



Complete Agenda

**Bwrdd Uchelgais Economaidd
Gogledd Cymru**

**North Wales
Economic Ambition Board**

Meeting

NORTH WALES ECONOMIC AMBITION BOARD

Date and Time

9.30 am, FRIDAY, 17TH MAY, 2024

Location

Virtual Meeting

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

Contact Point

Rhodri Jones

01286 679556

rhodrijones1@gwynedd.llyw.cymru

(DISTRIBUTED 09/05/24)

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 th Chair for consideration.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

5 - 13

The Chair shall propose that the minutes of the meeting held on 15 March 2024 be signed as a true record.

5. NWEAB'S REVENUE AND CAPITAL OUT-TURN POSITION FOR 2023/24

14 - 22

Dewi Morgan (Host Authority Head of Finance and Statutory Finance Officer) and Sian Pugh (Host Authority Assistant Head of Finance) to present the report.

6. NORTH WALES GROWTH DEAL - QUARTER 4 PERFORMANCE AND RISK REPORT

23 - 50

Hedd Vaughan-Evans (Head of Operation) to present the report.

7. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

51 - 52

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.

8. FORMER NORTH WALES HOSPITAL, DENBIGH - FULL BUSINESS CASE

David Mathews (Land and Property Programme Manager) to present the report.

NORTH WALES ECONOMIC AMBITION BOARD
15/03/2024

Present:

Voting Members - Councillors:- Jason McLellan (Denbighshire County Council), Gary Pritchard (Isle of Anglesey County Council), Mark Pritchard (Wrexham County Borough Council), Paul Johnson (Flintshire County Council), Charlie McCoubrey (Conwy County Borough Council) and Dyfrig Siencyn (Cyngor Gwynedd) (chairing).

Advisors – Dr Maria Hinfelaar (Wrexham University), Askar Sheibani (Business Delivery Board), Gwenllian Roberts (Grŵp Llandrillo Menai) and Chris Drew (Bangor University).

Chief Officers – Dafydd Gibbard (Cyngor Gwynedd), Dylan Williams (Isle of Anglesey County Council), Sarah Ecob (Conwy County Borough Council), Neil Cockerton (Flintshire County Council), Ian Bancroft (Wrexham County Borough Council) and Graham Boase (Denbighshire County Council).

Officers in attendance -

Host Authority - Dewi A. Morgan (Statutory Finance Officer), Siôn Huws (Deputy Monitoring Officer and Propriety and Elections Manager), Siân Pugh (Assistant Head of Finance) and Rhodri Jones (Democracy Services Officer).

Ambition North Wales - Alwen Williams (Portfolio Director), Hedd Vaughan-Evans (Head of Operations), Dylan J Williams (North Wales Councils' Lead Chief Executive), Nia Medi Williams (Senior Operations Officer) and Stuart Whitfield (Digital Programme Manager).

Observers - Dewi Williams (UK Government).

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:-

- Iwan G Evans (Monitoring Officer)
- Councillor Llinos Medi Huws (Isle of Anglesey County Council) with Councillor Gary Pritchard deputising;
- Councillor Ian Roberts (Flintshire County Council) with Councillor Paul Johnson deputising;
- Yana Williams (Coleg Cambria);
- Professor Edmund Burke (Bangor University) with Chris Drew deputising;
- Rhun ap Gareth (Conwy County Borough Council) with Sarah Ecob deputising;
- Dafydd Evans (Grŵp Llandrillo Menai) with Gwenllian Roberts deputising;
- Wendy Boddington (Observer, Welsh Government) with Dewi Williams deputising.

The Chair welcomed the deputies to the meeting.

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

A declaration of personal interest was received from Alwen Williams (Portfolio Director) for Item 8 due to her appointment as interim Chief Executive of the North Wales Corporate

Joint Committee. It was noted that it was a prejudicial interest and she withdrew from the meeting for the 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 2 February 2024, as a true record.

5. 2024/25 REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET

The report was presented by the Host Authority's Head of Finance Department.

RESOLVED

To approve:

- 1. The 2024/25 Revenue Budget as presented in Appendix 1.**
- 2. Funding contributions to include the partner contributions and local authorities' supplementary contributions.**
- 3. Capital Budget for the Growth Deal as presented in Appendix 2.**
- 4. Extension of the fixed term staff contracts from March 2025 to March 2026.**

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

In order to operate effectively within the funding available, the NWEAB requires an annual budget to be approved.

Appendix 1 sets out the proposed budget per expenditure heading and the corresponding funding streams for the year.

Appendix 2 sets out the proposed capital budget per project and the corresponding capital funding for the Growth Deal of £240m.

Appendix 3 provides a summary of the 2024/25 budget against the draft budget for 2025/26.

DISCUSSION

Members were guided through the revenue budget of the Ambition Board and specific attention was drawn to the following headings:

- Portfolio Management Office - noting that expenditure included twenty employees as well as a student placement grant-funded post until August 2024.
- Support Services - it was explained that these included finance, legal, corporate support, information technology and insurance.
- Joint Committee - it was noted that these were relevant to the Ambition Board as a joint committee and it included external legal costs for the Governance Agreement, Financial Budgetary Fees, External Audit Fees and the budget of the Business Delivery Board.
- Projects - it was confirmed that it included the revenue expenditure that was associated with the capital projects of the Growth Deal, which included the

projects' business cases, external legal and procurement support as well as Assurance Reviews by the Government.

- Grant Schemes - it was explained that it was relevant to the Local Area Energy Schemes that were funded by a specific grant from Welsh Government and also included the schemes funded by the UK's Shared Prosperity Fund.

Attention was drawn to the Funding Contributions heading within the revenue budget, noting that it included partners' contributions and councils' supplementary contributions. It was elaborated that it also included a Growth Deal Grant of £1.1m and which was part of the 2.15% that had been earmarked for revenue expenditure. It was noted that Welsh Government's Energy Grant funded the expenditure of the 'Grant Schemes' along with the UK's Shared Prosperity Fund. It was explained that the Shared Prosperity Fund funded the expenditure of the 'Grant Schemes' heading and also contributed towards the costs of core staff of the Portfolio Management Office. It was reported that £211,000 would be in the reserve fund after £67,000 was used in the budget this year.

It was added that one student from Bangor University worked with the Portfolio Management Office and the salary was funded by Welsh Government following a request from Ambition North Wales to one of the government's procurement programmes. It was noted that this plan was very valuable and other universities in north Wales would be happy to benefit from them.

It was reported that the capital budget was based on expenditure profile that had been adapted according to risk and was reviewed during the year if business cases were approved by the Ambition Board. It was noted that expenditure of £240 million would be funded from the Growth Deal but the timing of receiving the grant would mean that short-term borrowing would be required. It was elaborated that the cost of borrowing would be funded by partners and sponsors of projects who had already been contributing an annual sum towards this in a specific reserve fund. It was confirmed that substantial interest had accumulated on the balances and it would be transferred to the same fund.

It was explained that the Growth Deal grant would not be received in 2023/24 and Ambition North Wales had been discussing the implications of this with both governments, and a report had been submitted to the UK Government on the logic behind an amended funding profile and the reallocation of funding from this year onwards. As a one-off measure for 2024/25, it was reported that partners would not be invoiced for interest contributions to meet additional costs when they arise, and the levels of contributions would be reviewed as required for the coming years as more information would be available throughout the financial year.

6. INVESTMENT STRATEGY

The report was submitted by the Portfolio Director.

RESOLVED

To approve the detailed Investment Strategy comprising both the principles and plan, accepting that realising aspects of its implementation are subject to funding being secured.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The investment strategy and plan build on assurance that our collective ambition to deliver the £1bn Growth Deal for North Wales can be achieved.

DISCUSSION

Members were reminded that this was the first investment strategy to be developed for the north Wales area. It was explained that the strategy was essential for the future as it set the framework to attract investors to the area.

An update was provided on the North Wales Ambition Investment Strategy, reminding Members that the Investment Strategy was expected to attract £1bn into the North Wales economy. The members were guided through the report that planned how this target would be met. It was elaborated that the Growth Deal Project included 23 projects across five programmes and an analysis was provided of how those projects fed into the target of attracting £1bn of investment in the region.

It was reported that Ambition North Wales had commissioned the Saville consultation company to provide advice on the Investment Strategy. It was elaborated that they had carried out research with stakeholders in 2023 to ensure strong development of the Strategy. It was recognised that this research had identified several barriers for investment in north Wales, which included:

- Scale and value
- Risk and uncertainty
- Gaps in information and knowledge
- Specialist nature of some opportunities
- Cohesion across the public sector
- Speed of response
- Public investment.

It was confirmed that several investment principles had been developed in response to these barriers and they were approved by the Ambition Board in December 2023. Members were reminded that the principles included: 'collaboration', 'visibility to unlock investment', 'strategic development', 'building on strength and scale of opportunities', 'promoting magnet sites as foundations for regional growth' and 'promoting our town centres'. It was explained that these principles had been used to develop the Objectives of the Investment Strategy. It was ensured that the objectives had been developed to ensure rational and careful development for investment when meeting requirements and targets in a timely manner.

It was explained that the first objective - research analysis, had now been completed following Savilles' work. It was elaborated that the principles discussed had been noted as the strategy's objectives, confirming that they were considered continuously when making decisions.

Reference was made to the other five objectives that would be implemented in future. It was explained that some would be funded from the current budget but it was recognised that the support of stakeholders would be required to realise some of the objectives. Details were provided on the objectives, noting:

- Establish a Private-Public sector Stakeholders' Investment Group: It was hoped to work closely with stakeholders to ensure that successful investments were submitted. It was explained that the initial steps to realise this objective was to identify suitable stakeholders for the group.
- Communication and Engagement: It was emphasised that there were opportunities to strengthen communication and engagement systems with the investment market, including promoting advertising opportunities with suitable companies.

- **Communication and Marketing:** The desire to extend communication methods in the marketing field was shared in order to share awareness of the opportunities available in north Wales.
- **Investment support package:** It was explained that it was hoped to develop an equipment information database to assist with the investment process.
- **Investment framework:** It was noted that it was wished to develop an investment framework for north Wales to help prospective investors to make informed decisions based on the investment opportunities that are available in the region.

The desire of the Business Delivery Board was expressed to draw the attention of the Welsh Government to available opportunities in north Wales, noting that it was timely to do so with the appointment of the new First Minister and Government Ministers.

7. FUNCTIONS OF THE NORTH WALES ECONOMIC AMBITION BOARD - TRANSFER TO THE NORTH WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

The report was submitted by the Portfolio Director.

RESOLVED

- 1. To support the progress update on work to establish the Corporate Joint Committee (CJC), and to respond to the tasks required by its statutory functions.**
- 2. To support the proposed plan and provisional timetable for the transfer of the North Wales Growth Deal to the North Wales CJC.**

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

In December 2021/January 2022, the Cabinet and Executives in each of the six Local Authorities agreed, in principle, that the functions of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board should be transferred by way of a delegation agreement to the CJC. The statutory framework and the establishment of the CJC means that the proposed transfer needed to be progressed.

DISCUSSION

It was explained that the report submitted the latest information on the progress of establishing the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee, responded to its statutory functions and delivered the proposal of transferring the functions of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board to the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee.

It was recognised that substantial work needed to be completed to establish the Joint Committee and completing those transfers effectively without affecting the quality of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board's work was a priority for officers, in order to proceed with the Growth Deal.

It was reported that it was intended to transfer staff from the North Wales Economic Ambition Board to the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee on 1 July 2024. It was noted that several work streams needed to be established to enable this transfer, namely:

- Agreement on transferring legal and governance services
- Consult with staff to ensure that appropriate policies and policies were in place to ensure successful transfer of People and Human Resources to the Joint

Committee. It was emphasised that engagement with staff was crucial to ensure that everyone coped with the transfers and work that derived from the Growth Deal.

- Transfer Growth Deal funding and project funding arrangements ensuring that every process and operational system are in place to transfer the Portfolio Management Office to the Joint Committee.
- Ensure communication with staff and key stakeholders and include them throughout the process. It was noted that this would ensure that the Growth Deal continued to be delivered on time.

It was ensured that input from representatives from the private sector would be an integral part of the Joint Committee, and this was supported by Members. It was elaborated that it was possible to co-opt members from the private sector for specific discussions to ensure that their voices were heard as part of the Joint Committee's work.

A desire was expressed to support the work streams in order to confirm timely transfers. It was proposed and seconded to amend the decision to reflect this.

8. NORTH WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE (CJC) - EXTENDING THE PART-TIME SECONDMENT OF THE EAB PORTFOLIO DIRECTOR AS INTERIM CJC CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The report was submitted by the North Wales Councils' Lead Chief Executive for the NWEAB.

