

Environment & Economy Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting	10 th September 2024
Report Subject	North Wales Growth Deal and Economic Ambition board – Annual Report 2023-24
Cabinet Member	Leader of the Council
Report Author	Chief Officer (Planning, Environment & Economy)
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of the report is to present the Annual Report for 2023-24 of the Economic Ambition Board.

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 are to be shared with Welsh Government, UK Government and the local authority, overview and scrutiny committees.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That Members consider and note the Annual Report for 2023-24.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	EXPLAINING THE NORTH WALES GROWTH DEAL ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24
1.01	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.
1.02	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:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Five Outline Business Cases being approved namely the Tourism Talent Network, Egni, Deeside Anaerobic Digestion Plant, 4G+ and the Former North Wales Hospital, Denbigh. ▪ The Ful Business Case for the Enterprise Engineering and Optics Centre project was approved, with the project moving into delivery and construction starting on the site. ▪ Five new projects were invited to join the Growth Deal, namely Kinmel Studios, Responsible Adventure, Wrexham Gateway, Holyhead Hydrogen Hub and the Deeside Anaerobic Digestion Plant. ▪ The launch of the Hydrogen Sponsor Challenge, and a sponsor appointed to lead on the delivery subject to a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) being agreed between the parties. ▪ Recognition of Ambition North Wales carbon emissions and biodiversity methodology as a Leadership Case Study in the UK national carbon in infrastructure guidelines. ▪ Ministerial approval for the Harbour Revision Order for the Holyhead port project. ▪ Securing over £1million in additional funding through the Shared Prosperity Fund to further enhance the impact of the Growth Deal. The workstreams include Skills and Employability, Energy and Net Zero, Benefits and Social Value and Digital Connectivity. ▪ Delivery of the Welsh Government Local Broadband Fund providing gigabit-capable fibreoptic broadband at seventeen public buildings including GP surgeries, libraries and village halls across North Wales.
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2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	There are no financial implications arising directly from reviewing progress as set out in this report.

3.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT
3.01	<u>N/A</u>

4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT
4.01	The North Wales Economic Ambition Board has reviewed this report and all local authority scrutiny committees are to review it also.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	▪ Annual Report 2-23-24

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	N/A

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
7.01	Contact Officer: Andrew Farrow, Chief Officer, Planning Environment & Economy Telephone: 01352 703201 E-mail: Andrew.farrow@flintshire.gov.uk

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
	N/A