

Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting	09 January 2024
Report Subject	North Wales Growth Deal – Quarter 2 Performance and Risk Report
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Economy
Report Author	Chief Officer (Planning, Environment & Economy)
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of the report is to present the Quarter 2 (July to September 2023-24) Growth Deal Performance Report.

Quarterly 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 are shared with Welsh Government, UK Government and the local authority Overview and Scrutiny committees.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That the Committee considers and notes the Quarter 2 Performance Report
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE NORTH WALES GROWTH DEAL
1.01	In December 2020, the Economic Ambition Board and the Welsh and UK Governments agreed the Final Deal Agreement for the North Wales Growth Deal
1.02	Regular reporting on progress against the North Wales Growth Deal is a requirement of the Final Deal Agreement.
1.03	This report includes one appendix: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ North Wales Growth Deal – Quarter 2 Performance Report ▪

1.04	<u>North Wales Growth Deal – Quarter 2 Performance Report</u>
1.4.1	The Quarter 2 performance report provides an overview of progress on the Growth Deal programmes and projects.
1.4.2	<p>This quarter saw five new projects invited to join the Growth Deal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Responsible Adventure project by Zip World with a conditional allocation of £6.2m; • Kinmel Studios project by Stage Fifty with a conditional allocation of £6.8m; • Holyhead Hydrogen Hub project by Menter Môn with a conditional allocation of £3.8m; • Deeside Waste to Fuel Plant project by The Circular Economy Ltd with a conditional allocation of £6.4m; • Wrexham Gateway project by Wrexham County Borough Council with a conditional allocation of £4.79m <p>Work is ongoing integrating the new projects, site visits have taken place to all 5 projects. These new projects will support our economy, create new jobs and deliver investment into North Wales.</p>
1.4.3	On September 11 th the Hydrogen Sponsor Challenge closed for applications. The evaluation process is underway, with a final decision anticipated in December 2023. Up to £11.2million of capital is available to enable industry demand for hydrogen.
1.4.4	<p>The Quarter 2 update is showing projects reporting against the revised portfolio delivery profile approved by the Board. Five projects are currently reporting as red due to either risks to the project scope or significant delays to project timescales:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connecting the Last Few % - Procurement activity on the project has been suspended until UK Government confirms the launch date for its new intervention, expected to be confirmed in Q3 23/24 for launch in 2024. The UK Government intervention may remove the need for the Last Few % project; • Western Gateway, Wrexham – a review of the project is required to assess its delivery considering the recommendations from the Road Review Panel and Welsh Government’s four tests for highways investment; • Former North Wales Hospital, Denbigh – the viability gap on the project has increased and there are ongoing discussions with the development partner on possible solutions; • Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub – planning permission is yet to be secured. The pre-planning response advised that further bat surveys are needed on land outside the Glynllifon boundary. Further survey work is underway as requested by Natural Resources Wales and CADW. • Centre for Environmental Biotechnology – project remains red due to repeated delays. The project is now moving in a

	positive direction with a business case now expected in early 2024.
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2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
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2.01	There are no financial implications arising directly from approving the decision sought in this report.
2.02	The revised delivery and expenditure profile approved by the Board is included in the quarterly report.

3.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT
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4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT
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5.00	APPENDICES
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5.01	1 North Wales Growth Deal – Quarter 2 Performance Report
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6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
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6.01	<u>N/A</u>
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7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
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7.01	<p>Contact Officer: Andrew Farrow, Chief Officer, Planning, Environment and Economy Telephone: 01352 703201 E-mail: Andrew.farrow@flintshire.gov.uk</p>
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8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
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	These are provided corporately on the Infonet (link) and maintained by the Executive Office
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