

## Management response

**Report title:** Progress Review of the North Wales Growth Deal – North Wales Economic Ambition Board

**Completion date:** March 2021

**Document reference:** 2317A2021-22

Ref	Recommendation	Intended outcome/benefit	High priority (yes/no)	Management response	Completion date	Responsible officer
P1	<b>Risk management</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The North Wales councils, through the NWEAB, should develop a risk management strategy and develop a risk register which includes consideration of new risks to projects presented by external circumstances such as Brexit, COVID-19 and other pressures on the local economy</li> </ul>	Risks are assessed, recorded and mitigated against.	Yes	<p>A Portfolio Risk Register has now been produced and implemented. This captures the broad risks to delivery of the Growth Deal portfolio. The Portfolio Risk Register is reported to the NWEAB quarterly.</p> <p>In addition, programme risk registers are developed and implemented for each of the five programmes and as project boards are established the same format</p>	Portfolio Risk Register in place since October 2020.	Hedd Vaughan-Evans

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				for risk management will be implemented.		
P2	<b>Engaging business community</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The North Wales councils, through the NWEAB, should widen their contacts with the business community to increase opportunities to support delivery of their objectives.</li> </ul>	Opportunities are maximised by engaging with more businesses	Yes	<p>The PMO are currently implementing a broader communications strategy, supported by the design and launch of a new on-line portal, working in collaboration with Tinint digital creative agency.</p> <p>Strategic relationships are also in place with communication partners i.e. Wales Week in London, Business News Wales, Ateb Cymru consultancy.</p>	On-going	Alwen Williams Nia Medi Williams Erin Gwenlli Thomas

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				<p>It is accepted that opportunities to engage directly with business should be widened and the new strategy will support the PMO and its partners to take appropriate and relevant messages out to key audiences in a targeted and strategic way.</p> <p>Additionally the PMO has a procurement officer now in place. The PMO intends to conduct timely and regular meet the buyer opportunities ahead of the large scale procurement exercises in order to engage with and inform the local supply chain.</p>		

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P3	<p><b>Transparency</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that policies and procedures reflect the need to uphold public sector transparency and values in decision making whilst operating in the very competitive and commercial business environment.</li> </ul>	Decisions remain transparent whilst operating in a business environment	Yes	<p>All NWEAB meetings take place in accordance with local government regulations. All decisions taken by the Economic Ambition Board are recorded and available from the host authority website - <a href="https://democracy.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/ielistmeetings.aspx?cid=418&amp;year=0">https://democracy.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/ielistmeetings.aspx?cid=418&amp;year=0</a></p> <p>A policy and process for managing any conflicts of interest arising has now been implemented and is being rolled out across the EAB, Business Delivery Board, Programme Boards and Project Boards.</p> <p>Transparency is one of the Procurement Principles adopted by the NWEAB and</p>	On-going	<p>Iwan Evans (Monitoring Officer)</p> <p>&amp;</p> <p>Hedd Vaughan-Evans</p>

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				is a key feature of all procurement activity.		
P4	<b>Scrutiny</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish formal, timely scrutiny of the NWEAB that provides public transparency and keeps sponsoring councils informed.</li> </ul>	Those who make decisions are held to account within the partnership and by their sponsoring organisation	Yes	A Q4 quarterly Progress report as well as an Annual Report have been presented to the Economic Ambition Board and are currently going through scrutiny committees in each of the Local Authorities. Quarterly progress reports will be presented moving forward, with a commitment from PMO to attend one scrutiny committee a year should they be required to attend with	Agreed as part of Governance Agreement 2 in December 2020.	Iwan Evans (Monitoring Officer) & Hedd Vaughan-Evans

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				local authority officers. Both Quarterly and Annual reports are presented to all EAB partners and are available publicly.		
P5	<b>Support arrangements</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop agreements that clearly set out the support provided to the PMO by Gwynedd Council such as governance, human resources and finance.</li> </ul>	Clarity over what support is to be provided to avoid potential disagreement	Yes	Discussions ongoing with Monitoring Officer and Section 151 Officer.	On-going	Hedd Vaughan-Evans

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P6	<p><b>Review of projects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When reviewing feasibility of individual projects, define how each contributes to delivery of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015's seven Well-being Goals.</li> </ul>	Confidence that projects remain in the programme and that they meet legislative requirements	Yes	<p>The PMO has put in place a robust assurance and approvals process for projects including consideration through gateway reviews, project boards, programme boards, portfolio board and NWEAB. All business cases are accompanied by an Impact Assessment considering the impact on Future Generations (Wales) Act, Equalities and the Welsh Language.</p> <p>Our approach is founded on the goals within the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act to drive inclusive economic growth for the region in the right way.</p>	April 2021	Hedd Vaughan-Evans