RESOLVED

- 1. To support the extension of the arrangement to release the Portfolio Director's time for two days per week until 30 June 2024 to continue to undertake the Interim Chief Executive role.**
- 2. It was noted that all employment and associated costs would continue to be covered by the North Wales CJC.**

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

Taking into consideration the Councils' decision, in principle, to the transfer of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board's functions in assisting the region to establish a Corporate Joint Committee and to ensure that the Ambition Board's interests were safeguarded as the CJC moved forward.

By now, 1 July 2024 this year had been identified as the date for the final transfer of the Board's functions to the CJC and a report outlining the steps to be taken in order to realise that transfer would be submitted to the Corporate Joint Committee's next meeting on 22 March 2024.

DISCUSSION

It was reported that it was hoped that the transfer to the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee would be completed by the end of the 2023/24 financial year but it was recognised that this was not possible due to the complex nature of the transfer. It was confirmed that the amended timetable was to deliver the transfer on 1 July 2024 as discussed above (Item 7).

It was confirmed that the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee would also discuss the amended timetable at its meeting held on 22 March 2024.

Officers of the Host Authority were thanked for their work to support the Ambition Board and the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee. The Portfolio Director and all officers were also thanked for their work.

9. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED to exclude the press and public from the meeting during the discussion on the following items for the reasons stated:

- **Items 10 and 11: Paragraph 14 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act (Information about the financial or business transactions of any specific person (including the authority that retains that information)).** There was an acknowledged public interest in openness in relation to the use of public resources and related financial issues. It was recognised, however, that there were occasions in order to protect public financial and commercial interests, where such information must be discussed without being publicised. The report dealt 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.
- **Item 12: Paragraph 14 (Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) and Paragraph 16 (information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings)) of Appendix 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.** There was an acknowledged public interest in openness in relation to the use of public resources and related financial issues. It was also acknowledged that there were occasions, in order to protect the financial and commercial interests that matters related to such information needed to be discussed without being publicised. The report dealt specifically with financial and business matter and related discussions. It also included legal advice for the Board which needed to be protected in order to have an open and frank discussion. 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.

10. 4G+ (CONNECTED KEY SITES AND CORRIDORS) - OUTLINE BUSINESS CASE

The report was submitted by the Digital Programme Manager.

RESOLVED

- 1. To approve the Outline Business Case for the 4G+ (Connected Key Sites and Corridors) project subject to the portfolio management office addressing the matters set out in the report, as described in Section 7, and recommend that a Full Business Case was prepared for the Board to consider.**
- 2. To authorise the Portfolio Director in consultation with the Host Authority Section 151 Officer and Monitoring Officer to agree draft terms in accordance with this report for approval by the NWEAB as a basis for the final funding**

arrangements for the project which will form the basis of the Grant Offer Letter which will be agreed by the Board at the Full Business Case stage.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

To seek the Portfolio Board's approval of the Outline Business Case for the 4G+ (Connected Key Sites and Corridors) project.

DISCUSSION

The report was discussed.

11. HYDROGEN SPONSOR CHALLENGE - FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The report was submitted by the Portfolio Director and Head of Operations.

RESOLVED

1. To support the recommendation for the following projects:

- **HSC01 – North-east Wales Hydrogen Hub (NEW – H2):** To invite the project to join the North Wales Growth Deal, subject to agreeing an MOU with the project sponsor.
- **HSC03 – Project HydRive:** While not inviting the project to join the Growth Deal, to support the concept and further development of the project with the PMO with a view that the project could be considered for funding through the Smart Local Energy fund once launched.

2. To delegate authority to the Portfolio Director and Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-chair to confirm conditions with the project sponsor of HSC01 and to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the project sponsor confirming the requirements and expectations relating to Growth Deal Funding.

3. To note that inviting a project to join the Growth Deal was not a decision to invest in the project. In line with the usual process to access funding, all projects would be required to produce a business case for consideration by the Board.

4. It was noted that supporting the principle of project HSC03 did not provide any guarantee of funding through the alternative sources suggested. Any future application would need to be assessed on merit against the criteria set out.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

A decision was required following the conclusion of the Hydrogen Sponsor Challenge.

DISCUSSION

The report was discussed.

12. DEESIDE ANAEROBIC DIGESTION PLANT - OPTIONS PAPER

The report was submitted by the Digital Programme Manager.

RESOLVED

To defer consideration of the Full Business Case in accordance with Option A and to ask for a further report to the next meeting of the Board with a recommendation on the way forward for the project.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

To provide clarity to the Portfolio Management Office and the project sponsor on the next steps in relation to the project.

DISCUSSION

The report was discussed.

The meeting commenced at 9.30am and concluded at 12.15pm.

Chair



REPORT TO THE NORTH WALES ECONOMIC AMBITION BOARD

17/05/2024

Title: NWEAB's Revenue and Capital out-turn position for 2023/24.

Author: Dewi A Morgan, Host Authority Head of Finance (Statutory Finance Officer)

Sian Pugh, Host Authority Assistant Head of Finance

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 This report intends to provide the North Wales Economic Ambition Board (NWEAB) with the final position for both revenue and capital in 2023/24.

2. Decision Sought

The Board is asked to note and accept the:-

2.1 NWEAB's revenue out-turn report for 2023/24 (Appendix 1), which includes using £561,454 from the North Wales Growth Deal grant to show a neutral position for the year.

2.2 NWEAB's reserves position (Appendix 2).

2.3 Capital End of Year Review as of 31 March 2024 (Appendix 3).

3. Reasons for the Decision

3.1 To inform the NWEAB of their financial position for both revenue and capital in 2023/24.

4. Background and Relevant Considerations

- 4.1 The NWEAB is considered a “larger relevant body” pursuant to the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations 2014 (as amended). This means that an annual Statement of Accounts in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom will be produced for 2023/24 and presented to the Board in due course.

Revenue

5. Expenditure and income in 2023/24

- 5.1 Appendix 1 provides a detailed analysis of the actual expenditure and income per heading against its 2023/24 budget.
- 5.2 The final net out-turn position for 2023/24 was an underspend of £460,546, and this has increased from the £340,768 underspend that was forecasted in the end of December 2023 review. The underspend in 2023/24 is due to the success of the Portfolio Management Office with their regional Shared Prosperity Fund application as well a reduction in expenditure on several of the budget headings. In order to leave a neutral position for the year, the Board will be asked to approve for a reduced amount of £561,454 (compared to the original budget of £1,022,000) of the Growth Deal Grant to be used to fund the revenue expenditure in 2023/24.

Portfolio Management Office

- 5.3 The final underspend on this heading is £75,151 and is mainly due to staff turnover during the year.

Accountable Body Support Services

- 5.4 The final underspend on this heading is £39,391 which is the result of the reduced net expenditure on the Accountable Body (host authority) support services.

Joint Committee

- 5.5 The final underspend on this heading is £40,995, which is due to an underspend on the External Legal Support, External Financial Fees and the Business Delivery Board headings.

Projects

- 5.6 The final underspend on this heading is £129,091 and this is due to the slippage on the capital programme. There's an underspend on the project business case development and the external procurement support but there has been high demand for external legal and financial support on the projects.

Grant schemes

- 5.7 The expenditure under the grants heading includes Local Energy schemes and the Agri-food research that are funded from Welsh Government grants. The Local Area Energy Plans is showing as a significant underspend in 2023/24, but this is due to £162k of the expenditure having been incurred at the end of the previous financial year.

Transfers to reserves

- 5.8 The transfers to reserves section shows the 2023/24 partner interest contributions (£251,040) as well as the interest on the capital grant (£2,814,561) transferred to a specific interest reserve to be ringfenced to fund the cost of borrowing in future years.

Funding Contributions

- 5.9 The main income streams for 2023/24 include partner contributions, ESF Grant, the revenue allocation of the North Wales Growth Deal (NWGD) grant, CJC contribution for staff secondment, Welsh Government Energy grant, UK Shared Prosperity Fund and the earmarked reserve.
- 5.10 The original Growth Deal grant allocation was £1,022,000, but due to the net underspend position of £460,546 for 2023/24, a reduced amount of £561,454 is

needed in order to leave a neutral position for the year. Although the North Wales Growth Deal grant is a capital grant, the Board have used the same flexibility as local authorities in the way that they manage their capital funding, with Cyngor Gwynedd allocating the Growth Deal grant against its capital projects and releasing the equivalent value of revenue funding to the NWEAB to fund their revenue expenditure.

NWEAB Reserves

- 5.11 Appendix 2 shows the movement in reserves during the year, and the balances at 31 March 2024.
- 5.12 The total earmarked reserve balance at 31 March 2024 was £277,927. The Board at its meeting on 15 March 2024 approved the use of £67,000 of this reserve as part of the 2024/25 budget and a further £61,000 as part of the 2025/26 budget.
- 5.13 The projects reserve balance at 31 March 2024 was £152,300.
- 5.14 The interest reserve balance at 31 March 2024 was £4,733,483, and this has increased significantly due to the interest that was received on the Growth Deal Grant during the year. This reserve is ringfenced to fund the cost of borrowing in future years.

Capital

- 5.15 Appendix 3 shows the NWEAB'S Capital programme end of year review for 2023/24. This is similar to the Capital budget that was approved by the Board in March, with the main difference being the commencement of the Enterprise Engineering and Optics Centre project with £0.75m expenditure in 2023/24. The 2.15% budget for revenue funding in 2023/24 has also reduced to £0.56m to reflect the final revenue out-turn position.

6. Legal Implications

- 6.1 Section 12 of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 states that a joint committee of two or more (local) authorities is a local government body, and Section 13 of the Act requires such bodies to maintain accounts subject to audit by an external auditor approved by the Auditor General for Wales.

6.2 The Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations require all Joint Committees to prepare year-end accounts. Where the annual income or expenditure are over £2.5m, the joint committee is deemed to be a “larger relevant body” and an annual Statement of Accounts in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom must be prepared.

7. Consultations Undertaken

7.1 Appendix 1, Appendix 2 and Appendix 3 as well as a summary of the contents of this report, was presented to the Portfolio Board on 3 May 2024.

8. Appendices

Appendix 1 – North Wales Economic Ambition Board’s Revenue out-turn position 2023/24

Appendix 2 – North Wales Economic Ambition Board’s Reserves

Appendix 3 – North Wales Economic Ambition Board’s Capital position 2023/24.

STATUTORY OFFICERS’ RESPONSE:

i. Monitoring Officer – Accountable Body:

No observations to add in relation to propriety.

ii. Statutory Finance Officer – Accountable Body:

Author of this report.

North Wales Economic Ambition Board's Revenue Out-turn position 2023/24

Appendix 1

	Base Budget	One-off virements	Total Budget	2023/24 Final Position	Overspend / (Underspend)
Expenditure	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)
Portfolio Management Office					
Employee Expenditure (Pay, N.I. & Superannuation)	1,279,890	0	1,279,890	1,197,900	(81,990)
Advertising and Assessment of Candidates	2,500	0	2,500	11,660	9,160
Travel and Subsistence	10,000	0	10,000	7,902	(2,098)
Training	10,000	0	10,000	7,777	(2,223)
Engagement, Events and Meetings	13,000	0	13,000	5,628	(7,372)
Communications and Public Relations	30,000	0	30,000	22,302	(7,698)
Supplies and Services	10,000	0	10,000	22,110	12,110
Regional Engagement Team (RET)	10,600	0	10,600	22,881	12,281
Premises	36,000	0	36,000	35,679	(321)
ESF Evaluation	24,000	0	24,000	14,000	(10,000)
Portfolio and Programme Development	30,000	0	30,000	33,000	3,000
Portfolio Management Office Total	1,455,990	0	1,455,990	1,380,839	(75,151)
Accountable Body Support Services					
Finance Services Support	106,360	0	106,360	67,585	(38,775)
Legal (includes Monitoring Officer)	28,320	0	28,320	28,245	(75)
Corporate Support	43,490	0	43,490	39,900	(3,590)
Information Technology	18,670	0	18,670	21,724	3,054
Insurance	4,330	0	4,330	4,325	(5)
Accountable Body Support Services Total	201,170	0	201,170	161,779	(39,391)
Joint Committee					
External Legal Support	18,000	0	18,000	0	(18,000)
External Financial Fees	10,000	0	10,000	3,100	(6,900)
External Audit Fee	25,330	0	25,330	25,480	150
Business Delivery Board	15,000	18,000	33,000	16,755	(16,245)
Joint Committee Total	68,330	18,000	86,330	45,335	(40,995)
Projects					
Project Business Case Development	270,000	130,000	400,000	219,661	(180,339)
External Legal Support	85,000	0	85,000	170,862	85,862
External Financial Support	0	0	0	16,876	16,876
External Procurement Support	60,000	0	60,000	0	(60,000)
Assurance	40,000	0	40,000	48,510	8,510
Projects Total	455,000	130,000	585,000	455,909	(129,091)
Grant schemes					
Employee Expenditure - Energy Project	140,800	0	140,800	114,540	(26,260)
Local Area Energy Plans	648,050	0	648,050	474,947	(173,103)
Agri-food status research	0	0	0	19,033	19,033
Grant schemes Total	788,850	0	788,850	608,520	(180,330)
Transfers to reserves					
Partner interest contributions	251,040	0	251,040	251,040	0
Interest on balances	0	0	0	2,814,561	2,814,561
Transfers to reserves Total	251,040	0	251,040	3,065,601	2,814,561
Total Expenditure	3,220,380	148,000	3,368,380	5,717,983	2,349,603

