



REPORT TO THE NORTH WALES ECONOMIC AMBITION BOARD
24 June 2022

TITLE: Annual Report 2021-22
AUTHOR: Alwen Williams, Portfolio Director

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1. The purpose of the report is to present the Annual Report for 2021-22.
- 1.2. Quarterly and annual reporting on progress against the North Wales Growth Deal is a requirement of the Final Deal Agreement. Following consideration by the North Wales Economic Ambition Board, the reports will be shared with Welsh Government, UK Government and the local authority scrutiny committees.

2. DECISION SOUGHT

- 2.1. That the Board consider and note the Annual Report for 2021-22.
- 2.2. That the Board approves the submission of the Annual Report for 2021-22 to Welsh Government and UK Government as well as the local authority scrutiny committees.

3. REASONS FOR THE DECISION

- 3.1. As stated in the report.

4. BACKGROUND AND RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1. The Annual Report looks back on the progress made over the last year by Ambition North Wales. It covers the Growth Deal and other supported activities.
- 4.2. The report provides an overview of the Growth Deal and the progress made in delivering the projects as well as other key milestones achieved during the year, including:
 - Three Outline Business Cases being approved and the approval of the first Full Business Case for the Digital Signal Processing Centre with Bangor University.
 - Securing over £1m in additional grants to support projects in North Wales aligned to the Growth Deal.
 - Securing the second tranche of Growth Deal funding of £20.45m in March 2022.
 - Launching the Energy Strategy for North Wales with Welsh Government.
 - Completion of the Local Full Fibre Network project which saw broadband services upgraded at 300 sites across the region.
 - Launching the new website and brand for Ambition North Wales.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. There are no financial implications arising directly from approving the decision sought in this report.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. There are no direct legal implications arising from the report. Regular reporting on Growth Deal performance is part of the agreed governance framework and a key requirement of the Final Deal agreement.

APPENDICES:

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| 1 | Annual Report 2021-22 |
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STATUTORY OFFICERS RESPONSE:

- i. **Monitoring Officer – Host Authority:**
As noted in the report there is a commitment in GA2 to provide quarterly reports for the Partners scrutiny arrangements. The recommendation addresses this requirement and will give the scrutiny system an opportunity to be updated and to consider the information when forming their work programmes. No other specific comments to add in relation to propriety
- ii. **Statutory Finance Officer (the Host Authority’s Section 151 Officer):**
I am satisfied that the Annual Report is a fair reflection of all the work and progress of Ambition North Wales during 2021/22. The decision sought will not create a new spending commitment.