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## REPORT TO THE NORTH WALES ECONOMIC AMBITION BOARD

17<sup>th</sup> MAY, 2019

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**TITLE:** *Business Delivery Board*

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### 1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1. The purpose of the report is to formally set out the role and remit of the Business Delivery Board (currently named the Business Delivery Group). It also outlines the proposed recruitment process to select the Chair and Members of the Business Delivery Board.
- 1.2. The Business Delivery Board will be an integral part of the governance arrangements that have been established to develop and deliver the Growth Vision for North Wales, including the Growth Deal.
- 1.3. The Business Delivery Board will directly advise and challenge the North Wales Economic Ambition Board, who will be obliged to consider its advice. It must be outward looking and well-connected beyond the region. This will enable it to bring expertise and potential investment into the region, drawing on the experience of its members.
- 1.4. The Board will also play a crucial role in the delivery of strategic projects commissioned by the North Wales Economic Ambition Board. It will monitor progress and outcomes, and consider ways in which economic and employment benefits can be maximised.
- 1.5. The Board was established in shadow form over 6 months ago and has already made a significant contribution to the development of the Implementation Plan and the individual OBCs. The aim now is to formalise the arrangements and firmly establish the Business Delivery Board as a key part of the governance framework to deliver the Growth Vision for North Wales.
- 1.6. This report takes into consideration the discussion during the North Wales Economic Ambition Board Meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2019, as well as discussions with both Governments on the proposal.

### 2. DECISION SOUGHT

- 2.1. To approve the proposed role and responsibilities of the Business Delivery Board.
- 2.2. To approve the recruitment process for the Chair of the Business Delivery Board as set out in the report and to delegate authority to the Chief Executive of the Accountable Body to undertake the recruitment process.
- 2.3. To approve the arrangements for selection and recruitment of Board Members as set out in the report and to delegate authority to the Chief Executive of the Accountable Body to undertake the recruitment process once the Chair has been appointed.

2.4. To confirm the use of up to £20,000 per annum from the North Wales Economic Ambition Board’s ‘Project Development and Support’ budget to support the Business Delivery Board.

2.5. To delegate authority to the Chief Executive of the Accountable Body to establish the remuneration arrangements for the Chair, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board in accordance with the report.

**3. REASONS FOR THE DECISION**

3.1. As set out in the report.

**4. BACKGROUND AND RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS**

4.1. During the last North Wales Economic Ambition Board the paper on the Business Delivery Board was discussed. The Board agreed to defer a decision on the matter until feedback was received by both Governments.

4.2. Both Governments have by now collectively provided the Economic Ambition Board with comments in relation to the proposal that are set out below:

Reference	WG/UKG Feedback	Response
	The board’s role doesn’t appear to be “delivery” orientated, as set out. What is its role in delivery?	The paper incorporates how the Board will have a role in the delivery. Setting out how the board will support the challenge of the Outline Business Cases and then the Full Business Cases, as well as monitor the delivery of the projects. See 2.1
	What happens if the Private Sector Board disagrees with EAB over a project, its scope, how it’s delivered, etc?	See 1.12.
1.1.	Suggest cutting the sentence about the North Wales Mersey Dee Business Council – it detracts from the importance of the board.	Sentence revised.
1.3.	This should be stronger – suggest something about challenging the joint committee, and deleting ‘articulate the needs of business’ which is vague.	This point has been amended to reflect the comments. See 1.3
1.6.	Senior/Decision makers should be on the board from representative companies	This is now set out under 1.6.
1.7.	The role of the board should be two-way – and also setting out the opportunities which the EAB/NWGD should deliver on.	This is now set out under 1.7.
1.11.	The board must be flexible to change their constitution and role as they see fit in order to be as independent as possible. The interrelationship between the Joint Committee and the board is important in GA2 however, and should be left in here.	This is now set out under 1.11.