North Wales Economic Ambition Board's Revenue Out-turn position 2023/24

	Base Budget	One-off virements	Total Budget	2023/24 Final Position	Overspend / (Underspend)
Income	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)	(£)
Funding Contributions					
Partner Contributions					
Conwy County Borough Council	(55,350)	0	(55,350)	(55,350)	0
Denbighshire County Council	(55,350)	0	(55,350)	(55,350)	0
Flintshire County Council	(55,350)	0	(55,350)	(55,350)	0
Cyngor Gwynedd	(55,350)	0	(55,350)	(55,350)	0
Isle of Anglesey County Council	(55,350)	0	(55,350)	(55,350)	0
Wrexham County Borough Council	(55,350)	0	(55,350)	(55,350)	0
Bangor University	(27,680)	0	(27,680)	(27,680)	0
Wrexham Glyndwr University	(27,680)	0	(27,680)	(27,680)	0
Coleg Cambria	(27,680)	0	(27,680)	(27,680)	0
Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	(27,680)	0	(27,680)	(27,680)	0
Local Authorities' Supplementary Contributions					
Conwy County Borough Council	(40,000)	0	(40,000)	(40,000)	0
Denbighshire County Council	(40,000)	0	(40,000)	(40,000)	0
Flintshire County Council	(40,000)	0	(40,000)	(40,000)	0
Cyngor Gwynedd	(40,000)	0	(40,000)	(40,000)	0
Isle of Anglesey County Council	(40,000)	0	(40,000)	(40,000)	0
Wrexham County Borough Council	(40,000)	0	(40,000)	(40,000)	0
Partner Interest Contributions					
Conwy County Borough Council	(31,770)	0	(31,770)	(31,770)	0
Denbighshire County Council	(25,730)	0	(25,730)	(25,730)	0
Flintshire County Council	(42,200)	0	(42,200)	(42,200)	0
Cyngor Gwynedd	(33,610)	0	(33,610)	(33,610)	0
Isle of Anglesey County Council	(18,720)	0	(18,720)	(18,720)	0
Wrexham County Borough Council	(36,280)	0	(36,280)	(36,280)	0
Bangor University	(36,650)	0	(36,650)	(36,650)	0
Wrexham Glyndwr University	(13,610)	0	(13,610)	(13,610)	0
Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	(12,470)	0	(12,470)	(12,470)	0
Other					
European Social Fund (ESF) Priority 5 funding	(255,930)	0	(255,930)	(232,829)	23,101
North Wales Growth Deal grant	(874,000)	(148,000)	(1,022,000)	(1,022,000)	0
The North Wales Corporate Joint Committee	0	0	0	(70,239)	(70,239)
Welsh Government Energy grant	(799,870)	0	(799,870)	(599,683)	200,187
DWP Grant	0	0	0	5	5
UK Shared Prosperity Fund	(32,620)	0	(32,620)	(181,837)	(149,217)
Capitalisation of Salary Costs (Growth Deal)	(50,000)	0	(50,000)	0	50,000
Welsh Government Grant - Student Placement	0	0	0	(15,349)	(15,349)
Local Food Commission Contributions	0	0	0	(19,033)	(19,033)
Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board	0	0	0	(3,351)	(3,351)
Earmarked Reserve	(274,100)	0	(274,100)	(274,100)	0
Interest	0	0	0	(2,826,253)	(2,826,253)
Total Income	(3,220,380)	(148,000)	(3,368,380)	(6,178,529)	(2,810,149)
Net Overspend / (Underspend)	0	0	0	(460,546)	(460,546)

NWEAB's Reserves

Appendix 2

	£
Total earmarked reserve at 31 March 2023	(552,027)
2023/24 budget allocation	274,100
Total earmarked reserve at 31 March 2024	(277,927)

	£
Total projects reserve at 31 March 2024	(152,300)

	£
Total interest reserve at 31 March 2023	(1,667,882)
2023/24 partner interest contributions	(251,040)
2023/24 interest on balances	(2,814,561)
Total interest reserve at 31 March 2024	(4,733,483)

Programme	Project	Project Sponsor	2021/22 (£m)	2022/23 (£m)	2023/24 (£m)	2024/25 (£m)	2025/26 (£m)	2026/27 (£m)	2027/28 (£m)	2028/29 (£m)	2029/30 (£m)	2030/31 (£m)	2031/32 (£m)	2032/33 (£m)	2033/34 (£m)	2034/35 (£m)	Total (£m)
Digital	Digital Signal Processing Centre (DSP)	Bangor University	0.12	1.66	0.37	0.81	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.96
Digital	Connected Key Sites and Corridors	NWEAB	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	4.00	2.00	2.37	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.87
Digital	Connected Campus	NWEAB	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.94	10.10	4.93	4.71	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.68
Digital	Connecting the last few percent	NWEAB	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.32	1.85	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.17
Low carbon energy	Cydnorth (Morlais)	Menter Môn	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.33	4.44	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.87
Low carbon energy	Egni (Low Carbon Energy Centre of Excellence)	Bangor University	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.97	1.97	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.94
Low carbon energy	Trawsfynydd Power Station	Cwmni Eginio	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.50	2.50	5.00	5.70	5.00	0.00	19.70
Low carbon energy	Hydrogen Hub and Transport Decarbonisation	NWEAB	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.61	5.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11.23
Low carbon energy	Smart Local Energy	NWEAB	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.75	3.00	9.25	9.25	2.38	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	24.63
Low carbon energy	Deeside Waste to Fuel*	The Circular Economy Ltd	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.20	3.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.40
Low carbon energy	Holyhead Hydrogen Hub*	Menter Môn	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.90	1.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.80
Land and property	Holyhead Gateway	Stena Line	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.64	17.00	9.83	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	34.47
Land and property	Warren Hall Strategic Site	NWEAB	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.38	7.39	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	14.77
Land and property	Former North Wales Hospital, Denbigh	NWEAB	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.90	3.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.94
Land and property	Parc Bryn Cegin Strategic Site	NWEAB	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.91	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.91
Land and property	Western Gateway, Wrexham	NWEAB	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.48	4.48	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.96
Land and property	Kinmel Studios*	Stage Fifty	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.40	3.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.80
Land and property	Wrexham Gateway*	Wrexham County Borough Council	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.79	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.79
Innovation in High Value Manufacturing	Centre of Environmental Biotechnology (CEB)	Bangor University	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.96	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.96
Innovation in High Value Manufacturing	Enterprise Engineering & Optics Centre	Glyndŵr University	0.00	0.00	0.75	6.52	4.28	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11.55
Agri-food and tourism	Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub	Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.20	4.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11.82
Agri-food and tourism	Tourism Talent Network	Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.13	2.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.43
Agri-food and tourism	Responsible Adventure*	Zip World	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.30	3.70	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.20
2.15% to fund the NWEAB's revenue budget			0.22	0.28	0.56	1.10	1.15	0.82	0.30	0.15	0.15	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.07	0.05	5.15
Programme Total			0.34	1.94	1.68	23.92	58.68	68.65	44.81	19.71	1.65	2.60	5.10	5.80	5.07	0.05	240.00

*Replacement projects

REPORT TO THE NORTH WALES ECONOMIC AMBITION BOARD

17th May 2024

TITLE: North Wales Growth Deal – Quarter 4 Performance and Risk Report

AUTHOR: Hedd Vaughan-Evans, Head of Operations

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1. The purpose of the report is to present the Quarter 4 (January to March) Growth Deal report and updated Portfolio Risk Register.
- 1.2. Quarterly reporting on progress against the North Wales Growth Deal is a requirement of the Final Deal Agreement. Following consideration by the North Wales Economic Ambition Board, the reports will be shared with Welsh Government, UK Government and the local authority scrutiny committees.

2. DECISION SOUGHT


- 2.1. That the Board consider and note the Quarter 4 Performance Report and updated Portfolio Risk Register.
- 2.2. That the Board approves the submission of the Quarter 4 Performance Report to Welsh Government and UK Government, as well as the local authority scrutiny committees.

3. REASONS FOR THE DECISION

- 3.1. As stated in the 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. Regular reporting on progress against the North Wales Growth Deal is a requirement of the Final Deal Agreement.
- 4.3. This report includes two appendices:
 - North Wales Growth Deal – Quarter 4 Performance Report
 - Portfolio Risk Register – March 2024
- 4.4. North Wales Growth Deal – Quarter 4 Performance Report
 - 4.4.1. The Quarter 4 performance report provides an overview of progress on the Growth Deal programmes and projects.

- 
- 4.4.2. The Economic Ambition Board approved two Outline Business Case these were the Former North Wales Hospital project and the 4G+ project.
- 4.4.3. The funding agreement for the Enterprise Engineering and Optics Centre project was signed with Wrexham University, and work commenced on the Plas Coch Campus in Wrexham.
- 4.4.4. The Quarter 4 update is showing projects reporting against the revised portfolio delivery profile approved by the Board. Four projects are currently reporting as red due to either risks to the project scope or significant delays to project timescales:
- Connecting the Last Few % - The UK Government investment in broadband in the region due to commence following current procurement for its 'cross regional' framework. Outcome of this will define premises for Growth Deal intervention;
 - Trawsfynydd – uncertainty on the delivery timescales due to the decisions required by Great British Nuclear and UK Government on technology selection and site selection.
 - Western Gateway, Wrexham – a review of the project is being undertaken to assess its ability to meet Welsh Government tests for highway investment is undertaken.
 - Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub – planning permission is yet to be secured. The remaining surveys have now been completed and shared with Natural Resources Wales.

4.5. Portfolio Risk Register – March 2024

- 4.5.1. The Portfolio Risk Register is updated on a regular basis by the Portfolio Management Office and reviewed by the Portfolio Board and the North Wales Economic Ambition Board on a quarterly basis.
- 4.5.2. The risk register has been fully updated with a number of changes recorded in the documents, including revised risk descriptions, revised scoring and mitigating actions, and the commentary has been updated for all risks.
- 4.5.3. While the risk profile has remained stable over the past quarter, the risk profile does remain high with a number of red residual risks including affordability, delay, planning and statutory consents, public and private sector investment, and spending objectives. The risk on capacity has decreased due to the team being at full capacity and planned procurement of additional specialist support (procurement, project management etc) underway following PAR recommendation.

5. **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1. There are no financial implications arising directly from approving the decision sought in this report.
- 5.2. The revised delivery and expenditure profile approved by the Board is included in the quarterly report.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. There are no direct legal implications arising from the report.
- 6.2. Regular reporting on Growth Deal performance is part of the agreed governance framework and a key requirement of the Final Deal agreement.

APPENDICES:

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| Appendix 1 | North Wales Growth Deal – Quarter 4 Performance Report |
| Appendix 2 | Portfolio Risk Register – March 2024 |

STATUTORY OFFICERS RESPONSE:

i. Monitoring Officer – Host Authority:

“It is one of the key tasks of the Economic Ambition Board to monitor progress and risks. The Board needs to consider the register and satisfy itself that it constitutes an accurate reflection of the risk status and that mitigation actions are being addressed.”

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

“I am satisfied that the report is a fair reflection of the financial situation of Ambition North Wales during quarter 4. Implementing the decision sought will not create a new spending commitment. I will continue to assist the Portfolio Management Office in managing the relevant risks.”

North Wales Growth Deal

2023-24 Quarter 4

(January- March 2024)

Performance Report

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During this quarter we saw two Outline Business Cases approved by the Economic Ambition Board. The first was the Former North Wales Hospital project, which includes the restoration of the Grade 2* listed building, development of new homes and green spaces, a skills and training facility as well as over 1,000m² of commercial space. Secondly the 4G+ project (Connected Key Sites and Corridors), which aims to deliver 4G coverage across North Wales from all four Mobile Network Operators (MNOs), Ensuring North Wales is equipped for the migration to sub-6GHz 5G provision when the Mobile Network Operators upgrade their networks.

The Economic Ambition Board approved the decision to appoint a sponsor to lead the delivery of the Hydrogen Hub. The decision comes following the Hydrogen Sponsor Challenge launched last year. The Project sponsor will be announced following the completion of a Memorandum of Understanding between the parties. The project aims to help fossil fuel powered organisations to become low carbon hydrogen customers and will deliver an operational hydrogen production facility - with Hydrogen deployment expected by 2030. Work will now begin to onboard the new sponsor.

March saw the Economic Ambition Board approving an Investment Strategy for North Wales. The strategy aims to attract Growth Deal and wider regional economic development into the region.

