



**NORTH WALES ECONOMIC AMBITION BOARD DECISION NOTICE**

**DATE OF DECISION**

3 February 2023

---

**SUBJECT**

Item 5: NORTH WALES GROWTH DEAL - QUARTER 3 PERFORMANCE AND RISK REPORT

---

**DECISION**

1. That the Board consider and note the Quarter 3 Performance Report and updated Portfolio Risk Register.
  2. That the Board approve the submission of the Quarter 3 Performance Report to Welsh Government and UK Government, as well as the local authority scrutiny committees.
- 

**REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

Quarterly reporting on progress against the North Wales Growth Deal is one of the requirements of the Final Deal Agreement. Following the NWEAB's consideration, the reports would be shared with Welsh Government, UK Government as well as the local authority scrutiny committees.

---

**DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST**

No declarations of personal interest were received.

---

**ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION**

The Statutory Officers were consulted to seek their views, which have been included in the report.

---



## **NORTH WALES ECONOMIC AMBITION BOARD DECISION NOTICE**

### **DATE OF DECISION**

3 February 2023

---

### **SUBJECT**

Item 6: 2022/23 REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET - END OF DECEMBER 2022 REVIEW

---

### **DECISION**

1. To note and accept the NWEAB's revenue end of December 2022 review (Appendix 1 to the report), which includes using a further reduced amount from the North Wales Growth Deal grant to show a neutral position for the year.
  2. To note and accept the NWEAB's reserves update (Appendix 2).
  3. To agree the NWEAB's revised capital expenditure profile (Appendix 3).
- 

### **REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

It was noted that a further underspend of £127,078 was forecast against the revenue budget in 2022/23. Any underspend at the end of the financial year may be transferred to reduce the amount used from the North Wales Growth Deal Grant.

To note the removal of two projects from the capital programme, which leaves £19.7m of the capital budget now unallocated to projects. The Board approved on 9 December 2022 for £7m of this funding to be allocated to a Portfolio Delivery Fund to support mature projects to move into delivery during 2023/24 and the remainder will be offered to new projects.

---

### **DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST**

No declarations of personal interest were received.

---

### **ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION**

The Statutory Officers were consulted to seek their views, which have been included in the report.

The appendices, together with a summary of the content of this report, were submitted to the Portfolio Board on 20 January.

---





## **NORTH WALES ECONOMIC AMBITION BOARD DECISION NOTICE**

**DATE OF DECISION**

3 February 2023

---

**SUBJECT**

Item 7: Egni CHANGE REQUEST AND PROJECT REPLACEMENT PROCESS UPDATE

---

**DECISION**

- 1. To agree to the change request submitted by Bangor University to retain phase 1 of the Egni project within the North Wales Growth Deal and withdraw phase 2 of the project.**
  - 2. To allocate the funding released from Egni Phase 2 to the project replacement process and to extend the scope as set out in this report.**
  - 3. To agree the scope and minimum requirements for replacement Low Carbon Energy projects as set out in the report.**
  - 4. To agree to the revised timetable set out in this report for the project replacement process including a formal launch in February 2023.**
  - 5. To delegate authority to the Portfolio Director, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-chair, to implement the Project Replacement Process as set out in this report and to undertake all necessary steps required to finalise the documentation required to commence the process.**
- 

**REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

The North Wales Growth Deal has a change management process in place to ensure potential changes to the scope of the Growth Deal and the projects are captured, assessed and where relevant considered by the Board.

The Final Deal agreement sets out the board position in relation to potential replacement projects:

*"Any new or replacement projects to be brought forward for consideration 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 Economic Ambition Board to decide."*

In December 2022, the Board agreed the criteria for the original project replacement process to be launched on the 16th January. The Portfolio Director, in consultation with the Chair of the

---

---

Economic Ambition Board took the decision to delay the process having been informed of the change request to be submitted by Bangor University regarding the Egni project which would have implications for this process.

The Egni project with Bangor University has been reporting red for over 12 months and has been under review by the Portfolio Management Office. A two-phase approach to the project was being explored with the University to accelerate delivery.

The original scope of the Egni project was to invest in the development of facilities 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.

As a result of delays to the development of the business case, escalating costs and a lack of certainty regarding the wider Bangor University estates strategy, the Portfolio Management Office have been working with the University to develop a phased approach to the project. Phase 1 would focus on the smaller development at the Menai Science Park, with Phase 2 comprising of the wider Bangor University campus facilities

Bangor University have submitted a change request to the Economic Ambition Board to retain phase 1 (new development at Menai Science Park) within the Growth Deal and to withdraw Phase 2 (wider University campus development).

---

#### **DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST**

Chris Drew (Bangor University) expressed a personal interest due to the fact that the report involved the University's request to change the Egni Project.

The representative was of the opinion that it was a prejudicial interest, and withdraw from the discussion on the item.

---

#### **ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION**

The Statutory Officers were consulted to seek their views, which have been included in the report.

