	80.0
Land and Property Project	Warren Hall	Economic Ambition Board	15.0	-	55.0	70.0
	Former North Wales Hospital, Denbigh	Economic Ambition Board	4.0	-	70.0	74.0
	KSS, Bodelwyddan	Economic Ambition Board	10.0	-	72.0	82.0
	Parc Bryn Cegin	Economic Ambition Board	6.0	-	-	6.0
	Western Gateway, Wrexham	Economic Ambition Board	9.1	1.9	32.4	43.4
Innovation in High Value Manufacturing						
	Centre of Environmental Botechnology	Bangor University	3.0	6.6	-	9.6
	Enterprise Engineering & Optics Centre	Glyndwr University	10	19.9	-	29.9
Agrifood and Tourism Programme						
	Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub	Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	10.0	3.0	-	13.0

Project	Project Sponsor	Growth Deal Investment (£m)	Other Public Sector Investment (£)	Private Sector Investment (£)	Total Capital Investment (£)
The Llysfasi Carbon Neutral Centre	Coleg Cambira	10.0	2.7	2.7	15.4
Tourism TALENT Network	Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	4.5	6.7	1.7	13.0

GROWTH DEAL TOTAL	240	184.3	722.1	1146.4
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10. North Wales Economic Ambition Board Partner Contributions

Annual Partner Contributions

- 10.1 No revenue funding is provided through the Growth Deal for the delivery of the projects or the operational running costs of the project once completed.
- 10.2 Revenue funding to support the Portfolio Management Office is provided through Economic Ambition Board partner contributions (including supplementary local authority contributions) and additional ESF funding has also been secured for the first three years of operation (from May 2020). An amount equivalent to the 'top slice' of the annual government grant at 1.5% can also be used to fund this, subject to Welsh Government flexibility to manage funding. Any additional Portfolio Management

Office costs directly attributable to the delivery of the projects will be accounted for within project business cases.

- 10.3 The annual partner contributions toward Portfolio Management Office costs are set out in the table below:

	Local Authority Contribution	HE/FE Annual Contributions	Total Annual Contribution
Annual Core Contributions	£50k per LA	£25k per partner	£400k
Annual Supplementary Contribution*	£40k per LA	0	£240k

* this contribution is a supplementary contribution agreed by the Councils only

Growth Deal Cash-flow Financing Contributions

- 10.4 A total of £240m grant contribution to the North Wales Growth Deal is provided by the UK and Welsh Government in annual instalments over a 15 year period.
- 10.5 Due to the nature of the annual Growth Deal grant payments from government, there is a medium term temporary funding gap between the expected expenditure profile of the Growth Deal and the funding received.
- 10.6 The Economic Ambition Board, through Gwynedd Council as the host authority, will be responsible for managing this negative cash flow. This will be met by the local authorities (proportional to population) for regional NWEAB projects, and with project lead partners responsible for the cost in relation to their projects (which create assets).
- 10.7 The total (15 years) contributions that will be required from the North Wales Economic Ambition Board partners, to enable the delivery of the Growth Deal, are set as a range for each partner. Version 1 is modelled as the best case scenario and Version 2 as a worst case scenario, to reflect the timing of finalising the Growth Deal and consequent timing of government grant funding. Any proposed increase in agreed contributions would need to be approved as a reserved matter.

Version	Bangor University	Glyndwr University	Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	Coleg Cambria	Other Commerical Partners	Conwy	Denbighshire	Flintshire	Gwynedd	Isle of Anglesey	Wrexham	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
1	1.40	0.51	0.75	0.52	2.29	1.17	0.96	1.56	1.24	0.70	1.36	12.46
2	1.99	0.73	1.07	0.74	3.24	1.67	1.36	2.22	1.77	1.00	1.94	17.73

- 10.8 The table below shows the annual partner contributions to cover the cost of 'borrowing' notionally required to facilitate the negative cash flow.

Version	Bangor University	Glyndwr University	Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	Coleg Cambria	Other Commerical Partners	Conwy	Denbighshire	Flintshire	Gwynedd	Isle of Anglesey	Wrexham	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1	93,330	34,000	50,000	34,670	152,660	78,010	64,000	104,000	82,670	46,670	90,670	830,680
2	132,670	48,670	71,330	49,330	216,000	111,340	90,670	148,000	118,000	66,670	129,340	1,182,020

11. Commercial Strategy

- 11.1 The Economic Ambition Board is committed to maximising the impact of the North Wales Growth Deal.
- 11.2 The primary driver for all projects within the Growth Deal is to deliver economic and social benefits to North Wales in line with the strategic outcomes set out in the portfolio business case. The Growth Deal aims to maximise private sector direct investment and leverage across the portfolio.
- 11.3 There is significant potential across the portfolio to generate a commercial return on investment that could be reinvested in the region. Each project business case will be expected to explore commercial investment opportunities. These opportunities may include provision of Growth Deal funding as a loan, investment or profit share arrangement subject to relevant project state aid advice.
- 11.4 The Economic Ambition Board expects to generate a return on investment across the overall portfolio, with a particular focus on opportunities within the Land and Property and Low Carbon Energy programmes that would subject to UK and Welsh Government agreement be reinvested in the region.
- 11.5 Procurement represents a significant commercial opportunity for the North Wales Growth Deal. Collaborative procurement opportunities will be explored where appropriate across the Growth Deal in line with the procurement strategy outlined below.

12. Procurement Approach

- 12.1 The Economic Ambition Board is committed to securing value for money and maximising benefits to the region through the North Wales Growth Deal. Procurement will play a key role in the delivery of the Growth Deal projects but also in the realisation of benefits to the region. This section sets out the approach that the Board will take to procurement, with a particular focus on maximising social and community benefits to be delivered through procurement activity.
- 12.2 The following procurement principles will underpin all Growth Deal procurement activity:
 - **Regional Leadership and strategic approach**

The Economic Ambition Board will:

 - *have a clear strategy and principles for achieving innovative and sustainable procurement practices with clients, contractors and communities working together*
 - *engage with contractors and supply chain in an open and transparent manner with a two way exchange*
 - *promote and champion collaborative procurement opportunities, supporting innovation and growth*

- *will work with the PSB's and directly support the local wellbeing plans and evolving community resilience plans for the region to recover and build back fairer and better*
- *promote and champion the delivery of social value and community benefits through procurement activity align with and test key policies such as the socio economic duty and the social partnerships bill.*
- *embed 'The Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015' lens into all procurement activity contributing where relevant to the 46 national wellbeing indicators for Wales.*

- **Engagement and supply chain support, and the Foundational economy**
 - *Engage in two way exchange with partners, contractors and communities and ensure local and regional needs and priorities are part of the social value clauses*
 - *Support and improve access for SMEs and support collaboration between SMEs within the region.*
 - *Open and fairness support local supply chains to engage with larger contracts through supply chain briefings and joint bidding opportunities and pipeline of projects.*
 - *Ensure fair and ethical working practices, including prompt payment to contractors and within the supply chain*
 - *Supporting the foundational economy in the region with skills and innovation mapped across the Regional Skills and employment plan.*

- **Skills, Jobs & Growth**
 - *Focus on innovative targeted recruitment and training working with our partners to ensure we support people to retrain, develop new skills through volunteering or contribute to education/apprenticeships.*
 - *Target opportunities and engage with existing mechanisms to support this and target specific groups such as young people or those in areas of deprivation to engage in education and learning/development.*

- **Contribution to education and supporting young people**
 - *Work with evolving projects such as the Children's University to support contractors engage and deliver learning and skills development for young people.*
 - *Support engagement and connections with schools to offer opportunities to all support the new Curriculum 2022 in Wales, with a focus on digital inclusion.*

- **Community resilience and well being**
 - *Work directly with the PSB to include community resilience and wealth building developing assets in our communities to include supporting positive mental health in workforces, supply chain and in communities*

- *Engage with new partnership such as museums, theatres and arts to support developing our cultural and Welsh language considerations in contract opportunities.*
 - *Work with procurement partners and third sector organisations to maximise community wealth building opportunities.*
 - *Support and engage with the third sector in a valued based approach that support resilience in the third sector to work with and support contractors and the supply chain.*
- **Environmental Sustainability and Green Recovery**
 - *Ensure we have environmental considerations in contract opportunities, minimising our impact on the environment and supporting new technologies, approaches and innovation with contractors and the supply chain, with a focus on the circular economy*
 - *Seek to minimise the carbon footprint of projects and support low carbon economy, focused on the commitment by welsh government to achieve a carbon neutral public sector by 2030, reducing greenhouse gases, improving our natural environment and protecting our biodiversity.*
 - **Innovation and new practices**
 - *Test and explore new ways of working with all partners to seek to maximise value from regional collaboration*
 - *Establish effective arrangements for monitoring impact, exploring the most appropriate tool to do this*
 - *Work collaboratively across the partnership to effectively resource procurement activity and focus on developing and delivering new forums to support capacity and capability to use procurement as an effective tool such as community of practices etc.*

13. Governance Arrangements

Governance Agreement 2

- 13.1 Having Secured the Growth Deal the Partners have agreed to enter into a second Governance Agreement (GA2) which will support the partnership into the next phase of implementation of the Growth Deal and further development of the Growth Vision.
- 13.2 The agreement, which is a legally binding document defines the role and function of the Board and its delegated powers. It also provides for its decision making structures and democratic accountability. Provision is made for the commitments of the Partners to the project and how these are managed and apportioned. GA2 provides assurance for the Host Authority (Gwynedd Council) in assuming that role. The underlying arrangements providing for legal and compliance matters within the partnership and the governance of the Programme Office are also addressed.

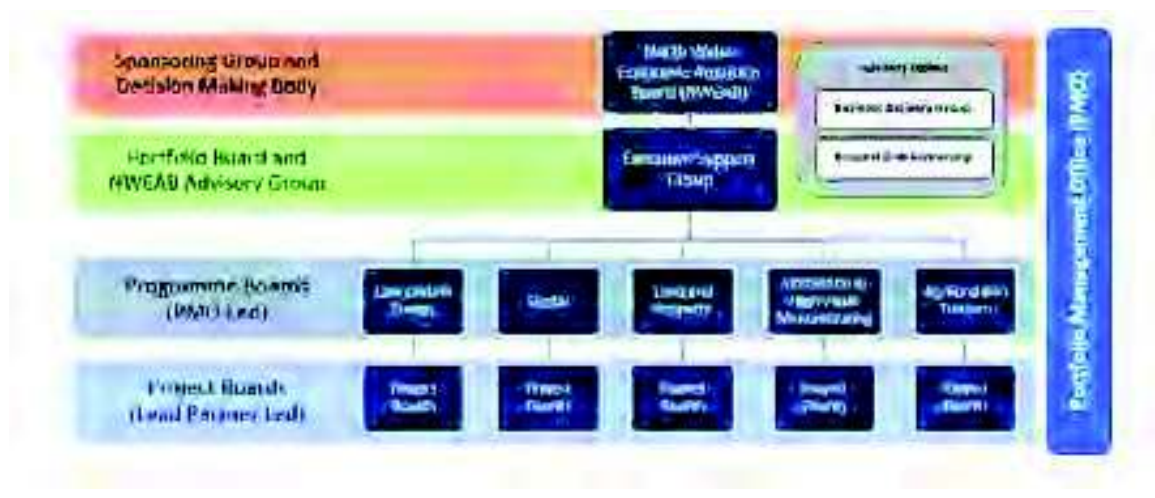
13.3 It is a key document providing a clear structure and foundation for taking the implementation of the Growth Deal forward.

Portfolio, Programme and Project Management Arrangements (PPM)

13.4 The Board has adopted a delivery model based on a best practice approach to portfolio, programme and project management as set out in ‘Government Functional Standard GovS 002: Project Delivery’. Portfolio, programme and project management is an integrated way of meeting an organisation’s ambitions, driving better decisions and increasing the likelihood of successful outcomes.

13.5 The diagram below sets the PPM governance delivery structure for the Growth Deal:

Figure 1.3 Growth Deal Delivery Structure



Source: North Wales Economic Ambition Board

Strategic and Portfolio Level

13.6 **North Wales Economic Ambition Board (Sponsoring Group)** - The Economic Ambition Board acts as the Sponsoring Group (Organisation) and the Decision-Making Body. All authority below this level is delegated to relevant parties as required through a formal decision by the Board. A member of the Economic Ambition Board will take on a Lead Member role for each of the programmes and sit on the relevant Programme Board. The Board will be responsible for the consideration and approval of project business cases within the portfolio and with responsibility for delivery delegated to the relevant programme and project boards.

13.7 **Executive Support Group (Portfolio Board)** - This group is the advisory body to the Economic Ambition Board but also acts as the Portfolio Board for the Growth Deal to support and challenge the Growth Deal Programme Director to ensure delivery. The group is made up of senior officers from each of the Economic Ambition Board partner organisations. A member of the Executive Support Group will act as a Senior Responsible Owner (SRO) for each of the programmes and lead the relevant Programme Board.

- 13.8 **Programme Director** - The Programme Director is accountable to the Economic Ambition Board for the delivery of the Growth Deal portfolio.

Programme and Project Level

- 13.9 **Portfolio Management Office (PMO)** – The PMO supports and co-ordinates activity across the programmes acting as an information hub and ensuring a consistent approach to reporting, control of risk and issues. It also acts as a valuable assurance function, providing advice and challenge to programmes and projects. Each programme is assigned a Programme Manager from within the PMO.
- 13.10 **Programme Boards** - Each programme will have a formal Programme Board and an appointed Senior Responsible Owner (SRO). These boards will be focused on the development (initially) and delivery of the agreed Programme Business Case, with a specific focus on the benefits and outcomes to be achieved. Programme Boards escalate to the Portfolio Board via the Programme Director.
- 13.11 **Project Boards** - All projects within the Growth Deal will be managed via a Project Board with appointed SROs and project managers in place to ensure delivery. These boards will be focused on the development and delivery of the agreed business case, with a focus on the delivery of specified outputs. Projects and Project Boards will be the responsibility of the Project Sponsor and clear arrangements for the delivery of projects in line with best practice will be set out in each project business case. Projects will report through to the relevant Programme Board. Terms of Reference for Project Boards will be agreed between the Project Sponsor and the Portfolio Management Office to ensure the appropriate links and reporting arrangements between the project and the Programme Board are understood by both parties.

Project Approval Process

- 13.12 The Growth Deal is to be signed on the basis of a portfolio business case and five programme business cases. Once the final deal has been agreed, project business cases can be brought forward for the NWEAB to consider.
- 13.13 Full (5 Case Model) business cases will be developed for each project within the North Wales Growth Deal in line with the 'Better Business Case' guidance developed by Welsh Government and HM Treasury.
- 13.14 Preparing a Project Business Case using the five Case model provides decision makers and stakeholders with a proven framework for structured 'thinking' and assurance that the project provides and strategic fit, maximise public value, is commercially viable, is affordable and is fundable over time.
- 13.15 Project business cases will be required to demonstrate how they deliver against the objectives and aspirations of the North Wales Growth Deal and specifically the relevant programme business case.
- 13.16 It is recognised that through the development and agreement of portfolio and programme business cases between the Economic Ambition Board and UK/Welsh Government that the strategic case for projects will have been established.
- 13.17 Each project business case will be subject to independent gateway reviews at agreed points as agreed with the Welsh Government Assurance Hub.

13.18 Project business cases will first be considered by the relevant Programme Board. Business cases will only be presented to the Economic Ambition Board following endorsement by the Portfolio Board and the Programme Board and the completion of required gateway reviews. The PMO retains the right to commission external reviews of project business cases where required.



Process for Considering New Projects

13.19 The Growth Deal is a portfolio spanning 15 years and there is potential that not all the current 14 projects will be delivered if the economic benefits of certain projects cannot be demonstrated through project business cases or if new priorities emerge for the region. It is also possible that further funding sources may be identified or income generated through the Growth Deal for reinvestment in new projects.

13.20 Any new or replacement projects will be a matter for the Economic Ambition Board to decide upon within the agreed affordability envelope for the partnership and where the projects deliver against the objectives of the Growth Deal and its programmes. Project proposals that sit outside the agreed funding envelope for the partnership and outside the parameters agreed with UK and Welsh Government would need the approval of individual partners and/or both governments.

13.21 New or replacement project proposals would be assessed at the relevant programme board before consideration by the portfolio board and the Economic Ambition Board. Should the Economic Ambition Board endorse a new project for development, a project business case would be developed in accordance with the process set out above.



Monitoring and Evaluation

13.22 Programme and project performance will be monitored on a monthly basis through the relevant programme and project boards with formal quarterly reports submitted to the Portfolio Board and the North Wales Economic Ambition Board.

13.23 A Monitoring and Evaluation Plan has been developed for the North Wales Growth Deal. The key components of the Monitoring and Evaluation Plan are set out below:

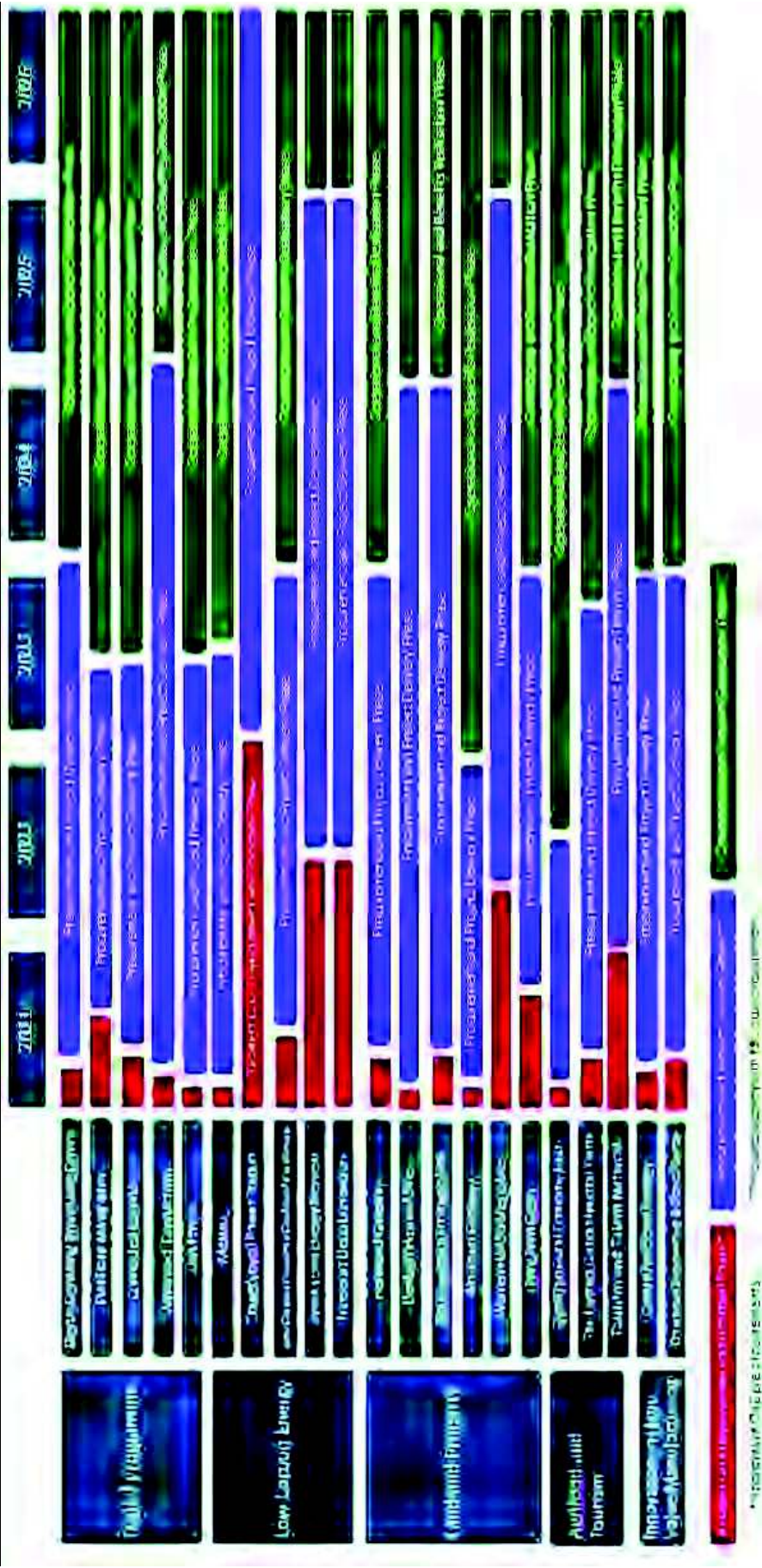
13.24 Monthly Highlight Reports for all programmes and projects;

13.25 Formal Quarterly Reports to the Economic Ambition Board, UK Government and Welsh Government;

- 13.26 Formal Annual Report to Economic Ambition Board, its partners, UK Government and Welsh Government;
- 13.27 Independent economic impact evaluation to be undertaken every 3-5 years against suite of indicators agreed with UK Government and Welsh Government.
- 13.28 Wider benefits to be achieved through procurement, particularly social and community value will be monitored and evaluated to ensure maximum benefit is derived to the region from such activity.
- 13.29 The Economic Ambition Board will work with the Welsh Government to ensure that evaluation against the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 is a key component of all monitoring and evaluation activities.
- 13.30 The Economic Ambition Board is committed to developing an appropriate feedback mechanism for the North Wales Growth Deal with both governments to ensure lessons learned during the delivery of the Growth Deal are captured and shared.

14. Growth Deal Project Delivery Timescales

Figure A.1 Growth Deal Delivery Timescale

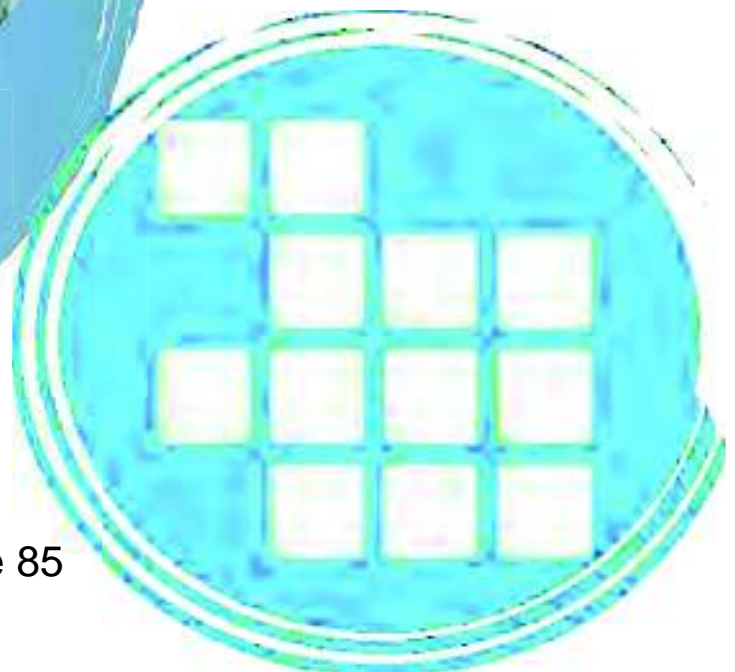


Source: NWEAB

Explanatory Note on Private Delivery in the Land and Property Programme

Due to the scale of the proposed development, the following projects will have delivery timescales extending beyond 2026 - Western Gateway, Warren Hall, Bodelwyddan, Former North Wales Hospital. The timetable above refers to the Growth Deal funded elements of these projects. The full indicative delivery timeline for these projects is shown in Table 5.4 of the Financial Case of the Land and Property Programme Business Case

NORTH WALES GROWTH DEAL DRAFT FINAL DEAL AGREEMENT



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2. Definitions

[Note: To be inserted]

3. Foreword

The **Growth Deal** has been developed through close collaboration and commitment, from partners across governments and sectors, to deliver long-lasting positive investment and change that will enable economic and employment growth for the long-term.

Over the next fifteen years, the deal empowers us to work together and take control of how we invest in our future.

It's a unique opportunity to de-centralise government investment, make those investment decisions locally and demonstrate the value this brings. Ultimately, as part of a broader programme of investment, the Growth Deal will enable us to build a more vibrant, sustainable and inclusive economy for us all in North Wales.

The UK Government and Welsh Government are investing £240million into the North Wales Growth Deal over the next 15 years. Alongside the North Wales Economic Ambition Board partners and the private sector, the Growth Deal seeking to deliver a total investment of up to £1.1bn in the North Wales economy (£240m from the Growth Deal), to create 3,400 – 4,200 net additional jobs and generate £2.0- £2.4 billion in net additional GVA.

Building on the [Heads of Terms](#), signed in November 2019, this document sets out a compelling vision for North Wales. 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. Our approach is to promote growth in a scalable, inclusive and sustainable way in line with the Future Generations Act.

Our signing of this document reaffirms our joint commitment to achieve the full implementation of the North Wales Growth Deal together over the next 15 years.

We look forward to leading this important investment in our home and our region, North Wales.

[Insert signatures – NWEAB/UK/WG]

4. Executive Summary

[Note: To be inserted once content agreed with UK and Welsh Government]

A logic model is a way of articulating the context for change and investment. A summary logic model for the Growth Deal is set out in Figure 1.1 below and provides an overview of the strategic drivers, objectives, inputs and impact of the Growth Deal.

Figure 1.1 Portfolio Logic Model



Source: Hatch; NWEAB. A Note on Market Failure: **Positive externalities:** third party economic/social/environmental benefits to the wider economy/ society. These cannot be captured in entirely by commercial organisations and so public investment is required. **Information failure:** businesses do not have full information on technologies/developments that could secure growth. Public investment is required to bridge these information gaps. **Co-ordination failure:** no one organisation may have the incentive to invest in a venture that secures benefits for wider partners. Public investment is required to initiate a partnership investment.

5. Introduction

North Wales Economic Ambition Board

The North Wales Economic Ambition Board (*hereafter referred to as Economic Ambition Board or the Board*) was established in 2012 as a partnership between the six Local Authority areas of North Wales comprising the Councils of Gwynedd, Anglesey, Conwy, Denbighshire, Wrexham and Flintshire. The Board also includes Bangor University, Glyndwr University, Coleg Cambria and Grwp Llandrillo-Menai. In early 2019, the Economic Ambition Board was formally established as a joint committee.

Figure 5.1 Map of North Wales and North Wales Economic Ambition Board Partners



The North Wales Growth Deal is a partnership between the public and private sectors. The private sector has been strongly represented by The North Wales Mersey Dee Business Council, who, as a founding member of the Economic Ambition Board, have worked in close collaboration with partners and regional public and private sector stakeholders to shape and influence the Growth Deal proposition. As of August 3rd 2020, due to challenges caused by Covid-19, the Business Council withdrew membership yet remain a key stakeholder and will be an integral, albeit more distant, partner moving forward.

The private sector remains strongly represented in the North Wales Growth Deal through the Business Delivery Group who act as an independent advisory body to the North Wales Economic Ambition Board.

The Vision for North Wales

In 2016 the Economic Ambition Board partners adopted *A Growth Vision for the Economy of North Wales* (the Growth Vision).

The adopted Vision is to develop “*a confident, cohesive region with sustainable economic growth, capitalising on the success of high value economic sectors and our connection to the economies of the Northern Powerhouse & Ireland.*”

The Growth Vision was founded on three key principles for North Wales:

- **Smart** – with a focus on innovation and high value economic sectors to advance economic performance.
- **Resilient** – with a focus on retaining young people, increasing employment levels and skills to achieve inclusive growth.
- **Connected** – with a focus on improving transport and digital infrastructure to enhance strategic connectivity to and within the region.

The North Wales Growth Deal will play a key role in delivering this vision. We will be **smart** with our investment - building on our strengths to boost productivity, foster innovation and be competitive in the markets we serve. We already have well-established research and innovation hubs, which are helping us to push the boundaries in discovering new growth areas for our high value manufacturing business. We will invest further to create centres of excellence to enhance our reputation and enable growth in this important industry.

We will tackle the long-term market failure that has been a barrier for commercial investment - making North Wales more investable and unlocking the potential for new high-value skilled jobs, for young people and our future generations to thrive. We'll address the shortage of suitable land and properties for business growth and to bring forward sites to provide the employment land and housing we need as well as invest in our Port at Holyhead.

By investing now, we build our **resilience** for the future.

We are **connected** as a region. Our partnership across the six local authorities, universities, colleges and the private sector is well established and growing in strength. We're also driving a step change in digital connectivity by balancing investment in infrastructure and technology. We address those areas most in need of faster and more reliable broadband connections and exploit the potential of 5G access and new digital innovation. Opportunities also lie in our close connections with our neighbouring economies such as the Northern Powerhouse, Ireland and Mid-Wales. We can build stronger economies by working together.

We will strengthen our reputation as a cohesive region; leveraging our partnerships to promote growth in the economy that is scalable, sustainable and inclusive. Our Investment in low-carbon energy projects enable us to contribute directly to the climate change emergency, not only helping to make North Wales a cleaner, greener environment, but also

positioning ourselves as one of the leading UK locations within the low carbon energy sector. Not forgetting our foundation economies in agriculture and tourism, we will help to enable and encourage diversification to improve the long-term future of these key industries, ensuring they have opportunity to develop sustainably and thrive.

We will invest in a way that promotes social value and builds wealth in our communities. We recognise and value our obligation to deliver the Growth Deal in a way that improves and enhances our social, cultural, environmental and economic well-being.

The Region

North Wales is known for its beautiful landscapes, its history, heritage, culture and it has the highest proportion of Welsh speakers in Wales at an estimated 41.9%¹.

North Wales is home to nearly 700,000 residents and contributes £14.2 billion to the UK economy each year,² representing 22% of the Welsh economy.³ In North Wales, the population is projected to increase by 2.1 per cent in the 2018-2028 period, and 3.1 per cent in the 2018-2038 period. North Wales has an ageing population. Between 1998 and 2018, the proportion of the population aged 65 and over has increased from 18.5 per cent to 23 per cent, while the proportion of the population aged 15 and under has fallen from 19.8 per cent to 17.8 per cent⁴. The profile of young people in the region aged 14-18 has remained flat for a decade but is projected to increase from 2020, meaning the region must consider the skills and employment opportunities to service this growing demographic.

Economic performance has been resilient following the financial crisis and during the period of austerity, with real⁵ GVA increasing by 20% since 2009. This is compared to 14.9% increase in the Swansea Bay City Region and 12.6% increase in the Mid-Wales Growth Deal area.

The total GVA in North Wales in 2018 was £14,239million, up 4.1 percent over the previous year, which accounted for 21.9 percent of Wales total GVA (£65,089million) and 0.8 percent of UK total GVA (£1,892,681million) in that year.⁶ Within North Wales there are **wide variations in GVA per capita**, with particularly weak productivity in the Isle of Anglesey (53% of the UK average) but stronger performance in Flintshire and Wrexham (both of which are 81% of the UK average).⁷ This is also reflected in average earnings, which lag behind the UK average. Indeed, some local authorities in the West have the lowest earnings in Wales and the UK. For the year ending 30 June 2018, North Wales had the highest employment rate and lowest unemployment and

¹ Welsh Government – Summary Statistics for Welsh economic regions: North Wales, May2020

² Measured by Gross Value Added (GVA). Source: ONS, 2018 data.

³ <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Business-Economy-and-Labour-Market/Regional-Accounts/Gross-Value-Added-GDP/qva-by-measure-welsheconomicregion-year>

⁴ Welsh Government – Summary Statistics for Welsh economic regions: North Wales, May2020

⁵ i.e. inflation-adjusted.

⁶ <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Business-Economy-and-Labour-Market/Regional-Accounts/Gross-Value-Added-GDP/qva-by-measure-welsheconomicregion-year>

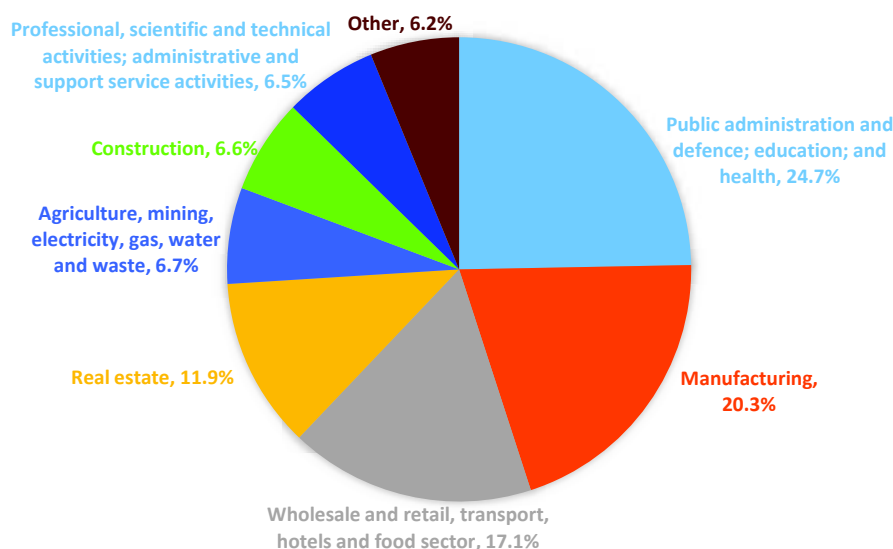
⁷ <https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Business-Economy-and-Labour-Market/Regional-Accounts/Gross-Value-Added-GDP/qvaperhead-by-area-year>

economic inactivity rates of the Welsh regions⁸. However, there is a greater need in the region for high value employment opportunities.

North Wales has a number of areas that are within the top 10% most deprived areas in Wales. Many of the most deprived areas are based in rural communities.

There remains a persistent and widening productivity gap between North Wales and the UK with wide variations in GVA (Gross Value Added) per capita across the region. Addressing this productivity gap and disparities within Wales is an important priority for the Growth Deal.

North Wales has a diverse economy with key sectors being manufacturing, energy and tourism as well as public sector jobs. The public sector accounts for nearly a quarter (24.7%) of the region's GVA. A fifth (20.3%) of the economy is accounted for by manufacturing, which is significantly more important in North Wales than in Wales as a whole (where it accounts for 17% of GVA). Wholesale and retail, transport, hotels and food sector accounts for 17% of the economy of North Wales. The chart below shows the breakdown of industry contribution to 2018 GVA in North Wales.⁹



A portion of the productivity gap is accounted for by the sectoral structure of the North Wales economy, with some areas particularly reliant on relatively low paid sectors including tourism and retail. At the same time, there are areas of strength, with 64,000 people employed in *high value sectors*, defined as manufacturing; information and communication; and professional, scientific and technical activities.

Supporting high value sectors and addressing long-term barriers to growth is at the heart of the North Wales Growth Deal.

There is an ageing population in the region and a net outward migration of talent from the region. Whilst the population of North Wales is expected to increase to 722,317 by 2039, the share of the population aged 65 or above is expected to increase from 23.6% to 29.8%. This

⁸ Welsh Government – Summary Statistics for Welsh economic regions: North Wales, May2020

⁹ Source: ONS.

means a smaller share of working age people, which may place pressures on the supply of skills.

The employment rate amongst working age residents in North Wales stood at 75.9% at March 2020, which was the same as the UK. Over 5 years, between March 2015 and March 2020, 18,300 jobs were added to the economy, a growth of 6.2% for the region. The specific impacts of Covid-19 on the North Wales economy and the Growth Deal are set out in the next section.

Investing in skills that match the needs of the region's new employment opportunities is fundamental to the future economic health of North Wales.

The Case for Change

This section sets out the challenges and opportunities across the key sectors in the North Wales economy that the Growth Deal is seeking to address:

High value manufacturing

- **Supporting innovation and R&D:** there is a need for facilities and technical support with individual businesses unable to access the skills and expertise to innovate and improve productivity via efficiency savings.
- **Supporting the low carbon agenda:** there is a strong need to decarbonise industry in order to meet national targets for clean growth, as well as to capitalise on market opportunities, with the number of green-collar jobs expected to grow to 2 million and the value of UK exports from the low carbon economy to grow to £170 billion a year by 2030.
- **Supply chain integration:** A progressive depletion or 'hollowing out' of the Welsh and UK-based supply chain over recent decades represents a long-term threat to production and manufacturing capability and its future prosperity. There is a need to re-build and sustain SMEs within supply chains to drive competitiveness.
- **Improving productivity:** North Wales' advanced manufacturing sectors are relatively high productivity sectors in the economy, but there is great potential to increase productivity via targeted investments in R&D and skills.

