



Complete Agenda

**Bwrdd Uchelgais Economaidd
Gogledd Cymru**

**North Wales
Economic Ambition Board**

Meeting

NORTH WALES ECONOMIC AMBITION BOARD

Date and Time

2.00 pm, FRIDAY, 15TH DECEMBER, 2023

Location

Virtual Meeting

(For public access to the meeting, please contact us)

Contact Point

Eirian Roberts

01286 679018

eirianroberts3@gwynedd.llyw.cymru

(DISTRIBUTED 07/12/23)

NORTH WALES ECONOMIC AMBITION BOARD

MEMBERSHIP OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE

Voting Members

Councillors

Jason McLellan	Denbighshire County Council
Llinos Medi Huws	Isle of Anglesey County Council
Mark Pritchard	Wrexham County Borough Council
Ian B. Roberts	Flintshire County Council
Charlie McCoubrey	Conwy County Borough Council
Dyfrig Siencyn	Cyngor Gwynedd

Advisers - Non-voting

Dafydd Evans	Grwp Llandrillo Menai
Maria Hinfelaar	Wrexham University
Yana Williams	Coleg Cambria
Askar Sheibani	Business Delivery Board
Professor Edmund Burke	Bangor University

Chief Officers - Non-voting

Dylan Williams	Isle of Anglesey County Council
Rhun ap Gareth	Conwy County Borough Council
Neal Cockerton	Flintshire County Council
Dafydd Gibbard	Cyngor Gwynedd
Ian Bancroft	Wrexham County Borough Council
Graham Boase	Denbighshire County Council

Officers in Attendance

Dewi Morgan	Section 151 Officer
Iwan G. Evans	Monitoring Officer
Alwen Williams	Portfolio Director
Hedd Vaughan Evans	Head of Operations
Nia Medi Williams	Senior Operations Officer

A G E N D A

1. APOLOGIES

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

To receive any declarations of personal interest.

3. URGENT BUSINESS

To note any items that are a matter of urgency in the view of the Chair for consideration.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

5 - 7

The Chair shall propose that the minutes of the meeting held on 17th November, 2023 be signed as a true record.

5. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Chair shall propose that the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the discussions on the following items due to the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 14 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

There is an acknowledged public interest in openness in relation to the use of public resources and related financial issues. It is also acknowledged that there are occasions, in order to protect the financial and commercial interests that matters related to such information need to be discussed without being publicised. The reports deal specifically with financial and business matters and related discussions. Publication of such commercially sensitive information could adversely affect the interests of the bodies and the Councils and undermine the confidence of other Growth Deal participants in sharing sensitive information for consideration. This would be contrary to the wider public interest of securing the best overall outcome.

6. DEESIDE ANAEROBIC DIGESTION PLANT - OUTLINE BUSINESS CASE

Elgan Roberts (Low Carbon Energy Programme Manager) to present the report (which has been circulated to members separately).

7. EGNU - OUTLINE BUSINESS CASE

Elgan Roberts (Low Carbon Energy Programme Manager) to present the report (which has been circulated to members separately).

8. INCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Chair shall propose that the press and public be re-admitted to the meeting.

9. GATEWAY REVIEW (PAR) ACTIONS PLAN 8 - 14

Alwen Williams (Portfolio Director) and Hedd Vaughan-Evans (Head of Operations) to present the report.

10. INVESTMENT PRINCIPLES 15 - 17

Alwen Williams (Portfolio Director) to present the report.

NORTH WALES ECONOMIC AMBITION BOARD 17/11/23

Present:

Voting Members - Councillors:- Jason McLellan (Denbighshire Council), Llinos Medi Huws (Isle of Anglesey County Council), Mark Pritchard (Wrexham County Borough Council), Ian Roberts (Flintshire Council), Charlie McCoubrey (Conwy County Borough Council) and Dyfrig Siencyn (Cyngor Gwynedd) (Chair).

Advisors – Dafydd Evans (Grŵp Llandrillo Menai), Dr Maria Hinfelaar (Glyndŵr University, Wrexham) and Professor Paul Spencer (Bangor University).

Chief Officers - Dylan Williams (Isle of Anglesey County Council), Rhun ap Gareth (Conwy County Borough Council), Neil Cockerton (Flintshire County Council), Dafydd Gibbard (Cyngor Gwynedd), David Fitzsimon (Wrexham County Borough Council) and Graham Boase (Denbighshire County Council).

