

north wales economic ambition board

bwrdd uchelgais economaidd gogledd cymru

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Ein cyf / Our ref:
Dyddiad/Date: 25th March 2019
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Nigel Adams MP

Under Secretary of State for Wales
1 Caspian Point
Cardiff
CF10 4DQ

Dear Nigel,

North Wales Growth Deal

Thank you for attending the meeting of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board on 1st February, and for your follow-up letter.

The Board is keen to move with pace and decisiveness to achieve a Heads of Terms Agreement no later than July. We have held two Board meetings in quick succession to finalise our Implementation Plan for the Growth Deal since we met. A purposeful and deliverable Implementation Plan has been requested by officials from both Governments and we are now able to submit this. The Implementation Plan is attached.

At our latest Board meeting held on 15th March we signed-off this Implementation Plan with the unanimous support of all partners. Through a series of sessions preceding last week's meeting we have had intensive input from business leaders from all key sectors.

The Implementation Plan has the confidence of the business community. Government officials have also contributed to the development of the Plan over a period of time.

The Implementation Plan sets out:-

- the strategic ambition for the Growth Deal;
- the series of programmes and project interventions for the three prime sectors and the four enablers;
- a summary of the outline business case for each project including their outcomes and benefits, their financial profile, and details of private and public sector investment and financial leverage;
- an indicative timeline; and
- the inter-dependencies of the programmes and projects.



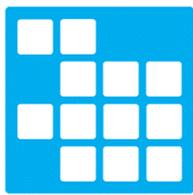
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COUNTY COUNCIL



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Sir Ddinbych
Denbighshire
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The Plan also sets out:-

- the role, functions and governance arrangements for the Economic Ambition Board;
- the role and ongoing contribution of the private sector;
- arrangements for stakeholder engagement;
- management of programme implementation; and
- arrangements for monitoring and evaluation.

The input of the private sector to the development of the Plan has been significant. This has been co-ordinated by the newly established North Wales Business Delivery Board. There are high expectations to see delivery of the Plan from 2020/21 and strong support for the scaling up of programmes and projects, where possible with additional capital and investment leverage, to achieve transformational change on a regional scale.

The Board has approved a first stage of resourcing to build regional capacity in readiness to manage 'live' Growth Deal funded programmes and projects from 2020/21. Agreement by Governments of a Heads of Terms no later than July is critical if we are to be ready on time to meet the expectations that we have all raised across the region.

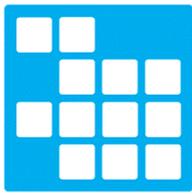
The Board recognises that within our proposed list of fourteen project interventions, some projects are ahead of others in their state of readiness. Therefore, we propose including all fourteen projects within the scope of the Heads of Terms but only to include those that are at a more advanced stage of readiness in this first phase. Those in the first phase would immediately progress to the five case business model. The remaining projects would be further developed in a second phase to follow close behind. For clarity, by 'readiness' we mean meeting the tests of (a) proof of concept (b) outcomes and impact (c) private sector investment and leverage and (d) readiness for delivery on time.

The projects supported by the Board to be in the first phase, due to their advanced state of readiness, include:-

- Digital Connectivity Project
- Regional Land and Property Joint Venture
- Holyhead Gateway
- Smart Local Energy Network Project
- Trawsfynydd Power Station Project

This is not an exhaustive list and is provided as a guide for quick negotiation. The full set of Outline Business Cases has been supplied to officials.





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At this stage there is no financial scope for new projects to be added to the Growth Deal. We are very open to later additions with additional capital investment by Governments.

Given the impact of the decision by Hitachi in suspending the Wylfa Newydd project, the Plan:-

- re-affirms support for key Growth Deal projects within the portfolio that will have a direct economic and employment impact on North Anglesey - the Holyhead Gateway Project, Morlais Project and the Nuclear Centre of Excellence project;
- scales-up two strategic Growth Deal projects that will impact the economy of North Anglesey and create the conditions for employment growth - the Smart Local Energy Network and the Regional Land and Property Joint Venture; and
- proposes sequencing the Growth Deal projects to give some priority to those interventions that impact on North Anglesey.

We invite both Governments to set out a clear and simple process for closing negotiations to reach a Heads of Terms Agreement by July. We plan to issue public communications at the beginning of April - making a positive statement that the region is ready to close an Agreement and begin to implement priority projects from 2020/21. We would welcome a positive statement from both Governments in support.

We are writing to Minister Ken Skates AM with a similar invitation.

We very much look forward to receiving your support for the approach set out above.

Yours sincerely

**Councillor Aaron Shotton,
Chair, North Wales Economic Ambition
Board and Leader of Flintshire County
Council**

**Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn,
Vice Chair, North Wales Economic
Ambition Board and Leader of Gwynedd
Council**

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