



**Terms of Reference**  
Working Together for North Wales

23 January, 2020

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## BACKGROUND

It was agreed that Welsh Government and the North Wales Economic Ambition Board will work together to define and develop a **Regional Economic Framework**. The framework will outline how governments and partners will collaborate to drive economic growth for the region which includes delivery of the North Wales Growth Deal ambitions.

It was agreed at the Executive Officer Group attended by the WG's Regional Officer that all parties will work together to:

- re-refresh the current North Wales Growth Vision; to consider what has changed since its conception in 2016 and what our ambitions are for North Wales by 2035;
- co-design and agree the Regional Economic Framework;
- work collaboratively and in partnership on a shared programme of work to achieve the above, including working with other key partners (who may not have been involved to date).

## PURPOSE

This paper sets out Terms of Reference on how the **Welsh Government**, and the **North Wales Economic Ambition Board**, and as required other partners, will work in partnership to develop and then deliver against a single common North Wales Regional Economic Framework.

We will co-develop a regional Economic Framework that will:

- align and execute a shared narrative for North Wales that amplifies and reinforces the richness of opportunity, our culture, landscapes and language – this will be referred to as the North Wales **Growth Vision**.
- Illustrate the joined-up economic action plan that achieves the shared **Growth Vision** for the region.
- Set out the approach and plan to deliver the **Growth Deal** for which the Heads of Terms were agreed by Welsh and UK Government and the North Wales Economic Ambition Board in November 2019, ensuring that we align on wider opportunities and challenges e.g. foundational economy, rural areas etc.
- Our ambition is that the Regional Economic Framework will provide a single coherent view of needs and opportunities in North Wales that can directly influence and inform national policies and interventions such as National & Regional Investment Framework, National Development Framework, emerging national Transport Strategy, Sector Deals, Strength in Places, challenge funds etc.

This document sets out the guiding principles and high level plan for how we work together to deliver the Growth Deal and importantly, the wider shared economic ambitions for the region; supporting a sustainable, resilient, inclusive and growing economy for North Wales

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The way we work is underpinned by the **seven Well-being Goals for Wales** and in accordance with **the sustainable development principle**.

- We recognise that the priorities for North Wales are not subordinate to those of the Nation. The approach respects subsidiarity and democratic accountability at all levels and partners will work jointly to address any conflicting priorities as they arise.
- Initiatives will be co-designed through partnership working and collaboration across the public, private, third sectors and with social partners.

- We share a single vision for North Wales and articulate this consistently through our narrative.
- We encourage a culture of high challenge coupled with high support to drive outstanding results for North Wales and we jointly measure and share success.
- Our plans are ambitious and long-term. They consider key challenges that will impact the region e.g. net zero carbon, Artificial Intelligence, Industry 4.0, demographics, Brexit and the political context.
- We will work in accordance with, and cognisant of, priorities at local, sub-regional, regional, national and UK level.
- Information will be shared in an open and transparent way across departments and governments about projects or investments that will impact and strengthen the region, across various policy and Ministerial portfolios, but are separate to our scope of work together. (i.e. Active Travel investment, 21st Century schools programme).
- We will seek to ensure that growth stimulates social development that is inclusive and is dispersed across our communities to ensure equity and parity.
- Where appropriate we will actively seek external thought leadership to challenge/validate our benchmark position and our ambition and vision.
- We will work jointly to influence how Welsh Government, UK Government, regional and local partners delivers in the region, ensuring that the voice of North Wales is heard and reflected in all of our activity.
- We will actively engage with the communities of North Wales to promote and involve them as progress is made to deliver a smart, resilient and connected region.

## PROGRAMME OF WORK AND PRIORITIES

The high level plan informs the detailed forward plan managed by the Programme Office:

High level plan			
Category	Action	Timeframe	Lead
<b>Joint Development Work</b>	Develop and agree detailed programme of engagement and activity	Mar-April	Programme Office & CRO Office
	Regional Development Seminar - understand and evaluate the evidence that will inform the refreshed Growth Vision and Regional Economic Framework	May	
	Futures Workshops – WG and NWEAB working together in North Wales to develop vision/strategic approach	May-June	
	Regional Development Seminar to launch the refreshed Growth Vision and the REF	Dec	
<b>Growth Vision</b>	Prepare report to NWEAB on refreshed Growth vision	March	NWEAB, Executive Group and CRO Office
	NWEAB to set priorities and future direction of Economic Growth through refreshed Growth Vision	May	
	Develop first draft updated Growth Vision	May-June	
	Exec Officers Group review draft Growth Vision	June	
	Refreshed Growth Vision presented to NWEAB for approval	July	
	Refreshed Growth Vision presented to 6 Councils for approval	September/October	

<b>Regional Economic Framework</b>	Develop Terms of Reference	End Jan	Welsh Gov and NWEAB
	Develop draft Regional Economic Framework	June-Oct	
	Draft Regional Economic Framework ready to present at NWEAB board / Minister for Economy, Transport & North Wales	Nov	
<b>Growth Deal</b>	Programme office Training for 5 Case business model	April	Programme Office
	Develop final business cases	End October	
	Communication strategy and plan	April	
	Create illustrative change roadmap for the programme of work		
	Conduct stakeholder analysis, map and plan	Feb-March	

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