Officers in attendance -

Host Authority - Dewi A. Morgan (Statutory Finance Officer), Iwan Evans (Monitoring Officer), Sian Pugh (Assistant Head of Finance) and Eirian Roberts (Democracy Services Officer).

Ambition North Wales - Alwen Williams (Portfolio Director), Hedd Vaughan-Evans (Head of Operations), Nia Medi Williams (Senior Operations Officer), Robyn Lovelock (Growth Deal Programme Manager) and Danial Ellis Evans (Interim Energy Project Officer).

Observers - Wendy Boddington (Welsh Government); Gareth Ashman and Michael Holden (UK Government).

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:-

- Askar Sheibani (Business Delivery Board);
- Professor Edmund Burke (Bangor University) with Professor Paul Spencer deputising;
- Ian Bancroft (Wrexham County Borough Council) with David Fitzsimon deputising;

The Chairman welcomed the deputies to the meeting.

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

Dr Maria Hinfelaar declared a personal interest in item 6 as Wrexham University was the sponsor of the Enterprise Engineering and Optic Centre Project. She was of the opinion that it was a prejudicial interest, and withdrew from the meeting during the entire item.

Nevertheless, Dr Maria Hinfelaar noted that she wanted an explanation on two specific matters at some point, namely:-

- The structure of the further Business Justification Cases that were to follow.

- The expenditure profile, i.e. how much money was allocated at the beginning and how much would be dependent on these Business Justification Cases?

The Chair noted that the explanation would be given under item 6 and that Dr Maria Hinfelaar would receive a separate explanation from officers following the meeting.

Graham Boase declared a personal interest in item 6 as he was Director of Glyndŵr Innovations Ltd. which sat under Wrexham University. He was of the opinion that it was a prejudicial interest, and withdrew from the meeting during the entire item.

3. URGENT ITEMS

No urgent matters were raised.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Chair signed the minutes of the previous meeting, held on 27 October 2023, as a true record.

5. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED to exclude the press and public from the meeting during the discussion on the following item due to the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 14, Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 - information about the financial or business transactions of any specific person (including the authority that retains that information).

There is an acknowledged public interest in openness in relation to the use of public resources and related financial issues. It is acknowledged, however, that there are occasions, in order to protect the financial and commercial interests that matters related to such information need to be discussed without being publicised. The report deals specifically with financial and business matter and related discussions. Publication of such commercially sensitive information could adversely affect the interests of the bodies and the Councils and undermine the confidence of other Growth Deal participants in sharing sensitive information for consideration. This would be contrary to the wider public interest of securing the best overall outcome.

6. ENTERPRISE ENGINEERING AND OPTIC CENTRE FULL BUSINESS CASE

The report was submitted by Robyn Lovelock, Growth Deal Programme Manager.

RESOLVED

- 1. That the Board approve the Full Business Case for the Enterprise Engineering and Optic Centre project reflecting the approved change requests at OBC stage and authorise the Portfolio Director, in consultation with the Chair, Section 151 Officer and the Monitoring Officer to agree and enter into a funding agreement with Wrexham University for the delivery of the project, on the basis of Wrexham University addressing the outstanding issues set out in section 7 of the report.**
- 2. That the Board note that the later phases of the project will be subject to Wrexham University producing a Business Justification Case for each expenditure phase.**
- 3. That the Board delegate to the Portfolio Director, in consultation with the Chair, Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer authority to approve the subsequent Business Justification Cases for the later phases of the project where**

expenditure and benefits are within the parameters of the Full Business Case presented.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

To seek the Board's approval of the Full Business Case for the Enterprise Engineering and Optic Centre Project.

The Board approved the Outline Business Case for the project on the 29 April 2022 along with a change request covering a reduction in match funding for the project. The project subsequently received the approval of the assurance process from Welsh Government. This enabled Wrexham University to progress with the procurement phase and development of the Full Business Case.

Wrexham University have now completed the procurement for phase 1 of the project and are now presenting to the Board, a Full Business Case for a final investment decision.

DISCUSSION

The item was discussed.

The meeting commenced at 10.00am and concluded at 10:35am.