With the funding agreement signed for the Enterprise Engineering and Optics Centre and construction work starting on site. We welcomed Fay Jones MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Wales and Rebecca Evans



MS, Minister for Finance and Local Government to the Wrexham University Plas Coch Campus on 22nd of February for the official turf cutting.

Ambition North Wales took part in Wales week in London, with Hedd Vaughan-Evans our Head of Operations attending a business reception focussing on investment in Wales and the opportunities presented by the Welsh Freeports, and Robyn Lovelock Growth Deal Programme Manager attending the St David's Day Dinner.

As we enter into a new financial year, it's an exciting time for the North Wales Growth Deal with a number of projects approaching the point of delivery.



Alwen Williams, Portfolio Director

Alwen Williams

Themes	RAG Status	Commentary
Portfolio Business Case	Green	The Portfolio Business Case 2023 update was approved by the Board in October and has been submitted to Welsh Government and UK Government as part of the annual award of funding process.
Delivery Pipeline	Yellow	The delivery pipeline has been reviewed and updated as part of the 2023 Portfolio Business Case. Projects will now report against this revised timetable
Governance	Green	The Portfolio, Programme and Project Management Framework is now well established with the Portfolio Board and five Programme Boards operating effectively. A Conflicts of Interest procedure is in place across all Boards.
Assurance	Green	The fourth annual Growth Deal assurance review (Programme Assurance Review) was completed in October 2023 with the report delivering an 'Amber-Red' confidence rating for the portfolio. A follow up Assurance of Action Plan (AAP) review took place in December 2023, with the report delivering an Amber Green confidence rating. The next review will take place during October 2024.
Resource and Capacity	Green	The Portfolio Management is now at full capacity with all roles recruited to successfully. Following approval by the Economic Ambition Board in March, fixed term contracts (not including staff funded by LEAP or SPF) have been extended to March 2026, reducing the risk of staff leaving in the short term.
Finance	Yellow	A total of £3.96m Growth Deal funding has been spent up to the end of 2023/24. This included £2.15m on the Digital Signal Processing Centre, £0.75m on the Enterprise Engineering & Optics Centre and £1.06m to fund the revenue expenditure.
Investment	Red	Securing the public and private sector investment required to deliver the Growth Deal remains a significant risk across the portfolio. The Economic Ambition Board approved the Investment Strategy during their meeting in March.
Risk	Red	Overall risk profile remains consistent with Quarter 4. The risk around capacity has reduced due to recent recruitment to the PMO and a new risk has been added to the register to cover the proposed transfer of the team and the Growth Deal to the Corporate Joint Committee. A number of high residual risks remain which are being managed by the PMO including affordability, consenting, delay and investment.
Benefits Monitoring & Evaluation	Green	Trainings have been held with Ambition North Wales and Project Sponsors in how to use the Benefits Reporting platform developed over the past year. Projects have all uploaded their indicators, and will start populating the platform over the coming weeks enabling the project, programme and portfolio teams to track progress towards spending objectives and benefits.
Emissions and Biodiversity	Green	The Enterprise Engineering and Optics Centre project was confirmed as the first Growth Deal project to meet or exceed Ambition North Wales targets, demonstrating delivery at net zero operational emissions, 40% reduced embodied carbon and 30% biodiversity net gain.
Communication and Engagement	Green	The announcement on the Former North Wales Hospital, and information on the Ministerial visits were shared in the press. A series of audio features were released highlighting information on the new projects to join the Growth Deal. Our engagement and reach continued to grow on social media, with over 6,400 website users.

Programme Aim	Job Creation Target	GVA Investment Target	Total Investment Target
Deliver the step change in digital connectivity needed to ensure North Wales is able to satisfy user demand, maintain pace with the rest of the UK, unlock the potential of priority sectors and sites and underpin a flourishing innovation ecosystem.	380	£158m	£41.7m

RAG Status	Programme Manager Commentary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Outline Business Case for the Connected Key Sites and Corridors '4G+' has now been approved by the Economic Ambition Board. The Outline Business Case for the Connected Campuses 'Advanced Wireless' project has been submitted for review by the Portfolio Management Office and is due to undergo a Gateway 2 review in May ahead of consideration by the Economic Ambition Board. Further work on the economic case for the LPWAN project has been required. Ambition North Wales have appointed Annog Cyf. to deliver the Shared Prosperity (SPF) funded support for rural communities in 2024 to improve their broadband through promotion of government vouchers, liaison with network operators and advice targeted in areas experiencing the poorest levels of connectivity. This work contributes to the spending objectives of the Last Few % Growth Deal project which has been paused until UK Government's cross regional procurement concludes in the summer. Further SPF project activity is now underway with local authorities to investigate the adoption of asset access agreements to support 4G investment by the private sector. In April a project will begin to deliver tailored advice and guidance to SMEs on adopting advanced wireless network technologies to improve productivity and efficiency.. These projects contribute to the spending objectives of the Growth Deal Connected Key Sites and Corridors and Connected Campuses projects.



Mark Pritchard
Lead Member



David Fitzsimon
Senior Responsible Owner



Stuart Whitfield
Programme Manager

Delivering to Plan with no issues to address (no action required)	Delivery slightly behind schedule and/or minor/moderate issues to address (management action in place)	Delivery significantly behind schedule and/or significant issues to address (urgent action required)
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Project (Project Sponsor)	Project Stage	Key Milestones (this quarter)	Key Milestones (next quarter)	RAG Status	RAG Rationale
Digital Signal Processing Centre Bangor University	Delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Phase 3 (final) business justification case drafted for project internal SRO review. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submission of final business justification case for the third tranche of funding to purchase equipment. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final business justification case (BJC) to be submitted for review and approval, expected early Q1, 24/25; RAG status is amber until the BJC is submitted and approved by the Economic Ambition Board. Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI) funding applications unsuccessful in Q4; Project is achieving or exceeding targets on research collaborations, registrations on postgraduate courses, research publications, direct job creation and GVA growth (direct jobs created).
Connecting the Last Few % Ambition North Wales	Developing the Full Business Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project development to pause until outcome of UK Government (BDUK) Project Gigabit cross regional procurement (exp. July 24); Annog Cyf. appointed to undertake SPF funded rural connectivity support project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community engagement campaign for the SPF project to begin. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UK Government investment in broadband in the region due to commence following current procurement for its 'cross regional' framework. Outcome of this will define premises for Growth Deal intervention; Regionally delivered work to promote local upgrades will commence from April, funded by SPF, led by Ambition North Wales and delivered by Annog Cyf.
Connected Key Sites and Corridors Ambition North Wales	Developing the Full Business Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic Ambition Board approval 4G+ OBC; Fibre project development to pause until outcome of UK Government (BDUK) Project Gigabit cross regional procurement (exp. July 24). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Market engagement and grant scheme design. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4G+ Outline Business Case approved by the Economic Ambition Board; Project is now proceeding to market engagement and procurement; Fibre project will recommence following outcome of UK Government's cross regional procurement for gigabit broadband.
Connected Campuses Ambition North Wales	Developing the Outline Business Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Launch of procurement for SPF project to deliver connectivity assessments for SMEs across the region to support the objectives of the Advanced Wireless project; Gateway 2 Review of Advanced Wireless project scheduled (May); Advanced Wireless Outline Business Case Portfolio Management Office review. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appointment of contractor to undertake SME connectivity assessments and project commencement (April); LPWAN procurement; LPWAN Business Justification Case board approvals and Critical Friend Review. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advanced Wireless Outline Business Case drafted and due for Gateway 2 review in May; LPWAN business justification case (BJC) due to undergo Critical Friend Review ahead of Economic Ambition Board consideration. Further work on economic case has been required..

Programme Aim	Job Creation Target	GVA Investment Target	Total Investment Target
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.	980	£530m	£668.5m

RAG Status	Programme Manager Commentary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Egni – RIBA Stage 2 report has been approved by the project team after an exercise to value engineer the design. • Deeside Anaerobic Digestion Plant – Positive progress made to overcome key funding agreement issues before the Full Business Case is submitted for approval by the Economic Ambition Board. • Hydrogen Hub – A sponsor has been appointed for the project following approval by the Economic Ambition Board. The process to onboard them as a sponsor is now in progress. • Holyhead Hydrogen Hub – the project received an amber-green rating following a Gateway Review, the project is currently finalising the Outline Business Case. • Cydnwrth – a funding structure including Ambition North Wales and the Welsh Government has been established to move the project into implementation, the Heads of Terms are currently being developed. • Smart Local Energy – The Fund Advisor tender documents have been updated in response to market feedback and are being finalised for a re-launch of the procurement. • Recruitment – Gareth Rogers started in post as the Energy and Net Zero (Hydrogen) Project Manager on the 16th of April.



Cllr Llinos Medi
Lead Member



Dylan Williams
Senior Responsible Owner



Elgan Roberts
Programme Manager

Page 32	Delivering to Plan with no issues to address (no action required)	Delivery slightly behind schedule and/or minor/moderate issues to address (management action in place)	Delivery significantly behind schedule and/or significant issues to address (urgent action required)
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4. Low Carbon Energy Programme Performance

Project (Project Sponsor)	Project Stage	Key Milestones (this quarter)	Key Milestones (next quarter)	RAG Status	RAG Rationale
Cydnherth (Morlais) Menter Môn	Developing the Outline Business Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The funding sources and funding structure for the project have been agreed in principle with the funders and key stakeholders. A commercial loan structure from Ambition North Wales (that is compliant with subsidy control) has been established. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Circulate and agree loan heads of terms with Menter Môn Morlais, Commence discussions with WEFO and Welsh Government regarding security arrangements for Ambition North Wales's loan and their own funding. Prepare the Outline Business Case for July 2024 approval. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outline Business Case has been delayed as resolutions to the funding structure were needed to finalise Ambition North Wales's loan structure and the financial case for the Outline Business Case.
Hydrogen Hub Ambition North Wales	Developing the Strategic Outline Business Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concluded assessment of potential sponsors. Sponsor recommendation approved by the Economic Ambition Board. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On board the new project sponsor. Firm up business case development timetable. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slight delay with the process to appoint the sponsor, but overall timescales not impacted and the sponsor will now be on-boarded.
Egni Bangor University	Developing the Full Business Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved RIBA Stage 2 following a value engineering exercise. Started RIBA Stage 3 activity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sign off procurement plan. Commence the 2-stage procurement for a main contractor. Continue developing Full Business Case. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project broadly on track. Slight slippage to the RIBA Stage development timetable that could be clawed back for Full Business Case. Project back within budget after re-visiting RIBA 2.
Smart Local Energy Ambition North Wales	Developing the Full Business Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Smart Local Energy Fund structure has been slightly amended to appeal to a wider Fund Advisor audience. Tender documents updated to address market feedback and in preparation for a procurement re-launch. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalise the tender documents. Re-launch the tender. Finalise investment strategy and draft Full Business Case. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delay to finalising Full Business Case and launch of the fund due to the failure to appoint a Fund Advisor on the first attempt.
Trawsfynydd Cwmni Egino	Developing the Strategic Outline Business Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ambition North Wales fed-back on UK Government's consultation for selecting nuclear sites in consultation with Gwynedd and Anglesey. Cwmni Egino held Construction Planning & Options Appraisal workshops. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cwmni Egino to share Construction Planning & Options report with key stakeholders. No significant actions planned until decisions are made by Great British Nuclear (GBN) and UK Government on technology selection and site selection. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RAG status changed to red as the decisions required by Great British Nuclear and UK Government on technology selection and site selection are a number of months away which increases the uncertainty on programme delivery timescales.

Deeside Anaerobic Digestion Plant The Circular Economy Developments	Developing the Full Business Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project sponsor raised concerns with key terms within the funding agreement resulting in Full Business Case not coming forward as planned in February 2024. Positive negotiations between legal teams representing Ambition North Wales and the sponsor to overcome challenges associated with key terms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agree way forward and finalise the funding agreement. Finalise subsidy control assessment. Action outstanding Outline Business Case recommendations and present Full Business Case for approval. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding agreement to be finalised and subsidy control assessments to be completed before Full Business Case can be presented for approval, but positive steps have been made with the funding terms.
Holyhead Hydrogen Hub Menter Môn	Developing the Outline Business Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gateway Review completed with an amber-green rating given by the review team. Portfolio Management Office completed review of draft Outline Business Case and provided feedback. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet DESNZ to discuss funding agreement and subsidy control requirements to better align approach. Further discussion with Welsh Government and DESNZ to explore potential funding opportunities to secure offtake agreements from the public sector. Sponsor to update the Outline Business Case and prepare for July 2024 approval. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RAG status is now amber because project is dependent on achieving 50% offtake which will rely on public sector commitment which remains uncertain.