Agri-food and tourism

- **Under-investment in R&D and Innovation:** Engineering & Physical Science Research Council (EPSRC) data suggests that only 2% (c. £95 million) of all grants being offered directed to the Food & Drink sector. R&D spend across these three sectors equated to 1.3% of all R&D spend across all sectors in the UK in 2018 despite the sectors making up 10% of total employment/
- **Supporting the low carbon agenda across Wales and the UK:** From an environmental perspective, reducing carbon emissions is crucial to the future sustainability of Wales and this was recognised in the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, which sets a target to reduce emissions by at least 80% against the 1990 baseline. Introducing sustainable low carbon land management practices, as well as driving innovation and new low carbon

technologies in the agriculture sector could contribute to the long-term carbon reduction agenda.

- **Improving productivity:** In 2017, gross output per hectare of agricultural land was £858 in Wales, significantly lower than UK's most productive region, which was the South East of England (£3,190 per ha). The tourism sector also suffers from lower productivity levels than those seen in England, with GVA per employee in the tourism sector equating to £19,600, 14% lower than the equivalent metric in England.
- **Meeting skills needs:** The latest Employer Skills Survey indicated that 25% of restaurants and hotels in Wales reported skills shortages and 45% businesses within primary industry (which includes agriculture). Both sectors also reported skills gap increases from the previous survey, with hotel and restaurants reporting a +3% increase whilst primary industry reported a +28% increase.
- **Diversification and resiliency:** agriculture, food and tourism sectors form the backbone of many local economies in North Wales. With the imminent exit from the European Union and the loss of related funding, it is important rural businesses have the support and knowledge to help them diversify.
- **Lack of appropriate premises:** Research carried out by Arad for the Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub indicates that the lack of food-grade premises, local product development facilities and technical support is holding back the potential of the sector, with individual businesses unable to access the skills and expertise to innovate and improve productivity via efficiency savings.

Low carbon energy

- **Addressing climate change:** Responding to the climate emergency declared by Welsh Government and the aim of achieving Net Zero by 2050. There is a need to decarbonise North Wales' energy system, including power (e.g. increasing low carbon energy generation), housing (including challenges associated with large numbers of homes being off the gas grid) and transport.
- **Supporting economic growth in low carbon energy sectors:** exploiting local strengths and competitive advantages (e.g. existing energy infrastructure, research strengths and skilled workforce) to drive growth in the low carbon energy sector where there are substantial growth opportunities nationally (sector forecast to grow 11% per year to 2030). An estimated £10.9bn of additional investment is needed by 2035 to put the region on track to achieve Net Zero. This level of investment has the potential to create up to 24,400 new jobs.

Land and property

- **A need for modern employment floorspace.** The network of readily developable strategic sites, capable of supporting both indigenous business growth and inward investment is relatively weak and fragmented
- **Low land values and infrastructure constraints** have resulted in insufficient developer interest, leading to a lack of supply of housing and commercial premises. To date the market has failed to address these challenges and therefore there is a

specific need for Growth Deal funding to enable the delivery of employment space, serviced residential land and improvements to Holyhead Gateway.

Digital connectivity

- **Addressing the digital divide:** in order for the North Wales economy to prosper and for key sectors to grow to their fullest potential, significant connectivity gaps must be addressed. There is a need to rapidly increase gigabit connectivity at key growth sites, ensure rural 'not spots' are tackled in full, deliver seamless mobile connectivity across economic corridors and assets and provide the foundations for greater social equity and inclusion.
- **Responding to clear demand for better connectivity:** a wide body of evidence showcases the prescient need for next generation fixed and mobile broadband and the opportunity cost of poor provision, relative to other parts of the UK. There is an exceptional appetite to deploy more sophisticated technologies and innovative use cases, which will secure productivity, efficiency and competitiveness across the region.
- **Creating competitive market conditions:** North Wales' digital connectivity has been constrained by a lack of market competition at the wholesale level, and within the degree of choice offered by broadband providers at the retail level. There is an opportunity to respond to this by creating conditions that improve market attractiveness, reduce consumer costs, enhance end user take-up and provide the basis for longer-term commercial investment.
- **Establishing a world-class digital corridor:** the A55 is the primary economic axis for North Wales, connecting key sites, hubs for growth and the region's most prominent assets. There is an opportunity to ensure that 5G and full fibre broadband creates a seamless high-speed corridor, as the basis for large-scale smart technology deployment, pilots and trials and as a lever for inward investment.
- **Expanding digital research capacity:** North Wales has an emerging profile as a base for innovative and technology-led research, led by higher education institutions and the private sector. There is an opportunity to scale this further, drawing on other sources of funding and business intent, creating a critical mass of technology, expertise and ambition to ensure that North Wales is at the cutting edge of the discovery and deployment of cutting-edge technologies.

The economic impact of Covid-19

Covid-19 has had an immense economic impact on North Wales as in other parts of the UK and globally. The Economic Ambition Board works closely with the six local authorities, UK and Welsh Governments and private sector representatives to co-ordinate the regional response to economic recovery. The longer term effects of Covid-19 on the regional economy at this stage is still unknown.

Work is underway to define the state of the economy in North Wales during what has been a volatile and challenging period for businesses and employees across many sectors. This period of uncertainty caused by the pandemic is ongoing and with the transition period for

leaving the EU ending on the 31 December the outlook for winter is bleak. In terms of strengthening the economy in the long term, the Growth Deal will be a welcomed source of hope and investment for the citizens of North Wales.

Interventions already undertaken and planned to create a reliable and evidence based approach to the situational analysis include a regional survey of businesses which attracted over 1,800 responses. A commissioned report on tourism to identify the strengths, weaknesses and opportunities to preserve and revive and develop the tourism economy sustainably. The appointment of an independent economic partner to co-develop the situational analysis and framework for recovery planning for North Wales. Looking initially at the near-term economic recovery post-Covid but also recognising the need to measure and evaluate the impact of the Growth Deal investment on the North Wales economy in the long term throughout the lifetime of the deal.

The Growth Deal is designed to address structural, long-term barriers to economic growth. However, the Board is fully aware that in the short-term a range of actions will be needed to facilitate recovery and alignment between those short term measures and the Growth Deal is key.

The Growth Deal on its own cannot address all the challenges facing the North Wales economy, particularly in light of Covid-19. However, such a significant injection of capital investment into the North Wales economy through the Growth Deal will be a significant boost to the construction and related sectors at a time when there is likely to be spare capacity in the economy.

The Investment

The investment by UK Government, Welsh Government & the North Wales Economic Ambition Board will act as a catalyst and accelerator to unlock investment and aid economic recovery in the region.

The UK and Welsh Governments have each committed to the investment of up to £120 million (total £240 million) over the next 15 years, with the North Wales Economic Ambition Board also committing to secure up to a further £900million of investment, which represents an overall investment deal worth in excess of £1 billion

Through the North Wales Growth Deal, the Welsh and UK Governments and partners are embarking on a new strategic relationship that creates a lasting legacy that will transform the region in the long term with co-ordination centred across key programmes outlined in Table 1.

Table 1: North Wales Growth Deal Financial Summary

Programme Area	Govt Contribution (£m)	Public Contribution (£m)	Private Contribution (£m)	Total Programme Costs (£m)
Innovation in High Value Manufacturing	13.0	26.5	0.0	39.5
Digital Connectivity	37.0	3.1	1.6	41.7
Agri-food and Tourism	24.5	12.4	4.4	41.3
Land and Property	79.1	1.9	274.4	355.4
Low Carbon Energy	86.4	140.4	441.7	668.5
Total	240.0	184.3	722.1	1,146.4

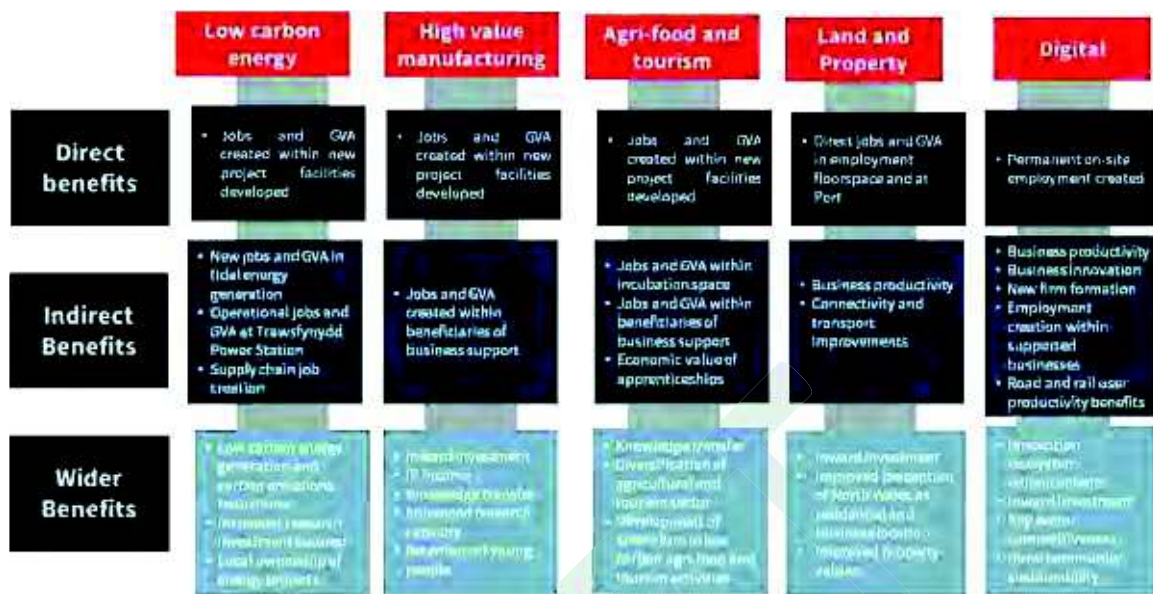
The Impact of the Growth Deal

The Heads of Terms agreement set out that the Government investment would be used to create up to 4,000 new jobs, support 5% GVA uplift and secure £500million in private sector investment over the 15-year period. In the development of a portfolio and five programme business cases to secure the Final Deal agreement with Welsh and UK Government these have been refined into the following spending objectives for the North Wales Growth Deal. All the programmes and projects within the Growth Deal contribute to these overall objectives.

Spending Objective 1 - Jobs	To create between 3,400 and 4,200 net new jobs in North Wales through the Growth Deal by 2036.
Spending Objective 2 – GVA	To support a net additional GVA uplift of between £2.0 billion and £2.4 billion for the North Wales Economy through the Growth Deal by 2036.
Spending Objective 3 – Investment	To deliver a total investment of up to £1.1 billion in the North Wales Economy through the Growth Deal by 2036.

All Growth Deal programmes and project will contribute to achieving the spending objectives above. Each of the programmes will generate a set of benefits that have been classed as direct, indirect and wider benefits. The precise nature of these vary between the programmes. The key types are summarised below, by programme.

Figure 1.2 Benefits Framework



Source: Hatch

6. The Growth Deal Programmes

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. Our approach is to promote growth in a scalable, inclusive and sustainable way in line with the Future Generations Act. The Growth Deal is based on the delivery of 14 transformational projects across 5 programmes. The programmes have been defined as either high growth programmes or enabling programmes.

High growth sectors to drive productivity in the region

The projects within the Growth Deal aimed at increasing the value and impact of high growth sectors will be focused on three key programmes:

- **Low carbon energy Programme**, initial projects include:
 - Morlais
 - Trawsfynydd Power Station
 - Low Carbon Centre of Excellence
 - Smart Local Energy
 - Transport Decarbonisation
- **Innovation in high value manufacturing Programme**, initial projects include:
 - Centre for Engineering Biotechnology
 - Enterprise Engineering and Optics Centre
- **Agri-food and tourism Programme**, initial projects include:

- Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub
- Llysfasi Carbon Neutral Centre
- Tourism TALENT Network

Addressing key barriers to enable and achieve economic growth

We have identified enabling sectors through the Growth Deal to tackle key economic barriers and address structural issues that have impacted on productivity and jobs. Delivery in these sectors will create the appropriate conditions for businesses to invest in the region and for the labour market to take advantage of new employment opportunities. A strategic approach will be taken with our investments, ensuring that they are well-targeted in order to enable economic and employment growth across the region. This will be done in partnership with key partners, especially the UK and Welsh Governments.

The projects within the Growth Deal to address key barriers to growth will be focused on two key programmes:

- **Land and Property Programme**, initial projects include:
 - Regional Land and Property
 - Holyhead Gateway
- **Digital Programme**, initial projects include:
 - Digital Connectivity
 - Digital Signal Processing Centre

By focusing delivery on these programmes collectively, the Growth Deal will achieve a greater impact in terms of our ambition and use of resources rather than delivering them in isolation.

Two further enabling programmes sit outside the scope of the North Wales Growth Deal to be funded from other sources:

- **Skills and Employment**
- **Strategic Transport**

The programmes remain key to delivering the wider vision for North Wales and the Economic Ambition Board is working with the Regional Skills Partnership and through its Transport Sub-Board to identify and secure alternative funding sources to deliver these programmes.

Figure 6.1 The Growth Deal Programmes



Source: North Wales Economic Ambition Board

All programmes and projects within the Growth Deal will contribute to the achievement of the Growth Vision and the delivery of benefits for North Wales. The benefits from the Growth Deal will support sustainable and inclusive growth across the region – in accordance with the Growth Vision as well as the priorities of the Well-Being of Future Generations Act.

The strategic aims to address in each programme, and the types of intervention they are intended to facilitate, are summarised below:

Low carbon energy

Strategic aims: Addressing climate change through support for new low carbon energy generation in North Wales, while driving increased supply chain investment and growth in low carbon energy sectors.

Types of intervention: Enabling works for new low carbon energy generation in North Wales, enhancing research and innovation facilities for low carbon economy sectors, and support for local energy projects.



Innovation in high value manufacturing

Strategic aims: Ensuring North Wales remains competitive and recognised in the region's well-established research and innovation areas, thus helping drive innovation, competitiveness and productivity across the North Wales manufacturing sector.

Types of intervention: Industry and research collaborations along with the establishment of centres of excellence to help overcome barriers and market failures in the research commercialisation process.



Agri-food and tourism

Strategic aims: To diversify and improve the long-term sustainability of agriculture and tourism, ensuring that they are more productive and sustained in the long-term, whilst also supporting the low carbon agenda.

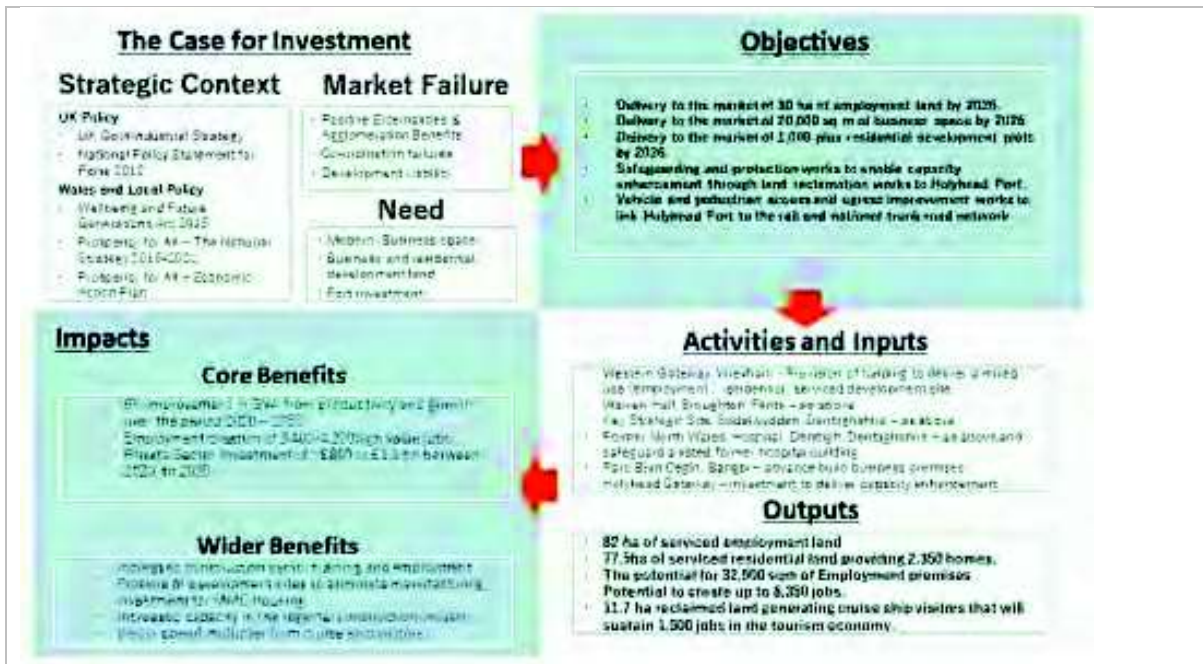
Types of intervention: Introducing new technologies & innovation, skills and practices to these sectors, via business support and upskilling.



Land and property

Strategic aims: To address the shortage of suitable land and properties for business growth and to bring forward sites for housing development and to deliver improvements that stimulate investment in the Port of Holyhead and the wider region. These projects will play an enabling role for the other programmes by ensuring that serviced sites are available for investors and developers.

Types of intervention: The provision of primary services and enabling works to bring forward commercial and housing development sites, delivery of employment floor space and future proofing and capacity enhancement works to the port of Holyhead.



Digital

Strategic aims: To deliver the step change in digital connectivity needed to ensure North Wales is able to satisfy user demand, maintain pace with the rest of UK, unlock the growth potential of priority sectors and sites and underpin a flourishing innovation ecosystem. Plays an enabling role for other programmes to deliver maximum benefit.

Types of intervention: The programme has identified a need to which balance investment in infrastructure and technology, through enhanced fixed broadband footprint at key sites in rural areas, unlocking applications through 5G access, and furthering digital innovation.



7. Governance Structure

The Deal's governance arrangements enable decisions to be made in an open and transparent way for the benefit of the whole of the region. This section details these arrangements and how they contribute to the management of the programme and associated risks

The Board was established by local authority partners as a joint committee in 2019 and is the decision making body for the North Wales Growth Deal. It also has a wider role to lead regional collaboration more broadly. The governance arrangements for the Board are underpinned by the partnership agreement 'Governance Agreement 2' to be adopted on completion of the Final Deal.

The Welsh and UK Governments link with the governance structure both formally and informally.

Governance Agreement 2

Having Secured the Growth Deal the Partners have agreed to enter into a second Governance Agreement ("GA2") which will support the partnership into the next phase of implementation of the Growth Deal and further development of the Growth Vision.

The agreement, which is a legally binding document defines the role and function of the Board and its delegated powers. It also provides for its decision making structures and democratic accountability. Provision is made for the commitments of the Partners to the project and how these are managed and apportioned. GA2 provides assurance for the Accountable Body ("Gwynedd Council") in assuming that role. The underlying arrangements providing for legal and compliance matters within the partnership and the governance of the Programme Office are also addressed.

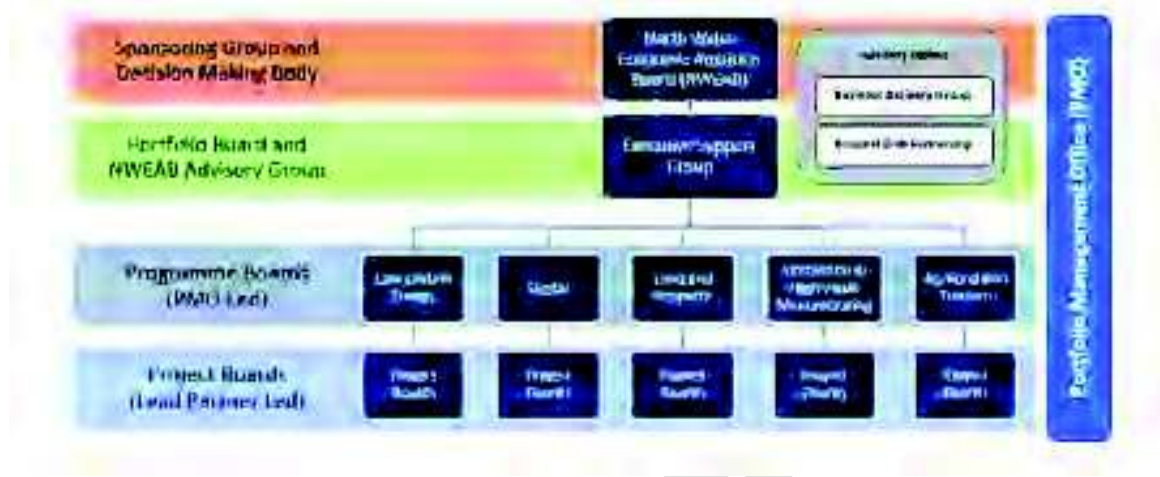
It is a key document providing a clear structure and foundation for taking the implementation of the Growth Deal forward.

Portfolio, Programme and Project Management Arrangements (PPM)

The Board has adopted a delivery model based on a best practice approach to portfolio, programme and project management as set out in '*Government Functional Standard GovS 002: Project Delivery*'. Portfolio, programme and project management is an integrated way of meeting an organisation's ambitions, driving better decisions and increasing the likelihood of successful outcomes.

The diagram below sets the PPM governance delivery structure for the Growth Deal:

Figure 1.3 Growth Deal Delivery Structure



Source: North Wales Economic Ambition Board

Strategic and Portfolio Level

North Wales Economic Ambition Board (Sponsoring Group) - The Board acts as the Sponsoring Group (Organisation) and the Decision-Making Body. All authority below this level is delegated to relevant parties as required through a formal Board decision. A member of the Board will take on a Lead Member role for each of the programmes and sit on the relevant Programme Board. The Board will be responsible for the consideration and approval of project business cases within the portfolio and with responsibility for delivery delegated to the relevant programme and project boards.

Executive Support Group (Portfolio Board) - This group is the advisory body to the Economic Ambition Board but also acts as the Portfolio Board for the Growth Deal to support and challenge the Growth Deal Portfolio Director to ensure delivery. The group is made up of senior officers from each of the Economic Ambition Board's partner organisations. A member of the Executive Support Group will act as a Senior Responsible Owner (SRO) for each of the programmes and lead the relevant Programme Board.

Programme Director - The Portfolio Director is accountable to the Economic Ambition Board for the delivery of the Growth Deal portfolio.

Programme and Project Level

Portfolio Management Office (PMO) – The PMO supports and co-ordinates activity across the programmes acting as an information hub and ensuring a consistent approach to reporting, control of risk and issues. It also acts as a valuable assurance function, providing advice and challenge to programmes and projects. Each programme is assigned a Programme Manager from within the PMO.

Programme Boards - Each programme will have a formal Programme Board and an appointed Senior Responsible Owner (SRO). These boards will be focused on the development (initially)

and delivery of the agreed Programme Business Case, with a specific focus on the benefits and outcomes to be achieved. Programme Boards escalate to the Portfolio Board via the Programme Director.

Project Boards - All projects within the Growth Deal will be managed via a Project Board with appointed SROs and project managers in place to ensure delivery. These boards will be focused on the development and delivery of the agreed business case, with a focus on the delivery of specified outputs. Projects and Project Boards will be the responsibility of the Lead Partner and clear arrangements for the delivery of projects in line with best practice will be set out in each project business case. Projects will report through to the relevant Programme Board. Terms of Reference for Project Boards will be agreed between the Lead Partner and the Portfolio Management Office to ensure the appropriate links and reporting arrangements between the project and the Programme Board are understood by both parties.

Standing Orders, delegated authority and terms of reference

The Portfolio Management Office has been established by the Board to deliver the deal. They are employed by Gwynedd Council as the Accountable Body and generally operate to their standards, procedures and policies.

Governance Agreement 2 sets out the authority delegated to the Board by the Partner Organisations and what authority is delegated to the Programme Director. Terms of reference for the Board are included as part of Governance Agreement 2.

Resourcing

The Portfolio Management Office has been established to deliver the North Wales Growth Deal. The Economic Ambition Board's Portfolio Management Office was established in January 2020 to oversee the delivery of the North Wales Growth Deal, its programmes and projects. Led by the Programme Director, the team includes experienced programme and project managers as well as operational staff. The team is supported specifically by legal and financial resources provided through the Accountable Body as well as a wide range of additional resources drawn from across the partnership.

Decision Making Process

The North Wales Growth Deal partners are committed to putting in place robust decision-making and financial management processes to ensure that public money is spent responsibly and accounted for. The Board is a Local Authority executive joint committee and as such is subject to the requirements in relation to transparency, accountability, standards of governance, decision making and conduct which apply to such a body.

Decisions within the Economic Ambition Board's governance framework can be categorised at three levels:

- **Programme Director Matters** – decisions that the Programme Director can make
- **Joint Committee Matters** – decisions that the Board can make
- **Reserved Matters** – decisions that would require separate agreement of all partners

All decisions related to the delivery of Growth Deal as set out within this document within the agreed funding envelope for the partnership will be either Programme Director matters or Joint Committee matters.

The Board as a Joint Committee whilst having majority voting will seek to establish a consensus of all the Partners around all decisions relating to the Growth Deal.

It is recognised that the Board's powers and duties relate to activities set out in the North Wales Growth Deal. Each constituent partner's decision-making in relation to its own financial commitments will not be subject to Economic Ambition Board approval. The Economic Ambition Board working with the Accountable Body does however have a monitoring and assurance role with respect to the Growth Deal funding to ensure that it is spent in line with the Growth Deal objectives.

Project Approval Process

The Growth Deal is agreed on the basis of a portfolio business case and five programme business cases. Once the final deal has been agreed, project business cases can be brought forward for the Board to consider.

Full (5 Case Model) business cases will be developed for each project within the North Wales Growth Deal in line with the 'Better Business Case' guidance developed by Welsh Government and HM Treasury.

Preparing a Project Business Case using the five Case model provides decision makers and stakeholders with a proven framework for structured 'thinking' and assurance that the project provides and strategic fit, maximise public value, is commercially viable, is affordable and is fundable over time.

Project business cases will be required to demonstrate how they deliver against the objectives and aspirations of the North Wales Growth Deal and specifically the relevant programme business case.

It is recognised that through the development and agreement of portfolio and programme business cases between the Economic Ambition Board and UK/Welsh Government that the strategic case for projects will have been established.

Each project business case will be subject to independent gateway reviews at agreed points as agreed with the Welsh Government Assurance Hub.

Project business cases will first be considered by the relevant Programme Board. Business cases will only be presented to the Economic Ambition Board following endorsement by the Portfolio Board and the Programme Board and the completion of required gateway reviews. The PMO retains the right to commission external reviews of project business cases where required.

Change Management

Change management activities for the Growth Deal will be primarily managed via the Programme Boards and relevant Project Board within tolerances delegated by the Economic Ambition Board upon consideration of the project business case.

Significant changes outside these tolerances would need to be escalated to the Portfolio Board. Recommendations will then be presented to the Economic Ambition Board for a decision. Examples of such decisions may include changes to cost, scope, timescales and benefits. Any significant changes beyond the agreed governance framework for the Growth Deal, specifically changes that would lead to increase cost for the Board partners, would be considered a reserved matter and require the approval of all the individual partners.

Any new or replacement projects to be brought forward for consideration outside of the initial 14 projects must demonstrate delivery against the relevant programme business case and the objectives of the portfolio business case. Where those projects are within the existing agreed financial envelope for the partnership, those projects would be a matter for the Board to decide upon.

Projects that fall outside the remit of an agreed programme business case or those that would exceed the agreed financial envelope would be considered a 'reserved matter' for the Board partners.

Role of Members/Accountability

It is the duty of all Board members to act in the best interests of the North Wales Growth Deal region. All private and third sector members will also be required to act in the interests of the North Wales Growth Deal region, foregoing any interest (if any) their own organisation may have in the North Wales Growth Deal and any related projects.

All members are expected to comply with the code of conducts of their respective organisations, the Economic Ambition Board's Conflict of Interest Policy and the values and aspirations of the North Wales Growth Deal.

Government representatives may attend in observer/advisory capacity and are not bound by the requirements of the Board's members.

8. Role of the Accountable Body

For the duration of the Growth Deal, the accountable body shall be responsible for receiving and allocating funds for and on behalf of the Board. The Accountable Body shall

- act diligently and in good faith in all its dealings with the other Parties and it shall use its reasonable endeavours to discharge the Parties' obligations in relation to the implementation of the Growth Deal and delivery of the Growth Vision.

- act as the primary interface for the Economic Ambition Board with Welsh Government, and UK Government and any other body as necessary in relation to the implementation of the Growth Deal.
- hold any funds received directly from Welsh Government, and UK Government, the Economic Ambition Board partners and/or any other sources (if any) in relation to the Growth Deal and only to use and release such funds as agreed in accordance with the terms of the Growth Deal;
- hold land and/ or any other assets procured under any project on trust for the Economic Ambition Board partners pursuant to the terms of the relevant Project Business Case.
- without assuming responsibility for the delivery of any specific Growth Deal project and within the limitation of the funding provided to it (as part of the Joint Committee Costs), provide the support services required to facilitate the work of the Board.
- without assuming responsibility for the delivery of any specific Growth Deal project, provide for the Host Authority's Chief Finance Officer ("s151 Officer") and Monitoring Officer (or their nominated deputies) (the "Monitoring Officer") to act, respectively, as the s151 Officer and Monitoring Officer to the Joint Committee; and
- have responsibility for, but not limited to administering the financial affairs of the Joint Committee (and its sub committees and groups established), including accounting for VAT, keeping financial records, ensuring that the annual accounts of the Joint Committee are prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting and making arrangements for the external audit of the Joint Committee.
- employ the Portfolio Management Office to deliver the Growth Deal.

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

Programme and project performance will be monitored on a monthly basis through the relevant programme and project boards with formal quarterly reports submitted to the Portfolio Board and the North Wales Economic Ambition Board.

The Board has an adopted Risk Framework for the delivery of the North Wales Growth Deal. The Framework sets out how risks and issues will be managed at the appropriate level across the portfolio with clear escalation processes in place. The Strategy sets out the three levels of risk associated with the delivery of the Growth Deal – portfolio level risks, programme level risks and project level risks.

A Monitoring and Evaluation Plan has been developed for the North Wales Growth Deal. The key components of the Monitoring and Evaluation Plan are set out below:

- Monthly Highlight Reports for all programmes and projects;
- Formal Quarterly Reports to the Economic Ambition Board, UK Government and Welsh Government;

- Formal Annual Report to Economic Ambition Board, the Board's partners, UK Government and Welsh Government;
- Independent economic impact evaluation to be undertaken every 3-5 years against suite of indicators agreed with UK Government and Welsh Government.
- Wider benefits to be achieved through procurement, particularly social and community value will be monitored and evaluated to ensure maximum benefit is derived to the region from such activity.
- The Economic Ambition Board will work with the Welsh Government to ensure that evaluation against the Future Generations Act is a key component of all monitoring and evaluation activities.
- The Economic Ambition Board is committed to developing an appropriate feedback mechanism for the North Wales Growth Deal with both governments to ensure lessons learned during the delivery of the Growth Deal are captured and shared.

DRAFT

GA2 – SUMMARY OF KEY MATTERS

1. BACKGROUND

The Partners entered into an initial Governance Agreement 1 (GA1) in December 2018. This formally established the North Wales Economic Ambition Board (“NWEAB”) as a Joint Committee and defined the roles and responsibilities of the Partners within that relationship. It was an agreement designed to take the Partnership through the process leading up to Heads of Terms and through to final Deal Agreement. It also allowed for the creation of the capacity to take the implementation of the Growth Deal and Growth Vision forward once the Final Deal Agreement had been signed. As part of the next phase of the Growth Deal a second Governance Agreement (GA2) is proposed.

The parties to GA2 continue unchanged:

- Conwy County Borough Council
- Denbighshire County Council
- Flintshire County Council
- Gwynedd Council
- The Isle of Anglesey County Council
- Wrexham County Borough Council
- Bangor University
- Wrexham Glyndwr University
- Coleg Cambria
- Grwp Llandrillo Menai

2. COMMENCEMENT AND DURATION

The agreement is intended to remain in force and effect for the period of the Growth Deal. It will come into force at the signing of the Final Deal Agreement committing the Partners to the Growth Deal. It will remain in full force and effect until such time as either all the Parties have withdrawn or all Parties agree to terminate the agreement. It also includes a so called “lock in period” which is an agreement that no party may operate the withdrawal provisions for the initial 6 years of GA2. This ensures stability for the Partnership and is based on the anticipated period of investment of the initial Growth Deal. Withdrawal after this period is possible on notice. However, any Partner who wishes to withdrawal will be required by the terms of GA2 to indemnify the remaining Partners against the financial impact of that withdrawal and in particular any existing and continuing contractual commitments.

3. GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES AND FRAMEWORK

3.1 North Wales Economic Ambition Board

GA1 established the North Wales Economic Ambition Board (“NWEAB”) as an “Executive” Joint Committee and that arrangement continues into GA2. As with GA1 the voting committee membership is made up of the Leaders of all 6 local authorities with the other parties to GA2 participating as Advisers. The key changes in GA2 are in relation to elements of the matters delegated to the NWEAB as it transitions into the delivery of both the Growth Vision and Growth Deal.

3.2 Executive Support Group

The Executive Support Group was established under GA1 to co-ordinate professional advice to the NWEAB, oversee the deployment of resources and have responsibility for the performance management of the NWEAB work streams. It also acts as clearing house for reports to the NWEAB. Its membership includes senior officers from all the Partners and will also have presence from Welsh and UK as needed.

3.3 Portfolio Management Office

The Portfolio Management Office was established under GA1 and provides the professional and staff resource to support and deliver the Growth Deal and Vision. It is led by the Programme Director. GA2 provides the framework for establishing employing and managing the Programme Office. It is funded by a combination of Partners Contributions and grant secured by the ESF.

3.4 Business Development Group

The Heads of Terms made specific provision for the establishment of a private sector stakeholders group to advise and challenge the work of the NWEAB. The NWEAB had established the Business Delivery Group as part of its work leading up to the Final Deal Agreement and this now enshrined as a requirement in GA2.

3.5 Accountable Body

From the outset in GA1 the NWEAB was established as a Joint Committee with Host Authority. This continues into GA2 with Gwynedd Council acting as Host Authority which has the core function of supporting the NWEAB by acting as a legal entity which enters into contracts, holds cash and assets and acts as employing body for the staff. It also provides support services for the NWEAB as a Joint Committee. The administrative requirements of the Growth Deal require that one Authority acts as the accountable body which enters into the formal Final Deal Agreement and accepts the Grant Offer Letter. This is a formal role which is undertaken by the Accountable Body on behalf of the Partnership but places responsibilities and obligations on IT. Ga2 provides for this arrangement and the protections and indemnities for the Accountable body in this role.

4. CODES OF CONDUCT AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS

As with GA1 this agreement extends the provisions of the Members Code of Conduct in relation to declaration and management of Personal Interests to eth other Partners Representatives. In addition it also provides for a Conflicts of Interest Policy which is designed to ensure that Conflicts of Interests which may arise in the wider group of bodies established to support and manage the programmes are properly managed to ensure probity in the work of the NWEAB.

5. PARTNERS CONTRIBUTIONS

The arrangements for Partners contributions towards the running costs of the NWEAB continues on the same basis as GA1. The Supplementary Contribution which was provided by the Councils is also incorporated in GA2 but as a Councils only matter.

	Local Authority Contribution	HE/FE Annual Contributions	Total Annual Contribution
GA1 Annual Core Contributions*	£50k per LA	£25k per partner	£400k
Annual Supplementary Contribution	£40k per LA	0	£240k

**GA2 provides that these contributions will be subject to inflation based annual increase.*

6. DELEGATION

The NWEAB derives its delegated authority from the Councils. This is a key aspect of GA2 and the governance of the partnership. Its delegation is also defined by reference to the financial limits on its decision making.

The specific delegations are split into 4 categories but generally there is no specific bar for onward delegation by the delegatee.

Programme Director Matters – Matters which are delegated to the Programme Director.

Joint Committee Matters – Matters which are matters which the Joint Committee can decide on.