Chair

REPORT TO THE NORTH WALES ECONOMIC AMBITION BOARD
15 December 2023

TITLE: Gateway Review (PAR) Action Plan
AUTHOR: Alwen Williams, Portfolio Director
Hedd Vaughan-Evans, Head of Operations

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1. The purpose of the report is to present the action plan in response to the 2023 Gateway Review (PAR) recommendations for the North Wales Growth Deal.

2. DECISION SOUGHT

- 2.1. That the Board support the action plan developed by the Portfolio Director and timescales for implementation in response to the 2023 Gateway Review (PAR) recommendations.
- 2.2. That the Board note that there may be a requirement to amend the action plan following the follow up Assurance of Action Plan (AAP) review in December and that in such an instance the Portfolio Director would consult the Chair and Vice-Chair on those amendments.

3. REASONS FOR THE DECISION

- 3.1. It is a requirement for the North Wales Growth Deal to respond to the recommendations set out in the Gateway Review report.

4. BACKGROUND AND RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1. In December 2020, the Economic Ambition Board and the Welsh and UK Governments agreed the Final Deal Agreement for the North Wales Growth Deal.
- 4.2. As part of the assurance arrangements for the North Wales Growth Deal, the portfolio must undertake an annual Gateway Review (PAR) assessment and respond to the recommendations.
- 4.3. The 2023 review took place between the 16th and 19th of October 2023. The review team were tasked with identifying the blockers to the delivery of the Growth Deal and make recommendations that would enable the Portfolio Management Office to address these blockers and speed up the delivery of the Growth Deal. The report set out 15 recommendations for the Portfolio Management Office to address.
- 4.4. The Gateway Review (PAR) report was presented to the Board as part of the 2023 Portfolio Business Case update on 27 October 2023.
- 4.5. The action plan included as Appendix 1 has been developed by the Portfolio Director and Head of Operations following discussions with Economic Ambition Board, Portfolio Board and the

Portfolio Management Office. The action plan was endorsed by the Portfolio Board on 24th November. Due to the timescales set out in the Gateway Review (PAR) report and the need to demonstrate progress by the follow up AAP review in December 2023, the majority of actions are already underway. The action plan sets out the timescales for completing activities as well as the resources required.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. There are no financial implications from the decision sought. The action plan is to be delivered within existing PMO resources.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. It is a requirement for the Portfolio Management Office to respond to the Gateway Review (PAR) recommendations and put in place an action plan.

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1 Gateway Review (PAR) Action Plan

BACKGROUND PAPER (Confidential document):

- 2023 Gateway Review (PAR) Report
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STATUTORY OFFICERS RESPONSE:

- i. **Monitoring Officer – Host Authority:**
“I am satisfied with the propriety of the recommendation and I am ready to work with the Portfolio Office to implement the actions.”
- ii. **Statutory Finance Officer (the Host Authority’s Section 151 Officer):**
“I have discussed the content of the review with Ambition North Wales officers, and Finance Service officers have been involved in the interviews. I particularly note that recommendation 11 includes a reference to allowing partners to access the financial support that the Portfolio Management Office receives from the Finance Service. I have no objection to this, but of course the role of the s151 officer is to provide the appropriate support to the Ambition Board and to the Portfolio Management Office and that includes challenging and verifying the information and plans submitted by the partners. Should the Finance Service be asked to provide direct support to any partners I will steps in place to ensure that this does not create a conflict of interest or weaken governance in any way.

I believe that the responses offered in the action plan are reasonable and realistic and I support the decision sought.”

Appendix 1

NORTH WALES GROWTH DEAL – GATEWAY REVIEW ACTION PLAN

Context

The Portfolio Management Office accepts the recommendations from the PAR report and will put in place actions to address these, however our view is that it is not possible to address all 15 recommendations in the timescales set out within the report without diverting significant resources from project delivery. As this would be counter to the overall purpose of the review and the recommendations to increase the pace of delivery, the Portfolio Management Office have prioritised the recommendations and are proposing new target dates that can be delivered.