---



## **NORTH WALES ECONOMIC AMBITION BOARD DECISION NOTICE**

**DATE OF DECISION**

3 February 2023

---

**SUBJECT**

Item 8: HYDROGEN HUB AND TRANSPORT DECARBONISATION PROJECT

---

**DECISION**

- 1. To endorse the proposed process for appointing a project sponsor.**
  - 2. To delegate to the Portfolio Director in consultation with the Chair, Vice Chair and Monitoring Officer the authority to finalise the documentation for the selection process for appointing a project sponsor and deliver the process on behalf of the Board.**
  - 3. To note that, following the completion of the selection process, a recommendation will be made to the Economic Ambition Board for approval.**
- 

**REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

The purpose of the report is to seek endorsement for delivering the process of appointing a project sponsor to deliver the project.

The agreed way forward for the project is to appoint a partner (project sponsor) by a competitive selection process to develop a business case and deliver a hydrogen hub project. This started with a Prior Information Notice (PIN) to assess the market's appetite, capacity and capability to deliver the project in partnership with Ambition North Wales.

On 30th September 2022, the North Wales Economic Ambition Board agreed the following steps:

- To endorse the next steps for the project and the draft procurement principles;
- To delegate to the Portfolio Director, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair, the authority to finalise the procurement specification and then to undertake the procurement activity on behalf of the board.
- To note that following the completion of the procurement process, a recommendation will be made to the Board for approval.

**The Portfolio Management Office subsequently worked with a team of specialist procurement**

---

---

advisors from the consultancy Local Partnerships to consider the most appropriate approach for appointing a sponsor

A number of meetings and workshops were held to discuss the potential procurement routes together with their advantages, disadvantages, and constraints. The process concluded that the use of a competitive public procurement in the context of the Public Procurement Regulations would not be the best approach for appointing a project sponsor.

Consequently, the option of utilising a process similar to the 'Replacement Projects Process' was considered as a more suitable process for appointing a sponsor. It was recommended that the process would provide a suitable alternative to a formal procurement process and would assist accelerate the process, provided that the process was implemented openly and transparently and communicated widely to potentially interested parties.

---

#### **DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST**

No declarations of personal interest were received.

---

#### **ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION**

The Statutory Officers were consulted to seek their views, which have been included in the report.

---



**NORTH WALES ECONOMIC AMBITION BOARD DECISION NOTICE**

**DATE OF DECISION**

3 February 2023

---

**SUBJECT**

Item 9: NORTH WALES SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT PLAN 2023-25

---

**DECISION**

**To endorse the regional Skills and Employment Plan and the three priorities as set out in the plan.**

---

**REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

The North Wales Skills and Employment Plan 2023-2025 has been developed to inform Welsh Government's strategic approach to the delivery of skills and employment provision in the region

It has been produced by the North Wales Regional Skills Partnership after consultations with regional stakeholders, providers, and industry from April – September 2022.

There is a need to report to the North Wales Economic Ambition Board on the Plan.

---

**DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST**

No declarations of personal interest were received.

---

**ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION**

The Statutory Officers were consulted to seek their views, which have been included in the report.

Consultation has taken place with the regional forum, the North Wales Regional Skills Partnership and employers, providers and stakeholders over the summer of 2022.

---





## **NORTH WALES ECONOMIC AMBITION BOARD DECISION NOTICE**

**DATE OF DECISION**

3 February 2023

---

**SUBJECT**

Item 11: PORTFOLIO DELIVERY FUND 2023-24 - CHANGE REQUESTS

---

**DECISION**

1. That the Board agree to the change request for the Former North Wales Hospital, Denbigh and allocate a maximum of £3.0m extra temporarily to the project in the event that the Levelling Up bid is unsuccessful and subject to the separate approval of the Outline Business Case and Full Business Case. No further funding for the project will be allocated through the Growth Deal, any additional increase in costs will have to be incurred by the Project Sponsors.
  2. That the Board agree to the change request for the Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub and allocate a maximum of £1.97m extra temporarily to the project subject to the separate approval of the Full Business Case. No further funding for the project will be allocated through the Growth Deal, any additional increase in costs will have to be incurred by the Project Sponsors.
  3. That the Board agree to the change request for the Enterprise Engineering and Optics Centre and allocate a maximum of £1.7m extra temporarily to the project subject to the separate approval of the Full Business Case. No further funding for the project will be allocated through the Growth Deal, any additional increase in costs will have to be incurred by the Project Sponsors.
  4. That the Board allocate the remaining £225,000 in the Portfolio Delivery Fund to the Last Few % project subject to the separate approval of a future change request and a Full Business Case.
- 

**REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

In December 2022, the Board agreed to establish a Portfolio Delivery Fund for 2023-24 and allocated up to £7m of the funding released from as a result of the withdrawal of the Bodelwyddan and Llysfasi projects to this fund to support mature projects within the portfolio dealing with cost inflation or viability issues to move into delivery during 2023-24 (subject to separate Board decisions).

The purpose of this report is to set out the change requests for additional funding to be provided

---

---

through the Portfolio Delivery Fund to support the work of delivering projects during the 2023-24 financial year.

---

#### **DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST**

Paul Bevan (Grŵp Llandrillo Menai) and Maria Hinfelaar (Glyndŵr University) declared a personal interest as the report referred to allocating specific resources to Grŵp Llandrillo Menai and Glyndŵr University projects, and due to the direct funding nature of the item.

The representatives were of the opinion that it was a prejudicial interest, and they withdraw from the meeting during the discussion on the item.

---

#### **ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION**

The Statutory Officers were consulted to seek their views, which have been included in the report.

---