Matters Reserved to Partners – Matters which require a decision of all the Partners individually.

Matter reserved to Councils – Matters which require a decision of all the Councils individually (these are limited to the Supplementary Contribution and voluntary establishment of a Corporate Joint Committee).

In most respects the delegation scheme remains largely unchanged in terms of substance. However, there are key aspects which have been developed in reflection of the move towards the implementation phase of the Growth Deal in particular:

- a) Portfolio and Programme management. It sets out the delegation to the NWEAB in relation to approving Project Business Cases and determining the inclusion of new Projects in the Programmes in accordance with the parameters set out in the Overarching Business Plan.
- b) That decisions which require increased or additional funding from the Partners will be Matters Reserved to the Partners.

7. SCRUTINY

As a local authority Executive Joint Committee the functions of the NWEAB are subject to Overview and Scrutiny. Although a Joint Scrutiny Committee could be established it is proposed that Local Scrutiny Committees retain this role. In order to facilitate this arrangement GA2 includes a Scrutiny Protocol which provides a basis for on-going updates to Scrutiny Committee in relation to the work of the NWEAB and also an agreed approach should a Call In be requested by any Scrutiny Committee.

8. BUSINESS PLANS

There are four categories of Business Plan within the Growth Deal which are relevant to GA2:

The **Overarching Business Plan** is adopted by the Partners and is intended to reflect the Partners strategy for the Growth Deal and how they anticipate that the NWEAB will deliver the programme on their behalf. The approval of the Overarching Business Plan is a Matter Reserved to Partners as is any material change to its contents. However, the NWEAB will be required to keep the document under regular review.

The Portfolio and Programme Business Cases are submitted by the NWEAB to both Governments initially as part of the Final Deal Agreement process and the management of the Growth Deal thereafter. **Project Business Cases** as the name implies are for individual Projects. They are not submitted to Governments for approval but need to accord with the overall scheme of the Portfolio and Programme Business Cases.

9. PARTNERS COMMITMENTS

GA2 also defines the financial commitment of the Partners to the Growth deal both in terms not only of the running costs but also in financing the cash flow implications of the way in which Growth Deal finance is drawn down from the Governments. So, the agreement sets out the ceiling of the borrowing costs which the Councils will be meeting. The NWEAB may not take any decisions in relation to Programmes or Project which would cause that limit to be exceeded without the consent of the individual Partners as a Matter Reserved.

10. WITHDRAWAL AND TERMINATION

Subject to the "Lock in" Period a Partner may withdraw from the GA2 on giving the requisite 12 months minimum notice. In the event that such a notice is served the Withdrawing Partner will be served with a Liability Notice which requires them to reimburse and indemnify the Partners against, in general terms, the costs and liabilities which remain or are incurred as a consequence.

11. GENERAL

GA2 also includes the general terms and conditions which are expected of a Welsh public joint venture agreement of this magnitude. These are transposed from GA1 and include how statutory duties and matters such as Data Protection and Freedom of Information are managed and applied.

- (1) CONWY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
- (2) DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
- (3) FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
- (4) GWYNEDD COUNCIL
- (5) THE ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL
- (6) WREXHAM COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
- (7) BANGOR UNIVERSITY
- (8) GLYNDWR UNIVERSITY
- (9) COLEG CAMBRIA
- (10) GRWP LLANDRILLO MENAI

**GOVERNANCE AGREEMENT 2
IN RELATION TO THE DELIVERY OF THE
GROWTH DEAL**

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THIS AGREEMENT is made on

2020

BETWEEN:-

- (1) **CONWY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL** of PO Box 1, Conwy, LL30 9GN ("**Conwy Council**");
- (2) **DENBIGHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL** of PO Box 62, Ruthin, LL15 9AZ ("**Denbighshire Council**");
- (3) **FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL** of County Hall, Mold, Flintshire, CH7 6NB ("**Flintshire Council**");
- (4) **GWYNEDD COUNCIL** of Gwynedd Council, Shirehall Street, Caernarfon, LL55 1SH ("**Gwynedd Council**");
- (5) **THE ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL** of Council Offices, Llangefni, Anglesey, LL77 7TW ("**Isle of Anglesey Council**");
- (6) **WREXHAM COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL** of The Guildhall, Wrexham, LL11 1AY ("**Wrexham Council**");
- (7) **BANGOR UNIVERSITY** of Bangor, Gwynedd, LL57 2DG;
- (8) **GLYNDWR UNIVERSITY** of Mold Road, Wrexham, LL11 2AW;
- (9) **COLEG CAMBRIA** of Kelsterton Road, Connah's Quay, Deeside, Flintshire, CH5 4BR; and
- (10) **GRWP LLANDRILLO MENAI** of Llandudno Road, Colwyn Bay, LL28 4HZ;

(together referred to as the "**Parties**" and individually as a "**Party**").

WHEREAS:-

- (A) The GA1 Parties entered into the first governance agreement on 18 December 2018 ("**GA1**") to set up the Joint Committee and define their respective roles and responsibilities in relation to the Growth Deal up to the point when the Growth Deal is to be entered into by the Councils, the UK Government and the Welsh Government.
- (B) [The Growth Deal has now been signed on or about the date of this Agreement and the Parties wish to enter into this agreement, the second governance agreement (this "**Agreement**"),¹ to regulate their respective roles and obligations in relation to the implementation of the Growth Deal and delivery of the Growth Vision including (amongst other matters) the process and governance arrangements for the approval of investments and expenditure under the Growth Deal via Approved Projects. It is acknowledged and agreed by the Parties that, in signing this Agreement, the GA1 been brought to an end and has been superseded and replaced by this Agreement. References to this "**Agreement**" and "**GA2**" shall mean the same.
- (C) The Parties have established the Joint Committee as the entity that will ultimately be responsible for overseeing the implementation of the Growth Deal and the delivery of the Growth Vision. The Joint Committee consists of the Councils as the formal members of the Joint Committee supported by the Advisers. The Councils are each a Party to this Agreement, have voting rights and obligations to financially contribute to the Joint Committee as more particularly set out in this Agreement. The Advisers, save for the Business Delivery Board, are each a Party to this Agreement and have obligations to financially contribute to the Joint Committee. The Advisers, save for the Business Delivery Board, shall advise the Councils but will not have formal voting rights in relation to any Joint Committee Matter put before the Joint Committee but will, alongside the Councils, be required to decide upon any "Reserved Matters" as more particularly set out in this Agreement.
- (D) The Parties have agreed to appoint Gwynedd Council to act as the Host Authority for and on behalf of the Parties and to discharge the Joint Committee's obligations in relation to the implementation of

¹ PM: To be updated to reflect Final Deal Terms.

the Growth Deal and delivery of the Growth Vision pursuant to and in accordance with this Agreement.

- (F) The Business Delivery Board is an unincorporated volunteer group of business sector experts in the region that has been established as a sub-group to the Joint Committee. Consequently, the Parties wish to invite the Chair of the Business Delivery Board to be an "Adviser" to the Joint Committee but, it is acknowledged and agreed that, the Chair and/or the Business Delivery Board will not be a signatory to this Agreement, is not a Party to this Agreement, and has no voting rights in relation to any Joint Committee Matter or any Reserved Matter or any obligations to make any financial contribution to the Joint Committee. The Business Delivery Board's draft terms of reference are set out in Part 5 of Schedule 2 (Terms of Reference) of this Agreement which shall be reviewed and approved by the Joint Committee as a Joint Committee Matter.
- (G) By entering into this Agreement, the Parties also confirm and accept the change of name of the Portfolio Management Office to the Portfolio Management Office to reflect its terms of reference and remit.
- (H) The Councils wish to enter into this Agreement and deliver the Growth Deal pursuant to the powers conferred on them by sections 101, 102, 111 and 113 of the Local Government Act 1972, section 1 of the Local Authority (Goods & Services) Act 1970, section 25 of the Local Government (Wales) Act 1994, section 2, 19 and 20 of the Local Government Act 2000, section 9 of the Local Government Wales Measure 2009 and all other enabling powers now vested in the Councils.²

1. DEFINITIONS AND INTERPRETATION

- 1.1 In this Agreement and the recitals, unless, the context otherwise requires the following terms shall have the meaning given to them below:-

"Accounting Period"	means those periods set out in paragraph 1 of Schedule 7 (Accounting Periods) as may be amended from time to time in accordance with the terms of this Agreement
"Advisers"	means the representatives of the bodies and individuals listed below plus, subject to Clause 9.2.4 (Role of the Advisers), any further individuals and/or bodies whom the Joint Committee chooses to invite in that capacity from time to time:- (a) Bangor University; (b) Coleg Cambria; (c) Grwp Llandrillo Menai; (d) Glyndwr University; and (e) Chair of the Business Delivery Board acting on behalf of the Business Delivery Board
"Adviser Led Project"	means Approved Project lead by a Project Sponsor who is an Adviser (and not a Council)
"Advisers' Contribution"	has the meaning given in Clause 15.5.1(a)(iv) (Funding)
"Advisers' Individual Contribution"	has the meaning given in Clause 15.5.6(b) (Advisors' Contribution)

² PM: Parties to please consider and satisfy themselves as to the powers that they have to enter into this Agreement. Please confirm or raise any queries if any concerns.

"Annual Budget"	means the annual budget of the Host Authority held for and on behalf of the Joint Committee as set out in Clause 15.4 (Annual Budget) which includes payment of any Joint Committee Costs in accordance with this Agreement
"Annual Budget Contributions"	has the meaning given in Clause 15.4.2 (Annual Budget)
"Approved Projects"	means any project contained within a Project Business Case approved for investment by the Joint Committee in accordance with Clause 14 (Approval Process)
"Back-to-Back Agreement"	has the meaning given in Clause 15.5.4(f) (Councils' Contribution and Advisors' Contribution)
"Business Day"	means any day other than a Saturday or Sunday or a public or bank holiday in England and/or Wales
"CEDR"	means the Centre for Dispute Resolution
"Commencement Date"	means the date of this Agreement
"Confidential Information"	all know-how and other information whether commercial, financial, technical or otherwise relating to the business, affairs or methods of all or any Party, which is contained in or discernible in any form whatsoever (including without limitation software, data, drawings, films, documents and computer-readable media) whether or not marked or designated as confidential or proprietary or which is disclosed orally or by demonstration and which is described at the time of disclosure as confidential or is clearly so from its content or the context of disclosure
"Conflicts Policy"	has the meaning given in Clause 3.5.12(a) (Conflicts Policy);
"Council Matter"	has the meaning given in Clause 5.2 (Council Matter);
"Councils"	means the following:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Conwy Council; (b) Denbighshire Council; (c) Flintshire Council; (d) Gwynedd Council; (e) Isle of Anglesey Council; and (f) Wrexham Council
"Councils' Contribution"	Has the meaning given in Clause 15.5.1(a)(iii) (Funding);

"Councils' Supplementary Payments"	means the annual payment of £40,000 (forty thousand pounds each) provided by each Council on an ongoing basis to the Joint Committee to partly fund the Annual Budget of the Joint Committee. For the avoidance of doubt, such annual payment is in addition to any Annual Budget Contribution and the Councils' Contribution to be provided pursuant to this Agreement and is to be disregarded for the purposes of calculating each Party's liability under the definition of "Proportionate Basis" and "Population Basis".
"Decision Period"	means the period of twenty (20) Business Days from the date of the Liability Report or such other longer time as is unanimously agreed by all the Joint Committee
"Delegations Policy"	means the allocation of delegation set out in Schedule 1
"Data Protection Legislation"	means the Data Protection Act 2018 and General Data Protection Regulations
"Defaulter Exit Date"	means, where the material breach is not capable of remedy, the day after the date that the notice served pursuant to Clause 2.3 is deemed to be served or, where the material breach is capable of remedy, the day after the last day that the breach can be remedied and it has not been remedied in that period as set out in the notice;
"Executive Support Group"	means the team established by the Partners to support the Joint Committee and to give direction and advice to the Portfolio Management Office on the implementation of the Joint Committee's decisions as more particularly set out in Clause 10 (Executive Support Group) and Part 2 of Schedule 3 (Executive Support Group's Terms of Reference)
"GA1 Parties"	means all the Councils and Advisers (a), (b), (c) and (d) only
"GA Code of Conduct"	means the code of conduct for the Advisers set out in Schedule 7
"Gateway Review"	means an independent assessment of programs and projects to assess the progress and likelihood of successful delivery anticipated to be on an annual basis
"Grant Offer Letter"	means the letter from the Welsh Government and the UK Government to the Parties which confirms the terms and conditions of the Growth Deal and the funding to be provided and is appended to this Agreement at Schedule 12 (Grant Offer Letter)
"Growth Deal" or "North Wales Growth Deal"	means the agreement between the Welsh Government, the UK Government and the Parties to work together for the people and businesses of North Wales, and deliver local projects which will increase opportunity and prosperity in communities across the region as more particularly set out in the Grant Offer Letter on or about the date of this Agreement in which sets out the terms of the "North Wales Growth Deal"
"Growth Deal Contribution"	means the HMT Contribution and the WG Contribution

"Growth Vision"	means the strategy for economic growth and development within the North Wales Region agreed jointly by the Parties and appended to this Agreement at Schedule 9
"Host Authority"	means the Council appointed under Clause 6 (Host Authority) who shall be responsible for receiving and allocating funds for and on behalf of the Parties for Approved Projects under the Growth Deal and whose duties are set out under Clause 7 (Duties of the Host Authority) and references to Host Authority and Host Authority shall mean the same
"HMT"	means Her Majesty's Treasury, a ministerial department of the UK Government
"HMT Contribution"	means as defined in Clause 15.5.1(a)(i) (Funding)
"HMT Funding Conditions"	means as defined in Clause 15.5.2(a)(ii) (HMT Contribution)
"Implementation Plan"	means the implementation plan that sets out, amongst other things, the indicative process and timeline for the procurement and implementation of the Growth Deal and is attached to the [Grant Offer Letter] which is attached at Schedule 12 (Grant Offer Letter) of this Agreement. For the avoidance of doubt, this is a live document that forms part of Schedule 12 for information only to confirm the position as at the Commencement Date but will be updated from time to time by the Parties in accordance with the terms of the Grant Offer Letter
"Intellectual Property"	any and all patents, trademarks, trade names, copyright, moral rights, rights in design, rights in databases, know-how and all or other intellectual property rights whether or not registered or capable of registration and whether subsisting in the United Kingdom or any other part of the world together with all or any goodwill relating to them and the right to apply for registration of them
"Internal Costs"	means as defined in paragraph 1.1 of Schedule 5 (Heads of Expenditure)
"IP Material"	the Intellectual Property in the Material
"Integrated Assurance and Approval Plan"	means the document to be submitted to WG as part of the Joint Committee's reporting and approval process with WG in relation to the Growth Deal
"JC Unresolved Matter"	means as defined in Clause 9.6.5 (Joint Committee)
"Joint Committee"	means the joint committee established by the GA1 Parties pursuant to the terms of the GA1 and expanded under this Agreement to include the Councils and the Advisers and reference to the North Wales Economic Ambition Board, NWEAB, the Economic Ambition Board and/or EAB shall mean the same

"Joint Committee Costs"	means as defined in paragraph 1.2 of Schedule 5 (Heads of Expenditure) and excluding any Internal Costs (save for the Internal Costs of the Host Authority in carrying out the duties of the Host Authority which shall be accounted for as Joint Committee Costs)
"Joint Committee Matter"	shall have the meaning given to it in Clause 5.1.2
"Joint Committee Meeting"	means a meeting of the Joint Committee duly convened in accordance with Clause 9 (Joint Committee)
"Liability Report"	means a report prepared by the Host Authority (or such other Council nominated under Clause 19.3 (Withdrawal)) acting reasonably setting out the financial and resource commitments of the relevant Party under Clause 19 (Withdrawal) or 20 (Consequences of Termination) including the items set out in Schedule 7 (Liability Report)
"Loan Funds"	has the meaning given in Clause 15.5.4(a)(i)
"Local Authority"	a principal council (as defined in section 270 of the Local Government Act 1972) or any body of government in Wales established as a successor of a principal council
"Lock In Period"	means six (6) years from the date of this agreement;
"Material"	all data, text, graphics, images and other materials or documents created, used or supplied by a Party in connection with this Agreement unless before the first use or supply, the Party notifies the other Parties that the data, text supplied is not to be covered by this definition
"Member's Code of Conduct"	means, in respect of any Council, the respective code of conduct for that Council which their members are bound to comply with;
"Monitoring Officer"	means as defined in Clause 7.1.6 (Duties of the Host Authority)
"NNDR"	means the National Non Domestic Rates
"Overarching Business Plan" or "OBP"	means the overarching business plan approved and adopted by the Parties at the Commencement Date to regulate the implementation of the Growth Deal and the Growth Vision
"Personal Data"	means the personal data as defined in the Data Protection Legislation
"Population Basis"	means the relevant proportion for each Council ("A%") by reference to their respective fractional contribution as set out in Clause 15.5.4(g) (Council's Contribution) which applies in relation to the Council's Contribution only;

"Portfolio Business Case"	means a detailed business case for a portfolio of Programmes and Projects which is subject to approval by the UK and Welsh Governments and provides detail to the UK and Welsh Governments as to how the Joint Committee intends to deliver the Growth Deal
"Portfolio Management Office"	means the team lead by the Programme Director established by the Joint Committee to assist the Joint Committee to implement the Growth Deal and Growth Vision, to liaise with the Executive Support Group as more particularly set out in Part 2 (Portfolio Management Office) and Part 3 of Schedule 2 (Portfolio Management Office's Terms of Reference)
"Programme"	means the five key programmes as more particularly set out in the Growth Deal: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • innovation in high value manufacturing • low carbon energy • agrifood and tourism • digital connectivity • land and property
"Programme Business Case"	means a detailed business case for the development and implementation of a Programme which is subject to approval by the UK and Welsh Governments
"Programme Director"	means the officer appointed as the programme director of the Growth Deal and Growth Vision
"Programme Director Matter"	shall have the meaning given to it in Clause 5.1.1
"Project Business Case"	means a detailed business case for the development and implementation of a Project which, once approved by the Joint Committee in accordance with Clause 14 (Approval Process), will result in that Project being an Approved Project and the Project Business Case shall regulate the investment into and delivery of that Approved Project
"Project Sponsor"	means an Adviser or third party or, in the case of a Regional Project, the Host Authority (or another Council) acting on behalf of the Joint Committee leading the delivery of an Approved Project
"Proportionate Basis"	means the relevant proportion for each Party by reference to their respective fractional contribution as set out as follows:

Parties	Proportion of Contribution
Conwy Council	1/8
Denbighshire Council	1/8
Flintshire Council	1/8
Gwynedd Council	1/8

The Isle of Anglesey Council	1/8
Wrexham Council	1/8
Bangor University	1/16
Wrexham University	1/16
Coleg Cambria	1/16
GRWP Llandrillo Menai	1/16

"Quarter Period"	means those periods set out in paragraph 2 of Schedule 7 (Accounting Periods) as may be amended from time to time in accordance with the terms of this Agreement
"Quarterly Report"	means as defined in Clause 13.5.1 (Progress Monitoring)
"Regional Project"	means an Approved Project led by Host Authority on behalf of the Joint Committee for the benefit of the region
"Reserved Matter"	shall have the meaning given to it in Clause 5.1.3
"s151 Officer"	means as defined in Clause 7.1.6 (Duties of the Host Authority)
"Translation Costs"	means translation costs incurred by the Host Authority in complying with any applicable legislation relating to its obligations under this Agreement
"UKG"	UK Government
"WG"	Welsh Government
"WG Contribution"	means as defined in Clause 15.5.1(a)(ii) (Funding)
"WG Funding Conditions"	means as defined in Clause 15.5.3 (WG Contribution)
"Withdrawal Notice"	means as defined in Clause 19.3

1.2 Interpretation

In this Agreement, except where the context otherwise requires:-

- 1.2.1 the singular includes the plural and vice versa;
- 1.2.2 a reference to any Clause, paragraph, Schedule or recital is, except where expressly stated to the contrary, a reference to such Clause, paragraph, schedule or recital of and to this Agreement;
- 1.2.3 any reference to this Agreement or to any other document shall include any permitted variation, amendment or supplement to such document;
- 1.2.4 any reference to legislation shall be construed as a reference to any legislation as amended, replaced, consolidated or re-enacted;

- 1.2.5 a reference to a public organisation (to include, for the avoidance of doubt, any Council) shall be deemed to include a reference to any successor to such public organisation or any organisation or entity which has taken over either or both functions and responsibilities of such public organisation;
- 1.2.6 a reference to a person includes firms, partnerships and corporations and their successors and permitted assignees or transferees;
- 1.2.7 the clause, paragraph and Schedule headings and captions in the body of this Agreement do not form part of this Agreement and shall not be taken into account in its construction or interpretation;
- 1.2.8 words preceding "**include**", "**includes**", "**including**" and "**included**" shall be construed without limitation by the words which follow those words;
- 1.2.9 words importing the masculine shall be construed as including the feminine or the neuter or vice versa; and
- 1.2.10 any reference to the title of an officer of any of the Councils shall include any person holding such office from time to time by the same or any title substituted thereafter or such other officer of the relevant Council as that Council may from time to time appoint to carry out the duties of the officer referred to.

1.3 Schedules

- 1.3.1 The Schedules to this Agreement form part of this Agreement.
- 1.3.2 In the event of any discrepancy between the Clauses and the Schedules, the Clauses shall take priority.
- 1.3.3 In the event of any discrepancy between the Schedules, Schedule 1 (Delegations Policy) shall priority over all other Schedules.

2. COMMENCEMENT, DURATION AND TERMINATION

2.1 Commencement

This Agreement shall take effect on the Commencement Date.

2.2 Duration of the Agreement

This Agreement shall continue in full force and effect from the Commencement Date until the earlier of:

- (a) all the Parties agree in writing to its termination and the consequences of such termination; or
- (b) there is only one remaining Council who has not withdrawn from this Agreement in accordance with Clause 19 (Withdrawal).

2.3 Termination

- 2.3.1 Without prejudice to any other rights or remedies, this Agreement may be terminated in relation to any Party ("**Defaulter**") by the other Parties ("**Non-Defaulting Parties**") acting unanimously in giving written notice to the Defaulter effective on receipt where the Defaulter materially breaches any of the provisions of this Agreement and in the case of a breach capable of remedy fails to remedy the same within thirty (30) Business Days (or such other period as agreed by the Non-Defaulting Parties) of being notified of each breach in writing by the Non-Defaulting Parties and being required to remedy the same. The decision to give written notice to the Defaulter shall be a Reserved Matter.

2.3.2 Subject always to the provisions set out in Clause 20 (Consequences of Termination), where notice is given under Clause 2.3.1 above and the material breach is not capable of remedy or, in the case of a breach capable of remedy, the Defaulter fails to remedy such breach within the time period set out in the notice above, Clause 20 (Consequences of Termination) of this Agreement shall apply and the Defaulter shall be deemed to have withdrawn from its role as a Council member of the Joint Committee or Adviser for the Joint Committee (as applicable) and a Party to this Agreement as at the Defaulter Exit Date.

3. **PRINCIPLES AND KEY OBJECTIVES**

3.1 The Parties intend this Agreement to be legally binding.

3.2 The Parties agree to work together to discharge the Parties' obligations in relation to the implementation of the Growth Deal and the Growth Vision pursuant to and in accordance with this Agreement.

3.3 The Parties agree and acknowledge that the Growth Deal and Growth Vision shall be delivered in accordance with the:-

- (a) Implementation Plan;
- (b) OBP;
- (c) any Portfolio Business Case;
- (d) any Programme Business Case; and
- (e) the Project Business Cases.

3.4 **Objectives**

The Parties acknowledge and agree that the North Wales Growth Vision objectives are:-

- 3.4.1 to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of the North Wales Region;
- 3.4.2 to support and retain young people in the communities situated in the North Wales Region;
- 3.4.3 to address worklessness and inactivity across the North Wales Region; and
- 3.4.4 to support and enable private sector investment in the North Wales Region, to boost economic productivity and to improve the economic and employment performance of the North Wales Region.

3.5 **Principles**

Without prejudice to the terms of this Agreement, the Parties agree that they will conduct their relationship in accordance with the following principles:-

3.5.1 **Openness and Trust**

In relation to this Agreement the Parties will be open and trusting in their dealings with each other, make information and analysis available to each other, discuss and develop ideas openly and contribute fully to all aspects of making the joint working successful. Whilst respecting the mutual need for commercial confidentiality, the Parties will willingly embrace a commitment to transparency in their dealings and in particular a need to comply with statutory access to information requirements including the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 and the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and supporting codes of practice. The Parties will be aware of the need for and respect matters of commercial confidentiality and potential sensitivity;

3.5.2 **Commitment and Drive**

The Parties will be fully committed to working jointly, will seek to fully motivate employees and will address the challenges of delivering the Growth Deal with enthusiasm and a determination to succeed;

3.5.3 **Skills and Creativity**

The Parties recognise that each brings complimentary skills and knowledge which they will apply creatively to achieving the Parties' objectives, continuity, resolution of difficulties and the development of the joint working relationship and the personnel working within it. It is recognised that this will involve the appreciation and adoption of common values;

3.5.4 **Effective Relationships**

The roles and responsibilities of each Party will be clear with relationships developed at the appropriate levels within each organisation with direct and easy access to each other's representatives;

3.5.5 **Developing and Adaptive**

The Parties recognise that they are engaged in what could be a long term business relationship which needs to develop and adapt and will use reasonable endeavours to develop and maintain an effective joint process to ensure that the relationship develops appropriately and in line with these principles and objectives;

3.5.6 **Reputation and Standing**

The Parties agree that, in relation to this Agreement and the Growth Deal generally, they shall pay the utmost regard to the standing and reputation of one another, and act with regard to each Party's own employer and member codes of conduct and shall not do or fail to do anything which may bring the standing or reputation of any other Party into disrepute or attract adverse publicity to any other Party.

3.5.7 **Act in the Public Interest**

The Parties acknowledge and agree that the Joint Committee is a public body administering and directing public resource and finance in the public interest. The Parties and each representatives of the Parties has a duty to accordingly act in accordance with that fundamental duty – to act solely in the public interest.

3.5.8 **Reasonableness of Decision Making**

The Parties agree that all decisions made in relation to this Agreement and the Growth Deal generally shall be made by them acting reasonably and in good faith;

3.5.9 **Necessary Consents**

Each Party hereby represents to the other Parties that it has obtained all necessary consents sufficient to ensure the delegation of functions and responsibilities provided for by this Agreement; and

3.5.10 **Members, Officers, Directors and Employees Commitments**

Each Party shall use its reasonable endeavours to procure that their respective members, officers, directors and employees who are involved in the Growth Deal shall at all times act in the best interests of the Growth Deal, and act with regard to each Party's own employer

and member codes of conduct, devote sufficient resources to deliver the Growth Deal and respond in a timely manner to all relevant requests from the other Parties.

3.5.11 Code of Conduct

- (a) The Councils agree, in relation to this Agreement, the implementation of the Growth Deal and the delivery of Growth Vision that their members conduct will be governed by their respective Council Codes of Conduct for Members as amended from time to time when acting as a Member of the Joint Committee.
- (b) The Advisers agree, in relation to this Agreement, the implementation of the Growth Deal and the delivery of the Growth Vision that they shall act in accordance with the GA Code of Conduct when acting as an Adviser of the Joint Committee.
- (c) In all other respects, any representatives in any other group or sub-group including but not limited to the Executive Support Group and the Portfolio Management Group shall follow the Conflicts Policy only.

3.5.12 Conflicts Policy

- (a) The Parties agree and shall comply with the conflicts of interest policy ("**Conflicts Policy**") of NWEAB which is attached at Schedule 11 (Conflicts Policy) which sets out the guidelines and procedures for identifying, monitoring and managing actual and potential conflicts of interest.
- (b) The Conflicts Policy is intended to complement, and work alongside, the Codes of Conduct. However, please report any discrepancy immediately to the NWEAB's Monitoring Officer in accordance with Schedule 11 (Conflicts Policy).
- (c) It is acknowledged and agreed that:
 - (i) in the event of any discrepancy between the relevant Council Code of Conduct and the Conflicts Policy, the relevant Council Code of Conduct shall take precedence; and
 - (ii) in the event of any discrepancy between the GA Code of Conduct and the Conflicts Policy, the Conflicts Policy shall take precedence.

4. GOVERNANCE

4.1 The Parties acknowledge and agree that this Agreement contains the key governance provisions to be followed by the Parties in relation to implementation of the Growth Deal and the delivery of the Growth Vision to include (but not limited to) the following key principles:

- 4.1.1 the Parties have formed the Joint Committee as more particularly detailed in Clause 9 (Joint Committee) and appointed the Host Authority as set out in Clause 6 and 7 of this Agreement;
- 4.1.2 the Joint Committee and the Host Authority are supported by the Executive Support Group (Clause 10) and the Portfolio Management Office (Clause 11), the Transport Sub-Committee and any other sub-committees or sub-groups established by the Joint Committee pursuant to Clause 9.9.1 (Sub-Committees and Sub-Groups) and the Programme Director is responsible for the management of the Portfolio Management Office and reports directly to the Joint Committee; and
- 4.1.3 Clause 5 (Decision Making) details the key decision making powers of the Joint Committee and Clause 12 (Scrutiny) contains key scrutiny provisions.

5. **DECISION MAKING**

5.1 In terms of the need for decisions and other actions to be taken and carried out during the term of this Agreement, the Parties have identified the following three categories together with the means by which they will be taken:-

5.1.1 **"Programme Director Matter"** - being a matter which it is expected that the Programme Director will be able to make a decision upon and have the power to bind the Parties and the Joint Committee in doing so;

5.1.2 **"Joint Committee Matter"** – being a matter which it is expected that the Council representative (or appropriate deputy) of each Council appointed pursuant to this Agreement (but not the Adviser representatives) upon which it will be able to make a decision upon and have the power to bind the Parties and the Joint Committee in doing so; and

5.1.3 **"Reserved Matter"** – being a matter which, subject to Clause 5.2 (Council Matter), will have to be referred to each Party for a decision and, for the avoidance of doubt, that matter requiring a decision will not be dealt with by the Joint Committee until the decision shall have been agreed unanimously by all of the Parties and such decision (once reached) shall bind the Parties and the Joint Committee in doing so,

and in each case, such matters are identified in Schedule 1 (Delegations Policy).

5.2 **Council Matter**

5.2.1 Notwithstanding the provisions set out in Clause 5.1 (Decision Making) and elsewhere in this Agreement, it is acknowledged and agreed that any decision in relation to a Council Matter will be a matter for the Councils only (and not the Advisers) and, for the avoidance of doubt, a Council Matter shall not be dealt with by the Joint Committee until the decision shall have been agreed unanimously by all of the Councils and such decision (once reached) shall bind the Parties and the Joint Committee in doing so.

5.2.2 A **"Council Matter"** means:

- (a) any change to the Councils' Supplementary Payments; and/or
- (b) a decision pursuant to Clause 9.1.3 (Corporate Joint Committee).

6. **THE HOST AUTHORITY**

6.1 The Parties (acting severally) have agreed, with effect from the Commencement Date, that Gwynedd Council will act as the Host Authority responsible for discharging the Parties' obligations in relation to the Growth Deal and otherwise supporting the Joint Committee pursuant to and in accordance with this Agreement for and on behalf of the Parties and Gwynedd Council agrees to act in that capacity subject to and in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

6.2 Gwynedd Council may in its absolute discretion elect to withdraw from its role as Host Authority to the Joint Committee (but remain as a Council member of the Joint Committee and a Party to this Agreement) by giving written notice of such intent to each Party that it wishes to withdraw from its role as Host Authority commencing three months from the date the notice is deemed to be served.

6.3 Where the Host Authority defaults and the Agreement is terminated in respect of it pursuant to Clause 2.3 (Termination) or the Host Authority withdraws pursuant to Clause 6.2 (The Host Authority) above or withdraws from the Agreement pursuant to Clause 19 (Withdrawal), then the replacement Host Authority will be appointed by the Joint Committee and the withdrawing or, as applicable, defaulting Host Authority will not have the right to vote in regard to any such appointment.

6.4 Where a replacement Host Authority is appointed pursuant to Clause 6.3 above, any reference to Gwynedd Council (in its capacity as the initial Host Authority) shall be read with reference to the

replacement Host Authority and Gwynedd Council shall use its reasonable endeavours to ensure the smooth hand over of all key information and documentation relating to the Growth Deal to the replacement Host Authority including (but not limited to) facilitating the novation/assignment of the Grant Offer Letter to the new replacement Host Authority where required by the Joint Committee.

6.5 The Host Authority shall act as the Host Authority and shall receive:-

6.5.1 any Growth Deal Contribution received for and on behalf of the Parties;

6.5.2 the Councils' Contribution;

6.5.3 the Advisers' Contributions;

6.5.4 the Annual Budget Contributions;

6.5.5 the Councils' Supplementary Contributions; and

6.5.6 any other funding that may be received from time to time in relation to the Growth Deal,

and shall hold and manage such funds in accordance with the terms of this Agreement.

7. DUTIES OF THE HOST AUTHORITY

7.1 For the duration of this Agreement, the Host Authority shall:-

7.1.1 act diligently and in good faith in all its dealings with the other Parties and it shall use its reasonable endeavours to discharge the Parties' obligations in relation to the implementation of the Growth Deal and delivery of the Growth Vision pursuant to and in accordance with this Agreement and all applicable legislation including but not limited to:-

(a) the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015;

(b) Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011;

(c) any compliance notice issued under the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 in respect of the Joint Committee (if applicable); and

(d) the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Decisions, Documents and Meetings) (Wales) Regulations 2001 (as amended);

7.1.2 act as the Host Authority and primary interface (on behalf of itself and the other Parties) with the WG, the UKG and the European Regional Development Fund and any other body necessary to discharge the Parties' obligations in relation to the implementation of the Growth Deal and delivery of the Growth Vision;

7.1.3 act as the Host Authority to hold any funds received directly from WG, UKG, the European Regional Development Fund (if any), the Parties and/or any other sources (if any) in relation to the Growth Deal and only to use and release such funds as agreed in accordance with the terms of such funding and this Agreement;

7.1.4 act as the Host Authority to hold land and/ or any other assets procured under any Approved Project on trust for the Parties pursuant to the terms of the relevant Project Business Case and such Project Business Case shall detail the purchase, leasing or otherwise of any assets as well as the disposal of the same.

7.1.5 without assuming responsibility for the delivery of any specific Growth Deal project and within the limitation of the funding provided to it (as part of the Joint Committee Costs), provide the support services required to facilitate the work of the Joint Committee (and its sub committees and groups established pursuant to Clauses 9.7.4 and 9.8), including, but not limited to, financial, human resources, legal, ICT, estates, information management,

internal audit and procurement services. For the avoidance of doubt, the provisions of this Clause 7.1.5 shall not serve to fetter the ability of the Host Authority to enter into arrangements with any of the other Parties to provide the aforementioned services on its behalf.

- 7.1.6 without assuming responsibility for the delivery of any specific Growth Deal project, provide for the Host Authority's Chief Finance Officer ("**s151 Officer**") and Monitoring Officer (or their nominated deputies) (the "**Monitoring Officer**") to act, respectively, as the s151 Officer and Monitoring Officer to the Joint Committee; and
- 7.1.7 without limitation to its roles under the preceding provision of this Clause 7.1.7, have responsibility for, but not limited to administering the financial affairs of the Joint Committee (and its sub committees and groups established pursuant to 9.7.4 and 9.8), including accounting for VAT, keeping financial records, ensuring that the annual accounts of the Joint Committee are prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting and making arrangements for the external audit of the Joint Committee.
- 7.1.8 employ the Portfolio Management Office as set out in Clause 11 (Portfolio Management Office).

8. DUTIES OF THE OTHER PARTIES

- 8.1 For the duration of this Agreement, the other Parties shall act diligently and in good faith in all their dealings with the Host Authority and shall use their respective reasonable endeavours to assist the Host Authority to discharge the Parties' obligations in relation to the implementation of the Growth Deal and delivery of the Growth Vision pursuant to and in accordance with this Agreement and all applicable legislation including but not limited to:-
 - 8.1.1 the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015;
 - 8.1.2 Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011;
 - 8.1.3 any compliance notice issued under the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 to any individual Party; and
 - 8.1.4 the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Decisions, Documents and Meetings) (Wales) Regulations 2001 (as amended);
- 8.2 It is acknowledged and agreed that the obligations and liabilities of each Party shall bind any successor entity in the event of any Council or Adviser re-organisation.