Programme Aim	Job Creation Target	GVA Investment Target	Total Investment Target
To address the shortage of suitable land and properties for business growth and to bring forward sites for housing development. To deliver improvements that stimulate investment in sites and premises in the Port of Holyhead and the wider region. Enables other programmes by ensuring the right land and property infrastructure is available.	2280	£1.29bn	£355.4m

RAG Status	Programme Manager Commentary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warren Hall, Broughton – Welsh Government consultants have reported on the impact of the Hawarden airfield safety case on the project site and initial discussions have taken place with Airbus UK. Welsh Government are commissioning consultants to produce a review paper of the airfield safety case tests and their impact on the Warren Hall site. • Western Gateway, Wrexham – Wrexham County Borough Council, Welsh Government and Transport for Wales met and Transport for Wales agreed to fund the WelTAG O assessment as a revised baseline for traffic and access flows post pandemic. Following the completion of this assessment, a WelTAG Lite could be undertaken to test the evidence to meet the highway investment tests set by Welsh Government Highways. • Former North Wales Hospital, Denbigh The Outline Business Case was completed in January and approved in February 2024 by the Economic Ambition Board. The remaining outstanding consenting matters concerning planning conditions and licences required to finalise the Phase 1 works and permit these to commence have been submitted to Denbighshire Council. The Councils Levelling Up funding Round 3 application is in the process of being validated. • Holyhead Gateway – Holyhead Port expansion project outline business case has been substantially completed. Stena Line Ports Limited have requested additional time to complete their related commercial discussions. • Parc Bryn Cegin, Bangor – SP Projects have been appointed by Welsh Government and have provided a revised site Masterplan and high level costings for comment. by the Portfolio Management Office and these have been past back to SP Project and Welsh Government. Regular project team meetings to be set up. • Kinmel Studios – Meeting held with Kinmel Studios on the 12th of March, Project Board members submitted to Kinmel Studios for approval. The Regional Skills Partnership are liaising with Kinmel Studios and Higher Education/Further Education sector in North Wales. They are to share their funding business case for the private sector funding with the Portfolio Management Office who are in regular discussion with Kinmel Studios. • Wrexham Gateway – UK Government confirmed the relocation of 300 plus Civil Service posts from London/Home Counties to Wrexham in December to be located at the Wrexham Gateway site. The Council are to complete the Strategic Outline Case and commence developing the Outline Business Case.

Project (Project Sponsor)	Project Stage	Key Milestones (this quarter)	Key Milestones (next quarter)	RAG Status	RAG Rationale
Western Gateway, Wrexham Wrexham County Borough Council	Developing the Strategic Outline Business Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport for Wales have undertaken and funded a WelTAG O assessment on behalf of the Council. to provide a baseline assessment of traffic flows and numbers as they are in 2024. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following completion of a WelTAG O and a WelTAG Lite will be undertaken by Transport for Wales to test the evidence for the projects ability to meet the tests for highway investment.@ 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project risk rating remains on red whilst the review of the projects ability to meet Welsh Governments tests for highway investment is undertaken.
Warren Hall, Broughton Welsh Government / Economic Ambition Board	Developing the Strategic Outline Business Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welsh Government have met with Airbus UK to discuss the evidence provided by their consultants and these discussions are ongoing. Welsh Government are commissioning consultants to produce a review paper of the Inner Horizontal Surface datum. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welsh Government to involve Airbus in the scope of the next step following the review paper of the Inner Horizontal Surface datum which will be to commission an Airfield Safety Assessment. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project risk rating remains at amber as revising the airfield safety case is still to be fully assessed. And agreed by Airbus UK.
Former North Wales Hospital, Denbighshire Jones Bros (Ruthin) Limited / Denbighshire County Council	Developing the Full Business Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outline Business Case was approved by the Economic Ambition Board in February 2024. Levelling Up funding Round 3 validation in process. Phase 1 apportionments and value for money assessment process modelled for both Levelling Up funding and Growth Deal funding. Contractual arrangements are being discussed with Denbighshire County Council, Jones Bros, Cyngor Gwynedd Legal (funding agreements, S106, transfer of title). Project partner to submit documents to Planning Authority on S106 agreement, planning condition compliance and Habitat licences. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commence the approval process for the full business case in May 2024. Denbighshire to formalise the Levelling Up Fund Round 3 funding allocation. for the project The Subsidy Support referral to the Competition and Markets Authority to be registered on the Authority website. Outstanding statutory consents are granted by planning authority. Agree/finalise with Jones Bros and DCC Phase 1 works and payment and verification process for transparency and value for money purposes. Gateway 3 Review to take place 8th-10th of April. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project risk rating moved to Green due to provisional award of Levelling Up Funding funding to Denbighshire and possible allocation to reduce the viability gap.
Parc Bryn Cegin, Bangor Welsh Government / North Wales Economic Ambition Board	Developing the Outline Business Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appointment of the Professional Team SP Projects completed and a draft Feasibility Sketch (Masterplan) has been shared with the Portfolio Management Office for comments. Cost Estimates for further analysis of the plot conditions / scope of services requirements have also been completed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular project teams meetings to commence. Drafting the Outline Business Case to re-commence with a view to having a completed draft for the spring 2024. Joint Venture Agreement to be agreed between Parties. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green risk rating retained for the project. Even though project commencement on site maybe delayed by 3 months.

Project (Project Sponsor)	Project Stage	Key Milestones (this quarter)	Key Milestones (next quarter)	RAG Status	RAG Rationale
Holyhead Gateway Stena Line Ports Limited	Developing the Outline Business Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outline Business Case substantially approved with revised job numbers provided and agreed. Waiting for confirmation of the viability assessment that is subject to Stena's negotiations with commercial end users. Portfolio Management Office drafted a Subsidy Support application and obtaining advice from Pinsent Masons. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completing the draft Outline Business Case for the delivery of the port capacity enhancement works. Submit the Subsidy Support application to Competition and Markets Authority. Stena commence first stage procurement prior to issuing the second stage Invitation to Tender. Economic Ambition Board and Stena Line Ports Ltd approvals for Outline Business Case. Agreement of terms between Stena and commercial end users. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk rating retained at amber as negotiations with end user of new port areas is still ongoing.
Kinmel Studios	Finalising the Strategic Outline Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kinmel Studios have been appointing their consultancy team to develop the project and approaching private funders. Project Board members submitted to Kinmel Studios for approval. Regional Skills Partnership liaising with Kinmel Studios and Higher/Further Education sector in North Wales. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised funding proposal for project Confirmation of project governance model required. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk rating as amber as a revised funding proposal is required for the project.
Wrexham Gateway Wrexham County Borough Council	Finalising the Strategic Outline Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Memorandum of Understanding between UK Government and the Council to be completed for the 300 Civil Service will be relocated to Wrexham. Revised Strategic Outline Case received and Portfolio Management Office feedback provided. Monthly Project Board meetings set up. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Strategic Outline Business Case is close to completion. Development of the Outline Business Case to commence. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk rating as green given project application scrutiny and assessments made on its deliverability.



Cllr Jason McLellan
Lead Member



Andrew Farrow
Senior Responsible Owner




David Mathews
Programme Manager


	Delivering to Plan with no issues to address (no action required)		Delivery slightly behind schedule and/or minor/moderate issues to address (management action in place)		Delivery significantly behind schedule and/or significant issues to address (urgent action required)
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Programme Aim	Job Creation Target	GVA Investment Target	Total Investment Target
To build a more sustainable, vibrant and resilient foundation economy in the region, optimising opportunities for employment and prosperity through our environment and landscape.	380	£281m	£41.3m


RAG Status	Programme Manager Commentary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Zip World Responsible Adventure project Strategic Outline Case was endorsed by the Agri-food and Tourism Programme board, allowing the project team to move forward with development of their Outline Business Case. The Tourism Talent Network are finalising procurement and their Full Business Case alongside management of a rebranding exercise, a student engagement project funded by the Shared Prosperity Fund and selection of the final project spoke. The Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub have updated their project plans based on environmental surveys received and will submit the updated plans to Cyngor Gwynedd and Natural Resources Wales. The Task and Finish group established to explore the agriculture/horticulture gap in the Growth Deal has received a draft research report and are working with the programme board and wider stakeholders to finalise the report before it is shared regionally.



Cllr Charlie McCoubrey
Lead Member



Sioned Williams
Senior Responsible Owner



Robyn Lovelock
Programme Manager

Delivering to Plan with no issues to address (no action required)	Delivery slightly behind schedule and/or minor/moderate issues to address (management action in place)	Delivery significantly behind schedule and/or significant issues to address (urgent action required)

Project (Project Sponsor)	Project Stage	Key Milestones (this quarter)	Key Milestones (next quarter)	RAG Status	RAG Rationale
Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	Developing the Full Business Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remaining environmental surveys have been completed and shared with Natural Resources Wales. Updated project plans have been developed and shared with Cyngor Gwynedd. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider and incorporate feedback from Cyngor Gwynedd and Natural Resources Wales. Prepare full planning application. Further develop the Full Business Case. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rating remains red due to repeated project delays and as planning permission has yet to be secured.
Tourism Talent Network Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	Developing the Full Business Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Portfolio Management Office support with procurement preparations with Spoke partners. Process and documentation for Final Spoke selection drafted and shared with Portfolio Management Office. Ongoing work on emissions and biodiversity assessments, funding agreement and operational planning. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning and launch of project rebrand, including development of new project name . Finalise funding agreement. Launch and manage process to identify final project spoke. Finalise the Full Business Case. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full Business Case being prepared for approval in July 2024
Responsible Adventure ZipWorld	Developing the Outline Business Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic Outline Case endorsed by the Programme Board. Stakeholders engaged through two Better Business Case workshops separately considering the visitor attractions and transport aspects of the project. Development of the Outline Business Case. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage stakeholders through further Better Business Case workshops. Prepare Outline Business Case for Gateway Review and approval process. Submit relevant pre-planning applications. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outline Business Case being prepared for Economic Ambition Board approval in September 2024.

	Delivering to Plan with no issues to address (no action required)		Delivery slightly behind schedule and/or minor/moderate issues to address (management action in place)		Delivery significantly behind schedule and/or significant issues to address (urgent action required)
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Programme Aim	Job Creation Target	GVA Investment Target	Total Investment Target
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.	180	£114m	£39.5m

RAG Status	Programme Manager Commentary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Enterprise Engineering and Optics Centre project is now under construction, the first construction project enabled by the North Wales Growth Deal. Further procurement for the project (Optic refurbishment, project equipment, hydrogen element) is under development due for publication in late April. The Portfolio Management Office has agreed to shift to a one-stage approval process for the Centre for Environmental Biotechnology (CEB) business case in line with Green Book recommendations - Bangor University will now proceed at risk with project procurement and then seek approval of the Business Justification Case and associated procurements by the Economic Ambition Board in July 2024 (rather than the first of a two-stage approval anticipated for March 2024).



