



REPORT TO THE NORTH WALES ECONOMIC AMBITION BOARD

26 MARCH, 2021

TITLE: *North Wales Growth Deal – Procurement Principles*

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1. To present a set of procurement principles for the North Wales Growth Deal.

2. DECISION SOUGHT

2.1. To adopt the proposed procurement principles for the North Wales Growth Deal.

2.2. To note the project sponsors will need to demonstrate how they will deliver against these principles as part of the project business case.

3. REASONS FOR THE DECISION

3.1. To provide a clear framework for projects to deliver against the aspirations of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board.

4. BACKGROUND AND RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

4.1. An initial set of draft procurement principles were endorsed by the Board as part of the Portfolio Business Case in October 2020 with the intention of developing a full procurement strategy for the Growth Deal.

4.2. The Portfolio Management Office has reviewed this approach supported by a procurement consultant and is proposing an alternative approach to deliver on our aspirations in this area.

4.3. All projects within the North Wales Growth Deal will be delivered by project sponsors who have their own well-established procurement policies and procedures. The regional projects to be delivered by the Portfolio Management Office can be delivered through the procurement policies and procedures of Gwynedd Council as the host authority.

4.4. The Portfolio Management Office is therefore proposing that the Board adopt the revised set out procurement principles as set out in **Appendix 1**. These principles represent an evolution of those previously adopted by the Board as part of the Portfolio Business Case and are based on recognised public sector procurement principles and align clearly to the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act.

4.5. The revised themes and principles are set out below (see Appendix 1 for further detail):

- **Regional Leadership and strategic approach**
 - Strategic

- Promote & Champion
- Integrity
- **Value Add**
 - Social Value
 - Skills, Jobs & Opportunities
 - Innovative
 - Collaborative
- **Sustainable**
 - Supporting Local Supply Chain
 - Climate & Ecological Change
 - Ethical
 - Efficient & Effective
- **Fair, Legal & Compliant**
 - Compliant
 - Without Conflict
 - Transparent

4.6. The principles above provide a clear focus on sustainability, securing added value through procurement and compliance and best practice.

4.7. It should be noted that while securing best value and value for money are not specifically set out in the principles above, these recognised public procurement objectives will be a key consideration for all projects and their project sponsors. Particularly given that Growth Deal projects will be funded from fixed budgets. Therefore the focus here through these principles is on other areas which may not be as strongly represented in partners existing policies and procedures.

4.8. The principles once adopted would be communicated to all project sponsors who will be required to demonstrate delivery against these principles as part of their project business cases.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1. None.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1. No direct legal implications. The procurement principles provide a strong focus on compliance. Project Sponsors will be required to demonstrate that their proposed procurement route for projects including their own policies and procedures comply with all relevant procurement regulations.

7. STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

7.1. None.

8. IMPACT ON EQUALITIES

8.1. The procurement principles include a strong focus on adding value through procurement, particularly through the delivery of social value and creating skills and employment opportunities for hard to reach groups and those in areas of deprivation. As a result, it is considered that the principles would have a positive impact on equalities.

8.2. **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015** – The Act places a duty on public bodies in Wales to improve economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being. The principles of the Act have been an integral consideration in the preparation of the Procurement Principles . Their

implementation will ensure that the concept of sustainable development as provided for in the Act will be reflected in procurement processes and outcomes.

9. CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN

- 9.1. The procurement principles were discussed and endorsed by the Executive Support Group (Portfolio Board) on 12 March, 2021.

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1 Proposed Procurement Principles

STATUTORY OFFICERS RESPONSE:

i. Monitoring Officer – Host Authority:

“The establishment of principles as to the expectations in procurement processes within the context of the Growth Deal is a positive step. The principles contribute to the establishment of the assessment framework which leads to the identification of the most economically advantageous tender in relation to a specific contract. They are a medium by which the principles and aims of the Ambition Board can be effectively transferred into the expectations on Project Sponsors.”

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

“Whilst there could be marginal financial implications from implementing the proposed procurement principles across all the Growth Deal’s projects, each of those projects must be delivered within their limited resources. Paragraph 4.7 of the report notes the unavoidable context that ‘best value’ and ‘value for money’ must be secured alongside the other aspirational principles set out in paragraph 4.5 and Appendix 1. Members might wish to note the essential need to achieve value for money while adopting the proposed procurement principles.”