9. JOINT COMMITTEE

9.1 Establishment of the Joint Committee

- 9.1.1 The Councils have established the Joint Committee in accordance with this Agreement for the purposes of:-
 - (a) co-ordinating the planning and delivery of the Growth Deal and the Growth Vision;
 - (b) providing direction for key strategies in support of paragraph (a) uwchben, in particular transport, skills and employment, economic development and land use planning;
 - (c) uniting the Parties, other public sector bodies, charities and businesses around common purpose in support of (a) uwchben;
 - (d) providing direction to any sub-committees or sub-groups that the Joint Committee chooses to appoint including the commissioning of specific tasks or projects;

- (e) proposing new projects to be considered by NWEAB as part of the Growth Deal to be developed by way of a Project Business Case in accordance with the Overarching Business Plan and this Agreement;
- (f) deliberating on such projects to assess whether further due diligence is warranted and reaching agreement on the costs that should be incurred undertaking further appraisal work;
- (g) finalising and approving any Project Business Cases pursuant to Clause 13;
- (h) reviewing the OBP (and updating if required) in accordance with Clause 13 (Business Case);
- (i) taking all necessary decisions to pursue the aims and objectives of the Growth Vision; and
- (j) carrying out the functions set out in Part 1 of Schedule 2 (Joint Committee Terms of Reference).

9.1.2 The Joint Committee shall not have power to approve any Reserved Matter.

9.1.3 The Parties acknowledge the inclusion of a corporate joint committee in the Local Government and Elections Bill introduced on the 18th of November 2019 and that the Parties may, where not mandated by legislation chose to undertake or procure the undertaking of a detailed review to establish the full consequences of such corporate joint committee for the Joint Committee including (but not limited to) the obligations and liabilities of the Joint Committee and/or the Councils and/or the Advisers under this Agreement, the Growth Vision, the Growth Deal and any other relevant documentation. Any decision to change to a corporate joint committee shall be a "Council Matter".

9.2 Role of the Advisers

9.2.1 The Councils have invited the Advisers to support the Joint Committee to plan and deliver the Growth Deal and the Growth Vision and discharge all related obligations and liabilities as more particularly set out in this Agreement.

9.2.2 It is acknowledged and agreed that the Advisers, save for the Business Delivery Board and such other Adviser appointed by the Joint Committee in accordance with this Agreement:

- (a) are each a Party to this Agreement;
- (b) are an Adviser to (but not a formal executive member) of the Joint Committee;
- (c) have the right to attend and speak at meetings of the Joint Committee but will not have formal voting rights in relation to any Joint Committee Matter put before the Joint Committee;
- (d) will, alongside the Councils, be required to decide upon any "Reserved Matters"; and
- (e) have agreed to financially contribute to the Joint Committee,

each as more particularly set out in this Agreement.

9.2.3 It is acknowledged and agreed that only Clauses 9.2.2(b) and 9.2.2(c) apply to the non-signatory Advisers

9.2.4 The Joint Committee may invite, subject to any reasonable requirements, (and later remove) further bodies or organisations to become non signatory Advisers (but not a Party to the Agreement) Any decision to appoint or later remove further bodies or organisations

as a signatory Adviser who is or will be a Party to the Agreement to provide financial support to the Joint Committee shall be a Reserved Matter.

9.3 **Appointment of the Programme Director**

- 9.3.1 The Programme Director has been appointed by the Joint Committee to, amongst other matters:
- (a) support the Joint Committee to fulfil its obligations and liabilities under this Agreement;
 - (b) Lead the Portfolio Management Office;
 - (c) support the Executive Support Group;
 - (d) attend meetings of the Joint Committee and Executive Support Group;
 - (e) make Programme Director Matter decisions as set out in Schedule 1 (Decision Matrix); and
 - (f) report directly to the Joint Committee.
- 9.3.2 The Programme Director shall be employed by the Host Authority on behalf of the Joint Committee and any cost or liability of such employment shall be accounted for as Joint Committee Costs and recoverable by the Host Authority from the Joint Committee.

9.4 **Appointment of Representatives to the Joint Committee**

- 9.4.1 Each Party shall appoint one (1) representative to the Joint Committee. The Councils shall be represented by the Leader for the time being of each Council, and the Advisers shall be represented by the Chief Executive or equivalent of each Adviser, or such other person of sufficient status and authority as the Adviser shall notify to the Host Authority.
- 9.4.2 Each Party shall be entitled from time to time to appoint a named deputy for its representative and shall inform the Host Authority Monitoring Officer within one (1) calendar month of the Commencement Date of the details of its deputy. Any deputies may attend meetings of the Joint Committee but, in the case of a Council deputy, shall only be entitled to speak and vote at such meetings in the absence of his or her corresponding principal and, in the case of an Adviser deputy, shall only be entitled to speak at such meetings in the absence of his or her corresponding principal. Deputies must be of sufficient status and authority to undertake the role.
- 9.4.3 The Parties may, at their discretion, replace their representatives (and their respective deputies) provided that such replacement shall be on the same basis as the original appointed and provided further that no representative shall be removed or replaced by any Party without that Party giving prior written notice as soon as reasonably practicable .
- 9.4.4 The chairperson of the Joint Committee shall be a representative of a Council appointed to the Joint Committee and shall be appointed on an annual basis from a Council member by the Joint Committee at the Annual General Meeting. The chairperson shall not have a casting vote.
- 9.4.5 The vice chairperson of the Joint Committee shall be a representative of a Council appointed to the Joint Committee and shall be appointed on an annual basis from a council member by the Joint Committee at the Annual General Meeting. The vice chairperson shall not have a casting vote and his/her role shall be to perform the role of the chairperson when the chairperson is not in attendance.
- 9.4.6 Each Party may, at their discretion, replace their representative (and their respective deputies) appointed to the Joint Committee, provided that:-

- (a) at all times, they have a representative appointed to the Joint Committee in accordance with the roles identified in Part 1 of Schedule 2 (Joint Committee Terms of Reference);
- (b) any such replacement shall have no lesser status or authority than that set out in Part 1 of Schedule 2 (Joint Committee Terms of Reference) unless otherwise agreed by the Parties; and
- (c) the details of any such representative shall be notified to the other Parties in writing, to replace the relevant details set out in 9.4.1 and 9.4.4 above

9.5 Joint Committee Meetings

- 9.5.1 Unless the Joint Committee decides otherwise (e.g. if a meeting is deemed not to be required), the Joint Committee shall meet either on a bi-monthly basis or as and when required in accordance with the timetable for the delivery of the Growth Deal or the Growth Vision. Ordinary Meetings shall be convened in accordance with a "Calendar of Meetings" to be approved by the Joint Committee and upon giving the requisite statutory notice (to be issued through the Host Authority) to deliberate on the Joint Committee Matters referred to in Schedule 1 (Delegations Policy) and the Head of Democratic Services of the Host Authority shall be the "Proper Officer" for convening the meetings.
- 9.5.2 The expectation is that all of the Councils and Advisers attend all meetings of the Joint Committee where possible.
- 9.5.3 Any Council and/or Adviser may by written request made to the Host Authority no later than 15 (fifteen) clear working days prior to the date of the meeting to the Host Authority request that a matter be considered at the next meeting of the Joint Committee. Such request shall include a summary of the matter and the decision, if any sought.
- 9.5.4 The Host Authority shall ensure that all agendas and relevant information and reports in relation to a Joint Committee meeting are circulated in a timely manner and in any event in accordance with legislative requirements.
- 9.5.5 Any representative may, where he or she views that a matter requires urgent consideration, request to the Chairperson at the start of a Joint Committee meeting that such urgent item is added to the agenda, but its inclusion will be a matter for the Chairperson to decide in accordance with legislative requirements

9.6 Joint Committee Decisions

- 9.6.1 The quorum necessary for a Joint Committee meeting shall be a representative or deputy from at least 4 (four) Councils.
- 9.6.2 At meetings of the Joint Committee each representative or appropriate deputy (in the absence of the relevant representative) from each Council only shall have 1 (one) vote.
- 9.6.3 At meetings of the Joint Committee, each representative or appropriate deputy (in the absence of the relevant representative) from each Adviser shall have the right to advise the Joint Committee on decisions and their views shall be recorded by the Joint Committee. Whilst it is not intended that the Advisers shall have formal voting rights, the Joint Committee shall give consideration to any views or representations made by the Advisers and where Advisers do not agree with a proposed decision the Joint Committee shall consider (acting in good faith) declaring a matter a JC Unresolved Matter (as more particularly set out in Clause 9.6.5 below).
- 9.6.4 Decisions at a meeting of the Joint Committee require a simple majority vote of the representatives (or deputies as applicable) from the Councils in attendance, provided that if:-

- (a) the votes are tied (ie a deadlock); or
- (b) two or more of the Councils and/or Advisers make such a request at the meeting,

that decision shall be declared a JC Unresolved Matter to be dealt with in accordance with Clause 9.6.5.

- 9.6.5 If, at a meeting of the Joint Committee, a matter is not determined, that matter ("**JC Unresolved Matter**") shall be deferred for consideration at the next ordinary meeting of the Joint Committee meeting or such sooner time as shall be agreed. If at the reconvened Joint Committee meeting any decisions relating to a JC Unresolved Matter shall require a simply majority vote of the representatives (or deputies as applicable) from the Councils only in attendance, provided that if the votes are tied (ie a deadlock) the JC Unresolved Matter shall not be agreed and shall not be implemented by the Joint Committee. For the avoidance of doubt, the Advisers shall have no right to declare that a JC Unresolved Matter remains a JC Unresolved Matter at the reconvened Joint Committee meeting.
- 9.6.6 The Host Authority will publish a notice of the decisions of the Joint Committee and its sub-committees in accordance with the requirements of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Decisions, Documents and Meetings) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2002/1385/ and shall serve a copy of the said notice on the Head of Democratic Services of each of the Council and the Advisers to the Joint Committee within the time table set out in its standing orders,

9.7 Joint Committee Procedures

- 9.7.1 Each Party shall provide all information reasonably required upon request by the Joint Committee to the Programme Director and shall comply with any decisions of the Joint Committee to request such information.
- 9.7.2 Each Party shall consult with the other Parties to ensure the diligent progress of the day to day matters relating to the discharge of the Parties' obligations in relation to the delivery of the Growth Deal.
- 9.7.3 Where a Party wishes to provide any information and/or serve a notice or demand on the Joint Committee, this should be served on the Programme Director in accordance with Clause 27 (Notices) and Schedule 3 (Parties' Details). The Programme Director shall keep a record of all information, notices and demands received and shall update each representative promptly.
- 9.7.4 The Parties acknowledge and agree that the Joint Committee shall save as varied by this Agreement adopt (as applicable) the Host Authority's prevailing Executive standing orders, contract standing orders, financial procedure rules, and such other applicable policies and procedures for and behalf of the Parties in the discharge of its obligations under this Agreement and that the Host Authority's s151 Officer and Monitoring Officer (or their nominated deputies) shall, respectively, act as the s151 officer and Monitoring Officer to the Joint Committee.
- 9.7.5 The Advisers acknowledge and agree that their representative or deputy shall comply with the terms of the GA Code of Conduct and the Councils acknowledge and agree that their representative or deputy shall comply with the respective Members Code of Conduct of the Council that they represent.

9.8 Joint Committee may Delegate

- 9.8.1 The Joint Committee may delegate any of the powers which are conferred on them under this Agreement as "Joint Committee Matters" or forming part of their terms of reference pursuant to Part 1 (Joint Committee Terms of Reference):-
- (a) to a sub-committee or an officer of one of the councils; and/or

(b) to the Programme Director;

to such an extent, in relation to such matters referred to in this Clause 9.8.1 and on such terms and conditions as they think fit from time to time (subject to any restrictions that may be imposed upon such delegation by the Joint Committee).

9.8.2 The Joint Committee may allow that such delegation shall automatically authorise further delegation of the Joint Committee's powers by any person to whom they are delegated provided that the Joint Committee specifically states this within such delegation authority.

9.8.3 The Joint Committee may revoke any delegation in whole or part, or alter its terms and conditions at any time.

9.9 Sub-Committees and Sub-Groups

9.9.1 The Joint Committee may create sub-committees, sub-groups, project management bodies or special purpose vehicles (subject to the need to obtain approval for a local authority trading company established under the Local Government Act 2003 as a Reserved Matter) as it sees fit from time to time in order to support and deliver its Terms of Reference contained within Part 1 of Schedule 2 (Terms of Reference).

9.9.2 Sub-committees to which the Joint Committee delegates any of its powers must follow procedures which are based as far as they are applicable on those provisions of this Agreement which govern the taking of decisions by the Joint Committee.

9.9.3 The Joint Committee shall establish the membership, rules of procedure or terms of reference for all or any such sub-committees or sub-groups or project management bodies to, amongst other matters, clarify their respective role and scope of any delegation which shall be approved by the Joint Committee

9.9.4 Pursuant to and in accordance with the GA1, the Joint Committee established a Transport Sub-Committee and the terms of reference for the Transport Sub-Committee, subject to the Joint Committee powers to vary and or revoke such delegation in accordance with Clause 9.8 uwchben, are set out in Part 4 of Schedule 2.

9.9.5 It is acknowledged and agreed by the Parties that the sub-committees or groups referred to in this Agreement:

(a) shall undertake a number of functions including but not limited to programme and project management, scrutiny, challenge and/or consultation services pursuant to their terms of reference; and

(b) shall not have any delegated decision making powers (unless otherwise expressly granted by the Joint Committee).

10. EXECUTIVE SUPPORT GROUP

10.1 Establishment of the Executive Support Group

10.1.1 Pursuant to and in accordance with the GA1, the Parties established the Executive Support Group to support the Joint Committee and to give direction and advice to the Portfolio Management Office on the implementation of the Joint Committee's decisions as more particularly set out in Part 2 of Schedule 2 (Executive Support Group's Terms of Reference).

10.1.2 The Programme Director has been appointed by the Joint Committee and is responsible for advising the Executive Support Group and leading the Portfolio Management Office to support the Joint Committee to fulfil its obligations and liabilities under this Agreement. The Programme Director shall report directly to the Joint Committee.

10.2 **Appointment of Representatives to the Executive Support Group**

- 10.2.1 In accordance with the Executive Support Group's terms of reference each Party shall appoint one senior officer representative to the Executive Support Group. The chairperson shall be such representative as the Joint Committee may determine from time to time who will be responsible for leading the Executive Support Group. The chairperson shall be re-appointed every two years.
- 10.2.2 Each Party shall be entitled from time to time to appoint a deputy for its senior officer and such deputy (in each case) shall be entitled to attend meetings of the Executive Support Group in place of its senior officer.
- 10.2.3 The Parties shall, at their discretion, replace their representatives (and their respective deputies) appointed to the Executive Support Group provided that such replacement shall be on the same basis as the original appointed and provided further that no senior officer of the Executive Support Group shall be removed or replaced by any Party without that Party giving prior written notice as soon as reasonably practicable and in any event within ten (10) Business Days of its intention to remove or replace that representative.
- 10.2.4 For the avoidance of any doubt, the Internal Costs incurred by the Councils and the Advisers providing such representatives shall be accounted for as follows:
- (a) in relation to the Programme Director, Clause 9.3.2 (Appointment of the Programme Director) shall apply;
 - (b) each senior office representative (and deputy) shall be employed by their own Council or Adviser (as appropriate), in all other cases, Clause 15.2 (Internal Costs) shall apply.
 - (c) in relation to the s151 Officer and Monitoring Officer, the Internal Costs shall be accounted for as Joint Committee Costs and recoverable by the Host Authority from the Joint Committee; and
 - (d) in relation to the other representatives, it is anticipated that these shall be accounted for by the entities themselves unless the cost of these are agreed with and charged to the Host Authority and/or the Joint Committee and, in such circumstances, shall be accounted for as Joint Committee Costs.

10.3 **Executive Support Group Meetings**

- 10.3.1 The Executive Support Group shall meet as and when required in accordance with the timetable for the Growth Deal and the Growth Vision and the requirements of the Joint Committee meeting cycle, Executive Support Group Decisions
- 10.3.2 The Executive Support Group shall not have any decision making powers pursuant to this Agreement.

11. **PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT OFFICE**

11.1 **Establishment of the Portfolio Management Office**

- 11.1.1 Pursuant to and in accordance with the GA1, the Joint Committee established the Portfolio Management Office to assist the Joint Committee to implement the Growth Deal and Growth Vision, to liaise and take direction from the Executive Support Group and to undertake the day-to-day management of the Joint Committee's functions as more particularly set out in Part 3 of Schedule 2 (Portfolio Management Office's Terms of Reference). By entering into this Agreement, the Parties also confirm and accept the change of name of the Portfolio Management Office to the Portfolio Management Office to reflect its terms of reference and remit.

11.1.2 The Programme Director has been appointed by the Joint Committee and is responsible for leading the Portfolio Management Office to support the Joint Committee to fulfil its obligations and liabilities under this Agreement. The Programme Director shall report directly to the Joint Committee.

11.2 **Appointment of individuals to the Portfolio Management Office**

11.2.1 The Portfolio Management Office shall consist of the Programme Director and such other posts as the Joint Committee may approve from time to time

11.2.2 The Host Authority, acting on the instructions of the Joint Committee or the Programme Director (following any decision made by the Joint Committee about the same), shall employ each of the officers and any other individuals agreed pursuant to Clause 11.2 (Portfolio Management Office) making up the Portfolio Management Office and any cost or liability of such employment shall be accounted for as Joint Committee Costs and recoverable by the Host Authority from the Joint Committee.

11.2.3 All Staff employed in the Portfolio Management Office shall be appointed on the terms and conditions of employment including, for the avoidance of doubt the pay and grading of the Host Authority.

11.3 **Programme Director and Portfolio Management Office Decision Making**

11.3.1 The Programme Director shall decide the Programme Director Matters as set out in Schedule 1 but may, where appropriate delegate such decisions to staff where that is appropriate having regard to their role and seniority.

12. **AUDIT AND SCRUTINY**

12.1 The Host Authority shall be responsible for providing internal audit services to the Joint Committee and audit reports in relation to the Joint Committee shall be considered by its audit committee in accordance with its usual rules and practices. It will make its recommendations to the Joint Committee or Programme Director as it deems appropriate. The Programme Director shall be notified in writing of an intention to report anything the Audit Committee. For the avoidance of doubt an annual internal audit report shall be submitted by the Host Authority Audit Manager to the Joint Committee.

12.2 The Joint Committee and its Sub-Committee shall be subject to over view and by any of the Councils relevant scrutiny committees only which shall take place in accordance with the Scrutiny Protocol set out in Schedule 3 (Scrutiny Protocol).

12.3 If a decision is called in by one or more of the Councils, it is acknowledged and agreed that the implementation of such a decision shall, save in the case of matters determined to be Urgent Matters in accordance with the Scrutiny Protocol, be suspended by the Joint Committee until the outcome of the call in has been communicated to the Joint Committee and considered by it in accordance with the Scrutiny Protocol.

13. **BUSINESS PLAN**

13.1 **OBP**

13.1.1 The decision to approve and adopt the OBP is a "Reserved Matter".

13.1.2 The Parties have prepared and adopted on the date of this Agreement a 5 (five) year overarching business plan (the "**OBP**") which, amongst other matters, sets out the Parties' objectives and priorities for the delivery of the Growth Deal and is attached at Schedule 10 (OBP) to this Agreement.

13.2 Updated OBP

- 13.2.1 The OBP may be reviewed at any time by the Joint Committee if required pursuant to Clause 13.4 (Project Business Case) or shall be reviewed, as a minimum, on an annual basis (and updated only if necessary) no earlier than three (3) months and no later than one (1) month before the end of the relevant Accounting Period pursuant to this Clause.
- 13.2.2 Following such review and only where amendments are required, the Portfolio Management Office shall, in conjunction with the Executive Support Group, prepare, finalise, agree (acting in the best interests of the Joint Committee) and recommend for adoption to the Joint Committee a draft updated OBP for the proceeding five years to incorporate any proposed amendments provided always that the OBP shall remain consistent with the Portfolio, Programme or any Project Business Cases of any of the Approved Projects.
- 13.2.3 The decision to approve and adopt any updated OBP shall be a "Joint Committee Matter" save to the extent that any such update amounts to a material change to the prevailing OBP which may include (but is not limited to) a material impact on the parties or a material change in the content of the Portfolio, Programme or any Project Business Cases of any of the Approved Projects and, in which case, the decision to approve and adopt such updated OBP shall be a "Reserved Matter".
- 13.2.4 The Joint Committee (or, where any update amounts to a material change, each of the Party's (as applicable)) shall use its reasonable endeavours to seek to agree such draft OBP and to adopt it as the formal OBP within 60 (sixty) Business Days of the date it is first circulated to the Joint Committee or such other date as agreed by the Joint Committee.
- 13.2.5 The updated OBP agreed pursuant to Clause 13.2.4 (with such amendments thereto as may be agreed by the Joint Committee or as a "Reserved Matter" (as applicable)) shall replace the then current OBP as the formal OBP upon the later of:
- (a) the expiry of the then current OBP; and
 - (b) the date of the Joint Committee's approval to it in accordance with Clause 9 (Joint Committee) or, as applicable, the date the updated OBP is approved by the Parties as a "Reserved Matter".
- 13.2.6 Until such time as it is replaced in accordance with Clause 13.2.4, the OBP that has most recently been adopted as the formal OBP shall continue to be the formal binding OBP.
- 13.2.7 Where the draft OBP circulated under Clause 13.2.2 has not been approved by the Joint Committee or, where any update amounts to a material change, each of the Party's (as applicable), by the date six (6) calendar months following the date it is first circulated to the Joint Committee, the matter shall be deemed to be a JC Unresolved Matter and Clause 9.6.5 (Joint Committee) shall apply or where such approval is to be granted as a "Reserved Matter", the OBP shall be deemed not to have been approved following such six (6) calendar month period.

13.3 Portfolio and Programme Business Cases Programme Business Cases

- 13.3.1 The Joint Committee anticipates discharging the obligations of the Parties in relation to the Growth Deal through five Programmes which will each contain a number of Projects. The Programmes will each have a Programme Business Case and the Projects will each have a Project Business Case.
- 13.3.2 The Portfolio Business Case covers the whole of the Growth Deal and is supported by each of the five (5) Programme Business Cases which are all subject to approval by the UK and Welsh Governments and the Joint Committee and provide detail to the UK and Welsh Governments as to how the Joint Committee intends to deliver the Growth Deal.

- 13.3.3 A Programme Business Case shall, amongst other matters, address the following:
- (a) how the Programme contributes to the overall portfolio spending objectives and the OBP;
 - (b) how the Programme aligns to the Growth Vision and other relevant regional, Welsh Government and UK Government strategies;
 - (c) specific details regarding the economic impact of the Programme; and
 - (d) specific details regarding the financial implications of the Programme.
- 13.3.4 The OBP and the Project Business Plans are developed and approved by the Joint Committee pursuant to this Agreement. The OBP being the overarching plan for the NWEAB (taking into account the Portfolio and Programme Business Cases) and the Project Business Plans drilling down into the detail of each proposed Project to be developed and approved pursuant to this Agreement.

13.4 **Project Business Cases**

- 13.4.1 The Project Business Case shall align itself with the OBP and the relevant Programme Business Case and remain consistent with the Growth Deal and Growth Vision and the terms of this Agreement.
- 13.4.2 It is acknowledged and agreed that draft Project Business Cases have been commenced for a number of Projects and these shall continue to be developed by the Portfolio Management Office in conjunction with the Executive Support Group for approval by the Joint Committee by the deadlines to be set by the Joint Committee.
- 13.4.3 The approval of a Project Business Case is a Joint Committee Matter pursuant to Clause 14 (Approval Process). Once a Project's Project Business Case is approved by the Joint Committee pursuant to Clause 14 (Approval Process), the Project will be an "Approved Project".
- 13.4.4 The Project Business Case shall include, amongst other matters, the items contained within Clause 15.5.4(f) (Councils' Contribution and Advisers' Contribution)

13.5 **Progress Monitoring**

- 13.5.1 The Portfolio Management Office, in conjunction with the Executive Support Group, shall prepare (or procure the preparation of) a short form quarterly report which shall review progress made in the preceding Quarter as against the OBP and any Project Business Case (the "**Quarterly Report**") and shall be circulated to the Joint Committee and each Party within 1 (one) calendar month following the end of the proceeding Quarter.
- 13.5.2 The Quarterly Report shall be regularly reviewed at the Joint Committee Meetings.
- 13.5.3 If, at any Joint Committee Meeting, any of the Councils and/or the Advisers believe that there has been a material failure of the Councils and/or the Advisers and/or the Joint Committee to comply with the OBP and/or a Project Business Case, the Joint Committee shall discuss appropriate action to immediately rectify the relevant failure and/or mitigate the effects of such failure as far as possible.

14. **APPROVAL PROCESS**

- 14.1 The Joint Committee will be responsible for managing the list of Projects (current and new) to be considered and developed to deliver the Growth Deal as more particularly set out in the OBP and following evaluation shall give initial approval to the Project Sponsor to undertake further due diligence and commence the development of a Project Business Case for the Project.

- 14.2 Following such initial approval, there is a three stage process to be followed for a Project to become an "Approved Project" and receive Growth Deal Contributions as set out below:
- 14.2.1 the Project Business Case of a potential Project will be developed by the Project Sponsor for that Project following the Five Case Business Model in line with the Green Book Guidance developed by WG and HMT working in conjunction with the Portfolio Management Office and with advice from external advisers (where required);
 - 14.2.2 the Project Business Case will be subject to external gateway review(s) at agreed points during its development in line with the Integrated Assurance and Approval Plan; and
 - 14.2.3 the Project Business Case will be assessed and approved by the Joint Committee as a Joint Committee Matter as more particularly set out in Clause 13.4 (Project Business Cases) and following such approval will be an "Approved Project";
- 14.3 It is acknowledged and agreed that, as part of the development and approval of a Project Business Case, a Back-to-Back Agreement (and any other related documentation as requested by the Joint Committee to form part of the Project Business Case for a particular Project) shall be in agreed form prior to approval as a Joint Committee Matter.
- 14.4 Following such approval, the Project Sponsor shall then be responsible for delivering the Approved Project pursuant to the terms of the Project Business Case and the Back-to-Back Agreement (or any other related documentation).

15. **COMMITMENT OF THE PARTIES AND CONTRIBUTIONS**

15.1 **General**

Subject to 19.11.3 (Withdrawal), the Parties agree and undertake to commit to the Growth Deal in accordance with the terms of this Agreement and not to commission and/or undertake any procurement and/or project that seeks or would procure the delivery of all or any part of the Growth Deal or Growth Vision outside the terms of this Agreement.

15.2 **Internal Costs**

- 15.2.1 Subject to Clause 15.2.2, the Internal Costs incurred by each Party (including the Host Authority) shall be borne by the Party providing that internal resource.
- 15.2.2 The Parties hereby agree that if one of the Parties believes it is likely to incur disproportionate Internal Costs that matter shall be referred to the Joint Committee for a decision as to whether such costs will be disproportionate and whether any contributions should be made to this cost by the other Parties.

15.3 **Joint Committee Costs**

- 15.3.1 Any Joint Committee Costs incurred by the Joint Committee shall be shared on a Proportionate Basis between the Parties pursuant to this Agreement. They will form part of the Annual Budget referred to in Clause 15.4 below.
- 15.3.2 Each Party shall be required to prepare accounts including details of any approved Internal Costs or Joint Committee Costs incurred pursuant to Schedule 5 (Heads of Expenditure) (the "**Accounts**") in respect of each Accounting Period and for such further and/or other accounting periods as the Joint Committee shall determine and which shall be incorporated into Schedule 6 (Accounting Periods). For the avoidance of doubt, such Accounts shall not include any revenue costs or capital investment requirements in relation to the development of any business case by a Project Sponsor of any Adviser Led Project or the implementation of any proposed project by a Project Sponsor of any Adviser Led Project and shall solely relate to the operational and management costs of the Joint Committee.

15.3.3 Each Party shall:-

- (a) in the Accounts make true and complete entries of all relevant payments made by it during the previous Accounting Period;
- (b) within one (1) month of the end of each Accounting Period, each Party shall provide to the Host Authority unaudited Accounts for such Accounting Period together with certification that such Accounts comply with this Clause 15 (Commitment of the Parties and Contributions);
- (c) nominate an individual to be responsible for ensuring that Party's own compliance with this Clause 15 (Commitment of the Parties and Contributions) and the name, address and telephone number of each individual nominated pursuant to this Clause 15 (Commitment of the Parties and Contributions) shall be notified to the other Parties in accordance with Clause 27 (Notices); and
- (d) if an individual nominated by a Party pursuant to Clause 15 (Commitment of the Parties and Contributions) changes, that Party shall notify the other Parties forthwith of the replacement nominees.

15.3.4 The Host Authority shall:-

- (a) within ten (10) Business Days of receipt of the Accounts submitted by the other Parties in accordance with Clause 15.3.3(b) prepare a reconciliation statement identifying the payments made by each Party and the balance due from or owing to each; and
- (b) within twenty (20) Business Days of the preparation of the reconciliation statement send out a copy of the reconciliation statement together with either a balancing invoice or, subject to Clause 15.3.4(b) credit payments to each Party.

15.3.5 The Host Authority shall not be obliged to make any payments due under this Agreement until the Host Authority is in receipt of funds from the Parties pursuant to this Clause 15.3.

15.3.6 A Party receiving an invoice for payment shall pay it in full within twenty (20) Business Days. Any error in a balancing invoice must be notified to the Host Authority within five (5) Business Days of such balancing invoice being sent out. An amended balancing invoice will be issued by the Host Authority and the Party receiving such an invoice shall pay it in full within twenty (20) Business Days.

15.3.7 The Parties hereby agree that if one of the Parties carries out any work or incurs any cost or expenses to carry out any work or to incur any cost or expense that is not within the budget or scope of work set out in this Agreement or agreed in advance by the Joint Committee, that matter shall be referred by the Executive Support Group to the Joint Committee for a decision as to whether such work, cost or expense is part of the Growth Deal or whether such work, cost or expense should be the entire responsibility of the Party so carrying it out or requesting it (as the case may be).

15.4 Annual Budget

15.4.1 The Annual Budget shall consist of the following:

- (a) the Annual Budget Contributions;
- (b) the Councils' Supplementary Contributions; and
- (c) any additional costs secured through the wider investment fund or other sources (if any); and
- (d) any accumulated reserves.

- 15.4.2 The annual budget contributions are as follows:
- (a) £50,000 per Accounting Period from each Council; and
 - (b) £25,000 per Accounting Period from each Adviser (save for the Chair of the Business Delivery Board who makes no Annual Budget Contribution),
- together the "**Annual Budget Contributions**" and which are subject to indexation at the start of each Accounting Period in accordance with Clause 15.4.3.
- 15.4.3 It is acknowledged and agreed that the Annual Budget Contributions will be subject to the following variations at the start of each Accounting Period to reflect the actual increase in costs over the Annual Budget for the immediately preceding Accounting Period as a consequence of increases in the following:
- (a) increases in salaries occasioned by the local government national awarding bodies; and
 - (b) increases in Employers Contribution to the local Government Pension Scheme and National Insurance Contributions.³
- 15.4.4 The Parties shall provide their share of the Annual Budget Contributions to the Host Authority, in relation to the initial Accounting Period, within 10 (ten) Business Days of the Commencement Date and, in all other cases, within 10 (ten) Business Days of the commencement of the relevant Accounting Period.
- 15.4.5 The Councils' Supplementary Payment will continue to be paid at the start of each Accounting Period on receipt of an invoice from the Host Authority.
- 15.4.6 The Host Authority shall hold and account for the Annual Budget on behalf of the Joint Committee and the Parties.
- 15.4.7 Where the actual aggregate Joint Committee Costs are likely to exceed the Annual Budget at any time,
- (a) any increase to the Annual Budget Contributions shall be a Reserved Matter for the Parties; and
 - (b) any changes to the Councils' Supplementary Contribution shall be a Council Matter for the Councils only.

15.5 Funding

15.5.1 Total funding

- (a) It is acknowledged and agreed by the Parties that the following confirmed funds are available to facilitate the implementation of the Growth Deal:
 - (i) £120,000,000 (one hundred and twenty million pounds) from UKG (the "**HMT Contribution**"); and
 - (ii) £120,000,000 (one hundred and twenty million pounds) from WG (the "**WG Contribution**"),

the HMT Contribution and the WG Contribution together being the "**Growth Deal Contributions**"; and

³ PM: I have included the indexation as required - for finance team to please be comfortable that this is clear and not subject to any later debate as to what indexes/changes these relate to.

- (iii) £9,960,300 (nine million, nine hundred and sixty thousand and three hundred pounds) in aggregate from the Councils (the "**Councils' Contribution**");
- (iv) between £3,180,000 (three million one hundred and eighty thousand pounds) and to £4,530,000 (four million five hundred and thirty thousand pounds) in aggregate from the Advisors (the "**Advisors' Contribution**"); and
- (v) each Parties' contribution towards the Annual Budget pursuant to Clause 15.4.

15.5.2 HMT Contribution

- (a) It is acknowledged and agreed by the Parties that:
 - (i) HMT's contribution shall be provided to the Host Authority for and on behalf of the Joint Committee as a fixed flat rate of £8,000,000 (eight million pounds) per Accounting Period commencing [on 1 April 2021]⁴ for a period of 15 (fifteen) years; and
 - (ii) HMT Contribution is subject to the following funding conditions:-
 - (1) [x]⁵
 together the "**HMT Funding Conditions**".
- (b) Each Party acknowledges and agrees that it accepts the HMT Funding Conditions and that it shall be bound by those conditions and shall not through any act or omission place any other Party including, but not limited to, the Host Authority in breach of any of those conditions.

15.5.3 WG Contribution

- (a) It is acknowledged and agreed by the Parties that:
 - (i) WG's contribution shall be provided to the Host Authority for and on behalf of the Joint Committee as a fixed flat rate of £8,000,000 (eight million pounds) per Accounting Period commencing [on 1 April 2021] for a period of 15 (fifteen) years; and
 - (ii) HMT Contribution is subject to the following funding conditions:-
 - (1) [x]
 together the "**WG Funding Conditions**".
- (b) Each Party acknowledges and agrees that it accepts the WG Funding Conditions and that it shall be bound by those conditions and shall not through any act or omission place any other Party including, but not limited to, the Host Authority in breach of any of those conditions.

15.5.4 Councils' Contribution and Advisors' Contribution

- (a) It is acknowledged and agreed that:

⁴ PM: The aspiration is to obtain the first drawdown in March 2021 but this remains subject to further WG/UKG approval.

⁵ PM: Funding conditions to be completed once draft letter from WG/UKG received.