Cllr Dyfrig Siencyn
Lead Member

To Be Confirmed
Senior Responsible Owner



Robyn Lovelock
Programme Manager

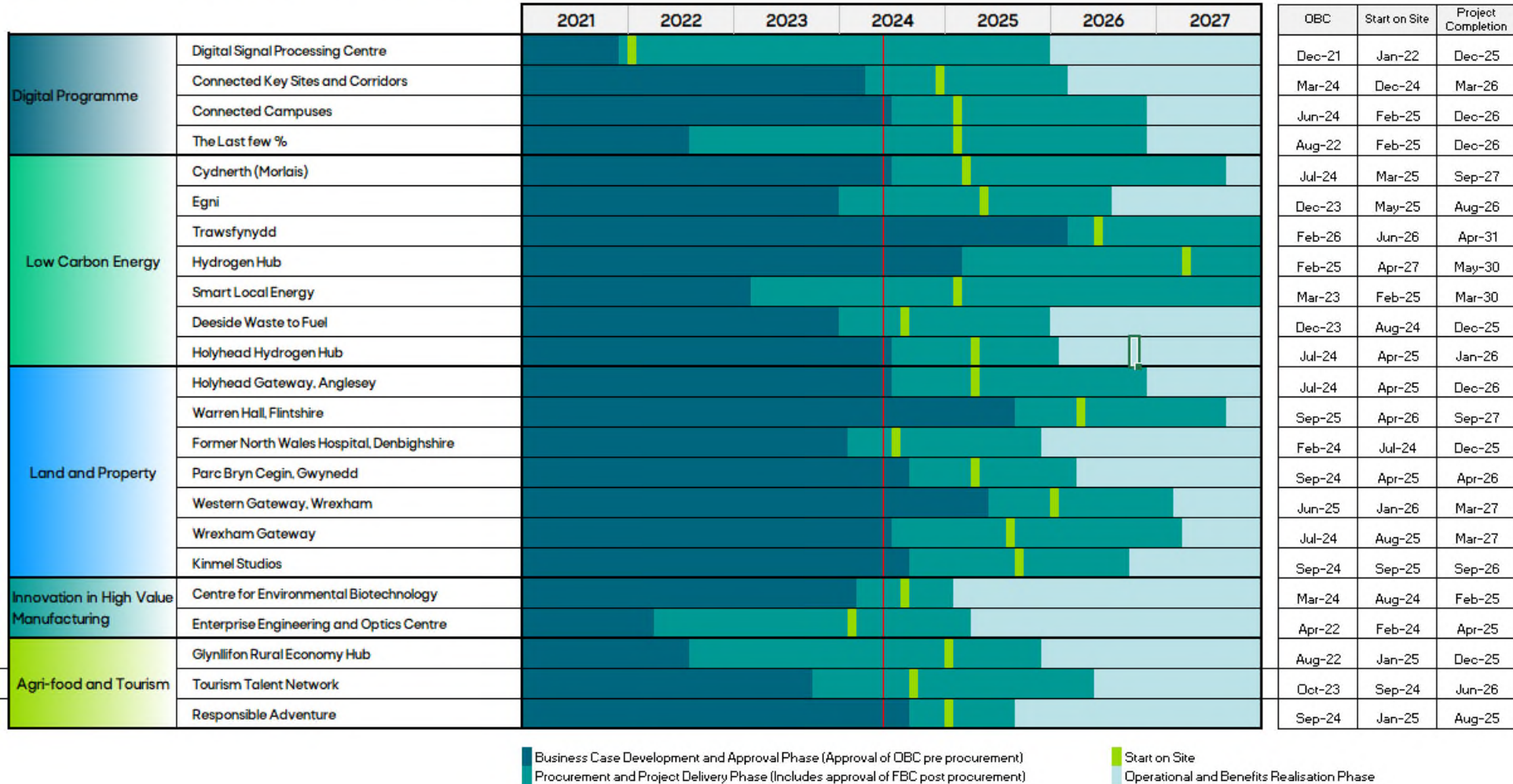
	Delivering to Plan with no issues to address (no action required)		Delivery slightly behind schedule and/or minor/moderate issues to address (management action in place)		Delivery significantly behind schedule and/or significant issues to address (urgent action required)
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Project (Project Sponsor)	Project Stage	Key Milestones (this quarter)	Key Milestones (next quarter)	RAG Status	RAG Rationale
Enterprise Engineering and Optics Centre Wrexham University	Full Business Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contracts between all project partners signed in January 2024. Construction started at Plas Coch in February 2024. Develop tenders for the OpTIC works and equipment purchases. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish tenders for the OpTIC works and equipment purchases. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project on track
Centre for Environmental Biotechnology Bangor University	Developing the Business Justification Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RIBA Stage 4 project design plans finalized. Procurement documentation prepared Procurement launched 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalise Business Justification Case ahead of Economic Ambition Board consideration. Preparation of Funding Agreement. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rating moved from Red to Amber following Gateway and PMO Reviews

	Delivering to Plan with no issues to address (no action required)		Delivery slightly behind schedule and/or minor/moderate issues to address (management action in place)		Delivery significantly behind schedule and/or significant issues to address (urgent action required)
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Project	Consenting Stage				Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4	Stage 5	Stage 6	Stage 7	Stage 8
	Pre-application stage	Outline planning / Consent	Full planning / Consent	Conditions discharged	Determine the Project context	Preparing the Strategic Outline Case	Preparing the Outline Business Case	Approval of the Outline Business Case	Preparing the Full Business Case	Approval of the Full Business Case	Project implementation and monitoring	Project Evaluation
Digital Signal Processing Centre	No planning required				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	⌚	
Connected Key Sites and Corridors	Consenting requirements TBC				✓	✓	✓	✓	⌚			
Connected Campuses	Consenting requirements TBC				✓	✓	⌚					
Last Few %	Consenting requirements TBC				✓	✓	✓	✓	⌚			
Cydnherth (Morlais)	✓	✓	✓	⌚	✓	✓	⌚					
Trawsfynydd Power Station	Consenting requirements TBC				✓	⌚						
Egni	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	⌚			
Smart Local Energy	Consenting requirements TBC				✓	✓	✓	✓	⌚			
Hydrogen Hub	Consenting requirements TBC				✓	⌚						
Deeside Waste to Fuel	✓	✓	✓	⌚	✓	✓	✓	✓	⌚			
Holyhead Hydrogen Hub	✓	✓	⌚		✓	✓	⌚					
Holyhead Gateway	✓	✓	✓	⌚	✓	✓	⌚					
Former North Wales Hospital	✓	✓	✓	⌚	✓	✓	✓	✓	⌚			
Western Gateway, Wrexham	LDP adopted 23/12/2023				✓	⌚						
Warren Hall, Broughton	⌚				✓	⌚						
Parc Bryn Cegin, Bangor	⌚				✓	✓	⌚					
Kinmel Studios	⌚				✓	⌚						
Wrexham Gateway	⌚				✓	⌚						
Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub	⌚				✓	✓	✓	✓	⌚			
Tourism Talent Network	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	⌚			
Responsible Adventure	⌚				✓	✓	⌚					
Centre for Environmental Biotechnology	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	⌚			
Enterprise Engineering and Optics	✓	✓	✓	⌚	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	⌚	

APPENDIX M - PROJECT DELIVERY PLAN SEPTEMBER 2023



The status for each project is assessed against this profile from the 2023 Portfolio Business Case unless a new timeline has been approved by the NWEAB through a project business case or change request.

10. Objective Tracker - Overview of delivery

		Portfolio Business Case 2023 Targets			Approved Project Business Case Targets				Difference			
		GVA (€M)	Jobs Created (net)	(€M) Total Investment*	OBC/ FBC*	GVA (€M)	Jobs Created (net)	(€M) Total Investment*	GVA (€M)	Jobs Created	(€M) Total Investment*	
Digital	Digital Signal Processing Centre (DSP)	10	35	2.96	FBC	12	33	3.0	+2	-2	+0.04	
	Connecting the last few %	10	135	4.17	OBC	15	130	4.0	+5	-5	-0.17	
	Connected Key Sites and Corridors	4G+	50	115	9.40	OBC	9	TBC at FBC	8.5	n/a	n/a	n/a
		Fibre				n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
	Connected Campuses	30	0	20.68	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Low Carbon Energy	Cydnherth (Morlais)	30	100	8.87	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
	Hydrogen Hub and Transport Decarbonisation	35	90	28.42	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
	Egni	30	50	8.00	OBC	19	49	10.0	-11	-1	+2	
	Smart Local Energy	130	230	102.00	OBC	122	174	106.0	-8	-56	+4	
	Trawsfynydd	70	505	244.12	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
	Holyhead Hydrogen Hub	20	20	28.77	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
	Deeside Anaerobic Digestion Plant	20	40	63.28	OBC	34	65	60.0	+14	+25	+1.72	
Land and Property	Western Gateway, Wrexham	120	360	43.36	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
	Warren Hall, Broughton	120	445	69.76	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
	Former North Wales Hospital, Denbigh	10	50	99.94	OBC	38	70	107.0	+28	+20	+7.06	
	Parc Bryn Cegin, Bangor	20	50	5.91	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
	Holyhead Gateway	370	925	181.44	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
	Wrexham Gateway	10	150	14.37	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
	Kinmel Studios	50	200	32.00	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Agrifood and Tourism	Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub	30	95	16.79	OBC	45	96	13	+15	+1	-3.79	
	Tourism Talent Network	10	5	12.94	OBC	35.3	68	12.88	+25.3	+63	-0.06	
	Responsible Adventure	20	175	12.40	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Innovation in High Value Manufacturing	Enterprise Engineering and Optics Centre	30	60	16.42	FBC	70	70	18.12	+40	+10	+1.7	
	Centre for Environmental Biotechnology	30	90	3.50	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Growth Deal Portfolio Total		1,255	3,925	1,029	8OBC + 2FBC	399.3	755	342.5	-855.7	-3,170	-686.5	

*Total investment shown here includes 15% Portfolio Management Office costs

OBC - Outline Business Case, FBC - Full Business Case

11. Growth Deal – Risk Adjusted Capital Expenditure Profile

Programme	Project	Project Sponsor	2021/22 (£m)	2022/23 (£m)	2023/24 (£m)	2024/25 (£m)	2025/26 (£m)	2026/27 (£m)	2027/28 (£m)	2028/29 (£m)	2029/30 (£m)	2030/31 (£m)	2031/32 (£m)	2032/33 (£m)	2033/34 (£m)	2034/35 (£m)	Total (£m)
Digital	Digital Signal Processing Centre (DSP)	Bangor University	0.12	166	0.37	0.81	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.96
Digital	Connected Key Sites and Corridors	NWEAB	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	4.00	2.00	2.37	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.87
Digital	Connected Campus	NWEAB	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.94	10.10	4.93	4.71	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.68
Digital	Connecting the last few percent	NWEAB	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.32	1.85	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.17
Low carbon energy	Cydnherth (Morlais)	Menter Môn	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.33	4.44	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.87
Low carbon energy	Egni (Low Carbon Energy Centre of Excellence)	Bangor University	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.97	1.97	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.94
Low carbon energy	Trawsfynydd Power Station	Cwmni Eginio	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.50	2.50	5.00	5.70	5.00	0.00	19.70
Low carbon energy	Hydrogen Hub and Transport Decarbonisation	NWEAB	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.61	5.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11.23
Low carbon energy	Smart Local Energy	NWEAB	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.75	3.00	9.25	9.25	2.38	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	24.63
Low carbon energy	Deeside Waste to Fuel*	The Circular Economy Ltd	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.20	3.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.40
Low carbon energy	Holyhead Hydrogen Hub*	Menter Môn	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.90	1.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.80
Land and property	Holyhead Gateway	Stena Line	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.64	17.00	9.83	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	34.47
Land and property	Warren Hall Strategic Site	NWEAB	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.38	7.39	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	14.77
Land and property	Former North Wales Hospital, Denbigh	NWEAB	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.90	3.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.94
Land and property	Parc Bryn Cegin Strategic Site	NWEAB	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.91	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.91
Land and property	Western Gateway, Wrexham	NWEAB	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.48	4.48	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.96
Land and property	Kimmel Studios*	Stage Fifty	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.40	3.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.80
Land and property	Wrexham Gateway*	Wrexham County Borough Council	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.79	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.79
Innovation in High Value Manufacturing	Centre of Environmental Biotechnology (CEB)	Bangor University	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.96	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.96
Innovation in High Value Manufacturing	Enterprise Engineering & Optics Centre	Glyndŵr University	0.00	0.00	0.75	6.52	4.28	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11.55
Agri-food and tourism	Glynlifon Rural Economy Hub	Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.20	4.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11.82
Agri-food and tourism	Tourism Talent Network	Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.13	2.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.43
Agri-food and tourism	Responsible Adventure*	Zip World	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.30	3.70	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.20
2.15% to fund the NWEAB's revenue budget			0.22	0.28	0.56	1.10	1.15	0.82	0.30	0.15	0.15	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.07	0.05	5.15
Portfolio Total			0.34	1.94	1.68	23.92	58.68	68.65	44.81	19.71	1.65	2.60	5.10	5.80	5.07	0.05	240.00

*Replacement projects

Programme	Project	Project Sponsor	Profile 23/24 (£m)	Actual YTD (£m)	Variance (£m)*	Rationale
Digital	Digital Signal Processing Centre	Bangor University	0.39	0.37	-0.02	The claim for the DSP has been received and paid.
	Connecting the Last Few %	Ambition North Wales	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	Connected Key Sites and Corridors	Ambition North Wales	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	Connected Campuses	Ambition North Wales	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Low Carbon Energy	Cydnherth (Morlais)	Menter Môn	0.00	0.00	0.00	No Full Business Cases have been approved. Expenditure profile now aligned to 2023 Portfolio Business Case update.
	Hydrogen Hub & Transport Decarbonisation	Ambition North Wales	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	Egni	Bangor University	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	Smart Local Energy	Ambition North Wales	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	Trawsfynydd Power Station	Cwmni Eginio	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	Deeside Waste to Fuel	The Circular Economy Development	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	Holyhead Hydrogen Hub	Menter Môn	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Land and Property	Western Gateway, Wrexham	Ambition North Wales	0.00	0.00	0.00	No Full Business Cases have been approved. Expenditure profile now aligned to 2023 Portfolio Business Case update.
	Warren Hall, Broughton	Ambition North Wales	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	Former North Wales Hospital, Denbigh	Ambition North Wales	0.74	0.00	-0.74	
	Parc Bryn Cegin, Bangor	Ambition North Wales	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	Holyhead Gateway	Stena line	1.40	0.00	-1.40	
	Kinmel Studios	Stage Fifty	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	Wrexham Gateway	Wrexham County Borough Council	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Agri-food and Tourism	Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub	Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	0.00	0.00	0.00	No Full Business Cases have been approved. Expenditure profile now aligned to 2023 Portfolio Business Case update.
	Tourism Talent Network	Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	Responsible Adventure	Zip World	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Innovation in High Value Manufacturing	Enterprise Engineering and Optics Centre	Glyndwr University	1.63	0.75	-0.88	The first claim for the EEOC has been received and is currently being reviewed for approval.
	Centre for Environmental Biotechnology	Bangor University	1.00	0.00	-1.00	
Portfolio Management Office Costs			0.87	0.56	-0.31	
Total			6.03	1.68	-4.35	

* Variance is the difference between the planned profile (Portfolio Business Case 2023) and the Actual Year to Date (YTD) expenditure.