Ref. No.	Recommendation	Urgency	PAR Target date for completion	Proposed Action	Action Owner	Resources	Action Target date
1	<p>The SRO should ensure the following actions are implemented to improve effectiveness of the governance process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The entire decision-making process should be streamlined in terms of the number of board interactions required particularly regarding business case development. The Economic Ambition Board (EAB) should be prepared to approve relevant FBCs out of Committee to expedite the move into delivery. New business cases that don't require planning consent can be expedited faster The Project and Programme Boards for internal projects should be merged with the latter doing the business case reviews. 	Essential	By end November 2023	1a) PMO to commission external review of assurance and approval process including decision making process.	Head of Operations	Costs to be met from existing portfolio development budget.	Commission by Dec 2023. Implement by March 2024.
				1b) Having consulted with Monitoring Officer it is not possible under GA2 for EAB to make FBC decisions out of committee. EAB to hold additional extraordinary meetings if urgent decisions are required (5 days notice)	Monitoring Officer	n/a	Extraordinary meetings to be held as required.
				1c) PMO to review internal arrangements. Proposal to merge PMO led energy and digital project boards with the relevant programme board to oversee delivery. PMO to consider merging Agrifood and Tourism and Innovation in High Value Manufacturing Programme Boards or combining the meetings.	Head of Operations	Existing PMO staff	Review and consult with relevant Boards by Jan 2023. Implement in February 2024.

Ref. No.	Recommendation	Urgency	PAR Target date for completion	Proposed Action	Action Owner	Resources	Action Target date
2	<p>The SRO should ensure that, to mitigate the length of time to OBC approval, a more flexible approvals process should be implemented including:</p> <p>The level of assurance for smaller projects should be proportionate and new projects that don't require planning consent should be expedited.</p> <p>In addition to providing exemplars where they can, the PMO should sense check new projects thinking around the content they intend to provide for each of the five stages of the business cases</p>	Essential	By end November 2023	2a) Addressed by action 1a	n/a	n/a	n/a
				2b) Addressed by action 1a	n/a	n/a	n/a
				2c) PMO to develop template for high level project summary to focus on key questions in each case – building on initial application form for new projects.	Growth Deal Programme Manager	Existing PMO staff	End of March 2024.
3	The SRO should discuss with the Wales Regional Team the establishment of a Growth Deal Wales forum to provide mutual support and sharing best practice of business case design throughout Wales.	Recommended	n/a	3a) Request Welsh Government consider the establishment of a Wales Growth Deal forum.	Portfolio Director	n/a	Make request by Dec 2023
4	The SRO should seek to establish an appropriate cycle of strategic level communications between senior officials in the relevant policy areas of UKG, WG and the Portfolio at the strategic level. The outcomes should trickle down to operational level to ensure project alignment. In particular, a Plan B for projects where viability is uncertain due to policy development should be developed.	Essential	End of Q1 2024	4a) Request quarterly strategic meetings with UK/WG policy leads covering programme areas.	Portfolio Director	n/a	Make request by Dec 2023
				4b) Mitigation strategy already in place for some projects. PMO to develop similar strategies for Digital and Hydrogen.	Energy Programme Manager & Digital Programme Manager	Existing PMO staff	End of March 2024.

Ref. No.	Recommendation	Urgency	PAR Target date for completion	Proposed Action	Action Owner	Resources	Action Target date
5	The PMO should adopt a Portfolio approach to balancing/flexing resources within/across projects as needed, prioritising reallocation of resources to those projects close to delivery.	Critical	Do now	5) Priority projects pipeline identified and weekly PMO SCRUM set up to allocated tasks and resources.	Head of Operations	Internal PMO resources from Digital, Skills and Operations (2 x Project Manager, 1 x Project Officer) reallocated to support priority project pipeline.	Ongoing – review in December 2023
6	The PMO should remind EAB and Portfolio Board members of their obligations to ensure that communication of messages to frontline staff involved in the Growth Deal delivery is robust and timely.	Essential	At the next EAB meeting	6) Discussed at strategic session. New Strategic Communications Lead to review internal communications within partnership and implement required changes to support EAB and Portfolio Board to share key messages.	Strategic Communications and Engagement Lead	Existing PMO staff	Review completed by Feb 2024
7	The EAB should ensure robust challenge to sponsors for evidence that they have and will commit sufficient resource upfront to support project development and planning.	Essential	Ongoing	7) PMO to carry out risk review including how project risks are presented to EAB. Chair of EAB to write to projects where capacity/resources are identified as a risk.	Head of Operations and Digital Programme Manager (risk lead)	Existing PMO staff	Review by Jan 2023. Implement by March 2024
8	The PMO should ensure it robustly monitors known external risk factors, such as policy changes and related initiatives. Close working with WG/UKG in this area at a much earlier stage is essential to ensure strategic project choices are optimised.	Essential	Ongoing	8) Risk reviews in 7a to also consider strategic risk and relationship with WG/UKG. Strategic meetings set out in 4a will also support this recommendation.	n/a	n/a	n/a