- (i) in order to facilitate cash-flow for project expenditure against an estimated 6 (six) year delivery profile compared to a 15 (fifteen) year funding profile in relation to the Growth Deal Contributions; and
 - (ii) subject to Clauses 15.5.4(b) and 15.5.4(c), the Host Authority shall use reasonable endeavours, on behalf of the Joint Committee, to provide additional funding for Approved Projects as set out in each Project Base Case which may be obtained from the Public Works Loan Board, other funders or self-borrowed or otherwise (the "Loan Funds"⁶).
- (b) The Parties shall be responsible for the repayment of any and all capital (if any)⁷, interest, any changes in interest rates (or in the case of a self-borrowed scenario any foregone interest) (with interest rates to be set and managed by the Host Authority) and any other costs or liabilities incurred by the Host Authority in providing the Loan Funds by way of the Council's Contribution and the Advisors' Contribution as more particularly set out in Clauses 15.5.5 (Councils' Contribution) and 15.5.6 (Advisors' Contribution) below and each relevant Project Base Case;
- (c) Due diligence will assess all assumptions and liability including whether NNDR funding is available or whether additional funding is required as a result of state aid implications or otherwise and this will need to be recognised within the Project Base Case subject always to the maximum aggregate amounts contained within Clause 15.5.1 (Total Funding) and any increase shall be a Reserved Matter.
- (d) Where any capital is to be repaid, the Project Sponsor shall be responsible for procuring repayment of such capital from its third party contractors and to repay that the Host Authority in accordance with the Project Base Case. For the avoidance of doubt, any such capital repayment shall not count towards the Project Sponsor's maximum contribution to be made by way of the Councils' Contribution or Advisors' Contribution (as applicable).
- (e) The proportion of Growth Deal Contributions, Loan Funds and Councils' Contribution or Advisors' Contribution (as relevant) will be agreed as part of the Project Base Case for a particular Project to be approved by the Joint Committee in accordance with this Agreement subject always to the maximum aggregate amounts contained within Clause 15.5.1 (Total Funding).
- (f) Subject to Clause 15.5.4(g), a back-to-back agreement will be entered into between the Host Authority (acting on behalf of the Joint Committee) and the Project Sponsor of an Approved Project to confirm, amongst other things,
- (i) the payment of any Growth Deal Contributions and Loan Funds to the Project Sponsor;
 - (ii) the repayment obligations of the Project Sponsor;
 - (iii) transfer of responsibility to the Project Sponsor to deliver the Project;
 - (iv) clawback provision to clawback the Growth Deal Contributions and the Loan Sums from the Project Sponsor in the event of a default; and
 - (v) approval of any related party documentation to be entered into by the Project Sponsor and any third parties to deliver the Approved Project.

the "**Back-to-Back Agreement**"

⁷ PM: Approach to £17m funding gap to be confirmed – presumably the capital and interest will be repayable?

- (g) The Back-to-Back Agreement (and any other related documentation) shall also be agreed and form part of the Project Base Case for a Project to be approved by the Joint Committee provided that in the case of the Back-to-Back Agreement (and any other related documentation) this shall first be agreed by the Project Sponsor before it is put before Joint Committee as a Joint Committee Decision.

15.5.5 Councils' Contribution

- (a) The Councils' Contribution shall be used to finance the Regional Projects only unless otherwise agreed by the Joint Committee such provisions shall be reflected within the terms of the OBP and/or the relevant Business Cases to include, amongst other matters, the estimated annual spend profile for each Council.
- (b) Subject always to the maximum aggregate amounts contained within Clause 15.5.1(a)(iii) (Total Funding) and the obligation to contribute to the Annual Budget pursuant to Clause 15.4 (Annual Budget), each Council shall contribute to the aggregate Councils' Contribution required on each Regional Project on a population basis pursuant to the following formula:

$$A \% = B \times 100$$

with A% being a Councils' "Population Basis"

- (c) This is calculated as follows:

B	$B = \frac{\text{Current Population}}{\text{Total Population}}$
Current Population	<p>Current Population = means for each Accounting Period the mid-year estimated population figure for a particular Council taken from StatsWales for the preceding Accounting Period.</p> <p>StatsWales is the Welsh Government's official body responsible for publishing official statistics) at the following link: https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Population-and-Migration/Population/Estimates/Local-Authority/populationestimates-by-localauthority-year</p> <p>Where the Current Population is no longer available from StatsWales at any point, the last mid-year figures shall be used save where otherwise agreed by the Councils as a Joint Committee Decision.</p>
Total Population	Total Population = means for each Accounting Period the aggregate mid-year estimated population figure of the six Councils taken from StatsWales for the preceding Accounting Period.

- (d)
- (e) Subsubject to
- (f) Each Council's Population Basis shall be re-calculated on an annual basis at the beginning of each Accounting Period pursuant to this Clause 15.5.5 (Councils' Contribution).

15.5.6 Advisors' Contribution

- (a) Subject to Clause 15.5.6(b) (Advisors' Contribution), the Advisors' Contribution shall be used to finance Adviser Led Projects only unless otherwise agreed by the Parties as a Reserved Matter and such provisions shall be reflected within the terms of the OBP and/or the relevant Project Business Case to include, amongst other matters, the estimated annual spend profile for each Advisor.
- (b) Subject always to the obligation to contribute to the Annual Budget pursuant to Clause 15.4 (Annual Budget), each Adviser shall only be required to provide an Adviser Contribution for an Approved Project(s) in which that Adviser is acting as the Project Sponsor up to a maximum aggregate contribution below (each maximum aggregate contributions being an "**Advisors' Individual Contribution**" for that Adviser respectively):

Advisor	Minimum aggregate contribution	Maximum aggregate contribution
Bangor University	£1,399,950 (one million three hundred and ninety nine thousand, nine hundred and fifty pounds)	£1,990,050 (one million ninety nine thousand and fifty pounds)
Glyndwr University	£510,000 (five hundred and ten thousand pounds)	£730,050 (seven hundred and thirty thousand and fifty pounds)
Coleg Cambria	£520,050 (five hundred and twenty thousand and fifty pounds)	£739,950 (seven hundred and thirty nine thousand, nine hundred and fifty pounds)
GRWP Llandrillo Menai	£750,000 (seven hundred and fifty thousand pounds)	£1,069,950 (one million, sixty nine thousand, nine hundred and fifty pounds)

- (c) Subject to Clause 15.5.6(d), the Advisor's Individual Contributions shall be as set out in table above in the column entitled the "Maximum aggregate contribution" (column 3).
- (d) It is acknowledged and agreed that there is an aspiration to receive the first tranche of Growth Deal Contributions in March 2021 equating to £[x] and where this is received, the Advisor's Individual Contributions shall be decreased to the the "Minimum aggregate contribution" as set out in the table above (column 2).
- (e) The contribution relates to the overall sums received by a Project Sponsor on a Project (Growth Funds and Loan Funds).⁸

15.5.7 Audit

Each Party shall permit all records referred to in this Agreement to be examined and copied from time to time by the Host Authority, or any representatives of the Host Authority or any other representatives who reasonably require access to the same in order to undertake any audit of the funds received and spent pursuant to this Agreement.

⁸ Can the finance team please expand this and explain how this is calculated and presumably whether it needs to be replicated in relation to the Councils' Contribution.

15.5.8 Retention of Records

The accounts referred to in this Clause 15.5.8 (Commitment of the Parties and Contributions) shall be retained for a period of at least ten (10) years after delivery of the Growth Deal pursuant to this Agreement.

16. NOT USED

17. MITIGATION

Each Party shall at all time take all reasonable steps to minimise and mitigate any loss for which the relevant Party is entitled to bring a claim against the other Party(ies) pursuant to this Agreement.

18. LIABILITY OF THE PARTIES

18.1 The Host Authority shall indemnify and keep indemnified each of the other Parties to this Agreement against any reasonable losses, claims, expenses, actions, demands, costs and liability suffered by that Party to the extent arising directly from any wilful default or wilful breach by the Host Authority of its obligations under this Agreement (and wilful in this context shall, for the avoidance of doubt, not include matters which are outside the reasonable control of the Host Authority or matters arising from any negligent act or omission in relation to such obligations).

18.2 No claim shall be made against the Host Authority to recover any loss or damage which may be incurred by reason of or arising out of the carrying out by the Host Authority of its obligations under this Agreement unless and to the extent such loss or damage arises from a wilful default or wilful breach by the Host Authority under Clause 18 (Liability of Parties).

18.3 Each of the other Parties (acting severally) shall indemnify and keep indemnified the Host Authority against any reasonable losses, claims, expenses, actions, demands, costs and liabilities which the Host Authority may incur by reason of or arising directly out of the carrying out by the Host Authority of its obligations under this Agreement for that Party or arising directly from any wilful default or wilful breach by a Party of its obligations under this Agreement (and wilful in this context shall, for the avoidance of doubt, not include matters which are outside the reasonable control of that Party or matters arising from any negligent act or omission in relation to such obligations) unless and to the extent that the same result from any wilful breach by the Host Authority of any such obligations.

18.4 The Parties agree and acknowledge that the amount to be paid to the Host Authority by any of the other Parties under Clause 18 (Liability of Parties) shall be borne by each of the Parties to the extent of its responsibility, however in the event that the responsibility is a shared one between the Parties (so that it is not reasonably practicable to ascertain the exact responsibility between the Parties) then the amount to be paid shall be divided between the Parties on a Proportionate Basis.

18.5 In the event of a claim under this Clause 18 (Liability of Parties) in which it is not reasonably practicable to determine the extent of responsibility as between the Parties (including the Host Authority), then the amount shall be divided amongst the Councils (including the Host Authority) on a Proportionate Basis. For the avoidance of doubt, any claim arising otherwise than through the wilful default or wilful breach by the Host Authority or the other Parties shall be divided amongst the Parties (including the Host Authority) on a Proportionate Basis.

18.6 A Party who receives a claim for losses, expenses, actions, demands, costs and liabilities shall notify and provide details of such claim as soon as is reasonably practicable to the other Parties .

18.7 No Party shall be indemnified in accordance with this Clause 18 (Liability of Parties) unless it has given notice in accordance with Clause 18.6 (Liability of Parties) to the other Party against whom it will be enforcing its right to an indemnity under this Agreement.

18.8 Each Party ("**Indemnifier**") shall not be responsible or be obliged to indemnify the other Parties (including the Host Authority) ("**Beneficiary**") to the extent that any insurances maintained by the Beneficiary at the relevant time provide an indemnity against the loss giving rise to such claim and to the extent that the Beneficiary recovers under such policy of insurance (save that the Indemnifier

shall be responsible for the deductible under any such policy of insurance and any amount over the maximum amount insured under such policy of insurance).

19. **WITHDRAWAL**

- 19.1 Subject to Clause 19.2 (Withdrawal), any Party (including the Host Authority) may at any time during this Agreement, withdraw from this Agreement in accordance with this Clause 19 (Withdrawal).⁹
- 19.2 No Party may withdraw from this Agreement during the Lock In Period and, following such Lock In Period, the provisions of this Clause 19 shall apply.
- 19.3 Save where Clause 19.6 applies, if a Party wishes to withdraw from the Growth Deal and this Agreement, it shall provide at least twelve (12) months written notice of its intention to withdraw to all the other Parties ("**Withdrawal Notice**").
- 19.4 No sooner than nine (9) months after the date of the Withdrawal Notice and no later than ten (10) months after the date of the Withdrawal Notice, the Host Authority (or such other Council as nominated by the Joint Committee in the event that the Host Authority issues the Withdrawal Notice) shall provide to all the Parties a Liability Report which shall be discussed by the Joint Committee at its next meeting or a specially convened meeting if the next meeting falls more than two (2) weeks after the issue of the Liability Report. For the avoidance of doubt, no formal decision is required by the Joint Committee in relation to the Liability Report.
- 19.5 It is acknowledged and agreed that:
- 19.5.1 the Liability Report shall contain, as a minimum, the withdrawing Party's committed costs and liabilities up to and including the expiry date of the Growth Deal anticipated to be 15 years and the withdrawing Party's committed costs and liabilities on all current projects which shall include any Council or Adviser Contributions that the withdrawing Party has committed to but not yet provided (whether that occurs before or after the Party formally withdraws from the Growth Deal and this Agreement pursuant to this Clause 19 (Withdrawal)); and
- 19.5.2 in relation to row 1 of the Liability Report in Schedule 8 (Liability Report), the withdrawing Party shall be liable to pay its committed contribution and liabilities;
- (a) up to the expiry date of the Growth Deal anticipated to be 15 years; and
- (b) on all current projects.
- 19.6 Within the Decision Period each Party which has issued a Withdrawal Notice to the Programme Director shall indicate either:-
- 19.6.1 that it withdraws from the Growth Deal and this Agreement; or
- 19.6.2 that it wishes to continue as a party to the Growth Deal and this Agreement.
- 19.7 Where further Parties (in addition to the Party issuing the Withdrawal Notice) indicate their wish to withdraw from the Growth Deal and this Agreement, then the provisions of Clause 19.3 (Withdrawal) shall apply to such Parties and a new Liability Report shall be prepared in respect of each of these Parties that have indicated their intention to withdraw and the provisions of Clause 19.6 (Withdrawal) shall apply.
- 19.8 Where a Party does not indicate its intentions as required by Clause 19.6 (Withdrawal) then it shall at the expiry of the Decision Period be taken to have indicated that they wish to continue as a Party to the Growth Deal and this Agreement.

⁹ PM: To be considered whether any additional rights to withdraw are required here.

- 19.9 Any Party serving a Withdrawal Notice pursuant to Clause 19.3 or indicates that it withdraws from the Growth Deal and this Agreement pursuant to Clause 19.6 shall have the right to retract such Withdrawal Notice or indication that it withdraws at any point prior to the date of its withdrawal.
- 19.10 Where a Party indicates that it wishes to withdraw from the Growth Deal and this Agreement, then:-
- 19.10.1 the Party who shall have indicated its wish to withdraw shall pay all amounts due to be paid by it in accordance with the Liability Report and comply with its obligations under this Agreement up to the date of its withdrawal including making any payments of any expenditure referred to in Schedule 5 (Heads of Expenditure) as at that date;
 - 19.10.2 the Party who shall have indicated its wish to withdraw shall be responsible for a proportion of any third party costs (which have been substantiated by the Joint Committee); and
 - 19.10.3 if in the event of such a withdrawal the discharge of the Party's obligations in relation to the Growth Deal is delayed then the Party who shall have indicated its wish to withdraw may be responsible for a proportion of the costs of delay to the other Parties or any costs or fines which may directly result. Such proportion will be decided by the Joint Committee and the withdrawing Party shall not be entitled to vote in this decision.
- 19.11 Where a Party withdraws from the Growth Deal and this Agreement in accordance with this Clause 19 (Withdrawal):
- 19.11.1 any capital asset acquired and/or secured and/or owned and provided by such withdrawing Party for the purposes of the Growth Deal will remain in the ownership of the withdrawing Party and the withdrawing Party will reimburse the remaining Parties their respective contributions (if any) together with any reasonable costs incurred as a result of the withdrawal or default;
 - 19.11.2 the other Parties may elect to continue or discontinue with any procurement and/or project forming part of the Growth Deal in the administrative area of the withdrawing Party;
 - 19.11.3 subject to approval of the Joint Committee, the withdrawing Party may elect to independently pursue the procurement of any project within its administrative area or project in which it is acting as Project Sponsor and which was identified as part of the Growth Deal provided that it does so at its own cost without any access to any of the funding provided for pursuant to this Agreement including (but not limited to the Growth Deal Contribution);
 - 19.11.4 unless agreed otherwise by the remaining Parties, the Party who shall have indicated its wish to withdraw from the Growth Deal shall not remove its appointees to the Joint Committee for a period of not less than three (3) months commencing on the date of such Party's withdrawal, provided that the costs associated with those appointees to the Joint Committee shall be borne by the remaining Parties on a Proportionate Basis; and
 - 19.11.5 save for the obligations set out in Clause 15 (Commitments of the Parties and Contributions), Clause 18 (Liability of the Parties), this Clause 19 (Withdrawal) and Clause 22 (Confidentiality and Announcements), the withdrawing Party shall be released from its respective obligations described in this Agreement from the date of withdrawal;
 - 19.11.6 where the withdrawing Party or Parties is/are a Council, the remaining Parties agree that the quorum necessary for any subsequent Joint Committee meetings pursuant to Clause 9.6.1 (Joint Committee Decisions) of this Agreement shall be permanently reduced by the number of Party/ Parties that is/are a Council that has/have withdrawn.

20. **CONSEQUENCES OF TERMINATION**

- 20.1 If the Agreement is terminated in accordance with Clause 2.3 (Termination), save for the obligations set out in Clause 15 (Commitment of the Parties and Contributions), Clause 18 (Liability of the Parties), Clause 19 (Withdrawal), this Clause 20 (Consequences of Termination) and Clause 22

(Confidentiality and Announcements), the Parties shall be released from their respective obligations described in this Agreement.

20.2 Where this Agreement is terminated in respect of that Party in accordance with Clause 2.3 (Termination):

20.2.1 any capital asset acquired and/or secured and/or owned and provided by such Defaulter for the purposes of the Growth Deal will remain in the ownership of the Defaulter and the Defaulter will reimburse the remaining Parties their respective contributions (if any) together with any reasonable costs incurred as a result of the withdrawal or default;

20.2.2 the other Parties may elect to continue or discontinue with any procurement and/or project forming part of the Growth Deal;

20.2.3 subject to the approval of the Joint Committee, the withdrawing Party may elect to independently pursue the procurement of any project within its administrative area or project in which it is acting as Project Sponsor and which was identified as part of the Growth Deal provided that it does so at its own cost without any access to any of the funding provided for pursuant to this Agreement including (but not limited to the Growth Deal Contribution); and

20.2.4 where this Agreement is terminated and the terminated Party/Parties is/are a Council, the remaining Parties agree that the quorum necessary for any subsequent Joint Committee meetings pursuant to Clause 9.6.1 (Joint Committee Decisions) of this Agreement shall be permanently reduced by the number of Party/ Parties that is is/are a Council and whose involvement in this Agreement has been terminated..

20.3 The Parties acknowledge and agree that:-

20.3.1 the Growth Deal has been modelled on the basis of participation by all the Parties and that there are considerable economic benefits to be achieved as a result of such joint working; and

20.3.2 accordingly, in the event that this Agreement is terminated in relation to any Party pursuant to Clause 2.3 (Termination) such Defaulter shall be liable to the Non-Defaulting Party or Parties for their reasonable and properly incurred costs in relation to the Growth Deal as set out in Clause 19.5 (Withdrawal) and Schedule 8 (Liability Report).

21. **INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

21.1 Each Party will retain all Intellectual Property in its Material.

21.2 Each Party will grant all of the other Parties a non-exclusive, perpetual, non-transferable and royalty free licence to use, modify, amend and develop its IP Material for the discharge of the Parties' obligations in relation to the Growth Deal and any other purpose resulting from the Growth Deal whether or not the party granting the licence remains a party to this Agreement.

21.3 Without prejudice to Clause 21.1 (Intellectual Property), if more than one Party owns or has a legal or beneficial right or interest in any aspect of the IP Material for any reason (including without limitation that no one Party can demonstrate that it independently supplied or created the relevant IP Material without the help of one or more of the other Parties), each of the Parties who contributed to the relevant IP Material will grant to all other Parties to this Agreement a non-exclusive, perpetual, non-transferable and royalty free licence to use and exploit such IP Material as if all the other Parties were the sole owner under the Copyright Design and Patents Act 1988 or any other relevant statute or rule of law.

21.4 For the avoidance of doubt, any entity or person who is at the date of this Agreement a Party to this Agreement and who has licensed any Intellectual Property under this Agreement will have a non-exclusive, perpetual right to continue to use the licensed Intellectual Property in respect of the Growth Deal.

21.5 Each Party warrants that it has or will have the necessary rights to grant the licences set out in Clause 21.2 (Intellectual Property) and 21.3 (Intellectual Property) in respect of the IP Material to be licensed.

21.6 Each Party agrees to execute such further documents and take such actions or do such things as may be reasonably requested by any other Parties (and at the expense of the Party(ies) making the request) to give full effect to the terms of this Agreement.

22. **CONFIDENTIALITY AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

22.1 Each Party ("**Covenanter**") shall, both during the currency of this Agreement and at all times following its termination or expiry, keep private and confidential and shall not use or disclose (whether for its own benefit or that of any third party) any Confidential Information about the business of and/or belonging to any other Party or third party which has come to its attention as a result of or in connection with this Agreement.

22.2 The obligation set out in Clause 22 (Confidentiality and Announcements) shall not relate to information which:-

22.2.1 comes into the public domain or is subsequently disclosed to the public (other than through default on the part of the Covenanter or any other person to whom the Covenanter is permitted to disclose such information under this Agreement);

22.2.2 is required to be disclosed by law;

22.2.3 was already in the possession of the Covenanter (without restrictions as to its use) on the date of receipt;

22.2.4 is required or recommended by the rules of any governmental or regulatory authority including any guidance from time to time as to openness and disclosure of information by public bodies; or

22.2.5 is necessary to be disclosed to provide relevant information to any insurer or insurance broker in connection with obtaining any insurance required by this Agreement.

22.3 Where disclosure is permitted under Clause 22.2.3 (Confidentiality and Announcements) or 22.2.4 (Confidentiality and Announcements), the recipient of the information shall be subject to a similar obligation of confidentiality as that contained in this Clause 22 (Confidentiality and Announcements) and the disclosing Party shall make this known to the recipient of the information.

22.4 No Party shall make any public statement or issue any press release or publish any other public document relating, connected with or arising out of this Agreement or any other agreement relating to the Growth Deal without the prior written consent of the other Parties.

23. **CONTRACTS (THIRD PARTY RIGHTS)**

The Parties as parties to this Agreement do not intend that any of its terms will be enforceable by virtue of the Contracts (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999 by any person not a party to it.

24. **DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

24.1 Any dispute arising in relation to any aspect of this Agreement shall be resolved in accordance with this Clause 24 (Dispute Resolution). The Parties undertake and agree to pursue a positive approach towards dispute resolution which seeks (in the context of this joint working) to identify a solution which avoids legal proceedings and maintains a strong working relationship between the Parties.

24.2 In the event of any dispute or difference between the Parties relating to this Agreement (whether this may be a matter of contractual interpretation or otherwise) then save in relation to disputes or disagreements relating to a Reserved Matter, the matter shall be dealt with by referral in the first

instance to the Joint Committee who shall consider any such dispute or disagreement at the next scheduled meeting of the Joint Committee and attempt to resolve the disputed matter in good faith.

- 24.3 In relation to a dispute or disagreement relating to a Reserved Matter, or if the Joint Committee fails to resolve a dispute or disagreement within five (5) Business Days of meeting pursuant to Clause 24.2 (Dispute Resolution), then the Parties in dispute or the Joint Committee (as the case may be) may refer the matter for resolution to:-
- 24.3.1 the Chief Executive, Managing Director, Council Leader (or other relevant head of organisation) of the relevant Parties;
 - 24.3.2 mediation by such party as the relevant Parties may agree; or
 - 24.3.3 the exclusive jurisdiction of the Courts of England and Wales.
- 24.4 Any dispute and/or disagreement to be determined by the relevant heads of organisations, mediation or the Courts of England and Wales (as the case may be) under this Agreement shall be promptly referred for determination to them.
- 24.5 The Parties shall on request promptly supply to the relevant heads of organisations or mediator or the Courts of England and Wales (as the case may be) all such assistance, documents and information as may be required for the purpose of determination.
- 24.6 If a mediator is appointed to determine a dispute pursuant to Clause 24.3 (Dispute Resolution), then the mediator shall be deemed to act as an expert and not as an arbitrator and his determination shall (in the absence of manifest error) be conclusive and binding upon the Parties.
- 24.7 The costs of the resolution of any dispute and/or disagreement between the Parties under this Agreement shall be borne by the relevant Parties on a Proportionate Basis to the dispute in question save as may be otherwise directed by the relevant heads of organisations, the mediator or the Courts of England and Wales (as the case may be).

25. **DATA PROTECTION**

- 25.1 In relation to all Personal Data, each Party shall at all times comply with the GDPR, (as a data controller if necessary) which includes (but is not limited to) maintaining a valid and up to date registration or notification under the GDPR covering the data processing activities to be performed in connection with the Growth Deal.
- 25.2 Each Party:-
- 25.2.1 shall process Personal Data belonging to any other Party only on the instructions of that Party (subject to compliance with applicable law);
 - 25.2.2 shall only undertake processing of Personal Data reasonably required in connection with the Growth Deal and shall not transfer any Personal Data to any country or territory outside the European Economic Area; and
 - 25.2.3 shall use its reasonable endeavours to procure that all relevant sub-contractors and third parties comply with this Clause 25.2 (Data Protection). For the avoidance of doubt a relevant sub-contractor is one which processes Personal Data belonging to the one or any of the Parties.
- 25.3 The Parties shall not disclose Personal Data to any third parties other than:-
- 25.3.1 to employees and sub-contractors and third parties to whom such disclosure is reasonably necessary in order for the Parties to discharge the Parties' obligations in relation to the Growth Deal; or

- 25.3.2 to the extent required under a court order or to comply with any applicable laws including (but not limited to) any statute, bye law, European Directive or regulation,
provided that any disclosure to any sub-contractor or any third parties under Clause 25.3.1 (Data Protection) shall be made subject to written terms substantially the same as, and no less stringent than, the terms contained in this Clause 25 (Data Protection) and that the Parties shall give notice in writing to all other Parties of any disclosure of Personal Data belonging to them which they or a sub-contractor or third parties are required to make under Clause 25.3.2 (Data Protection) immediately they are aware of such a requirement;
- 25.3.3 the Parties shall bring into effect and maintain and shall use its reasonable endeavours to ensure that all relevant sub-contractors and any third parties have in effect and maintain all reasonable technical and organisational measures necessary to prevent unauthorised or unlawful processing of Personal Data and accidental loss or destruction of, or damage to, Personal Data including but not limited to taking reasonable steps to ensure the reliability and probity of any employee or agent of a relevant sub contractor or any third parties having access to the Personal Data; or
- 25.3.4 any Party may, at reasonable intervals, request a written description of the technical and organisational methods employed by any other Party and the relevant sub-contractors referred to in Clause 25.2.3 (Data Protection) Within five (5) Business Days of such a request, the Party requested to do so shall supply written particulars of all such measures as it is maintaining detailed to a reasonable level such that the requesting Party can determine whether or not, in connection with the Personal Data, it is compliant with the DPA. All Parties shall use its reasonable endeavours to ensure that the sub-contractors and any third parties also comply with such request from any other Party.
- 25.4 All Parties shall ensure that any Personal Data they obtain and provide to any other Party has been lawfully obtained and complies with the DPA and that the use thereof in accordance with this Agreement shall not breach any of the provisions of the DPA.
- 25.5 If:-
- 25.5.1 under the DPA any Party is required to provide information to a data subject (as defined in the DPA) in relation to Personal Data when such data is in the possession or under control of any other Party; and
- 25.5.2 the required Party informs the controlling Party in writing that this is the case,
then the controlling Party shall guarantee reasonable and prompt co-operation to the required Party in meeting its obligations under the DPA including making copies of the relevant Personal Data to the extent the same are in its possession.
- 25.6 Each Party shall provide the other as soon as reasonably practicable, with such information in relation to Personal Data and their processing as the other Party may reasonably request in writing and the party asked to provide the relevant data may reasonably be able to provide in order for the other Party to:-
- 25.6.1 comply with its obligations under this Clause and the DPA; and
- 25.6.2 assess whether the processing of the relevant Personal Data in connection with this Agreement is breaching or may breach the DPA in a manner which is material and not effectively sanctioned by any guidance statement issued by the Information Commissioner.
- 25.7 The Parties shall each take reasonable precautions (having regard to the nature of their respective obligations under this Agreement) to preserve the integrity of any Personal Data.
- 25.8 The Parties shall work together to create and agree an information sharing protocol specifically in relation to their joint working on the Growth Deal and shall continually review any existing information sharing protocols being used in relation to the Growth Deal to ensure they remain relevant to the

Growth Deal and to identify which Personal Data needs to be processed and on what basis to ensure compliance with this Clause 25 (Data Protection).

26. **FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND ENVIRONMENT INFORMATION**

26.1 Each Party acknowledges that the Parties are subject to the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("**FOIA**") and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 ("**EIR**") and the Parties shall comply with the Host Authority's policy on FOIA in respect of these information disclosure obligations to the extent they relate to the Growth Deal.

26.2 Where a Party (the "**Receiving Party**") receives a request for information under either the FOIA or the EIR in relation to information which it is holding on behalf of any of the other Parties in relation to the Growth Deal, it shall:-

26.2.1 transfer the request for information to the Host Authority as soon as practicable after receipt and in any event within two (2) Business Days of receiving a request for information;

26.2.2 provide the Host Authority with a copy of all information in its possession or power in the form the Host Authority reasonably requires within ten (10) Business Days (or such longer period as the Host Authority may specify) of the Host Authority requesting that information; and

26.2.3 provide all necessary assistance as reasonably requested by the Host Authority to enable the Host Authority to respond to a request for information within the time for compliance set out in the FOIA or the EIR.

26.3 The Parties acknowledge and agree that the Host Authority shall be responsible for co-ordinating any response on behalf of the relevant Parties to the extent they relate to the Growth Deal and all costs incurred shall be accounted for as Joint Committee Costs.

26.4 The Host Authority shall be responsible for determining in their absolute discretion whether any information requested under the FOIA or the EIR:-

26.4.1 is exempt from disclosure under the FOIA or the EIR; and

26.4.2 is to be disclosed in response to a request for information.

26.5 Each Party acknowledges that the Host Authority may be obliged under the FOIA or the EIR to require the Receiving Party to disclose and, acting upon the instructions of the Host Authority, the Receiving Party shall disclose information:-

26.5.1 without consulting with the other Parties where it has not been practicable to achieve such consultation; or

26.5.2 following consultation with the other Parties and having taken their views into account.

27. **NOTICES**

27.1 Any notice or demand in connection with this Agreement to any Party shall be in writing and may be delivered by hand, prepaid first class post, special delivery post or email, addressed to the recipient at the address as the case may be set out in Schedule 3 (Parties' Details) or such other recipient address as may be notified in writing from time to time by any of the Parties to all the other Parties.

27.2 Any notice or demand in connection with this Agreement to the Joint Committee shall be in writing and may be delivered by hand, prepaid first class post, special delivery post or email, addressed to the Programme Director with copies sent to the Chief Executive of Gwynedd Council, Iwan Evans and Hedd Vaughan-Evans.

27.3 Iwan Evans, the Monitoring Officer and Hedd Vaughan-Evans (Operations Manager) are at the same address as the Chief Executive which is the address as the case may be as set out in Schedule 3

(Parties' Details) or such other recipient address as may be notified in writing from time to time by the Host Authority to all the Parties and their email addresses are iwangdevans@gwynedd.llyw.cymru and HeddVaughanEvans@buegogleddcymru.co.uk respectively.

27.4 The notice or demand shall be deemed to have been duly served:-

27.4.1 if delivered by hand, when left at the proper address for service;

27.4.2 if given or made by prepaid first class post or special delivery post, forty-eight (48) hours after being posted (excluding days other than Business Days); or

27.4.3 if given or made by email, at the time of transmission,

provided that, where in the case of delivery by hand or email such delivery or transmission occurs either after 4.00pm on a Business Day or on a day other than a Business Day service shall be deemed to occur at 9.00am on the next following Business Day.

27.5 For the avoidance of doubt, where proceedings to which the Civil Procedure Rules apply have been issued, the provisions of the Civil Procedure Rules must be complied with in respect of the service of documents in connection with those proceedings.

28. **GOVERNING LAW**

This Agreement and any non-contractual obligations arising out of or in connection with it shall be governed by and construed in all respects in accordance with the laws of England and Wales. Subject to Clause 24 (Dispute Resolution), the English and Welsh Courts shall have exclusive jurisdiction to settle any disputes which may arise out of or in connection with this Agreement.

29. **ASSIGNMENT**

The rights and obligations of the Parties under this Agreement shall not be assigned, novated or otherwise transferred without the consent of the other Parties.

30. **WAIVER**

30.1 No failure or delay by any Party to exercise any right, power or remedy will operate as a waiver of it nor will any partial exercise preclude any further exercise of the same or some other right, power or remedy unless a waiver is given in writing by that Party.

30.2 Each Party shall pay their own costs incurred in connection with the preparation, execution, completion and implementation of this Agreement.

31. **ENTIRE AGREEMENT**

This Agreement contains all the terms which the parties have agreed in relation to the subject of this Agreement and supersedes any prior written or oral agreements, representations or understandings between the Parties relating to such subject matter. No Party has been induced to enter into this Agreement or any of these documents by statement or promise which they do not contain, save that this Clause shall not exclude any liability which one Party would otherwise have to the other in respect of any statements made fraudulently by that Party.

32. **COUNTERPARTS**

This Agreement may be executed in any number of counterparts each of which so executed shall be an original but together shall constitute one and the same instrument. A complete signed copy of this Agreement delivered by e-mail in a pdf format from each Party shall be deemed to have the same legal effect as delivery of an original signed copy of this Agreement. Each Party shall hold its signed copy to order of the Host Authority and the Agreement shall be dated on the date that the Host Authority dates its copy of the Agreement.

33. **RELATIONSHIP OF PARTIES**

Each Party is an independent body and nothing contained in this Agreement shall be construed to imply that there is any relationship between the Parties of partnership or (except as expressly provided in this Agreement) of principal/agent or of employer/employee. No Party shall have the right to act on behalf of another nor to bind the other by contract or otherwise except to the extent expressly permitted by the terms of this Agreement. In particular for the avoidance of doubt, none of the provisions relating to the principles of working in partnership shall be taken to establish any partnership as defined by The Partnership Act 1890.

34. **STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITIES**

Notwithstanding anything apparently to the contrary in this Agreement, in carrying out their statutory duties, the discretion of any Party shall not be fettered or otherwise affected by the terms of this Agreement.

