



REPORT TO THE NORTH WALES ECONOMIC AMBITION BOARD 24 JANUARY, 2020

TITLE: *Progress Update Report*

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1. To update members on development since the last meeting.

2. DECISION SOUGHT

2.1. To note the information within the report.

3. REASONS FOR THE DECISION

3.1. To update on the progress of the Executive Officers Group.

3.2. To report on the appointments within the Programme Office, and on the future priorities of the team.

4. BACKGROUND AND RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

4.1. Heads of Terms

- Following the signing of Heads of Terms during November, the document was returned to UK Government, and a Certified Copy was shared with all other partners.

4.2. Programme Office

- Four staff members have commenced in post as follows:

Alwen Williams	Programme Director
Hedd Vaughan-Evans	Operations Manager
Stuart Whitfield	Digital Programme Manager
Henry Aron	Energy Programme Manager

- The Land and Property Programme Manager will commence in post during March/April 2020.
- The Programme Office team are located at the Conwy Business Centre. This is an initial arrangement for once year, and will be reviewed for the long term.

4.3. Governance

- A Governance Workshop has been arranged for 14th February 2020.

- The role of Business Delivery Board Chair was advertised before Christmas, and the closing date for applications was 17th January 2020. The NWEAB will shortlist the candidates, this will then be discussed with both Governments and the interviews will follow.

4.4. Executive Officers Group

- The Executive Group have managed the Transitional Plan well.
- The Executive Group have been reviewing the purpose and role of the group following the establishment of the Programme Office. Going forward the Executive Group will hold bimonthly business meetings, and strategic regional discussion.
- We have been strengthening our working relationship with the WG North Wales regional team, exploring how we can work collaboratively on the Regional Economic Framework and an refreshing the Growth Vision

4.5. Programme Office forward work plan

- The Programme Office are currently defining their forward work plan.
- Some of the key tasks/priorities include the following:
 - Finalise the ESF Application, and prioritise the key roles within the Programme Office from April 2020;
 - Develop a Communications Strategy and Plan
 - Create the new narrative for the NWEAB and the Growth Deal;
 - Stakeholder planning and management;
 - Work alongside the Executive Officers Group to update the Growth Vision;
 - Deliver Growth Deal projects, producing 5 Case Business Models.

4.6. Chair's Update

Since the last NWEAB meeting, the Chair Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn has attended the following events on behalf of the Board:

- OECD Seminar – November 27th 2019
- Skills and Employment Plan Launch – November 28th 2019
- Economy, Infrastructure and Skills Committee – January 15th 2020

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1. None at this stage.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1. None at this stage.

7. STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

7.1. None at this stage.

8. IMPACT ON EQUALITIES

8.1. None at this stage.

9. CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN

9.1. The contents of this report was discussed by the Executive Officers Group on 10th January, 2020.

STATUTORY OFFICERS RESPONSE:

i. Monitoring Officer – Accountable Body:

“I will add any comments at the meeting if required.”

ii. Statutory Finance Officer (the Accountable Body’s Section 151 Officer):

“I confirm that I will be working with the Program Director on ‘Financial’ aspects of the Work Programme. Further comments, as necessary, will be presented orally at the Board meeting.”