	Project	Sponsor	Summary
Digital	Digital Signal Processing Centre (DSP)	Bangor University	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 last few %	Ambition North Wales	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).
	Connected Key Sites and Corridors	Ambition North Wales	This project aims to enhance the reliability and quality of mobile services on the main roads and rail routes in North Wales, enabling full-fibre services to key commercial sites across the region. Focussing on developing fibreoptic networks, which are essential for delivering 4G, 5G and gigabit capable broadband.
	Connected Campuses	Ambition North Wales	The project will accelerate the development of a range of digital connectivity options with a current focus at 18 key regional economic sites.
Low Carbon Energy	Cydnherth (Morlais)	Menter Môn	Investing in infrastructure to connect to the National Grid network and monitor marine environmental effects. This will enable an increase in the deployment of turbines by tidal developers and the generation of renewable energy.
	Hydrogen Hub and Transport Decarbonisation	Ambition North Wales	Support delivery of a demonstrator project involving the production of green hydrogen from low carbon energy sources and its use within regional transport networks.
	Egni (Low Carbon Energy Centre of Excellence)	Bangor University	Investing 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.
	Smart Local Energy	Ambition North Wales	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.
	Trawsfynydd	Cwmni Egino	The site is uniquely placed for a 'First of A Kind' deployment of a Small Modular Reactor (SMR) or Advanced Modular Reactor (AMR). Alongside the public and private sector, the Growth Deal will contribute funding towards enabling infrastructure for this development.
	Deeside Waste to Fuel	The Circular Economy Ltd	Creation of a facility to convert 182,000 tonnes per year of commercial food waste destined for landfill/incineration into green bio-methane, power, and fertiliser.
Land and Property	Holyhead Hydrogen Hub	Menter Môn	This project will build a green hydrogen production facility at Parc Cybi, Holyhead, producing around 2000+kg/day of green hydrogen, supplying road, maritime and rail transport customers across North Wales.
	Western Gateway, Wrexham	Ambition North Wales	Delivery of primary services to enable the site to be brought to the market for sale and development.
	Warren Hall, Broughton	Ambition North Wales	Delivery of 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.
	Parc Bryn Cegin, Bangor	Ambition North Wales	Provide industrial floor space to meet known demand for units.
	Former North Wales Hospital, Denbigh	Ambition North Wales	The Growth Deal funding will assist in the delivery of a cleared and remediated site with primary services to bring forward a mixed-use commercial and residential development
	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.
	Wrexham Gateway	Wrexham County Borough Council	This project is a sustainable development of a vibrant regenerated area, creating a focal point to support business investment and a multi-modal transportation hub with links to active travel.
Agri-food and Tourism	Kinmel Studios	Stage Fifty	This project will design, build and operate film and television studios at Tir Llwyd Enterprise Park along with a training academy and incubator units.
	Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub	Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	The vision is to create a distinctive, world-class Rural Economy Hub at Glynllifon, offering a range of facilities and services to strengthen and enhance the regional economy, specifically through growing the food and drink sector.
	Tourism Talent Network	Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	Future-proofing the pipeline of skills provision and increase commercial benefits from one of the most established sectors in the region. The talent network will stimulate public-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.
Innovation in High Value Manufacturing	Responsible Adventure	Zip World	A multi-element project as part of a sustainable and eco-tourism package including a new sustainable Cable Car, Slate Explorer including visitor viewing platform and an eBus Network.
	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.
	Enterprise Engineering & Optics Centre	Wrexham University	The Enterprise Engineering & Optics Centre will provide facilities targeted to boost high-level skills development for the region and enable Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME's) and large businesses to work in partnership with Wrexham Glyndwr University on commercially driven research and development in optics, composites and hydrogen fuel cells.

NORTH WALES GROWTH DEAL PORTFOLIO RISK REGISTER

Risk ID	Date Raised	Risk Category	Risk Name	Risk Owner	Description of the Risk	Current Gross Risk Rating			Trend	Mitigating Actions	Action Due Dates	Action owner	Residual Risk Rating			Trend	Status (Open / Closed)	Commentary	Date of last update
						P	I	Score					P	I	Score				
R003	21/10/2020	Financial	Affordability	Portfolio Management Office	If projects increase in cost, there is a risk they may not go ahead or project scope may need to be scaled down	5	5	25	↔	<p>Project Business Cases will set out detailed project level financial, commercial and risk management measures to manage costs.</p> <p>Robust performance, risk and financial reporting arrangements will be established for all projects</p> <p>Once Project Business Cases are approved, any additional costs incurred will be the responsibility of the Project Sponsor and alternative funding options will be considered.</p> <p>Ongoing discussions with UK/WG on mitigation strategy for managing the risk of increasing costs</p> <p>Portfolio Delivery Fund approved by the NWEAB and requests for funding approved in Feb 2023</p> <p>PMO engaging with sponsors at project level to identify mitigation for cost increases</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>Monthly</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>Monthly</p> <p>In place</p> <p>Monthly</p>	<p>PMO, Project Sponsor</p> <p>PMO</p> <p>PMO</p> <p>PMO</p> <p>PMO</p>	4	4	16	↔	Open	Risk reviewed. No changes to gross or residual risk scores. The residual risk rating remains high as costs have increased significantly since the Growth Deal was agreed in December 2020. While costs have stabilised at the moment, the Growth Deal funding from government is fixed at the amount agreed in 2020 therefore affordability remains a challenge for project. This is being managed on a project by project basis with some projects able to look at design changes, changes to delivery models and others needing to secure additional funding from other sources.	26/04/2024
R016	22/10/2020	Programme and Project Delivery	Assurance	Operations Manager	If agreed assurance processes are not followed, there is a risk that project approval could be impacted and could result in suspension/postponement of government grant payments.	3	5	15	↔	<p>Integrated Assurance and Approval Plan (IAAP) agreed with Welsh and UK Government as part of Final Deal.</p> <p>Continued engagement with Welsh Government Assurance Hub to refine and update the Integrated Assurance and Approval Plan (IAAP)</p> <p>PMO assurance lead to coordinate delivery of assurance in accordance with the IAAP</p>	<p>Complete</p> <p>Quarterly</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>PMO</p> <p>PMO</p> <p>PMO</p>	2	4	8	↔	Open	Risk reviewed. No changes to gross or residual risk scores. An assurance review in October 2023 resulted in 14 recommendations to be undertaken by the PMO. An action plan was put in place to address these and the follow up review in December highlighted the good progress made in addressing the recommendations.	26/04/2024
R015	22/10/2020	Reputational and Social Impact	Benefits Realisation	Portfolio Management Office	If project benefits are not realised, there is a risk that the overall Growth Deal could fail to deliver the benefits set out within business case.	4	4	16	↔	<p>Each programme and project will be responsible for benefits management through a Benefits Realisation Plan.</p> <p>Monthly highlight reports to Programme Board to monitor benefits realisation</p> <p>Procurement Principles adopted with focus on community benefits and social value</p> <p>Benefits Realisation guidance developed and being disseminated to project sponsors for use in project business cases</p> <p>Impact system launched and project teams trained.</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>Monthly</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>PMO, Programme and Project SROs</p> <p>PMO</p> <p>PMO</p> <p>PMO</p> <p>PMO</p>	3	3	9	↔	Open	Risk reviewed. No changes to gross or residual risk scores. A recent assurance review highlighted the work of the PMO on benefits realisation as good practice which will ensure the structures and systems are in place to help projects realise and report on benefits realisation.	26/04/2024
R001	21/10/2020	Programme and Project Delivery	Capacity	Portfolio Director	If sufficient resources are not in place at portfolio, programme and project level, there is a risk that this could impact on the successful delivery of the deal	4	5	20	↔	<p>NWEAB approval for fixed term contract extensions to March 2026.</p> <p>Additional procurement and legal technical capacity to be secured for projects as required</p> <p>PMO to utilise external technical support when necessary</p> <p>PMO supporting partners to ensure capacity for delivery and support recruitment activity</p> <p>Backfill arrangements in place to manage the impact of part-time secondment of Portfolio Director to the Corporate Joint Committee</p> <p>SPF bid includes contribution towards some existing PMO costs</p> <p>Approval from both Governments to increase the top slice from to 2% and enabling PMO to draw down additional funding through Growth Deal budget and extend contracts to 2025</p>	<p>In place</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Reviewed monthly</p> <p>Reviewed monthly</p> <p>In place</p> <p>March 2023</p> <p>In place</p>	<p>PMO</p> <p>PMO</p> <p>PMO</p> <p>PMO, Project Sponsors</p> <p>PMO</p> <p>PMO</p>	3	4	12	▼	Open	Risk reviewed and residual score reduced. PMO now at full capacity following recruitment. Procurement of additional specialist support e.g. procurement, project management etc is underway following PAR recommendation, residual probability to be reduced once support appointed across these functions.	26/04/2024
R006	21/10/2020	Environmental	Climate Change and Biodiversity	Portfolio Director	If projects do not take account of carbon emissions or biodiversity loss within project level assessments, there is a risk the portfolio could contribute towards the issues of climate change and biodiversity loss	4	3	12	↔	<p>Position statement on Climate Change and Biodiversity adopted by the NWEAB.</p> <p>Project business cases to demonstrate delivery against the adopted NWEAB position.</p> <p>Methodology on how to take account of carbon emissions and biodiversity loss within project business cases now published and shared with all projects (methodology review scheduled for 2024 as approach rolled out across Wales with WLGA)</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>In place</p>	<p>NWEAB</p> <p>PMO, Project SROs</p> <p>PMO</p>	3	3	9	↔	Open	Risk reviewed. No changes to gross or residual risk scores. Roll out of methodology and associated training continues	26/04/2024