SCHEDULE 1
DELEGATIONS POLICY

DECISION	PROGRAMME DIRECTOR MATTER	JOINT COMMITTEE MATTER	RESERVED MATTER
KEY THEMES			
1. Approval and adoption of OBP			Yes
2. Approval and adoption of any updated OBP save to the extent any such update amounts to a material change to the prevailing OBP or a material change in the content of the Portfolio Programme or any Project Business Case of any of the Approved Projects (in which case the decision to approve and adopt such updated OBP shall be a Reserved Matter) For the avoidance of doubt, a material change is a change which (includes but is not limited to) any change already captured as a "Reserved Matter" in this Agreement.		Yes	
3. Approval and adoption of Programme and Portfolio Business Cases including any updates in accordance with Clause 13 (Business Plan)		Yes	
4. Approval and adoption of the Project Business Cases in accordance with Clause 13 (Business Plan)		Yes	

DECISION	PROGRAMME DIRECTOR MATTER	JOINT COMMITTEE MATTER	RESERVED MATTER
5. Subject to 2 above, varying the Programmes to be delivered.		Yes	
FUNDING AND EXPENDITURE			
6. Agreeing any increase in the Councils' Contribution or the Advisers' Contribution or any Adviser's Individual Contribution			Yes
7. Approval of any disproportionate Internal Costs pursuant to Clause 15.2.2 (Commitment of the Parties and Contributions)		Yes	
8. Approval of expenditure within the approved Annual Budget of the Host Authority held on behalf of the Joint Committee set out in Clause 15.4 (Annual Budget)	Yes		
9. Save where provided for in Clause 15.4.3 where increases subject to index rate shall not require any formal approval (Annual Budget Annual Increases), approval of any further increase to the Annual Budget Contributions shall be a Reserved Matter for the Parties			Yes
10. any changes to the Councils' Supplementary Contribution shall be a Council Matter for the Councils only			Yes – Council Matter only
11. a decision pursuant to Clause 9.1.3 (Corporate Joint Committee) shall be			Yes – Council Matter only

DECISION	PROGRAMME DIRECTOR MATTER	JOINT COMMITTEE MATTER	RESERVED MATTER
a Council Matter for the Councils only			
12. Transfer of funds allocated from one Project to another		Yes	
13. The Host Authority entering into (or agreeing to enter into) any borrowing arrangement on behalf of the Joint Committee and/or giving any security in respect of any such borrowing		Yes	
14. Accepting terms and conditions in relation to any third party funding for the Growth Deal or Growth Vision		Yes	
15. Agreeing the form of the Gateway Reviews	Yes		
16. Agreeing any Welsh Government or UK Government Funding Conditions		Yes	
GENERAL			
17. Approval of the draft Business Delivery Board's terms of reference which are attached at Part 5 of Schedule 2		Yes	
18. Replacement of the Host Authority pursuant to Clause 6.3 (The Host Authority)		Yes	
19. Issue of written notice to a Defaulter to remedy a breach or be treated as			Yes¹⁰

¹⁰ NWEAB TO CONFIRM

DECISION	PROGRAMME DIRECTOR MATTER	JOINT COMMITTEE MATTER	RESERVED MATTER
having withdrawn from the Joint Committee pursuant to Clause 2.3 (Termination)			
20. Any decision to appoint or later remove further bodies or organisations as a signatory Adviser who is or will be a Party to the Agreement to provide financial support to the Joint Committee shall be a Reserved Matter.			Yes
21. Establishment of a sub-committee, sub-group or project management body pursuant to this Agreement and determining their terms of reference and scope of delegation.		Yes	
22. Making any variations to or waiving any rights to or terminating any contracts signed by Parties / the Host Authority (other than this Agreement) which are material to the Growth Deal.		Yes	
23. Amendments to the terms of this Agreement			Yes
24. Approval of the Staffing Structure of the Portfolio Management Office		Yes	
25. The engagement and dismissal (and setting terms engagement of) of members of staff of the Portfolio Management Office other than the Programme Director	Yes		
26. The engagement and dismissal (and setting		Yes	

DECISION	PROGRAMME DIRECTOR MATTER	JOINT COMMITTEE MATTER	RESERVED MATTER
terms engagement of) of the Programme Director.			
27. Commencing any claim, proceedings or other litigation brought by or settling or defending any claim, proceedings or other litigation brought against the Joint Committee or individual Party in relation to the Growth Deal, except in relation to debt collection in the ordinary course of business.		Yes	
28. Making any announcements or releases of whatever nature in relation to the Joint Committee and the Growth Deal	Yes		
29. Approval of the Business Case for creation of a local authority trading company under Local Government Act 2003			Yes
30. Any decision to convert to a Corporate Joint Committee			Yes
31. Subject to the terms of this Agreement, any other matters not covered in Schedule 1 (Delegations Policy) which facilitate, or are conducive or incidental to, the discharge of the Joint Committees Terms of Reference		Yes	

SCHEDULE 2

TERMS OF REFERENCE

PART 1

JOINT COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. AIMS/PURPOSE

- 1.1 The Joint Committee will be the key body to oversee the Growth Deal and to represent the interests of the Parties and its stakeholders and, subject to this Agreement will take all necessary decisions to facilitate and implement its delivery. The Joint Committee will also be responsible for monitoring programme progress and managing the political dimensions of the Growth Deal.
- 1.2 The Joint Committee will also oversee the Growth Vision and, subject to this agreement will take all necessary decisions to facilitate and implement its delivery.
- 1.3 The Joint Committee will carry out the following functions:-
- 1.3.1 determine the form of and number of fund(s) to deliver the Growth Deal;
 - 1.3.2 approve Project Business Cases to deliver the Growth Deal in accordance with the OBP;
 - 1.3.3 provide strategic direction to the Executive Support Group (to include approval of remit for the Executive Support Group and approval of any resourcing issues);
 - 1.3.4 act as a representative for each of the Parties to ensure consistency with individual objectives and visions;
 - 1.3.5 monitor performance, management and working arrangements (to include the necessary audit and assurance checks);
 - 1.3.6 ensure that sufficient resources are committed to the Growth Deal;
 - 1.3.7 arbitrate on any conflicts within the programme or negotiate a solution to any problems between the programme and external bodies;
 - 1.3.8 communicate and provide progress on strategic issues within the Growth Deal;
 - 1.3.9 promote partnership working between the Parties;
 - 1.3.10 publish annual governance statement and Annual Accounts;
 - 1.3.11 liaise with other Growth Deal or City Deal partners across the United Kingdom to share best practice and ensure a co-ordinated strategic approach;
 - 1.3.12 provide the Parties with annual progress reports; and
 - 1.3.13 update the Delegations Policy from time to time.

2. TERMS

- 2.1 At the start of the Growth Deal, to:-
- 2.1.1 finalise any Business Cases pursuant to Clause 13; and
 - 2.1.2 agree the detail of the decision-making process and assessments prior to the Joint Committee considering individual projects.

- 2.2 During the planning and development stages, to:-
- 2.2.1 review project status against the approved plans;
 - 2.2.2 monitor the management of project budget, risks and quality;
 - 2.2.3 promote and support the project among relevant stakeholders and where appropriate obtain their consent;
 - 2.2.4 seek to resolve disputes where these cannot be resolved satisfactorily through other means; and
 - 2.2.5 ensure that the proposals are affordable and deliver maximum value for money for the public sector.

PART 2

EXECUTIVE SUPPORT GROUP'S TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. STATUS

- 1.1 The Group is a professional executive which supports and advises, and enacts the decisions of, the North Wales Economic Ambition Board.
- 1.2 The Group does not have any formal decision-making powers and will advise those officers of the Board, who have delegated powers, in the exercise of their powers.

2. PURPOSE OF GROUP

- 2.1 To (a) co-ordinate professional advice to the North Wales Economic Ambition Board (hereafter referred to as 'the Board'); (b) to enact the decisions of the Board; (c) to oversee the deployment and management of the resources of the Board and (d) to be responsible for the performance management of the work-streams, programmes and projects of the Board.
- 2.2 The Group has the following specific roles and responsibilities:-

Strategic

- 2.2.1 to provide strategic advice on the development of the Growth Vision;
- 2.2.2 to provide professional advice to the Board in the specific fields of transport, skills and employment, economic development, housing, land use planning, and digital;
- 2.2.3 to provide advice on the development of a regional strategy for place regeneration.

Programme and Project Management

Act as the Portfolio Board to oversee the development, co-ordination and delivery of the Programmes and projects within the Growth Deal and to oversee the development, co-ordination and delivery of other projects commissioned by the Board to deliver the Growth Vision.

Performance Management

- 2.2.4 to oversee the management and reporting of performance for the programmes and projects of the Board; and
- 2.2.5 to maintain and manage performance management and risk management reporting systems.

Administration and Communications

- 2.2.6 to support the governance structure and ensure its efficient operation;
- 2.2.7 to oversee a communications strategy; and
- 2.2.8 to act as a "clearing house" for reports to the Board.

3. MEMBERSHIP

- 3.1 The chairperson of the Joint Committee or appropriate deputy
- 3.2 Programme Director
- 3.3 The s.151 and Monitoring Officers from the Host Authority

3.4 A senior officer from the following:-

- 3.4.1 Gwynedd Council;
- 3.4.2 Anglesey Council;
- 3.4.3 Conwy Council;
- 3.4.4 Denbighshire Council;
- 3.4.5 Flintshire Council;
- 3.4.6 Wrexham Council;
- 3.4.7 Bangor University;
- 3.4.8 Glyndwr University;
- 3.4.9 Coleg Cambria;
- 3.4.10 Grwp Llandrillo-Menai;
- 3.4.11 Business Delivery Board.

4. **MEETING SCHEDULES**

- 4.1 Meetings will be held on the second Friday of every month or as otherwise agreed by the Executive Group in order to facilitate its functions.
- 4.2 However, extraordinary meetings will be convened where deemed necessary.

5. **SECRETARIAT**

Secretariat for the Group will be provided by the Portfolio Management Office.

PART 3

PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT OFFICES TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. To provide a professional support team lead by the programme director for the successful delivery of the agreed economic ambition board programme for achieving economic growth and unlocking government funding
2. To provide professional advice and direction to the economic ambition board on key strategies in support of the above, in particular transport, skills and employment, economic development and sector growth, digital infrastructure, and land use planning;
3. To support the development and delivery of north wales growth vision, providing advice and direction for the board to maximise the potential to deliver sustainable and inclusive economic growth in north wales;
4. To co-ordinate the development and delivery of the growth deal for north wales and the
5. To work closely with the business sectors in the region in order to identify opportunities to secure economic growth;
6. To work in collaboration and in partnership with key officers from the uk government and the welsh government to deliver the priorities of the economic ambition board;
7. To lead the procurement of goods, works and services subject to approval by the Joint Committee as more particularly set out in paragraph 3 of part 1 of this Schedule.
8. To be responsible for resource management to include (but not limited to):
 - (a) to maintain an annual budget for the Board;
 - (b) to oversee deployment of the budget;
 - (c) to ensure value for money in the use of the budget; and
 - (d) to make appointments and enter into contracts with the approval of the Board and within the approved budget, and in accordance with the policies of the Host Authority

PART 4

SUB-COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

TERMS OF REFERENCE

TRANSPORT DELIVERY SUB-BOARD

The North Wales Economic Ambition Board (“EAB”) appoints a Transport Delivery Board to discharge the functions set out below.

The Sub-Board will be a Sub-Committee appointed under Section 102 of the Local Government Act 1972 and Section 20 of The Local Government Act 2000 and Regulation made thereunder

The Sub- Board shall comprise of 6 Councillors, one from each Partner Council who will be Executive Members.

Observers may be invited to attend based on their knowledge and potential contribution to the areas of responsibility.

ROLE:

- The to plan and co-ordinate a joined-up and integrated strategic transportation service in North Wales;
- to plan, co-ordinate and advise on regional responses to the Welsh Government Improving Public Transport proposals.
- to plan and co-ordinate the delivery of strategic transportation interventions, including Growth Bid and transport decarbonisation projects;
- to report to the NWEAB on progress, performance, outcomes and funding issues. Delivery Sub-Board will be a Sub-Committee of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board.

PURPOSE:

To respond to and implement the briefs and commissions as instructed and agreed by the Economic Ambition Board.

The Sub-Board have the following generic roles and responsibilities within their Role:

Strategic

- to co-ordinate Local Authority and other partner activity so that a strategic regional approach takes place in the relevant policy area;
 - to provide relevant strategic advice to the Board;
 - to support the Board to influence national policies and funding programmes;
- to enact the decisions of the Economic Ambition Board. The Economic Ambition Board will provide direction and commission the Delivery Sub-Boards to undertake key tasks.

Programme & Project Management

- to co-ordinate the planning, development and delivery of relevant Programme(s) commissioned by the Economic Ambition Board;
- to co-ordinate the planning, development and delivery of relevant Projects commissioned by the Economic Ambition Board, specifically the Projects included in the Growth Deal “Bid”. This will include the development of individual Outline Business Case and 5 Case Business Models for each Project;
- to monitor and review progress and impact of relevant Programme(s) and related Projects, and to put forward any recommendations to the Board.

Resource Management

- To oversee the deployment of the relevant budget and to ensure value for money in the use of the budget.
- To report to the EAB on the budget and to seek approval from the EAB for any variations in the budget.

Performance Management

- To co-ordinate the reporting of performance of the relevant Programme(s) and Projects to the Board;
- To maintain and manage performance and risk management reporting system.

Sub-Committee Powers

None delegated.

RELATIONSHIP WITH EAB

- The Chair of each Delivery Sub-Board will be invited to some meetings of the Economic Ambition Board to report on progress, performance and outcomes.
- The Economic Ambition Board will create a Portfolio Lead for each of the Delivery Sub-Board themes. They will be Observers in meeting of the Sub-Board, and will ensure a direct link with the Economic Ambition Board.

PROCEDURE AND GOVERNANCE

- A Lead Officer for each of the Delivery Sub-Board will be appointed.
- Decisions will normally be reached by achieving consensus and then a formal vote amongst the 6 local authority members requiring a simple majority.
- In the event that a vote is deadlocked the issue will be referred to the EAB for decision.
- In all other respects the Sub-Board will apply the rules and procedures which apply to the EAB as set out in GA1 or any subsequent superseding agreement.

SCHEDULE 2

PART 5

Business Delivery Board's Terms of Reference

BUSINESS DELIVERY BOARD

1. Role and Remit

- 1.1. The Business Delivery Board will act as the voice of the business and employers in the region, working closely with organisations such as the North Wales & Mersey Dee Business Council (the umbrella body for Business representative organisations). It will focus on the delivery of the Growth Vision for the region.
- 1.2. It will have a key role in challenging and advising the North Wales Economic Ambition Board on matters relating to the Growth Vision and Growth Deal.
- 1.3. The Board will highlight the barriers to growth, as well as bring forward ideas and proposals. It will be expected that the North Wales Economic Ambition Board will consider ways in which such proposals can be delivered.
- 1.4. The Board is a key part of the Growth Deal governance apparatus and performs an important two-fold role:
 - To ensure the voice and wishes of business shape and influence the Growth Vision for North Wales and the Growth Deal package and delivery;
 - To ensure that opportunities galvanised and catalysed by the development of the Growth Deal can be accessed and led by businesses.
- 1.5. The Board is committed to optimising the opportunities within the Growth Deal, and promoting investment leverage from companies, enterprises and businesses.
- 1.6. The Board will consist of a Chair and between 9-12 members. Its membership will include representatives and sector experts from key businesses from the growth and foundation economic sectors across the region. There is an expectation that the Board Members will include senior decision makers from representative organisations.
- 1.7. Its programme of work (which will be set out in an annual business plan) will demonstrate clearly the private sector opportunities stemming from the delivery of the Growth Vision and Growth Deal. The annual business plan and proposals brought forward by the Board will be formally considered by the North Wales Economic Ambition Board for incorporation within its work programme.
- 1.8. It will strengthen the profile of the business voice and input into the Growth Deal, in order that whilst it is politically-led, it is business and industry driven and delivered.
- 1.9. The Board will ensure that investment in growth is informed and shaped by business for business.
- 1.10. The Chair of the Board will be an Adviser of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board and, in partnership with the North Wales Economic Ambition Board will play a key role in providing

leadership and key relations with Welsh Government and the UK Government. The post of Chair will be advertised and publicly appointed.

- 1.11. The constitution and role of the Board within the governance of the Growth Deal and its inter-relationship with the Joint Committee will be encapsulated in Governance Agreement 2. The Board must be flexible to change their constitution and role as they fit in order to be as independent as possible. The constitution and role of the Board and any amendments will be agreed with the North Wales Economic Ambition Board.
- 1.12. The North Wales Economic Ambition Board will fully consider and take into account any advice or challenge from the Business Delivery Board. Any formal recommendations made by the Business Delivery Board to the North Wales Economic Ambition Board will be presented in a written report to them which will be considered at a meeting of the Board and the response and reasons will be recorded and communicated.

2. Key Responsibilities

2.1. The Business Delivery Board will be responsible for:

- Reviewing and shaping the Growth Vision for North Wales;
- Provide review and challenge to the portfolio of projects proposed within the Growth Deal, and consider and challenge the Full Business Cases for individual projects maximising the impact of the Growth Deal for the region, securing additional direct and indirect private sector investment for the Deal.;
- Focus on the delivery of projects commissioned by the North Wales Economic Ambition Board, and ensure that opportunities catalysed by the Growth Deal can be accessed and led by businesses;
- Provide an advocacy role, promoting the region as a prime investor and visitor location and working with partners to increase the value and quality for inward investment;
- Provide advice on proposed intervention from other key stakeholders, including Welsh Government.

2.2. It will work closely and in partnership with the North Wales Economic Ambition Board.

3. The Chair of the Board

- 3.1. The Chair will be appointed on a two-year fixed term basis, with the maximum number of terms limited to two.
- 3.2. The time commitment, whilst flexible, is assumed to be an average of 1 day a week, though the level of commitment will fluctuate across the term.
- 3.3. The role will be remunerated at a level which reflects the significance of the role.
- 3.4. The Chair will be responsible for:
 - Leading the Board, ensuring it fulfils its responsibilities;
 - Chair meetings of the Board, collecting views expressed by each stakeholder group and where necessary arriving at a consensus;
 - Communicating and representing the recommendations of the Board on the North Wales Economic Ambition Board;

- Being a “business” figurehead and champion of the region both nationally and internationally.

The Chair should have the following background and experience:

- Be a member of the private sector business community;
- Have extensive senior leadership experience;
- Have a wide network of public, private and government contacts which extends beyond the region.

3.5. Strategic, research, policy and media support will be provided to the Chair and the Business Delivery Board by the Portfolio Management Office (once fully established).

3.6. Both the UK Government and Welsh Government will need to approve the appointment of the Chair. The process will be overseen by the North Wales Economic Ambition Board. Subject to the approval of both the UK and Welsh Governments the Chair will be appointed by the North Wales Economic Ambition Board.

3.7. The Chair will be appointed in accordance with the acknowledged standards for public appointments, including an open advert.

4. Selecting the Business Delivery Board Members

4.1. The selection process must be open and transparent, accompanied by the selection criteria listed below.

4.2. The Appointment Panel will consist of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board and the Chair of the Business Delivery Board. The Panel will put forward recommendations to the Economic Ambition Board for approval of the most suitable candidates to appoint.

4.3. The Board Membership role will be advertised publicly to encourage a diverse range of applications. The collective set of skills and experience of the Board will be a key consideration. There will be an application process which will allow for proposed members to be nominated.

4.4. Collectively, the Board should have the following knowledge and skills:

- Understanding of the economy of North Wales and an appreciation of opportunities in the growth and foundation economic sectors across the region;
- A wide network of contacts across the UK and internationally;
- Experience of analysing and assessing commercial, technical and financial information in order to provide quality advice to decision makers;
- Experience of providing impartial advice on projects and initiatives, particularly in relation to their viability and impact on economy and employment issues.

4.5. The process will be undertaken in consultation with both Governments.

4.6. In appointing members consideration will be given to establishing a membership which as far as possible is balanced overall so that it reflects and represents the whole of the geographical area of North Wales its business sectors and communities and this will need to be taken into account during the appointment process.

5. Conflict of Interest

- 5.1. To allow the Business Delivery Board to undertake all its function, a clear distinction will be drawn between those involved in specific project development and those preparing recommendations on those projects to the North Wales Economic Ambition Board. A robust system of declaration of conflict of interest will be put in place. In addition, Advisors to the Economic Ambition Board are governed by a GA Code of Conduct and the Conflicts Policy in relation to personal interests. Members appointed to the Business Delivery Board will be expected to comply with the same provisions.

6. GA2

- 6.1 As part of each party's appointment to the Business Delivery Board they will each acknowledge and accept the terms of the GA2 and will be expected to comply with the same to include (but not limited to) Clause 22 (Confidentiality and Announcements).

SCHEDULE 3
SCRUTINY PROTOCOL

1. Communication and Awareness Raising

- 1.1 The Portfolio Management Office will prepare a quarterly report on the work of the Economic Ambition Board which shall include:
- Progress on implementation of the OBP including individual Programmes and Projects.
 - The Financial Performance of the Board
 - Forthcoming developments.
- 1.2 The report shall be sent to each Partner Organisation and shall be in a format which will facilitate its submission into the Partners Scrutiny or other governance arrangements as the Partners determine.
- 1.3 An Officer of the Portfolio Management Office will be available to attend at a relevant meeting provided, in the absence of special circumstances or call in of a decision no single Partner may require an officer to attend more than two of their meetings per annum.

2. Call in

- 2.1 All decisions of the EAB or its Sub-Boards ("Decision Body") will be recorded and published on a statement of decisions prepared in compliance with Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Decisions, Documents and Meetings) (Wales) Regulations 2001 That notice will also be sent to the head of Democratic Services of the Councils to be dealt with in accordance with the governance arrangements of their respective Councils in relation to Scrutiny.
- 2.2 Notwithstanding any provision in the Constitution of any Council no decision of a Decision Body may be called by any Council at the expiry of 5 clear working days (which shall be taken to expire at 17:00 on the final day) following the date of publication of the statement of decision.
- 2.3 In the event that a request for call in of a decision is served in compliance with that Councils Constitution a copy of that notice or notices shall be sent to the following as soon as reasonably practicable thereafter:
1. Monitoring Officer of each of the Other Councils
 2. Programme Director
 3. Board representative of the other Partners
- 2.4 The Council will arrange for the matter to be considered at a meeting of the relevant Scrutiny Committee to be held no later than 15 clear working days from the date of the notice of Call in being accepted by that Council.
- 2.5 No decision of a Decision Body may be called in more than once by any Council and re-consideration of a decision shall not be subject to Call In by any Council.
- 2.6 Representatives of the Joint Committee and of the Portfolio Management Office shall be invited to attend and speak at the meeting of a Scrutiny Committee which considers the request for call in.
- 2.7 If, having considered the decision, the Scrutiny Committee is still concerned about it, then it may refer it back to the decision making body for reconsideration, setting out in writing the nature of its concerns to the decision maker they shall then reconsider within a further 15 clear working days, amending the decision or not, before adopting a final decision.

- 2.8 Notice of the recommendations of the meeting shall be served in writing on the Programme Director, Monitoring Officer and Chief Finance Officer of the Joint Committee no later than 5 clear working days after the date of the meeting.
- 2.9 The call-in procedure set out above shall not apply where the decision being taken is urgent. A decision will be urgent if any delay likely to be caused by the call-in process would, for example, seriously prejudice the work of a Decision Body or other public interests. The decision of whether a matter is urgent will be taken by resolution of the Decision Body setting out the grounds for the decision. The record of the decision, and notice by which it is made public, shall state whether in the opinion of the decision making body, the decision is an urgent one, and therefore not subject to call-in and the grounds for that decision.

SCHEDULE 4
PARTIES' DETAILS

Recipient's name	Address	Email
Conwy Council:- [Chief Executive]	PO Box 1, Conwy, LL30 9GN	lwan.davies@conwy.gov.uk
Denbighshire Council:- [Chief Executive]	PO Box 62, Ruthin, LL15 9AZ	Judith.greenhalgh@denbighshire.gov.uk
Flintshire Council:- [Chief Executive]	County Hall, Mold CH7 6NB	Chief.executive@flintshire.gov.uk
Gwynedd Council:- [Chief Executive]	Gwynedd Council Shirehall Street Caernarfon LL55 1SH	dilwynowenwilliams@gwynedd.llyw.cymru
Isle of Anglesey Council:- [Chief Executive]	Council Offices Llangefni Anglesey LL77 7TW	AnnwenMorgan2@ynysmon.gov.uk
Wrexham Council: [Chief Executive]	The Guildhall Wrexham LL11 1AY	lan.bancroft@wrexham.gov.uk
Bangor University:- [Vice Chancellor]	College Road, Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 2DG	vc@bangor.ac.uk
Glyndwr University:- [Vice Chancellor]	Glyndŵr University Mold Road Wrexham LL11 2AW	Maria.Hinfelaar@glyndwr.ac.uk
Coleg Cambria:- [Chief Executive]	Kelsterton Road Connah's Quay Deeside Flintshire CH5 4BR	Yana.williams@cambria.ac.uk

Recipient's name	Address	Email
GRWP Llandrillo Menai:- [Chief Executive]	Llandudno Road, Colwyn Bay, LL28 4HZ	dafydd.evans@gllm.ac.uk
Business Delivery Board	Conwy Business Centre Llandudno Junction Conwy LL31 9XX	AlwenWilliams@buegogleddcymru.co.uk – to be updated when Chair of the Business Delivery Board is appointed
Programme Director	Conwy Business Centre Llandudno Junction Conwy LL31 9XX	AlwenWilliams@buegogleddcymru.co.uk

SCHEDULE 5

HEADS OF EXPENDITURE

1. The following is a non-exhaustive list of the heads of expenditure that may be incurred by the Parties in the Growth Deal:-
 - 1.1 "**Internal Costs**" means the costs associated with each Party providing internal resources in relation to the Growth Deal which includes but is not limited to:-
 - 1.1.1 staffing costs and associated overheads;
 - 1.1.2 project management / technical & admin support;
 - 1.1.3 communications; and
 - 1.1.4 (where applicable) costs incurred in respect of managing FOIA requests pursuant to Clause 26 (Freedom of Information and Environmental Information).
 - 1.2 "**Joint Committee Costs**" means the operational and management costs of the Joint Committee, (and its sub committees and groups created pursuant to Clauses 9.8 and 9.9) which includes but is not limited to:-
 - 1.2.1 staffing costs and associated overheads including but not limited to the costs and liabilities of the appointment and any termination of appointment of the Programme Director and each individual within the Portfolio Management Office;
 - 1.2.2 project management / technical & admin support;
 - 1.2.3 communications;
 - 1.2.4 Translation costs;
 - 1.2.5 the costs incurred by the Host Authority in carrying out the duties of the Host Authority pursuant to Clauses 6 and 7;
 - 1.2.6 the costs incurred by the Joint Committee and/or the Host Authority in developing the Portfolio Business Cases and the Project Business Cases for the Regional Project including but not limited to external professional advice; and
 - 1.2.7 without double counting, any other external professional advice.
 - 1.3 For the avoidance of doubt, Internal Costs and Joint Committee Costs do not include any revenue costs or capital investment relating to the implementation of any project pursuant to the Growth Deal.

SCHEDULE 6

ACCOUNTING PERIODS

1. The initial Accounting Period shall be the date of this Agreement until 31 March and thereafter shall be:-

1 April to 31 March

2. Each Quarter shall be shall be the date of this Agreement until 31 March and thereafter shall be:-

- 1 April to 30 June;
- 1 July to 30 September;
- 1 October 31 December; and
- 1 January to 31 March.

SCHEDULE 7

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR NWEAB ADVISERS

1. You must in all matters consider whether you have a personal interest and whether this code of conduct requires you to disclose that interest.
2. You must regard yourself as having a personal interest in any business of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board if:-
 - 2.1 it is likely to affect the well-being or financial position of such persons below to a greater extent than other tax payers in North Wales:-
 - 2.1.1 you;
 - 2.1.2 anyone with whom you live; or
 - 2.1.3 anyone with whom you have close personal association;
 - 2.2 it relates to or is likely to affect any of the following:-
 - 2.2.1 any employment or business of such a person;
 - 2.2.2 any person who employs or has appointed such a person, any firm in which such a person is a partner or any company for which such a person is a remunerated director;
 - 2.2.3 any corporate body which has a place of business or land in North Wales, and in which any such persons has a beneficial interest in a class of securities of that body that exceeds the nominal value of £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body;
 - 2.2.4 any contract for goods, services or works made between the NWEAB:-
 - (a) any such person;
 - (b) a firm in which such a person is a partner;
 - (c) a company of which such a person is a remunerated director; or
 - (d) a body of the description specified in sub-paragraph (iii) above;
 - 2.2.5 any land in North Wales:-
 - (a) in which such a person has a beneficial interest; or
 - (b) which such a person has a licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy for 28 days or more;
 - 2.2.6 any land where the landlord is the NWEAB and the tenant is:
 - (a) a firm in which such a person is a partner;
 - (b) a company of which such a person is a remunerated director; or
 - (c) a body of the description specified in sub-paragraph 2.2.3 uwchben;
 - 2.2.7 any of the following bodies in which such a person is a member or holds a position of general control or management:-
 - (a) a public authority or body exercising functions of a public nature;

- (b) a company, industrial and provident society, charity, or body directed to charitable purposes;
- (c) a body whose principal purposes include the influence of public opinion or policy;
- (d) a trade union or professional association; or
- (e) a private club, society or association operating within North Wales.

Declaration of Personal Interests

3. Where you have a personal interest in any business of the NWEAB and you attend a meeting at which that business is considered, you must declare the existence and nature of that interest before or at the commencement of that item, or when the interest becomes apparent.
4. Where you have a personal interest in any business of NWEAB and you write or speak to an officer or member of the NWEAB then you must:-
 - 4.1 include details of that interest in the written communication; or
 - 4.2 declare the interest at the commencement, or when it becomes apparent to you that you have such an interest.
5. You must, in respect of a personal interest not previously declared, before or immediately after the close of a meeting where the declaration is made, give written notification to the NWEAB's monitoring officer on the prescribed form, containing:-
 - 5.1 details of the personal interest;
 - 5.2 details of the business to which the personal interest relates; and
 - 5.3 your signature.
6. A personal interest is also a prejudicial interest if it is one which a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice your judgement of the public interest except as set out in paragraph 7 islaw.
7. You will not be regarded as having a prejudicial interest in any business where:
 - 7.1 that business is not the determination of any approval, consent, licence, permission or registration; or
 - 7.2 that business relates to:-
 - 7.2.1 another public authority or body exercising functions of a public nature in which you hold a position of general control or management;
 - 7.2.2 a body to which you have been elected, appointed or nominated by the NWEAB;
 - 7.2.3 your role as a school governor (where you are not appointed or nominated by an authority which is a member of NWEAB) unless it relates particularly to the school of which you are a governor;
 - 7.2.4 your role as a member of a Local Health Board where you have not been appointed or nominated by an authority which is a member of the NWEAB; or
 - 7.2.5 save that an interest shall not be considered as being personal and prejudicial where it relates to or is likely to affect the Party which has appointed the Adviser to the Joint Committee;

- 7.3 that business relates to:-
- 7.3.1 the housing functions of an authority which is a member of the NWEAB where you hold a tenancy or lease with that authority, provided that you do not have arrears of rent of more than two months, and provided that those functions do not relate particularly to your tenancy or lease; or
- 7.3.2 the functions of an authority which is a member of the NWEAB in respect of school meals, transport and travelling expenses, where you are a guardian, parent, grandparent or have parental responsibility (as defined in section 3 of the Children Act 1989) of a child in full time education, unless it relates particularly to the school which that child attends.
- 7.4 It relates to or is likely to affect an Adviser which has appointed you as its representative to the Joint Committee.

Overview and Scrutiny Committees

8. You also have a prejudicial interest in any business before an overview and scrutiny committee of the NWEAB (or of a sub-committee of such a committee) where:-
- 8.1 that business relates to a decision made (whether implemented or not) or action taken by the NWEAB or another of its committees, sub-committees, joint committees or joint sub-committees; and
- 8.2 at the time the decision was made or action was taken, you were an adviser to the NWEAB, committee, sub-committee, joint-committee or joint sub-committee AND you were present when that decision was made or action was taken.

Participation in Relation to Disclosed Interests

9. Where you have a prejudicial interest in any business of the NWEAB, unless you have obtained a dispensation from the Host Authority's Standards Committee, you must:-
- 9.1 withdraw from the room, chamber or place where a meeting considering the business is being held:-
- 9.1.1 where 9.1.2 below applies, immediately after the period for making representations, answering questions or giving evidence relating to the business has ended and in any event before further consideration of the business begins, whether or not the public are allowed to remain in attendance for such consideration; or
- 9.1.2 in any other case, whenever it becomes apparent that that business is being considered at that meeting;
- 9.2 not exercise NWEAB functions in relation to that business;
- 9.3 not seek to influence a decision about that business;
- 9.4 not make any written representations (whether by letter, facsimile or some other form of electronic communication) in relation to that business unless the public has a right to do so; and
- 9.5 not make any oral representations (whether in person or some form of electronic communication) in respect of that business or immediately cease to make such oral representations when the prejudicial interest becomes apparent unless the public has a right to do so.
10. Where you have a prejudicial interest in any business of NWEAB you may attend a meeting but only for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence relating to the business, provided that the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose, whether under a statutory right or otherwise.

11. Paragraph 12 does not prevent you attending and participating in a meeting if:-
 - 11.1 you are required to attend a meeting of an overview or scrutiny committee, by such committee exercising its statutory powers;
 - 11.2 you are attending only for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence relating to the business, provided that the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose, whether under a statutory right or otherwise; or
 - 11.3 you have the benefit of a dispensation provided that you:-
 - 11.3.1 state at the meeting that you are relying on the dispensation; and
 - 11.3.2 before or immediately after the close of the meeting give written notification to your authority containing:-
 - (a) details of the prejudicial interest;
 - (b) details of the business to which the prejudicial interest relates;
 - (c) details of, and the date on which, the dispensation was granted; and
 - (d) your signature.
12. Where you have a prejudicial interest and are making written or oral representations to the NWEAB in reliance upon a dispensation, you must provide details of the dispensation within any such written or oral representation and, in the latter case, provide written notification to the NWEAB within 14 days of making the representation.

SCHEDULE 8

LIABILITY REPORT

The Liability Report shall include (but shall not be limited to) irrecoverable expenditure incurred and committed in relation to the following:

	<u>Amount</u> (all figures in round pounds)
Any committed costs including but not limited to those set out in Clause 19.5 (Withdrawal)	
Procurement Costs	
Costs associated with delays and having to revisit any procurements (including but not limited to the cost of legal, financial and technical advice)	
Land costs – costs associated with identifying and procuring land	
Staff costs (and associated overheads) in progressing the scheme:- a) Consultancy / Advisers fees b) Internal Project Management and monitoring c) Internal Professional advice	
All other reasonable and properly incurred costs and losses (to include the cost of preparing the Liability Report)	
Any costs, claims and damages arising from any third parties in respect of any costs relating to any delay or arising from the termination	

Certified Correct _____
(Signed)

(Date)

SCHEDULE 9
GROWTH VISION

SCHEDULE 10
OVERARCHING BUSINESS PLAN

**SCHEDULE 11
CONFLICTS POLICY**

CONFLICTS POLICY

DATED

NORTH WALES ECONOMIC AMBITION BOARD

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST POLICY

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This is the conflicts of interest policy ("**Conflicts Policy**") of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board ("**NWEAB**") which sets out the guidelines and procedures for identifying, monitoring and managing actual and potential conflicts of interest.
- 1.2 The Conflicts Policy seeks to highlight both:
- (a) Personal Interests (defined in paragraph 3); and
 - (b) Organisational Interests which relates to specific conflicts arising as a result of a person's duty to act in the best interests of both the NWEAB and its employer/organising body (defined in paragraph 4);
- together "**Interests**".
- 1.3 The Conflicts Policy applies to the members and advisers of the **NWEAB Bodies** as listed in Schedule 1 of this Conflicts Policy each individually a "**Person**".
- 1.4 The Conflicts Policy:
- (a) forms part of the conditions of appointment of each Person to an NWEAB Body (both present and future appointments);
 - (b) is deemed to be accepted by each and everyone acting in each role;
 - (c) is in force as at the date on the front page of this Conflicts Policy or, if earlier, the Commencement Date of the GA2; and
- 1.5 It is intended that the Conflicts Policy will be attached as a Schedule to the second Governance Agreement ("**GA2**") to be put in place between the Parties.

2. The purpose of this policy

- 2.1 The NWEAB is a Local Authority Joint Committee formed as part of a partnership between the North Wales Local Authorities (the Councils) and other bodies (the Advisers) listed in Schedule 1 of this Conflicts Policy.
- 2.2 It's governance principles and arrangements are set out in the first Governance Agreement ("**GA1**") which will be updated and superseded by the GA2 around the time the Growth Deal is signed which is schedule to be at end of 2020.
- 2.3 It is a public body administering and directing public resource and finance in the public interest. It adopts and promotes the highest standards of probity and accountability in its activities. The Councillors are governed by their Local Code of Conduct for Members of Local Authorities which includes, amongst other things, the management of Personal Interests and, in the case of Advisers to the Joint Committee acting in that role, a voluntary Code of Conduct relating to Personal Interests incorporated into GA1 and will be incorporated into GA2. Local Authority Officers are governed by their Code of Conduct which will generally apply to their conduct. The Conflicts Policy regulates each Person's role within NWEAB Bodies and is

intended to complement, and work alongside, these Codes of Conduct. In the event of any discrepancy, please report this immediately to the NWEAB's Monitoring Officer.

- 2.4 Conflicts of interest can inhibit open discussions and may result in a Person taking irrelevant considerations into account or making decisions that are not in the public's best interests. They can also damage the reputation of the NWEAB if it appears that a Person is influenced by personal interests or loyalties and in some circumstance create a risk of legal challenge to a decision. All Persons must therefore be alert to the possibility that they, or any member of a NWEAB body could be affected by a conflict of interest.
- 2.5 The NWEAB has recognised that the partnering and joint working approach to working with various sectors of the North Wales Economy mean that there will be occasions where members or participants in meetings, consultations and advisory capacities will have their own commercial or business Interests in the matter under consideration. This may mean that their ability to act in the public interest or the perception of their ability to act in the public interest will be undermined to the detriment of the NWEAB.
- 2.6 The procedures in this policy will enable the identification and management of conflicts of Interest.
- 2.7 This Conflicts Policy:-
- (a) aims to assist you in identifying and recognising conflicts of interest that may arise due to your role on an NWEAB body; and
 - (b) sets out the NWEAB'S expectations and requirements as to how such conflicts should be managed, in order to ensure that that conflicts do not prevent them from making decisions in the public interest and protect both the NWEAB and the NWEAB Team from any appearance of impropriety in cases where conflicts of interest arise.
- 2.8 It is your responsibility to ensure that you have read, understand and are able to comply with this Conflicts Policy.