Ref. No.	Recommendation	Urgency	PAR Target date for completion	Proposed Action	Action Owner	Resources	Action Target date
9	The SRO should ensure that distractions are minimised/mitigated for all members of the Portfolio for at least the next 6 months until the rate of projects entering delivery is improved in accordance with the Growth Deal Agreement if appropriate.	Essential	Now until delivery improves	9) PMO attendance and/or presentations at external events/conferences to be limited and prioritised for next six months.	Portfolio Director & Head of Operations	Existing PMO staff	Ongoing – review in March 2024
10	The Head of Operations should ensure that the requirements for entry to the Portfolio and for all stages of business case development include undertaking public sector focused procurement training and involvement of procurement throughout, evidence of active risk identification and action to mitigate and plans that demonstrate robust risk assessment and percentage confidence rating.	Essential	In place by end November 2023 and ongoing	10a) PMO reviewing procurement training packages available to sponsors	Procurement and Social Value Manager	Existing PMO staff	Review by Jan 2023. Implement by March 2024
				10b) Risk review in 7a to also consider how projects evidence active risk management. Consider use of through risk response action plans.	n/a	n/a	n/a
11	The SRO should explore with partners mechanisms for enabling PMO access to additional legal and financial expertise to avoid delays in business case development and the path to delivery.	Essential	Within next six weeks	11) Priority projects pipeline identified and weekly Legal/Finance SCRUM set up to allocated tasks and resources.	Head of Operations, Monitoring Officer & s151 Officer.	Gwynedd resources plus Pinsent Masons & Arlingclose when required.	Ongoing – review in December 2023
12	The PMO should review the role and membership of the BDG to determine when and how its expertise can be more effective in supporting progress into delivery.	Recommended	n/a	12) Chair of EAB and Chair of Business Delivery Board to review membership and diversity of Board	Chair of Economic Ambition Board Chair of Business Delivery Board	n/a	Review by Dec 2023. Implement by March 2024.

Ref. No.	Recommendation	Urgency	PAR Target date for completion	Proposed Action	Action Owner	Resources	Action Target date
13	<p>The SRO and EAB jointly should take the following action as a matter of priority:</p> <p>A “Rapid Delivery Team” should be brought in to support current project managers/PMO to get those projects close to the line into delivery.</p> <p>The Rapid Delivery Team leader should work with the current PMO leadership group to oversee the work including managing challenging relationships including private sector stakeholders.</p>	Critical	Do Now	<p>13) PMO to procure a framework of specialist expertise to support the PMO to get projects into delivery. Lots likely to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ PPM and Risk Management; ➤ Commercial negotiations; ➤ Procurement; ➤ Financial Viability; ➤ Carbon and Biodiversity; <p>* Also see Action 5&11 in relation to priority pipeline SCRUM arrangements</p>	Head of Operations	Initial budget of £200k to be made available through pausing recruitment of new project officers for Energy and Property	<p>Launch procurement – Dec 2023</p> <p>Selection process – Jan 2024</p> <p>Operational – February 2024</p>
14	A Non-Executive Director (NED) should be appointed to the EAB to provide an increased level of challenge from an independent source.	Essential	From end December 2023	14) Economic Ambition Board to consider recommendation.	Chair of Economic Ambition Board	n/a	Decision by March 2024
15	The Head of Operations should ensure that greater emphasis is placed on highlighting the relationship between outputs, outcomes and benefits in business case development and how these will be quantified and measured. Other members of the PMO should continue to contribute to embedding the Benefits Realisation plan in specific business cases.	Essential	From end November 2023 With all existing business case in development and ongoing	15a) PMO to share Portfolio Benefits Plan and Programme Benefits Plans with all projects as the template for project benefit plans.	Programme Managers	Existing PMO staff	By December 2023
				15b) Programme Boards to include rolling review or project benefit plans.	Programme Managers	Existing PMO staff	Ongoing - Implement by January 2024

REPORT TO THE NORTH WALES ECONOMIC AMBITION BOARD
15 December, 2023

TITLE: Investment Principles
AUTHOR: Alwen Williams, Portfolio Director

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1. The purpose of the report is to present the investment principles that found the strategy for attracting Growth Deal and wider regional economic development in North Wales. Each serves as a guide to underpin our strengths and opportunities for investors.