Risk ID	Date Raised	Risk Category	Risk Name	Risk Owner	Description of the Risk	Current Gross Risk Rating			Trend	Mitigating Actions	Action Due Dates	Action owner	Residual Risk Rating			Trend	Status (Open / Closed)	Commentary	Date of last update
						P	I	Score					P	I	Score				
R002	21/10/2020	Programme and Project Delivery	Delay	Portfolio Management Office	If there are delays to project delivery, there is a risk this could have an impact on the realisation of benefits or could result in projects not progressing.	5	5	25	↔	<p>PMO resources reallocated to assist projects requiring additional support (2023 PAR action).</p> <p>Monthly highlight reports to Programme Board with escalation routes to NWEAB</p> <p>Programme and project RAID logs in place to record risks and manage issues with mitigation managed at project level.</p> <p>Project business cases and implementation plans to clearly set out risks to project delivery and mitigations. PMO working with sponsors to identify opportunities to minimise delay and where delay is unavoidable minimise impact</p> <p>Quarterly reports to the NWEAB and Portfolio Board with specific issues to escalated where necessary.</p> <p>Project Delivery Fund approved by the NWEAB with change requests approved in Feb 2023</p> <p>PMO working with sponsors at project-level to identify opportunities to minimise delay and where delay is unavoidable minimise impact</p>	<p>Monthly</p> <p>Monthly</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>Quarterly</p> <p>In place</p> <p>Feb 2023</p> <p>In place</p>	<p>PMO</p> <p>PMO, Project Sponsor</p> <p>Project Sponsor</p> <p>Project Sponsor</p> <p>PMO</p> <p>PMO, Project sponsor</p> <p>PMO, Project Sponsors</p>	4	4	16	↔	Open	<p>No change to residual risk however minimising delays remains a priority for the PMO. Mitigating capacity risk (R001) will contribute to mitigation however progress is still affected by sponsors</p> <p>OBC and FBC approvals in Q3 have addressed some delays. Action following PAR to use PMO resources more flexibly has proven to be effective to accelerate business case development. Risk probability will reduce further if progress is sustained.</p> <p>A number of projects are experiencing delays which will impact on the timing of benefits realisation.</p>	26/04/2024
R020	03/10/2022	Programme and Project Delivery	Economic Context	Portfolio Management Office	If there are significant changes to the UK economy (e.g. cost of living crisis and the energy security crisis), then the strategic and economic cases for programmes and projects may be adversely impacted	4	5	20	↔	<p>Project business cases and implementation plans to clearly set out the case for projects and the risks to project delivery, including the impact of recent economic developments</p>	N/A	PMO, Project Sponsors	3	5	15	↔	Open	<p>Developing global issues affecting supply chains and energy market likely to affect costs in the short to medium term.</p>	26/04/2024
R017	22/10/2020	Financial	Financial Management	s151 Officer	If appropriate financial arrangements are not put in place, there could be a risk to the delivery of the deal, draw-down of the funding grant and allocation of funds.	3	4	12	↔	<p>NWEAB will utilise existing financial processes of Cyngor Gwynedd as Host Authority</p> <p>Project Business Cases will set out detailed project level financial, commercial and risk management measures to manage finances</p> <p>Robust monthly performance, risk and financial reporting arrangements will be established for all projects</p> <p>Robust financial claims process established for the drawdown of funding</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>Monthly</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>PMO</p> <p>PMO, Project SRO</p> <p>PMO, Project SRO</p> <p>PMO</p>	2	3	6	↔	Open	<p>No changes to gross or residual risk scores. Residual risk remains low due to the processes in place by Ambition North Wales and the funding agreements with project sponsors.</p>	26/04/2024
R014	22/10/2020	Financial	Fraud	Portfolio Director	If appropriate processes are not put in place and managed, there is a risk that the portfolio could be subject to fraudulent claims resulting in misuse of public funds	4	4	16	↔	<p>Projects to have robust financial monitoring processes in place</p> <p>PMO to review claims submitted before passing them onto accountable body for payment</p> <p>Code of conduct and conflicts of interest policy incorporated as part of Governance Agreement 2</p> <p>Conflict of Interest Register maintained for all programmes, projects and advisory groups.</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>N/A</p>	<p>PMO</p> <p>PMO</p> <p>Monitoring Officer</p> <p>PMO</p>	2	4	8	↔	Open	<p>No changes to gross or residual risk scores. Residual risk remains low due to the processes in place by Ambition North Wales. A further round of fraud training is planned for the PMO and Business Delivery Board in May 2024.</p>	26/04/2024
R009	21/10/2020	Regulatory	Planning and Statutory Consents	Portfolio Management Office	If projects do not receive the necessary statutory consents and planning approval, there is a risk that projects will not be delivered and the benefits would not be realised.	4	5	20	↔	<p>Project business cases will set out the consenting requirements for each project and the risks to project delivery</p> <p>Continued engagement with project sponsors to understand consenting process and risks with support provided where appropriate at project level</p> <p>Local authority phosphates strategies in place as part of Local Plan adoption.</p> <p>PMO delivered review of project consenting progress for each project and will incorporate into reports going forward</p> <p>Lessons learnt review to be delivered following project-level consenting delays</p> <p>Chair and/or Portfolio Director to write to consenting authorities highlighting the impact of delayed decisions when individual project risks are escalated.</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>N/A</p> <p>In place</p> <p>Summer 2023</p> <p>In place</p> <p>As required</p>	<p>PMO, Project SROs</p> <p>PMO</p> <p>Local Authorities</p> <p>PMO</p> <p>PMO, Project sponsors</p> <p>Portfolio Director</p>	4	5	20	↔	Open	<p>No changes to gross or residual risk scores. Consenting remains a high risk and is being managed at a programme and project level within the Growth Deal.</p>	26/04/2024
R013	21/10/2020	Reputational and Social Impact	Political Change	Portfolio Director	If stakeholders are not managed effectively, there is a risk that political change could impact support for the portfolio, programme and projects.	4	4	16	↔	<p>Frequent engagement with UK, Welsh Government and local government politicians and officials.</p> <p>GA2 and Final Deal agreement to confirm commitments of all parties.</p> <p>New members to be briefed on the Growth Deal Portfolio following the change in leadership</p> <p>Engagement with new UK Government Ministers</p>	<p>N/A</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Complete</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>NWEAB, PMO</p> <p>NWEAB</p> <p>PMO</p> <p>PMO</p>	2	4	8	↔	Open	<p>No changes to gross or residual risk scores. The risk remains low at present as there are no local elections in Wales during 2024. However with a UK General Election having to take place no later than 28 January 2025 this risk may increase in the future.</p>	26/04/2024

Risk ID	Date Raised	Risk Category	Risk Name	Risk Owner	Description of the Risk	Current Gross Risk Rating			Trend	Mitigating Actions	Action Due Dates	Action owner	Residual Risk Rating			Trend	Status (Open / Closed)	Commentary	Date of last update
						P	I	Score					P	I	Score				
R007	21/10/2020	Financial	Private Sector Investment	Portfolio Management Office	If the private sector investment is not secured, there is a risk that projects will not be delivered or delivered at reduced scale impacting on the benefits to the region.	4	5	20	↔	Continued engagement with Project Sponsors and private sector partners Development of robust project business cases and contractual agreements for Growth Deal funding Delivery of project process for identifying replacement Growth Deal projects	N/A N/A March 2023	PMO, Project SROs PMO, Project SROs PMO	4	4	16	↔	Open	No changes to gross or residual risk scores. Securing the private sector investment for the Growth Deal remains a high risk, however the position has improved with the selection of five new projects through the project replacement process. Risk also relates to R020 Subsidy Control.	26/04/2024
R008	21/10/2020	Financial	Public Sector Investment	Portfolio Management Office	If the public sector investment is not secured, there is a risk that projects will not be delivered or delivered at reduced scale impacting on the benefits to the region.	4	4	16	↔	All NWEAB partners have signed up to the Growth Deal and Governance Agreement 2. Development of robust project business cases and contractual agreements for Growth Deal funding Support project sponsor applications for other public funding sources where appropriate	Complete N/A As required	NWEAB PMO, Project SROs PMO	4	4	16	↔	Open	No changes to gross or residual risk scores. As per private sector investment, the risk rating remains high due to the low number of FBCs approved to date and funding agreements entered into. Risk also relates to R020 Subsidy Control	26/04/2024
R018	01/10/2020	Financial	Revenue Funding	Portfolio Management Office and Project Sponsors	If sufficient revenue funding is not in place to support the activities of the NWEAB and delivery of the Growth Deal, then project delivery and achievement of spending objectives and benefits may be impacted	4	5	20	↔	NWEAB has approved extension of fixed term contracts to March 2026. Longer term solutions continue to be investigated Partners and project sponsors responsible for sourcing revenue funding to support non-NWEAB led projects PMO working to identify additional funding opportunities for NWEAB led projects PMO exploring the potential capitalisation of project salary costs. Growth Deal top slice increased to 2%, allowing extension of FTAs to March 2026 SPF bid to 5 local authorities successful, separate SUCCESSFUL application submitted to Wrexham.	N/A N/A N/A N/A May 2023 Sep 2023	PMO PMO, Project SRO PMO, Project SRO PMO PMO, Portfolio Board PMO	3	4	12	↔	Open	No changes to gross or residual risk scores. Revenue position has improved through the increase in the top slice from the Growth Deal to 2.15% and securing SPF funding.	26/04/2024
R010	21/10/2020	Reputational and Social Impact	Spending Objectives	Portfolio Director	If projects fail to deliver against the portfolio spending objectives, there is a risk that the Growth Deal may not meet its targets in relation to job creation, GVA and investment.	5	4	20	↔	Robust business cases will be developed for each programme and project in line with 5 Case Business Model and will need to set out contribution to portfolio spending objective targets Project review and change control process in place. Replacement project process was completed in July 2023 with five new project selected to join the Growth Deal. Investment strategy has been developed and approved by the Economic Ambition Board.	N/A N/A Complete In place	PMO, Project SROs PMO NWEAB, PMO PMO	4	4	16	↔	Open	No changes to gross or residual risk scores. The latest iteration of the Portfolio Business Case submitted to both governments in October 2023 demonstrates how the Growth Deal can still deliver on these targets, however the contingency has now reduced therefore the residual risk remains high. Risk set to remain high until project delivery gets underway.	26/04/2024
R019	01/10/2020	Programme and Project Delivery	Supply Chain & Skills Capacity	Portfolio Management Office	If the regional supply chain does not have the capacity to deliver projects, then projects delivery could be impacted and regional benefits could be lower.	4	4	16	↔	Project business cases and implementation plans to clearly set out risks to project delivery and mitigations, including supply chain risks. RSP working with PMO to identify regional supply chain / skills challenges and identify mitigations Additional funding secured for skills activity Projects to conduct early market engagement where appropriate	N/A N/A In place N/A	PMO PMO PMO Project Sponsors	3	4	12	↔	Open	No changes to gross or residual risk scores. Close collaboration between the PMO and the RSP on skills and supply chain is key to reducing the probability of this risk. This is an ongoing activity to ensure the capacity and skills are in the region to take advantage of the opportunities through the Growth Deal.	26/04/2024
R020	26/04/2024	Regulatory	Subsidy Control	Portfolio Management Office	Link to Public Sector investment risk R008: If subsidy control assessments cannot be confirmed the approval of funding for projects may be delayed or jeopardised.	3	4	12	↔	Review options for no subsidy investment, e.g. commercial loans Address details and assessment with sponsors at earliest stage (Terms sheet) Consult Pinsents on early SC assessments Subsidy Control lead and support allocated within PMO	As per SOC-FBC stages	Programme Managers	3	3	9	↔	Open	New risk. Challenges in completing 7 Principle assessments being supported by Pinsents but these need to be addressed earlier in the assurance process, e.g. at Terms sheet stage pre OBC completion.	26/04/2024
R021	26/04/2024	Programme and Project Delivery	Transition to CJC	Portfolio Director	Transition of PMO to CJC in 2024. If staffing and process arrangements are not managed effectively there is a risk that PMO operations and project delivery may be delayed	3	4	12	↔	TUPE consultation with staff Impact on policies and processes to be reviewed before full transition	Before transition	Portfolio Director	2	3	6	↔	Open	New risk. Work underway to review potential impacts and agreement of policies and processes for the new CJC subject to EAB approval	26/04/2024

ATODLEN 12A DEDDF LLYWODRAETH LEOL 1972
SCHEDULE 12A LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972
Cais i Eithrio Gwybodaeth / Application to Exempt Information
(I'w gyflwyno i'r Swyddog Monitro gyda chopi o'r adroddiad/to be submitted to the Monitoring Officer with a copy of the report)

ADRODDIAD: REPORT	Achos Fusnes Lawn Cyn Ysbyty Gogledd Cymru, Dinbych Former North Wales Hospital Full Business Case
AWDUR: AUTHOR	David Mathews
CYFARFOD: MEETING	Bwrdd Uchelgais Economaidd Gogledd Cymru North Wales Economic Ambition Board
DYDDIAD CYFARFOD DATE OF MEETING	17/05/2024

Paragraff(au) sy'n berthnasol i'r adroddiad / Paragraph(s) applicable to report:

Paragraff 14 o Atodiad 12A o Ddeddf Llywodraeth Leol 1972

Gwybodaeth ynglŷn â thrafodion ariannol neu fusnes unrhyw berson penodol(yn cynnwys yr awdurdod sydd yn dal y wybodaeth hynny)

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).

Rheswm dros gadw'r wybodaeth yn eithriedig / Reason the information should be exempt:

Mae cynnwys yr eitem yn cynnwys gwybodaeth gyfrinachol a masnachol sensitif am y prosiect Cyn Ysbyty Gogledd Cymru gan gynnwys gwybodaeth am risgiau'r prosiect. Mae hyn yn berthnasol i Jones Bros.

The contents of the item includes confidential and commercially sensitive information on the Former North Wales Hospital project including project risks. This is relevant to the situation of the Jones Bros.

N.M. Williams

Arwyddwyd / Signed:

Dyddiad / Date: 03/05/2024

Penderfyniad y Swyddog Monitro / Monitoring Officer's decision

Adroddiad eithriedig? / Exempt Report? Ydi/Yes

Paragraff(au) perthnasol / Relevant paragraph(s):

Paragraff 14 o Atodiad 12A o Ddeddf Llywodraeth Leol 1972

Gwybodaeth ynglŷn â thrafodion ariannol neu fusnes unrhyw berson penodol(yn cynnwys yr awdurdod sydd yn dal y wybodaeth hynny)

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).

Rhesymau o dan y prawf budd cyhoeddus / Reasons under the public interest test:

Mae budd cyhoeddus cydnabyddedig mewn bod yn agored ynglŷn â defnydd adnoddau cyhoeddus a materion ariannol cysylltiedig. Cydnabyddir fodd bynnag fod adegau, er gwarchod buddiannau ariannol a masnachol cyhoeddus fod angen trafod gwybodaeth o'r fath heb ei gyhoeddi. Mae'r adroddiad yn benodol ynglŷn a materion ariannol a busnes ynghyd a thrafodaethau cysylltiedig Byddai cyhoeddi gwybodaeth fasnachol sensitif o'r math yma yn gallu bod yn niweidiol i fuddiannau'r cyrff a'r Cynghroau ac yn tanseilio hyder rhai eraill sydd yn ymwneud a'r Gytundeb Tw fi rannu gwybodaeth sensitive ar gyfer ystyriaeth. Byddai hyn yn groes i'r budd cyhoeddus ehangach o sicrhau yr allbwn cyfansawdd gorau . Am y rhesymau yma rwy'n fodlon fod y mater yn gaeedig er y budd cyhoeddus.

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 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. For those reasons I am satisfied that the matter should be exempt in the public interest.

Arwyddwyd / Signed:



Dyddiad / Date: 10 05 24