3. Identifying a Personal Interest

You must regard yourself as having an Personal Interest in any business of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board in which you are participating as a member of a NWEAB Body or advising that Body if:-

- 3.1 it does or is likely to directly or indirectly affect the well-being or financial position of such individuals below to a greater extent than other tax payers in North Wales:-
- (a) you;
 - (b) anyone with whom you live; or
 - (c) anyone with whom you have a "close personal association";
- 3.2 directly or indirectly relates to or is likely to directly or indirectly affect any of the following:-
- (a) any employment or business of such an individual;

- (b) anyone who employs or has appointed such an individual, any firm in which such an individual is a partner or any company for which such an individual is a remunerated director;
- (c) any corporate body which has a place of business or land in North Wales, and in which any such persons has a beneficial Interest in a class of securities of that body that exceeds the nominal value of £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body;
- (d) any contract for goods, services or works made between the NWEAB:-
 - (i) any such person;
 - (ii) a firm in which such an individual is a partner;
 - (iii) a company of which such an individual is a remunerated director; or
 - (iv) a body of the description specified in sub-paragraph 2.2.3 above;
- (e) any land in North Wales:-
 - (i) in which such an individual has a beneficial interest; or
 - (ii) which such an individual has a licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy for 28 days or more;
- (f) any land where the landlord is the NWEAB and the tenant is:
 - (i) a firm in which such an individual is a partner;
 - (ii) a company of which such an individual is a remunerated director; or
 - (iii) a body of the description specified in sub-paragraph 2.2.3 above;
- (g) any of the following bodies in which such an individual is a member or holds a position of general control or management:-
 - (i) a company, industrial and provident society, charity, or body directed to charitable purposes;
 - (ii) a body whose principal purposes include the influence of public opinion or policy;
 - (iii) a trade union or professional association; or
 - (iv) a private club, society or association operating within North Wales,
 each one being a "**Personal Interest**".

"Close Personal Association" shall be interpreted in accordance with the provision of the Local Authorities (Model Code of Conduct) (Wales) Order 2008. If in doubt whether an individual is connected, each person should seek advice from the NWEAB's Monitoring Officer.

4. Identifying an Organisational Interest

- 4.1 It is envisaged that, in carrying out your roles for the NWEAB and your employer or organisation that situations may arise where your duty to act in accordance with the General

Principles of NEWAB as set out in GA2 and the public interest does or is likely to come directly or indirectly into conflict with your duty to act in the best interests of your organisation.

4.2 Such conflict matters can arise in a wide range of circumstances including but not limited to where decisions are made around, reporting, contractual discussion and investment requests.

4.3 Examples of such a conflict are set out below:-

Example 1

(a) *You will have an Organisational Interest in any business before a Programme Board of which you are a member or advising where that business involves the review or scrutiny of the performance of your organisation specifically in delivering a project or an aspect of a project which it has either by grant or contract committed to provide.*

(b) *You will have an Organisational Interest in any business before any EAB body where your organisation is a bidder for a contract whose bid is being evaluated or awarded by that body*

4.4 Whilst the above is a fairly obvious example of a conflict of interest there may be situations where the conflict is less 'clear cut'. It is your responsibility for identifying where such Interests have arisen or may potentially arise.

4.5 Should you feel that you are unable to determine whether a matter in question involves a Personal or Organisational Interest you should refer the matter to the NWEAB's Monitoring Officer.

5. Procedure for assessing whether an Interest is a Conflict of Interest

In order to determine whether an Interest is a "**Conflict of Interest**", the following steps shall be followed:

5.1 Step One – Exclusions

Do any of the Exclusions apply? It is acknowledged and agreed that where you have a Personal or Organisational Interest in any business of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board, this is not a Conflict of Interest where that business:

(a) involves your attending or making submissions to any body or meeting where you are not the decision maker or adviser but are attending by invitation to represent your organisation or making submissions or otherwise participating in any process on behalf of your organisation; and/or

(b) where the nature of the Conflict of Interest is such that it is common to the majority of the business or other sector representatives of which you are part, each one an "**Exclusion**".

5.2 Step Two - Objective Test

- (a) If none of the Exclusions above apply, you should consider whether the Interest in question is one which is likely to significantly impair your decision making. To do so you should consider the following "Objective Test":-

'Would an ordinary member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, reasonably conclude that the Interest is so significant that it is likely to prejudice your discussion or decision making?'

- (b) If the answer to the above is yes, you must promptly declare such Conflict of Interest to the Monitoring Officer and, in addition, declare such Conflict of Interest at each board meeting that such matter is discussed. Please see paragraph 7 in relation to the additional implications of having a Conflict of Interest.
- (c) Where you have a Personal or Organisational Interest but the Objective Test has not been satisfied or you are not certain that the Objective Test has been satisfied, you must promptly declare such Conflict of Interest to the Monitoring Officer and, in addition, declare such Conflict of Interest at each meeting that such matter is discussed. You shall provide reasons as why they consider that the Objective Test has not been satisfied. The Monitoring Officer shall be responsible for determining whether or not such interest is one which may materially prejudice the person's input into the matter.

5.3 Step Three - Monitor

Should any additional grounds arise that change the nature or extent of the conflict, you shall endeavour to either withdraw from the discussions relating to the conflict matter entirely and/or make a further disclosure to the board in line with step three above (as appropriate).

6. Process for declaring conflicts

- 6.1 The first item on the agenda of each meeting will be a standing item requiring all Persons attending the meeting to declare any Interests and whether or not such they consider such Interest to be an actual or potential Conflict of Interest.
- 6.2 If a Person considers that they have an actual or potential Conflict of Interest, they must inform the chair as soon as possible and always before any discussion of the relevant matter. The declaration must specify the nature and extent of any Interest that gives rise to a Conflict of Interest.
- 6.3 If a Party is uncertain whether or not they are conflicted, they must err on the side of caution and transparency and declare the Interest and paragraph 5 above shall apply.
- 6.4 All Conflicts of Interest that have been declared must be recorded in the minutes of the meeting in which they were declared or, if not declared in a meeting, in the minutes of the next meeting.

6.5 If a Person has an Interest in a transaction or arrangement that has already been entered into by the NWEAB but has not declared that Interest, they must declare the nature and extent of that Interest as soon as is reasonably practicable.

7. Implications of a conflict

7.1 If you decide you have a Conflict of Interest and it meets the Objective Test you must:

- (a) not make any written or oral representations (whether in person or via any form of electronic communication or otherwise) in respect of that business;
- (b) ensure that you do not participate in, or influence in any way, any discussions relating to the relevant conflict matter;
- (c) excuse yourself from the part of the meeting in which the conflict matter is discussed and again during any vote of such matter; and
- (d) your will not count towards the quorum for such vote and will not be entitled to vote on such matter.

7.2 The minutes of the relevant meeting must include a record of the nature and extent of the conflict, an outline of the discussion and the actions taken to manage the conflict.

7.3 In all instances the advice of the Monitoring Officer must be sought.

8. Declaration and Register of Interests by prospective Parties

8.1 Each Person within the NWEAB Team has a personal responsibility to declare any Interest that might reasonably be regarded as potentially giving rise to a conflict.

8.2 Before a prospective Party is appointed to the NWEAB Team they may be asked to identify potential Conflicts of Interests.

8.3 If the Parties consider it likely that the prospective Party will be subject to serious or frequent Conflicts of Interest, the Parties should consider whether it is appropriate to proceed with the appointment.

8.4 If a Person joins the NWEAB Team it must confirm that it is accepts and will comply with (and ensure that its representatives shall) shall comply with this Conflicts Policy.

8.5 The Monitoring Officer of the NWEAB will be responsible for maintaining the register of Interests, and will record in the register all conflicts, Interests, gifts and hospitality declared by each Person; and

9. Monitoring, enforcing and reviewing this Conflicts Policy

Any Person who becomes aware of a breach of this Conflicts Policy must report it to the Monitoring Officer as soon as possible who will determine what steps are required in response.

SCHEDULE 1

LIST OF THE COUNCILS AND ADVISERS OF THE NWEAB

"Councils"

means the following:-

- (a) Conwy Council;
- (b) Denbighshire Council;
- (c) Flintshire Council;
- (d) Gwynedd Council;
- (e) Isle of Anglesey Council; and
- (f) Wrexham Council

"Advisers"

means the bodies and individuals listed below plus any further individuals and/or bodies whom the Joint Committee chooses to invite in that capacity from time to time:-

- (a) Bangor University;
- (b) Coleg Cambria;
- (c) Grwp Llandrillo Menai;
- (d) Wrexham Glyndwr University; and
- (e) Business Delivery Board.

"NWEAB Bodies"

means the bodies and individuals listed below plus any further bodies whom the Joint Committee determines the Policy should apply to :-

- (a) Executive Support Group
- (b) Programme Board
- (c) Project Board;

SCHEDULE 12
GRANT OFFER LETTER

FEL Y TYSTIUYD, mae'r Cytundeb hwn wedi'i gyflawni fel Gweithred ar y dyddiad a ysgrifennwyd ar ddechrau'r Cytundeb hwn yng ngŵydd y rheini sydd wedi'u nodi.

AS WITNESSED this Agreement has been executed as a Deed on the date written at the beginning of this Agreement in the presence of those stated.

Gosodwyd Sêl Gyffredin **CYNGOR**)
BWRDEISTREF SIROL CONWY)
at hynny yng ngŵydd: -)
The Common Seal of **CONWY COUNTY**)
BOROUGH COUNCIL was)
hereunto affixed in the presence of: -)

Gosodwyd Sêl Gyffredin)
CYNGOR SIR DDINBYCH)
at hynny yng ngŵydd:-)
The Common Seal of **DENBIGHSHIRE**)
COUNTY COUNCIL was)
hereunto affixed in the presence of:-)

Gosodwyd Sêl Gyffredin)
CYNGOR SIR Y FFLINT)
at hynny yng ngŵydd:-)
The Common Seal of **FLINTSHIRE**)
COUNTY COUNCIL was)
hereunto affixed in the presence of:-)

Gosodwyd Sêl Gyffredin)
CYNGOR GWYNEDD)
at hynny yng ngŵydd:-)
The Common Seal of **GWYNEDD**)
COUNCIL was)
hereunto affixed in the presence of:-)

Gosodwyd Sêl Gyffredin)
CYNGOR SIR YNYS MÔN)
at hynny yng ngŵydd:-)
The Common Seal of **THE ISLE OF**)
ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL was)
hereunto affixed in the presence of:-)

Gosodwyd Sêl Gyffredin **CYNGOR**)
BWRDEISTREF SIROL WRECSAM)
at hynny yng ngŵydd:-)
The Common Seal of **WREXHAM**)
COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL was)
hereunto affixed in the presence of:-)

Gosodwyd Sêl Gyffredin

PRIFYSGOL BANGOR drwy hyn yn unol â'i (1).....
Herthyglau
cwmni:- (AELOD O'R CYNGOR/MEMBER OF
COUNCIL)

The Common Seal of the **BANGOR
UNIVERSITY**

was hereby affixed in accordance with its
Articles of (PRINTIWCH ENW/PRINT NAME)

Association

(2).....
(AELOD O'R CYNGOR/MEMBER OF
COUNCIL)

.....
(PRINTIWCH ENW/PRINT NAME)

(3).....
(COFRESTRYDD/ YSGRIFENNYDD)
(REGISTRAR/SECRETARY)

.....
(PRINTIWCH ENW/PRINT NAME)

ym mhresenoldeb
In the presence of)
Enw Tyst
Witness name)
Llofnod Tyst
Witness signature)
Cyferiad Tyst

Arwyddwyd fel gweithred ar ran)
PRIFYSGOL GLYNDWR)
at hynny yng ngŵydd:-)
The Common Seal of)
GLYNDWR UNIVERSITY was)
hereunto affixed in the presence of:-)

Arwyddwyd fel gweithred ar ran)
COLEG CAMBRIA)
Signed as a deed on behalf of)
COLEG CAMBRIA by:-)
In the presence of)
Witness name)
Witness signature)
Witness address)

Arwyddwyd fel gweithred ar ran)
GRWP LLANMDRILLO MENAI)
Signed as a deed on behalf of **GRWP**)
LLANDRILLO MENAI by:-)
In the presence of)
Witness name)
Witness signature)
Witness address)

Future Generations and Cross Cutting Themes Assessment

HOW DOES THE PROPOSAL ALIGN WITH THE WELL-BEING GOALS?		
Well Being Goal	How does the proposal align to the well-being goals? (Please specify any negative or positive impact)	What actions have/will be taken to mitigate any negative impact or to improve positive impact?
<p>A prosperous Wales An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.</p>	<p>+ The portfolio will create several thousand new jobs for North Wales</p> <p>+ It will also train businesses and individuals and expand space for training, incubation, research and development</p> <p>+ The portfolio strengthens North Wales leadership in low carbon technologies across high value manufacturing (biotechnology, hydrogen cell technology), agri-food (carbon neutral agriculture), transport and energy production</p> <p>- Site development will create carbon emissions; these will be mitigated and managed through relevant national and local authority policies and processes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project case approval process will consider likely carbon emissions and savings from each project • The Future Generations Act will be embedded into all procurement activity assessing contribution to relevant national wellbeing indicators for Wales • Environmental considerations will be embedded into contract opportunities, minimising impact on the environment and supporting new technologies, approaches and innovation with contractors and the supply chain, with a focus on the circular economy.
<p>A resilient Wales A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).</p>	<p>+ The portfolio will build skills of businesses and individuals supporting the ability of those businesses and individuals to adapt to change and preparing them for future-focused opportunities</p> <p>+ The Agri-Food & Tourism Programme will build skills in carbon neutral land management and renewable energy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project case approval process will consider biodiversity enhancements and impact of each project • The Future Generations Act will be embedded into all procurement activity assessing contribution to relevant national wellbeing indicators for Wales

	<p>technologies through education of young people and SMEs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> + The regional transport decarbonisation project and the digital programmes will help improve air quality through a shift from travel in petrol/diesel vehicles to remote working and low or zero carbon travel options - Site development may impact some ecologically sensitive sites, releasing carbon and replacing natural ecosystems; impact will be mitigated and managed through relevant national and local authority policies and processes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental considerations will be embedded into contract opportunities, minimising impact on the environment, with a focus on redevelopment of brownfield sites over greenfield development, incorporation of the circular economy and integration of green infrastructure • Seek to minimise the carbon footprint of projects and support low carbon economy, focused on the commitment by Welsh Government to achieve a carbon neutral public sector by 2030, reducing greenhouse gases, improving our natural environment and protecting our biodiversity. • Support and engage with the third sector in a valued based approach that support resilience in the third sector to work with and support contractors and the supply chain.
<p>A healthier Wales A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + The Growth Deal will help improve mental well-being by (1) creating better-quality jobs for the local labour market through targeted interventions in high value sectors and (2) building a more skilled workforce within the region through supporting skills and training initiatives + These opportunities will support improvements in standards of living across the region reducing poverty, inequality and deprivation + Through its partnership with the Regional Skills Partnership, the NWEAB has engaged with the Public Sector Boards considering 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Future Generations Act will be embedded into all procurement activity assessing contribution to relevant national wellbeing indicators for Wales • The NWEAB will work directly with the Public Service Boards (PSBs) to include community resilience and wealth building developing assets in our communities to include supporting positive mental health in workforces, supply chain and in communities • The NWEAB will work with national and local planning processes to promote and champion well-being outcomes through procurement activity and test key policies in

	<p>ways the programmes/projects can equitably benefit the region's residents through skills development and employment</p> <p>+ The regional transport decarbonisation project will improve air quality across North Wales supporting improvements to cardiovascular and respiratory diseases and overall life expectancy</p> <p>+ Regional Skills Partnership has been a key partner in portfolio development considering how the programmes/projects can equitably benefit the region's residents through skills development and employment</p> <p>+ Growth Deal programmes have been distributed across the North Wales region with leadership and engagement from all County Councils with the intention of distributing benefits equitably</p> <p>+ Procurement systems will support local supply chains to engage with larger contracts through supply chain briefings and joint bidding opportunities and pipeline of projects</p> <p>+ Leakage of economic benefits through jobs created being filled by residents from outside the North Wales boundary has been factored into each programme/project</p> <p>+ Jobs created across the portfolio will be disaggregated by gender, age, diversity and job satisfaction</p> <p>- North Wales' residents with poor inter-generational educational experiences may</p>	<p>areas such as <i>building designs that promote health; access to project sites by walking/cycling, including for those with disabilities; and consideration of opportunities to incorporate green infrastructure.</i></p>
<p>A more equal Wales A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio economic background and circumstances).</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NWEAB will promote and champion the delivery of social value and community benefits through procurement activity and test key policies such as the socio economic duty and the social partnerships bill. • Work with our partners to ensure we support people from all backgrounds and circumstances to retrain, develop new skills through volunteering or contribute to education/apprenticeships through innovative recruitment and engagement strategies • Target opportunities and engage with existing mechanisms to support specific groups such as young people or those in areas of deprivation to engage in education and learning/development. • Support engagement and connections with schools and engage with the new curriculum 2022 in Wales, with a focus on digital inclusion.

<p>A Wales of cohesive communities Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.</p>	<p>not be able to access quality training and employment opportunities created by the Growth Deal, perpetuating the region's long-standing poverty gap</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Future Generations Act will be embedded into all procurement activity assessing contribution to relevant national wellbeing indicators for Wales Work with procurement partners and third sector organisations to maximise community wealth building opportunities. On-going work to build understanding and ownership of the Growth Deal at the community level across the region, ensuring an inclusive approach that engages hard-to-reach groups and communities and those disadvantaged by gender, disability, ethnicity or age All project business cases will be required to include a plan setting out steps the project will take to ensure equitable and inclusive access to opportunities arising from the Growth Deal investment as part of their development and approval process
<p>A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Growth Deal focuses on scalable and dispersed growth across the region to achieve sustainable, balanced and inclusive economic growth with the benefits shared across the region. The digital programme will enable better communication across North Wales, connecting communities virtually Jobs created across the portfolio will be disaggregated (annually?) by gender, age, and diversity Programmes and projects are being co-produced through partnerships involving the public and private sector, research bodies and the regional skills partnership, including a focus on engagement of those and those disadvantaged by gender, disability, ethnicity or age. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Future Generations Act will be embedded into all procurement activity assessing contribution to relevant national wellbeing indicators for Wales Engage with new partnership such as museums, theatres and arts to support developing our cultural and Welsh language considerations in contract opportunities
<p>A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Growth Deal will create jobs and training opportunities for young people to stay and work in North Wales and continue to use Welsh in their personal and professional lives The Growth Deal includes projects within growth industries of low carbon energy and high value manufacturing which will provide high value job opportunities cross North Wales, particularly in Gwynedd and Anglesey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Future Generations Act will be embedded into all procurement activity assessing contribution to relevant national wellbeing indicators for Wales Engage with new partnership such as museums, theatres and arts to support developing our cultural and Welsh language considerations in contract opportunities

	<p>which have a greater percentage of Welsh speakers across the region</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are also projects focused on more traditional foundation sectors – agri-food and tourism. This is particularly relevant for the agriculture sector where a greater percentage of workers speak Welsh compared to the general population. • The Agri-Food and Tourism programme will enhance opportunities for residents and visitors to engage positively with our cultural and environmental heritage by providing enhanced customer service opportunities and more opportunities for developing Welsh food products • The NWEAB operates as a bilingual entity in all its operations; all public material is produced bilingually 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All project business cases will be required to complete a Welsh Language impact assessment as part of their development and approval process, and consider opportunities to incorporate celebration of and engagement with Welsh culture and language into the commissioning of each infrastructure project
<p>A globally responsible Wales A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The portfolio will support the transition to a low carbon economy through energy generation, carbon savings and pioneering low carbon technologies within industry and at a business/farm level. Projects will contribute towards Wales’ action on climate change and towards global decarbonisation efforts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Future Generations Act will be embedded into all procurement activity assessing contribution to relevant national wellbeing indicators for Wales • Consider global off-setting for any carbon emissions • Look for opportunities to engage refugees and asylum seekers with valuable skills relevant to the programmes / projects • Ensure that supply chains for projects do not support modern slavery, environmental and human rights abuses

Cross-cutting theme	How does the proposal deliver against the cross-cutting theme?	What actions have/will be taken to mitigate any negative impact or to improve positive impact?
<p>Equal Opportunities</p>	<p>+ The Growth Deal aims to provide increased opportunities for all across North Wales through a range of transformational projects that will bring opportunities for skills development and training. One of the key aspects of the North Wales Growth Deal is that it is spatially targeted to create opportunities across the region</p> <p>+ Regional Skills Partnership has been a key partner in portfolio development considering how the programmes/projects can equitably benefit the region's residents through skills development and employment</p> <p>+ Procurement systems will support local supply chains to engage with larger contracts through supply chain briefings and joint bidding opportunities and pipeline of projects</p> <p>+ The strategic transport and digital programmes will better connect communities across North Wales physically and virtually</p> <p>+ Programmes and projects are being co-produced through partnerships involving the public and private sector, research bodies and the regional skills partnership, including a focus on engagement of those and those disadvantaged by gender, disability, ethnicity or age</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NWEAB will promote and champion the delivery of social value and community benefits through procurement activity and test key policies such as the socio economic duty and the social partnerships bill. • Work with our partners to ensure we support people from all backgrounds and circumstances to retrain, develop new skills through volunteering or contribute to education/apprenticeships through innovative recruitment and engagement strategies • Target opportunities and engage with existing mechanisms to support specific groups such as young people or those in areas of deprivation to engage in education and learning/development. • Support engagement and connections with schools and engage with the new curriculum 2022 in Wales, with a focus on digital inclusion • Jobs created across the portfolio will be disaggregated by gender, age, and diversity •

<p style="text-align: center;">Sustainable Development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> + Sustainable development is at the core of the Growth Deal with a clear focus on low carbon energy, improving digital infrastructure, promoting innovation and securing longer-term sustainability for the region and communities + Strengthens North Wales' leadership in low carbon technologies across high value manufacturing (biotechnology, hydrogen cell technology), agri-food (carbon neutral agriculture), transport and energy production + Builds skills of business and individuals helping those businesses and individuals adapt to change and prepare for future-focused opportunities + The Agri-Food & Tourism Programme will build skills in carbon neutral land management and renewable energy technologies through education of young people and SMEs + The strategic transport and digital programmes will help improve air quality through a shift from travel in petrol/diesel vehicles to remote working and low or zero carbon travel options 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Future Generations Act will be embedded into all procurement activity assessing contribution to relevant national wellbeing indicators for Wales • Environmental considerations will be embedded into contract opportunities, minimising impact on the environment, with a focus on redevelopment of brownfield sites over greenfield development, incorporation of the circular economy and integration of green infrastructure • Seek to minimise the carbon footprint of projects and support low carbon economy, focused on the commitment by Welsh Government to achieve a carbon neutral public sector by 2030, reducing greenhouse gases, improving our natural environment and protecting our biodiversity. • Support and engage with the third sector in a valued based approach that support resilience in the third sector to work with and support contractors and the supply chain.
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	<p>+ The Growth Deal delivers against the North Wales Growth Vision and its objectives, specifically to improve the economic, environmental and cultural well-being of North Wales. A key element of this is supporting and retaining young people in the region and addressing wordlessness and inactivity.</p> <p>+ The portfolio will create several thousand new jobs for North Wales</p> <p>+ It will also train businesses and individuals and expand space for training, incubation, research and development</p> <p>+ Strengthens North Wales' economy through leadership in low carbon technologies across high value manufacturing (biotechnology, hydrogen cell technology), agri-food (carbon neutral agriculture), transport and energy production.</p> <p>+ Regional Skills Partnership has been a key partner in portfolio development considering how the programmes/projects can equitably benefit the region's residents through skills development and employment</p> <p>+ Growth Deal programmes have been distributed across the North Wales region with leadership and engagement from all County Councils with the intention of distributing benefits equitably</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Future Generations Act will be embedded into all procurement activity assessing contribution to relevant national wellbeing indicators for Wales • Work with our partners to ensure we support people from all backgrounds and circumstances to retrain, develop new skills through volunteering or contribute to education/apprenticeships through innovative recruitment and engagement strategies • Target opportunities and engage with existing mechanisms to support specific groups such as young people or those in areas of deprivation to engage in education and learning/development. • Work with procurement partners and third sector organisations to maximise community wealth building opportunities. • Support engagement and connections with schools and engage with the new curriculum 2022 in Wales, with a focus on digital inclusion
<p>Welsh Language & Culture</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Growth Deal will create jobs and training opportunities for young people to stay and work in North Wales and continue to use Welsh in their personal and professional lives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Future Generations Act will be embedded into all procurement activity assessing contribution to relevant national wellbeing indicators for Wales

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Growth Deal includes projects within growth industries of low carbon energy and high value manufacturing which will provide high value job opportunities cross North Wales, particularly in Gwynedd and Anglesey which have a greater percentage of Welsh speakers across the region • There are also projects focused on more traditional foundation sectors – agri-food and tourism. This is particularly relevant for the agriculture sector where a greater percentage of workers speak Welsh compared to the general population. • The Agri-Food and Tourism programme will enhance opportunities for residents and visitors to engage positively with our cultural and environmental heritage by providing enhanced customer service opportunities and more opportunities for developing Welsh food products • The NWEAB operates as a bilingual entity in all its operations; all public material is produced bilingually 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage with new partnership such as museums, theatres and arts to support developing our cultural and Welsh language considerations in contract opportunities • All project business cases will be required to complete a Welsh Language impact assessment as part of their development and approval process, and consider opportunities to incorporate celebration of and engagement with Welsh culture and language into the commissioning of each infrastructure project
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Welsh Language Impact Assessment

Does the proposal align with Welsh Government strategy for the Welsh language - Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh Speakers

The Cymraeg 2050 strategy provides a focus for the Welsh Language and sets out the Welsh Government's vision to achieve a million Welsh Speakers by 2050. A thriving Welsh language is also one of the 7 main goals of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

The ambitious target in the strategy requires action and intervention from across all sectors. The strategy includes a specific theme to create 'favourable conditions – infrastructure and context', this includes community and economy, culture and media, and digital technology; all of which the Growth Deal will contribute towards. The NWEAB have adopted a vision to develop "a confident, cohesive region with sustainable economic growth, capitalising on the success of high value economic sectors and our connection to the economies of the Northern Powerhouse & Ireland." This Vision was founded on three key principles for a smart, connected and resilient North Wales.

The Welsh language strengthens our communities, culture and heritage here in North Wales. The Growth Deal will promote the relevance and value of bilingualism to our economy to support the Welsh language within our communities and within workplaces.

Describe the impact of the proposal on the Welsh Language?

According to the Annual Population Survey in the year ending June 2018, North Wales had 286,400 Welsh speakers in the region. Gwynedd was the authority with the highest proportion of Welsh speakers both in North Wales and in Wales as a whole, with 76.4 per cent of residents aged three and over saying they could speak Welsh. Flintshire had the lowest rate of Welsh-speaking in North Wales at approximately 23.3 per cent. On a regional level, North Wales had the highest proportion of Welsh speakers in Wales, at an estimated 42.7 per cent in the year ending June 2018.

The economy is integral to creating the social conditions for Welsh speakers to remain in the area in Welsh speaking communities or return to those communities. The Growth Deal portfolio aims to create between 3,400 and 4,200 new jobs by 2036. It will also support a net additional GVA uplift of between £1.4billion and £1.7billion for the North Wales economy; to deliver a total investment of upto £1.1billion in the North Wales economy. The programmes and projects within the portfolio will deliver benefits that will have a positive impact on as many communities as possible across the region; enable economic growth; and attract investment.

Employment opportunities are key to the future of the Welsh language, the language is a valuable skill for employment in the region. The programmes and projects will enable job creation; this will provide opportunities for Welsh speakers to work in North Wales. Historically North Wales has seen the outward migration of young people, the delivery of the Growth Deal will support to retain young people in the region. This will protect and promote the Welsh language and culture, and contribute towards scalable and dispersed growth in the region. Having a bilingual workforce in North Wales, both current and future, enables us to promote the diversity of language skills. This will ultimately lead to retention and development of the Welsh language across all sectors adding value and strength to our economy.

The Welsh language can be seen as an economic driver boosting business and tourism within the region for the community and visitors to experience the culture and strong sense of community within the region.

The Growth Deal will proactively seek opportunities to promote and support good practice with regard to the language. The North Wales Economic Ambition Board promotes and facilitates the use of the Welsh language within new regional ways of working.

How will you mitigate any negative impact on the Welsh language or promote the positive impact on the language?

The North Wales Growth Deal aims to create between 3,400 and 4,200 new jobs to benefit the region's residents. Leakage of economic benefits through jobs created being filled by residents from the outside North Wales could be a risk, this will be managed on a project by project basis.

The North Wales Economic Ambition Board is a partnership that operates bilingually; all documentation and Board meetings are bilingual.

The Programme Office team is a bilingual team, our key public facing roles have Welsh language skills as an essential requirement in order for people to engage with us through their language of choice. The team promote the use of the Welsh language, and in time will develop a Welsh language Policy.

The Welsh language will be embedded in our procurement processes. Our Procurement Strategy includes a series of procurement principles, as part of the community resilience and well-being principles. The NWEAB will 'engage with new partnerships such as museums, theatres and arts to support developing our cultural and Welsh language considerations in contract opportunities.'

The North Wales Growth Deal will proactively support, facilitate and seek opportunities to promote the Welsh language across the portfolio, programmes and projects. We will encourage the integration of the Welsh language across our projects. It is key that we recognise the importance of the Welsh and English languages here in North Wales. All Growth Deal projects will undertake a Welsh language Impact Assessment and a Future Generations Impact Assessment as part of the decision making process.

Promotion of the Welsh language in the delivery and outcomes of the Growth Deal enables the NWEAB to be context specific and holistic in tackling economic challenges and sustainable economic growth.

Equality Impact Assessment

Protected Characteristics – Please detail the evidence you have / impact if any / mitigation			
Characteristic	Evidence and information	Details of the impact	What actions have/will be taken to mitigate any negative impact or to improve positive impact?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> According to the Annual Population Survey (June 2019) 97.8% of the population was classified as being 'white', 0.5% Mixed / multiple ethnic groups, 1% Asian, and 0.5% from other ethnic groups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The North Wales Growth Deal aims to build a more vibrant, sustainable and resilient economy and seeks to have a positive impact on all on all protected groups. The Growth Deal aims to create several thousand new jobs in a region. Building a more skilled workforce within the region through supporting skills and training initiatives provides opportunities for all. These opportunities will support improvements in standards of living across the region for all protected groups. Programmes and projects are being co-produced through partnerships involving the public and private sector, research bodies and the regional skills partnership, including a focus on engagement of those and those disadvantaged by gender, disability, ethnicity or age. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will adopt a positive approach to social inclusion in order to promote sustainable, prosperous and equal communities. All project business cases will develop Equality Impact Assessments to identify and assess barriers. On-going work to build understanding and ownership of the Growth Deal at the community level across the region, ensuring an inclusive approach that engages all protected groups. Ensure that communications messages and mechanisms are inclusive.

<p>Gender</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At the 2011 Census, 49.2% of North Wales's population was male and 50.9% was female, similar to the Wales average. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The North Wales Growth Deal aims to build a more vibrant, sustainable and resilient economy and seeks to have a positive impact on all on all protected groups. The Growth Deal aims to create several thousand new jobs in a region. Building a more skilled workforce within the region through supporting skills and training initiatives provides opportunities for all. These opportunities will support improvements in standards of living across the region for all protected groups. Programmes and projects are being co-produced through partnerships involving the public and private sector, research bodies and the regional skills partnership, including a focus on engagement of those and those disadvantaged by gender, disability, ethnicity or age. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will adopt a positive approach to social inclusion in order to promote sustainable, prosperous and equal communities. All project business cases will develop Equality Impact Assessments to identify and assess barriers. On-going work to build understanding and ownership of the Growth Deal at the community level across the region, ensuring an inclusive approach that engages all protected groups. Ensure that communications messages and mechanisms are inclusive.
<p>Sexual orientation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TONS data for 2016 indicated that 95.2% of people in Wales identified themselves as heterosexual/straight, 1.7% as gay/lesbian/bisexual and 0.4% as other (the remainder either did not respond to the survey or didn't know). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The North Wales Growth Deal aims to build a more vibrant, sustainable and resilient economy and seeks to have a positive impact on all on all protected groups. The Growth Deal aims to create several thousand new jobs in a region. Building a more skilled workforce within the region through supporting skills and training initiatives provides opportunities for all. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will adopt a positive approach to social inclusion in order to promote sustainable, prosperous and equal communities. All project business cases will develop Equality Impact Assessments to identify and assess barriers. On-going work to build understanding and ownership of the Growth Deal at the community level across the region, ensuring an inclusive approach that engages all protected groups. Ensure that communications messages and mechanisms are inclusive.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These opportunities will support improvements in standards of living across the region for all protected groups. • Programmes and projects are being co-produced through partnerships involving the public and private sector, research bodies and the regional skills partnership, including a focus on engagement of those and those disadvantaged by gender, disability, ethnicity or age. 	
<p style="text-align: center;">Page 213</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Marriage or Civil Partnership</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to the Annual Population Data (February 2019), 50% of the population of North Wales are married, 32% single, 21% Divorced / Separated / Dissolved Civil Partnership, and 14% Widowed / Surviving Civil Partnership. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The North Wales Growth Deal aims to build a more vibrant, sustainable and resilient economy and seeks to have a positive impact on all on all protected groups. • The Growth Deal aims to create several thousand new jobs in a region. Building a more skilled workforce within the region through supporting skills and training initiatives provides opportunities for all. • These opportunities will support improvements in standards of living across the region for all protected groups. • Programmes and projects are being co-produced through partnerships involving the public and private sector, research bodies and the regional skills partnership, including a focus on engagement of those and those disadvantaged by gender, disability, ethnicity or age. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will adopt a positive approach to social inclusion in order to promote sustainable, prosperous and equal communities. • All project business cases will develop Equality Impact Assessments to identify and assess barriers. • On-going work to build understanding and ownership of the Growth Deal at the community level across the region, ensuring an inclusive approach that engages all protected groups. • Ensure that communications messages and mechanisms are inclusive.

<p>Gender reassignment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No data for North Wales available at this point. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The North Wales Growth Deal aims to build a more vibrant, sustainable and resilient economy and seeks to have a positive impact on all on all protected groups. The Growth Deal aims to create several thousand new jobs in a region. Building a more skilled workforce within the region through supporting skills and training initiatives provides opportunities for all. These opportunities will support improvements in standards of living across the region for all protected groups. Programmes and projects are being co-produced through partnerships involving the public and private sector, research bodies and the regional skills partnership, including a focus on engagement of those and those disadvantaged by gender, disability, ethnicity or age. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will adopt a positive approach to social inclusion in order to promote sustainable, prosperous and equal communities. All project business cases will develop Equality Impact Assessments to identify and assess barriers. On-going work to build understanding and ownership of the Growth Deal at the community level across the region, ensuring an inclusive approach that engages all protected groups. Ensure that communications messages and mechanisms are inclusive.
<p>Pregnancy and Maternity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> According to Maternity and Birth Statistics, Wales there were 6,740 live births in the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board area in 2018. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The North Wales Growth Deal aims to build a more vibrant, sustainable and resilient economy and seeks to have a positive impact on all on all protected groups. The Growth Deal aims to create several thousand new jobs in a region. Building a more skilled workforce within the region through supporting skills and training initiatives provides opportunities for all. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will adopt a positive approach to social inclusion in order to promote sustainable, prosperous and equal communities. All project business cases will develop Equality Impact Assessments to identify and assess barriers. On-going work to build understanding and ownership of the Growth Deal at the community level across the region, ensuring an inclusive approach that engages all protected groups. Ensure that communications messages and mechanisms are inclusive.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These opportunities will support improvements in standards of living across the region for all protected groups. • Programmes and projects are being co-produced through partnerships involving the public and private sector, research bodies and the regional skills partnership, including a focus on engagement of those and those disadvantaged by gender, disability, ethnicity or age. It is important that this group has easy access to services and facilities within the communities and not to feel isolated. 	
<p>Page 215</p> <p>Religion or belief</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to the Annual Population Data (June 2019), the proportion of North Wales residents who are Christian is 60%, 1% Muslim, 4% other religion and 37% reported no religion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The North Wales Growth Deal aims to build a more vibrant, sustainable and resilient economy and seeks to have a positive impact on all on all protected groups. • The Growth Deal aims to create several thousand new jobs in a region. Building a more skilled workforce within the region through supporting skills and training initiatives provides opportunities for all. • These opportunities will support improvements in standards of living across the region for all protected groups. • Programmes and projects are being co-produced through partnerships involving the public and private sector, research bodies and the regional skills partnership, including a focus on engagement of those and those 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will adopt a positive approach to social inclusion in order to promote sustainable, prosperous and equal communities. • All project business cases will develop Equality Impact Assessments to identify and assess barriers. • On-going work to build understanding and ownership of the Growth Deal at the community level across the region, ensuring an inclusive approach that engages all protected groups. • Ensure that communications messages and mechanisms are inclusive. Where appropriate we will protect cultural resources and the services.