2.1.	<p>It should focus on the Growth Deal package – and on overseeing the delivery of the Growth Deal and advise / challenge the Joint Committee, especially in relation to projects in ‘tranche 2’.</p> <p>The deal is one of course component of a wider economic agenda, however there is a lot of other stuff here (advocacy role promoting the region for inward investment, work on the growth vision, Welsh Government schemes, working with CBI North Wales, Working with North Wales Mersey Dee Business Council, etc) – which detracts from its role and importance. Suggest focusing this down.</p> <p>It should state that the Board will have a role to play in maximising the impact of the deal for the region (joining up / more than the sum of parts), securing direct and indirect private sector investment for the deal.</p>	The focus of this section is now on the Growth Vision and Deal.
2.1.	<p>Also per the general comment above, it is not a ‘delivery board’ as currently scoped.</p> <p>The board needs to be able to challenge the NWGD projects and proposals, with teeth i.e. EAB cannot ignore its advice. Can this be set out here?</p> <p>It should say that they will consider FBCs before they are approved by the JC / sent to governments.</p>	This has now been set out under 1.12.
3.3.	1 day a week for the Chair of the Board seems like a lot, and could exclude good candidates that do not have that sort of time.	Noted. It is stated that the level of commitment will fluctuate across the term.
3.8.	Needs to explicitly say that both governments need to approve the chair – and have a veto, not just be consulted on the matter.	Revise version states that ‘both governments will need to approve the appointment of the chair’.
3.10.	Needs to explicitly say that the constitution of the rest of the board should be done in consultation with governments.	See 4.5.
6.1.	Again, what is the ‘teeth’ of the Board? As currently scoped the EAB can choose to ignore its recommendations, without evidence or comment. Can this be addressed?	See 1.12.

## 5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. The proposed annual cost for supporting the Chair, and other associated Business Delivery Board costs, is £20,000 per annum.

## 6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. The Business Delivery Board will act as a consultative and advisory body to the Economic Ambition Board. It will have no delegated decision making power. It is important to note that the decision to create the Business Delivery Board as a consultative and advisory body, will give rise to the legitimate expectation that the North Wales Economic Ambition Board will take into consideration

the views of the Business Delivery Board when making decisions. This is also addressed by the proposed appointment of the Chair as Advisor to the Economic Ambition Board.

6.2. The NWEAB will need to be satisfied that it can meet all the costs of the Business Delivery Board from its Annual Budget

6.3. Legal advice should be sought on the proposed terms and conditions of those appointed to the Business Delivery Board.

## **7. STAFFING IMPLICATIONS**

7.1. None at this stage.

## **8. IMPACT ON EQUALITIES**

8.1. The recruitment processes will be undertaken in compliance with the Partners duties under the provisions of the Equalities Act 2010.

## **9. CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN**

9.1. A meeting of the Executive Officers' Group on the 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2019 agreed that this report should be submitted to the North Wales Economic Ambition Board for consideration.

9.2. The UK Government and Welsh Government have also been consulted.

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## **APPENDICES:**

Appendix 1 Business Delivery Board

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## **STATUTORY OFFICERS RESPONSE:**

### **i. Monitoring Officer – Accountable Body:**

“As stated in the report this moves to set the Business Delivery Board on a formal footing as part of the developing structure of the project. It appropriately sets out a process which will be governed by a transparent and fair appointments process and reflects the key role of the body in the governance of the project. The results of the consultation with the governments are reported on and the amended documents offer a response to these within the Board framework. As reported these arrangements will form the basis for incorporation into the second Governance Agreement, GA 2.”

### **ii. Statutory Finance Officer (the Accountable Body's Section 151 Officer):**

“The Board may decide to use £20,000 its 'Project Development and Support' budget to fund the Business Delivery Board's costs, as the Business Delivery Board will be a key contributor to project development. In accordance with the Ambition Board's request on 12 April, I note that part 6.2 of this report provides details of the Business Delivery Board Chair's remuneration package.”