2. DECISION SOUGHT

- 2.1. That the Board support the founding principles which will underpin the strategy to achieve the investment objectives for the North Wales Growth Deal.
- 2.2. That the Board note that the detailed investment strategy, comprising the principles and plan, will be presented to the Board in February 2024.

3. REASONS FOR THE DECISION

- 3.1. To underpin the development of the detailed strategy that will build on assurance that our collective ambition to deliver the £1bn Growth Deal for North Wales can be achieved.

4. BACKGROUND AND RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1. The five Growth Deal programmes have a total capital investment target of £1billion.
- 4.2. Of this total, £240million has been committed by UK and Welsh Governments and £760 million of additional capital is expected to come from other public and private sector sources. The investment will collectively contribute to the region's economic growth over a ten to fifteen-year term.
- 4.3. This joint financial commitment and objective is crucial to enhance the region's infrastructure, thereby creating a more attractive opportunity for the business sector. The approach not only amplifies our regional strengths but also significantly boosts our competitiveness within the UK wide and Global market. The Growth Deal lays a solid foundation for the North Wales economy to thrive and deliver social, economic, and environmental benefits that surpass its initial investment objectives.
- 4.4. The investment principles set out in section 4.5 have been developed in consultation with the Business Delivery Board and the Portfolio Board and are supported by an ongoing research

exercise carried out by Savills consultancy which will inform the final investment strategy document to be presented in February.

4.5. The following set of principles will guide our basic strategy to leverage investment:

- **Drive collaboration** – Ambition North Wales plays a pivotal role in unifying regional stakeholders - to present a cohesive, collaborative ‘Team North Wales’s welcome for potential investors, to build relationships and leverage cross-border opportunities.
- **Build on our strengths** – we prioritise our people, skills, culture, language, and heritage, and capitalise on our industrial and low-carbon energy sectors, inviting investors to join us to create impactful partnerships that emphasise social value and community benefits.
- **Promote our magnet sites as foundations for regional growth** - highlighting their potential for new investments, skills, and collaborations, and demonstrating our readiness for business.
- **Enhance our visibility to unlock investment** - we commit to developing and marketing strategic investment opportunities, actively promoting them to bridge information gaps and empower confident and effective investor engagement.
- **Build opportunities of scale** – we aim to target a broad spectrum of investors, from local to international. By packaging schemes to create opportunities of significant scale we can achieve projects likely to appeal in a wider investor market.
- **Promote our town centres** – dynamic town centres are crucial to support the development of year-round economies and address labour market challenges. We will actively promote the opportunity for investment and ongoing partnerships that are transforming our towns.
- **Cultivate opportunity through strategic development** – we commit to reversing the trend of population decline and outmigration of skilled people by co-creating and delivering strategic development and regional transport plans that create thriving, accessible and well-connected communities.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1. There are no financial implications from the decision sought.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1. There are no legal implications from the decision sought.

7. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

7.1. The investment principles and the detailed strategy to be presented in February supports the delivery of the North Wales Growth Deal. Ambition North Wales through its portfolio of programmes and projects along with the processes put in place aim to ensure that the Growth Deal will have a positive impact against all the 7 well-being goals. The investment strategy will ensure that our approach to securing investment for the Growth Deal is line with the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

- 7.2. The Growth Deal will have a neutral impact on equalities against the 11 protected characteristics. The Growth Deal projects are being co-produced through partnerships involving the public and private sector, research bodies and the regional skills partnership, with a focus on engagement to positively impact those disadvantaged by gender, disability, ethnicity or age.
- 7.3. Delivery of the Growth Deal will have a positive impact on the Welsh Language, proactively seeking opportunities to promote and facilitate the use of the Welsh language across the region.
- 7.4. An Individual Impact Assessment is completed for all projects as part of the Business Case development.

STATUTORY OFFICERS RESPONSE:

i. Monitoring Officer – Host Authority:

“I will provide any observations in relation to propriety at the meeting.”

ii. Statutory Finance Officer (the Host Authority’s Section 151 Officer):

“I have no objections to the decision sought from the perspective of financial propriety.”