		<p>disadvantaged by gender, disability, ethnicity or age.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The North Wales Growth Deal aims to build a more vibrant, sustainable and resilient economy and seeks to have a positive impact on all on all protected groups. The Growth Deal aims to create several thousand new jobs in a region. Building a more skilled workforce within the region through supporting skills and training initiatives provides opportunities for all. These opportunities will support improvements in standards of living across the region for all protected groups. Programmes and projects are being co-produced through partnerships involving the public and private sector, research bodies and the regional skills partnership, including a focus on engagement of those and those disadvantaged by gender, disability, ethnicity or age. Digital connectivity can enable home working, in particular in rural areas that are less accessible. This could enable home working for people with mobility issues. The Land & Property projects will facilitate improved access to transport, employment, training and access to goods / services to benefit all protected groups. 	
<p>Page 16 Disability</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> According to the Annual Population Data (June 2019), a total of 77,000 of working age people in North Wales were classified as disabled equivalent to 18.7% of the working age population. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We will adopt a positive approach to social inclusion in order to promote sustainable, prosperous and equal communities. All project business cases will develop Equality Impact Assessments to identify and assess barriers. On-going work to build understanding and ownership of the Growth Deal at the community level across the region, ensuring an inclusive approach that engages all protected groups. Ensure that communications messages and mechanisms are inclusive. We will consider accessibility in infrastructure developments with consideration to accessible locations. This could include transport accessibility, community facilities and services etc. Where appropriate we will seek to enhance provision and accessibility for disabled people. Promote good accessibility, inclusive design in new developments including internal accessibility suitable for disabled people; external accessibility by transport. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Wales has an ageing population. • Between 1998 and 2018, the proportion of the population aged 65 and over has increased from 18.5 per cent to 23.0 per cent, while the proportion of the population aged 15 and under has fallen from 19.8 per cent to 17.8 percent. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The North Wales Growth Deal aims to build a more vibrant, sustainable and resilient economy and seeks to have a positive impact on all on all protected groups. • The Growth Deal aims to create several thousand new jobs in a region. Building a more skilled workforce within the region through supporting skills and training initiatives provides opportunities for all. • These opportunities will support improvements in standards of living across the region for all protected groups. • Programmes and projects are being co-produced through partnerships involving the public and private sector, research bodies and the regional skills partnership, including a focus on engagement of those and those disadvantaged by gender, disability, ethnicity or age. Opportunities through employment to attract and retain young people to North Wales. • Opportunities for older people living in rural areas but not restricted to could include improved access to services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will adopt a positive approach to social inclusion in order to promote sustainable, prosperous and equal communities. • All project business cases will develop Equality Impact Assessments to identify and assess barriers. • On-going work to build understanding and ownership of the Growth Deal at the community level across the region, ensuring an inclusive approach that engages all protected groups. • Ensure that communications messages and mechanisms are inclusive. Target opportunities and engage with existing mechanisms to support specific groups such as young people or those in areas of deprivation to engage in education and learning/development. • Consider accessibility for the elderly. Ensure development does not have an impact on community facilities and that are suitable for all ages.
<p>Welsh language</p>	<p>Please see separate Welsh Language Impact Assessment completed for the North Wales Growth Deal</p>		



REPORT TO THE NORTH WALES ECONOMIC AMBITION BOARD

23 OCTOBER, 2020

TITLE: *Final Growth Deal*

AUTHOR: *Alwen Williams, Programme Director*

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to present the key documents required to reach Final Deal Agreement for the North Wales Growth Deal with the UK Government and Welsh Government.
- 1.2. These key documents include the following:
 - Portfolio Business Case
 - Overarching Business Plan
 - Draft Final Deal Agreement
 - Governance Agreement 2

2. DECISION SOUGHT

- 2.1. To approve the submission of the Portfolio Business Case and the 5 Programme Business Cases to UK and Welsh Governments for Final Deal Agreement on the North Wales Growth Deal.
- 2.2. To recommend that each of the Partners individually approve the Overarching Business Plan that sets out the arrangements for delivering the North Wales Growth Deal as the basis for completing the Final Deal Agreement and acceptance of the Grant Funding Letter with the UK and Welsh Governments.
- 2.3. To recommend that each of the Partners individually approve and enter into Governance Agreement 2 and specifically adopt the delegations and Terms of Reference in “*Governance Agreement 2: Appendix 1*” thereof as the basis for entering into the Final Deal Agreement and acceptance of the Grant Funding letter with the UK and Welsh Governments.
- 2.4. To recommend approval of the method used to calculate the cost of borrowing notionally required to facilitate the negative cash flow for the Growth Deal, and the corresponding annual partner contributions required to meet this cost and the established core and supplementary contributions as set out in GA2 (and in paragraphs 5.5 - 5.7 below).
- 2.5. That the Programme Director in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the NWEAB, the Accountable Body Monitoring Officer and the Accountable Body Section 151 Officer be granted delegated authority to agree minor changes to the documents as necessary to complete the agreement.

- 2.6. To approve the renaming of the of Programme Office to the Portfolio Management Office in line with best practice and as a consequence, and change the job title of the Programme Director to Portfolio Director.

3. REASONS FOR THE DECISION

- 3.1. In 2016 the North Wales Economic Ambition Board adopted A Growth Vision for the Economy of North Wales. Based on the Growth Vision Strategy, a Growth Deal was prepared and agreed by all the partners working with both the UK and Welsh Government and the private sector in October 2018. In November 2019 the NWEAB and the Welsh and UK Governments agreed the Heads of Terms, for Final Deal Agreement to be completed in 2020.
- 3.2. The NWEAB are committed to achieving the Final Deal Agreement with both Governments before the end of December 2020.
- 3.3. The Portfolio Management Office have developed the documentation required to submit to both Governments to reach Final Deal Agreement. The contents of these documents are outlined within this report, and copies of the documents attached as appendices.
- 3.4. This report recommends that the Programme Office is renamed as the Portfolio Management Office. This proposed change responds to questions raised during the recent gateway review with Welsh Government where the review team questioned the name of the Programme Office given the Growth Deal is a portfolio of programmes and projects. The proposed name 'Portfolio Management Office' aligns with recognised best practice and creates a clear differential between the role of the Director who has responsibility for the whole Growth Deal and the Programme Managers responsible for the delivery of individual programmes.

4. BACKGROUND AND RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1. The North Wales Growth Deal is a portfolio consisting of 5 programmes to be delivered over the next 15 years. It is to be delivered by the Portfolio Management Office on behalf of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board.
- 4.2. The Growth Deal is seeking to deliver a total investment of up to £1.1bn in the North Wales economy (£240m from the Growth Deal), to create 3,400 – 4,200 net additional jobs and generate £2.0- £2.4 billion in net additional GVA.
- 4.3. The five programmes include 14 projects, which have been carefully designed and developed with stakeholders to address specific market failures and barriers to economic growth.
- 4.4. To agree the Final Deal with both Governments, the NWEAB have prepared a suite of documents, namely the Overarching Business Plan, Portfolio Business Case, Draft Final Deal Agreement and Governance Agreement 2.

4.5. Overarching Business Plan

- 4.5.1. The Overarching Business Plan developed by the Portfolio Management Office sets out the arrangements for delivering the North Wales Growth Deal, including an overview of the programmes and projects and to seek approval from each partner for the financial implications of delivering the deal.
- 4.5.2. A copy of the Overarching Business Plan is available in **Appendix 1**.

4.6. Portfolio Business Case

4.6.1. The Portfolio Business Case has been developed by the Portfolio Management Office with support from Hatch Regeneris.

4.6.2. The purpose of the portfolio business case is to provide an overview of the North Wales Growth Deal and its programmes.

4.6.3. The portfolio and programme business cases once approved as part of the Final Deal will be live documents used to manage the delivery of the Growth Deal on an ongoing basis and updated regularly as the programmes and projects develop.

4.6.4. The Portfolio Business Case follows the structure of the Five Case Model and HM Treasury Green Book principles. The Portfolio Management Office have consulted with UK and Welsh Government throughout the development of the business case.

4.6.5. The Portfolio Business Case consists of the five cases:

- **The Strategic Case:** the rationale for the Growth Deal investments, their objectives and fit with wider policy
- **The Economic Case:** the value for money provided by the Growth Deal
- **The Commercial Case:** the contractual and procurement approach to be taken
- **The Financial Case:** the costs and funding profile for the Growth Deal
- **The Management Case:** the approach to managing the Growth Deal

4.6.6. The portfolio business case document provides a summary investment proposal for the North Wales Growth Deal, to inform the agreement of a Final Deal in 2020. It accompanies the Programme level business cases, which set out the detail for the five constituent programmes using the Five Case Model framework.

4.6.7. The Portfolio Business Case is available in **Appendix 2**.

4.6.8. The Portfolio Business Case is supported by a set of programme level business cases, which provide details on the five individual programmes. The programme business cases are summarised below, and the executive Summaries are available in **Appendix 3** (full copies of the programme business cases are available on request).

4.6.9. Low carbon energy

Strategic aims: To unlock the economic benefits of transformational low carbon energy projects and position North Wales as a leading UK location for low carbon energy generation, innovation and supply chain investment.

Types of intervention: Enabling works for new low carbon energy generation, enhancing research and innovation facilities for low carbon energy sectors, transport decarbonisation and support for local energy projects.

4.6.10. Innovation in high value manufacturing

Strategic aims: To consolidate North Wales' position as a powerful and innovative high value manufacturing cluster, building on existing specialisms and leading expertise to create a higher value, more diverse economic base that supports the transition to a low carbon economy.

Types of intervention: Industry and research collaborations along with the establishment of centres of excellence to help overcome barriers and market failures in the research commercialisation process.

4.6.11. Agri-food and tourism

Strategic aims: To build a more sustainable, vibrant and resilient foundation economy within the region, optimising opportunities for employment and prosperity through our environment and landscape.

Types of intervention: Introducing new technologies & innovation, skills and practices to these sectors, via business support and upskilling.

4.6.12. Land and property

Strategic aims: To address the shortage of suitable land and properties for business growth and to bring forward sites for housing development and to deliver improvements that stimulate investment in the Port of Holyhead and the wider region. These projects will play an enabling role for the other programmes by ensuring that serviced sites are available for investors and developers.

Types of intervention: The provision of primary services and enabling works to bring forward commercial and housing development sites, delivery of employment floor space and future proofing and capacity enhancement works to the port of Holyhead.

4.6.13. Digital

Strategic aims: To deliver the step change in digital connectivity needed to ensure North Wales is able to satisfy user demand, maintain pace with the rest of UK, unlock the growth potential of priority sectors and sites and underpin a flourishing innovation ecosystem. Plays an enabling role for other programmes to deliver maximum benefit.

Types of intervention: The programme has identified a need to which balance investment in infrastructure and technology, through enhanced fixed broadband footprint at key sites in rural areas, unlocking applications through 5G access, and furthering digital innovation.

4.6.14. The Growth Deal is based on 14 transformational projects to be delivered across the 5 programmes named above. Individual project business cases will be developed and will be presented to the NWEAB for approval from January 2021 onwards.

4.7. Final Deal Agreement

4.7.1. The Heads of Terms Agreement was agreed by the NWEAB, Welsh Government and UK Government in November 2019, with the aim for Final Deal Agreement to be completed in 2020.

4.7.2. The Draft Final Deal Agreement was developed collaboratively between the NWEAB and both Governments.

4.7.3. The Final Deal Agreement is the contract between the NWEAB, UK Government and Welsh Government for the delivery of the North Wales Growth Deal.

4.7.4. The Final Deal will be signed on the basis of the portfolio business case and five programme business cases.

4.7.5. The Draft Final Deal Agreement is included in **Appendix 4**.

4.8. Governance Agreement 2

4.8.1. Governance Agreement 2 has been developed by the regional Heads of Legal with expert and independent advice by legal advisers Pinsent Masons.

4.8.2. Governance Agreement 1 was adopted into in order to take forward the formal offer of funding to both Governments. Government Agreement 2 will take the partnership into the implementation stage of the Growth Deal. The agreement is a partnership agreement between the 6 Local Authorities and the Partner University and College bodies. It continues the governance model adopted in GA1 namely a Joint Committee supported by a host authority and provides for the commitments and responsibilities of the Partners to the partnership. It also defines the relationship between the Board and its constituent Partner organisations, the limits of delegation and accountability.

4.8.3. Governance Agreement 2 is a necessary element for implementing the Growth Deal. It provides assurance to the Governments as to the governance of the partnership. It establishes a legally binding commitment by and to the Partners and Accountable Body which is necessary to enable the Growth Deal Final Agreement and Grant Letter to be agreed. Without that assurance the Final Deal Agreement and the Grant Offer Letter could not be entered into on behalf of the Partners.

4.8.4. A more detailed explanatory summary of Governance Agreement 2 is provided in **Appendix 5** and a copy of Governance Agreement 2 is included in **Appendix 6**.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1. There is a medium-term temporary funding gap between the expected expenditure profile of the Growth Deal and the expected profile of government funding received over 15 years. The NWEAB, through the host authority, will be responsible for managing this negative cash flow, and have worked with Arlingclose to model the cost of borrowing notionally required to facilitate the negative cash flow for the Growth Deal, and the corresponding annual partner contributions required to meet this cost.

5.2. With a range of assumptions to consider, the NWEAB have forecasted a range of figures, modelled as the best case scenario (Version 1) and the worst case scenario (Version 2), to reflect the timing of finalising the Growth Deal and consequent timing of government grant funding. The difference between the best and worst case scenarios highlights the importance of finalising the Growth Deal by the end of the calendar year. In both versions the other variables, i.e. interest rate and NNDR income have remained the same. The interest rate used was 2.2% and is considered to be a prudent assumption. The NWEAB will utilise its “retained” NNDR grant from Welsh Government to offset against the negative cash flow, with the net total cost (£12.46m - £17.73m) met by the local authorities (proportional to population) for regional NWEAB projects, and with project lead sponsors responsible for the cost in relation to their projects.

5.3. Any changes to the projects, will result in a reserved matter if it means increasing partner contributions (e.g. change from project lead sponsor to NWEAB, lower NNDR yield, higher cost, earlier spend profile).

5.4. With capital projects, there is always a risk of overspending, and controls will be put in place to limit overspending costs on specific projects. For regional projects, the Portfolio Management Office would be responsible for controlling expenditure and ensuring sufficient contingency budgets are included in the project business cases. Overspend would be a matter for the Lead Sponsor to deal with in relation to their projects.

5.5. The table below shows the **total (15 years) partner contributions** to cover the cost of ‘borrowing’ notionally required to facilitate the negative cash flow.

Version	Bangor University	Glyndwr University	Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	Coleg Cambria	Other Commerical Partners	Conwy	Denbighshire	Flintshire	Gwynedd	Isle of Anglesey	Wrexham	Total
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
1	1.40	0.51	0.75	0.52	2.29	1.17	0.96	1.56	1.24	0.70	1.36	12.46
2	1.99	0.73	1.07	0.74	3.24	1.67	1.36	2.22	1.77	1.00	1.94	17.73

5.6. The table below shows the **annual partner contributions** to cover the cost of ‘borrowing’ notionally required to facilitate the negative cash flow.

Version	Bangor University	Glyndwr University	Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	Coleg Cambria	Other Commerical Partners	Conwy	Denbighshire	Flintshire	Gwynedd	Isle of Anglesey	Wrexham	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
1	93,330	34,000	50,000	34,670	152,660	78,010	64,000	104,000	82,670	46,670	90,670	830,680
2	132,670	48,670	71,330	49,330	216,000	111,340	90,670	148,000	118,000	66,670	129,340	1,182,020

5.7. These annual partner contributions above are in addition to the established ‘core’ and ‘supplementary’ annual contributions below.

Contributions	Bangor University	Glyndwr University	Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	Coleg Cambria	Conwy	Denbighshire	Flintshire	Gwynedd	Isle of Anglesey	Wrexham	Total
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Core	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	400,000
Supplementary	0	0	0	0	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000	240,000

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1. The report explains relevant provisions of Governance Agreement 2 (GA2), The Overarching Business Plan (“OBP”) and the Final Deal Agreement. They form part of the legal implications, but in order to avoid duplication are not repeated in this section.

6.2. The recommendations in the report are made pursuant to the powers conferred on the Councils under sections 101, 102, 111 and 113 of the Local Government Act 1972, section 1 of the Local Authority (Goods & Services) Act 1970, section 25 of the Local Government (Wales) Act 1994, section 2, 19 and 20 of the Local Government Act 2000, section 9 of the Local Government Wales Measure 2009 and all other enabling powers now vested in the Councils.

6.3. The provisions of the Local Government and Elections Bill (Wales) 2019 in relation to proposed Corporate Joint Committees (CJC’s) and the recent publication of a consultation document on the proposed regulations are clearly of relevance to the matters addressed in this report. However, the North Wales Economic Ambition Board has been in operation as a formal Joint Committee since January 2019. GA2 does not change this basic governance model but is a necessary component to enable the Partners to commit to the Growth Deal within the given time frame. As a result there is no proposal to make any changes to the recommendations pending the advent of CJC’s although GA2 does acknowledge the provisions of the Bill and the possibility of future review.

- 6.4. The OBP is a key document in relation to the delivery of the Growth Deal. The content of the Plan serves to create a legitimate expectation that the Programmes will be progressed as set out in the Plan. Accordingly, it is important that each Partner is content with the content of the OBP. Decisions relating to the delivery of the programmes and projects will need to be considered in accordance with the provision set out in GA2 at which stage any legal issues raised in relation to a specific project can be considered and detailed legal advice provided.
- 6.5. In considering this matter regard should be had, amongst other matters, to the Councils duties under the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. In summary the Act places a duty on public bodies in to act in accordance with the principle of sustainable development so as to ensure that the needs of the present can be met without undermining the ability of future generations to meet their needs. This is in order to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The OBP explains that the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 will be intrinsic to the development and implementation of the Growth Vision and Growth deal.
- 6.6. A Well-being and Equality Assessment has been undertaken and is included in **Appendix 7**. Regard should be had to the same in reaching a decision on this matter.
- 6.7. Regard has been given to public sector duties under the Equalities Act 2010 (including specific Welsh public sector duties). Pursuant to these legal duties Councils must in making decisions have due regard to the need to:
- a. eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct that is prohibited by that Act;
 - b. advance equality of opportunity between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not;
 - c. foster good relations between people who and share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 6.8. In Wales, public sector bodies listed are required to take certain steps in order to demonstrate that they have due regard to the public sector equality duty. These Welsh specific equality duties include assessing the impact of policies and procedures on equality (often called Equality Impact-Assessment).
- 6.9. The Well-being and Equalities Assessment demonstrates that the detail contained in the preparation of and in the draft OBP demonstrates compliance with the well-being 5 ways of working, supports the well-being goals and identifies that the Growth Vision and Growth Deal will a positive impact on all groups and people with protected characteristics.

7. STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. None.

8. IMPACT ON EQUALITIES

- 8.1. Copies of the impact assessments are included in **Appendix 7-8**.

9. CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN

- 9.1. On 7th of October, 2020 the contents of this report and the documentation was supported by the Executive Officers Group.

- 9.2. A report and the relevant documents have been circulated to all partner organisations. The covering report and appendices will be presented to all six local authority Scrutiny, Cabinet and Council Meetings – copy of the draft report can be found in **Appendix 9**.
-

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1	Overarching Business Plan*
Appendix 2	Portfolio Business Case*
Appendix 3	Programme Business Cases: Executive Summaries* (full copies of the programme business cases are available on request)
Appendix 4	Draft Final Deal Agreement*
Appendix 5	Summary of Governance Agreement 2*
Appendix 6	Governance Agreement 2*
Appendix 7	Equality Impact Assessment
Appendix 8	Welsh Language Impact Assessment
Appendix 9	Draft Report to Scrutiny, Cabinet and Council Meetings

**subject to final edit and proof read*

STATUTORY OFFICERS RESPONSE:

i. Monitoring Officer – Host Authority:

“I have contributed to the preparation of this report and I have no specific observations to add in relation to propriety but I will be in a position to give further guidance at the meeting.”

ii. Statutory Finance Officer (the Host Authority’s Section 151 Officer):

“I have contributed to the financial aspects of the report and support the recommendations.”

Meeting	The Full Council
Date	3 December 2020
Subject	Annual Report of the Standards Committee 2019/20
Author	Dr. Einir Young, Chair of the Standards Committee
Relevant Officer	Iwan Evans, Monitoring Officer

Background

- 1.** The Standards Committee is a statutory committee, which has been established to to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by the councillors and co-opted members of Gwynedd Council, and community and town councils in Gwynedd.
- 2.** To this end the Committee has decided to publish an annual report in order to explain it's and promote its work. The Committee also decided that the report should be presented formally to a meeting of the full Council.
- 3.** The Committee therefore presents this report for the Council's attention. The report will also be circulated to all the community and town councils.

Recommendation

- 4.** To accept the report

**ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
GWYNEDD COUNCIL
STANDARDS COMMITTEE

2019 - 2020**

FOREWORD BY THE CHAIR

It's rather a cliché these days to note that the past year has been an unprecedented one and the global pandemic has changed our lives for months and possibly for years to come. But it is impossible to ignore the widespread impact that Covid-19 has had. Officers, elected members and front line staff have all had to respond swiftly to ensure that the needs of the County's residents are met. From the outside, for those of us who rely on the services provided by Gwynedd, this seems to have been achieved seamlessly but I know that there's a huge amount of hard work and dedication behind the scenes which needs to be recognised. Thanks to everyone involved.

The Standards Committee was affected too. The June meeting was cancelled but we were able to meet in October through Zoom. Whilst not being able to meet face to face is not entirely satisfactory, the normalisation of virtual meetings is to be welcomed as one of the unexpected benefits of the crisis, saving time and money.

We as a Committee have reported for several years that no cases have been passed on to us and therefore conclude that Standards in Gwynedd are high. But, every year at the Council's plenary session members note that a number of cases are referred to the Ombudsman but that the process is long-winded and the threshold for an investigation is high as invariably in his opinion there is no case to answer. This is disappointing for people who believe they have a genuine grievance.

Please note that the Committee does not receive details of individual cases – because if there was a case to answer it would be sent back to us. Being aware of the details in advance would prejudice the committee. We wish, however, to assure Members and residents alike that maintaining standards is of paramount importance and that we must all take responsibility for our own conduct.

We live in turbulent times in terms of standards (or lack of) in public life. The news is full of reports from several countries of politicians and their officers breaking rules, being guilty of bullying and of lying – without any redress. Former President Obama claims in his book 'The Promised Land' that we are witnessing what some people call 'truth decay' – not only do public office holders no longer believe that they are obliged to tell the truth but that the 'truth' does not count at all.

These are challenging times for everyone. But to end on a more optimistic note I would like to share some wise advice from the late Jan Morris that applies to all of us:

“If you are not sure what you think about something, the most useful questions are these,” she says. “Are you being kind? Are they being kind? That usually gives you the answer.”

Let’s work together towards a kinder, more respectful society over the coming year.

Dr Einir Young
Chair of the Standards Committee

FOREWORD BY THE MONITORING OFFICER

In reflecting on the year that has gone by it's impossible to disregard the crisis which started in the final quarter of 2019/20. Looking back it was difficult at the time to comprehend the changes and impacts that were occurring. However, once again the report reflects a positive pattern in relation to Code of Conduct complaints. It's worth bearing in mind for context that the scope of the report covers not only members of Gwynedd Council but also over 700 members of Town and Community Councils.

During the year a pilot training model for Town and Community Councils was started in Tywyn by providing a trainer and a simple interactive course. One key message which was conveyed in the training was the ownership that the council, members and officers have of standards of conduct. I am aware of concerns in relation to decisions to investigate or not. Nevertheless it needs to be emphasised that the Code of Conduct and related standards and protocols are adopted by the councils and signed up to by all members. It reflects a public expectation of standards of conduct and propriety. A responsibility of everyone who is involved in local government and not just the Monitoring Officer and Ombudsman. There is a recognition also that the political forum can be difficult. However, there needs to be a willingness to identify when a line is crossed and to create a culture which does not provide succour for inappropriate conduct.

The picture in relation to formal complaints is positive. That is not down to policing but rather to the culture which exists across the county. This needs to be highlighted and promoted.

Iwan Evans
Monitoring Officer
Gwynedd Council

INTRODUCTION

The Committee was established in 2001 under the Local Government Act 2000. The main role of the Committee is to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by the councillors and co-opted members of Gwynedd Council, and community and town councils in Gwynedd. It does so in many ways:

- Assisting the councillors and co-opted members to follow the Members' Code of Conduct
- Advising the authority regarding adopting or amending the Members' Code of Conduct
- Monitoring the implementation of the Members' Code of Conduct
- Advising, training or arranging training for councillors and co-opted members on matters relating to the Code of Conduct
- Determining complaints referred to it by the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales that members have breached the Code of Conduct
- Considering applications made by members for dispensations to allow them to participate in discussions despite them having a prejudicial interest under the Code
- Considering complaints referred to it under Gwynedd Council's local resolution procedure.
- Overseeing the Gwynedd Council Members Gifts and Hospitality Policy

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Though the Standards Committee is one of the committees of Gwynedd Council, the majority of its membership does not have any connection with the Council or local government ('Independent Members'). It also has a member who represents the interests of the community councils ('Community Committee Member'), as well as three elected members from Gwynedd Council. The Chair and Vice-chair of the Committee must be Independent Members.

Independent Members

Margaret E Jones (member since 2012)

Originally from Llandrillo yn Rhos, Margaret has spent most of her life in Chwilog. She taught at Ysgol Abersoch for 32 years, including 14 as headmistress. She is a deacon in Eglwys yr Annibynwyr Siloh, Chwilog, was Chairman of the Council of the Union of Welsh Independents for 3 years and is also a former President of the Union. She was a member of Gwynedd Community Health Council and Vice Chairman until the reorganisation in 2010. She is an active member of the Chwilog Eisteddfod and in charge of the Chairing Ceremony.

Dr Einir Young (member since 2012)

Born in the Rhondda and raised in Llanelli and Cwmtwrch Einir has been living in Gwynedd for more than thirty years. She lived in California for a while and has travelled extensively in Africa mainly, working with marginal communities in semi-arid regions. Wales is her current priority but the challenges faced by communities are similar. We need a long term vision and plan, to ensure that the actions we take are for good or prevent things from getting worse. Integration and collaboration is critical and possibly more important of all to involve everyone. These are the principles are encapsulated in the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act and as Bangor University's Director of Sustainability Einir and her Sustainability Lab team are promoting the ways of working promoted in the Act across the institution and beyond. Maintaining standards is as important to sustainability as recycling and saving energy and Einir Welcomes the opportunity to contribute to and chair Gwynedd's Standards Committee. Amongst her many interests Einir is a passionate walker and she, her sister and her dog are currently walking the Wales Coastal Path. They have reached Marloes in Pembrokeshire, but sadly the pandemic has prevented them from making further progress for the time being. They have completed the Snowdonia Slate Trail.

David Wareing (member since 2015)

In 2014 David relocated from Lancashire to Groeslon following his retirement from Merseyside Police. He served for 26 years in a variety of roles with his last posting being to the Force Operations Department at HQ. This position involved the planning and delivery of large-scale public events, public safety during major Police operations and the reduction of police support to outside agencies through greater partnership working. David specialised in risk assessment and ensuring compliance of relevant Health and Safety legislation working within the legal framework. David represented Merseyside Police on all five Safety Advisory Groups that covered the Force Area. He firmly believes that the actions of those in public office must be both transparent and accountable.

Aled Jones (member since 2016)

Aled is originally from Lampeter, Ceredigion. He read Welsh and Geography at Aberystwyth University. Having graduated in 1999, he moved to Caernarfon to work for Cymen translation company. He became a joint-owner of the company in 2007 and now heads a team of 20 members of staff and employs over 15 other freelance translators. He lives in Bangor with Tegwen, and their two children Cai and Beca. He has a keen interest in sport and can often be seen on the touchline supporting Bethesda Rugby Club and Bangor City Football Club. As a result of his work as a simultaneous translator he is privy to observe conduct and standards at all levels of governance and to identify best practice.

Hywel Eifion Jones (member since 2019)

Born and educated in the Vale of Clwyd, Eifion was a senior manager with Barclays Bank serving 34 years in numerous branches throughout North and Mid Wales. He has undertaken many public service roles including County Councillor with Ynys Mon Council and member of North Wales Police Authority. He is currently a Magistrate on North West Wales bench, and a member of Gwynedd Pension, Betsi Cadwaladr and Adra Boards. He is also a member of the Adjudication Panel of Wales which determines alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct by elected members of County and Community Councils.

Community Committee Member

Councillor Richard Parry Hughes (member since 2017)

Richard was educated at Llanaelhaearn farm and went to Pwllheli Grammar School, Glynllifon Agricultural College, and Seale Hayne College (Plymouth University). He has a degree in Farm Management. He worked for a vet partnership in Chwilog for three years and as a part-time lecturer at Glynllifon College, before buying the Upper

Penfras Llwyndyrys farm where his family had been tenants for over three hundred years. He is married to Eleri and they have three sons. A former leader of Gwynedd Council, he still farms. He has extensive experience of committees, holding positions as chair of the Wales Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs before being elected as a member of public bodies. He served as a member of Gwynedd County Council from 1992 to 1996 and was a member of Gwynedd Council from 1996 to 2008. He led Gwynedd Council from 2003 to 2008 and was the Welsh Local Government Association spokesman on Environment and Planning during this period. He is an enthusiastic member of the Llwyndyrys Drama Company and a supporter of many other local societies such as Antur Aelhaearn and Friends of Carnguwch Church. He works voluntarily as a caseworker for the Farm Community Network. He is a member of Llannor Community Council since 1992.

Gwynedd Council Members

Councillor Dewi Roberts (member since 2017)

Dewi lives in Llanengan near Abersoch with his wife Bethan, and they have 5 children who are all grown up. He was an engineer and a lecturer in engineering at Bangor Technical College before joining North Wales Police. There he worked as a Detective, locally, regionally and nationally, before retiring after 29 years of service.

He was elected in May 2017 as Gwynedd Councillor representing Abersoch. Since his election he has chaired the Democratic Service Committee, is Chair of the Care Scrutiny Committee, Chair of the Dwyfor Area Committee, a member of the Audit and Governance Committee and Chair of the Gwynedd Community Health Council.

As well as being a member of the Standards Committee, he is also a member of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education, the Warden of Llanengan Church and sits on the Church Parish Council. He also serves as Governor of Ysgol Abersoch and Ysgol Botwnnog.

Councillor Beth Lawton (member since 2017)

Beth lives in Brynchrug and owns a local factory. She is a County Councillor for the Brynchrug / Llanfihangel area which includes the village of Brynchrug and Abergynolwyn. She is also a Community Councillor and chair of the School Governors of Craig y Deryn. She is active on several community-based committees including the Abergynolwyn Carnival, Brynchrug Rural Fair, Tywyn Hospital Appeal Committee and many others. She is Vice-chair of the Gwynedd Council Care Scrutiny Committee and is a director of the new leisure company.

Councillor Anne Lloyd-Jones (member since 2017)

Anne lives and runs a farm tourism business in Tywyn and has represented Tywyn on Gwynedd Council since 1995 and prior to that was a member of Meirionnydd District Council for eight years. She was first elected as a member of Tywyn town Council in 1985 and became the first Lady Mayor in 1991, and again in 2004, and was Chairman of Gwynedd Council in 2009. She is the former Chairman of Gwynedd Council's Planning Committee and is a founder member of the management Board of Cartrefi Cymunedol Gwynedd. She was a member of Meirionnydd Community Health Council, and is the present Chairman of Tywyn and District Hospital Appeal Fund.

She is a member and past Chairman of Ysgol Penybryn and a member on the Governing body of Ysgol Uwchradd Tywyn.

Anne was Chairman of Mid Wales Tourism from 2001-2016, was a founder member and past President and Treasurer of the Tywyn Inner Wheel Club and has been the Treasurer of the local branch of the NSPCC since 1989.

Anne is married to John and they have three daughters and twin granddaughters.

The Monitoring Officer

The Council's Monitoring Officer, Iwan Evans, along with officers from the Legal Service and the Democratic Service support the Standards Committee in its work. The Monitoring Officer has a statutory role to ensure that the Council, its members and its officers act appropriately and lawfully.

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THE COMMITTEE’S WORK DURING 2019-2020

The Committee’s work over the year has included the following (the Committee’s full work programme can be seen in **Appendix 1**):

Cases heard by the Standards Committee

No complaints that elected members had breached the Code of Conduct were referred to the Committee during the year

Other Complaints

The Committee is also informed of those complaints not referred to it for decision. Summaries can be found in **Appendix 2**.

Dispensations

The Code of Conduct for Members provides that a councillor cannot participate in a discussion if he/she has a ‘prejudicial interest’. However, a member has a right to apply to the Committee for permission to participate despite having this interest, i.e. dispensation.

One application for dispensation was considered during this period. The Committee decided to refuse the application.

North Wales Standards Committee Forum

The North Wales Standards Committee Forum gives representatives of all north Wales authorities’ standards committees the opportunity to meet. The purpose of the forum is to enable the area’s standards committees to discuss and share ideas, good practices and resources and also provide a joint opinion on a national level. The Chair and Vice—chair of the Committee attend the meetings.

Ceredigion and Powys Standards Committees are by now also members of the Forum.

THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE'S WORK PROGRAMME 2019-20

17 JUNE 2019

- **Determine an application for dispensation**
- **Undertook Self Evaluation and drew up a Work Programme**
- **Discussed the Report of the Committee on Standards in Public Life**
- **Discussed issues identified in the Ombudsman's Code of Conduct Casebook**
- **Received a report on allegations against members**
- **Approved the Standards Committee Annual Report for 2018/19**

4 NOVEMBER 2019

- **Received the Monitoring Officer's Report on the Gifts and Hospitality Register**
- **Received a report on allegations against members**
- **Considered the Ombudsman's Annual Report**
- **Received the minutes of the North Wales Standards Committee Forum for information**

27 JANUARY 2020

- **Received the Monitoring Officer's report on Standards and Ethics in Outsourcing and Collaboration Arrangements**
- **Considered the authority's procedure for registering members' interests**
- **Received a report on allegations against members**

The Committee was informed of the following decisions by the Ombudsman in relation to allegations that county and community and town councillors had breached the Code of Conduct:

Allegation	Decision
<p>Complaint that a town councillor had breached the following provisions of the Code:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The need to show respect and consideration for others • Not to use bullying behaviour or harass any person • Not to conduct yourself in a manner that could be regarded as bringing your office or authority into dispute • Not to use your position improperly to confer on or secure a benefit for yourself or any other person 	<p>The Ombudsman decided not to investigate for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He was not persuaded that the remarks made by others on Facebook regarding the complainant's family could be attributed to the councillor or his obligations under the code. • The remarks, which were of a political nature, were not considered to be so egregious as to warrant an investigation • Even if the breach regarding improper use of position were to be proved it would not be sufficiently serious that a Standards Committee would be likely to consider or impose a sanction.

Analysis of Complaints against members	
Member against whom complaint was made	
Member of community council	1
Member of Gwynedd Council	0
Member of Gwynedd Council and community council	0
Nature of complainant	
Councillor	1
Member of public	0
Officer	0
Natur of allegation	
General conduct	1
Declaration of interests	0
General behaviour & Declaration of interests	0
Result	
No investigation	1
Investigation – no evidence of breach of code	0
Investigation – no further steps	0
Investigation - reference to Standards Committee	0
Investigation - reference to Adjudication Panel for Wales	0