

CORPORATE RESOURCES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Thursday 16 th September 2021
Report Subject	North Wales Economic Ambition Board – Annual Report
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Countryside
Report Author	Chief Officer (Planning, Environment and Economy)
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of the report is to present the Portfolio Management Office of the Economic Board's Annual Report for 2020-21.

Annual reporting on progress against the North Wales Growth Deal is a requirement of the Final Deal Agreement. Quarterly reporting is delivered to our Environment and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Following the consideration of the documents by the North Wales Economic Ambition Board it follows that the reports will be shared with Welsh Government, UK Government and each Local Authority Scrutiny Committee.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That Members consider and note the Portfolio Management Office Annual Report for 2020-21.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	BACKGROUND
1.01	In December 2020, the NWEAB and the Welsh and UK Governments agreed the Final Deal Agreement for the North Wales Growth Deal. Regular reporting on progress against the North Wales Growth Deal is a requirement of the Final Deal Agreement.

1.02	<p>This report includes a single appendix:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Portfolio Management Office Annual Report 2020-21.
1.03	<p><u>Portfolio Management Office Annual Report 2020-21 (Appendix 1)</u></p> <p>The annual report looks back on the progress made over the last financial year. It includes both the Growth Deal and other activities supported by the Portfolio Management Office.</p>
1.04	<p>2020-21 was a challenging year, with Covid-19 changing our lives and the way we work. Despite these challenges, the final deal agreement on the North Wales Growth Deal was signed during a virtual ceremony on the 17th December, 2020.</p>
1.05	<p>The Final Deal is the contract between the UK Government, Welsh Government and the North Wales Economic Ambition Board for the delivery of the Growth Deal. It was secured on the basis of a Portfolio Business Case and five Programme Business Cases outlining plans for the total investment of £240m (£120m by UK Government and £120m by Welsh Government).</p>
1.06	<p>In addition to achieving the Final Deal, a number of other significant milestones were achieved including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Securing £2.9million in ESF funding to expand the Portfolio Management Office; Recruitment to the new staffing structure with only 2 posts vacant as of April 2021; Completion of Portfolio Assessment Review and first project Gateway Reviews; Completion of Better Business Case training for team members; Working closely with the six local authorities, UK and Welsh Governments and private sector representatives to co-ordinate the regional response to economic recovery.
1.07	<p>The Committee will receive a presentation which will summarise the work of the Programme Office over the last 12 months and supplement this report.</p>

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	<p>There are no direct financial implications arising from the report.</p> <p>The report provides an overview of the expected capital expenditure profile of Growth Deal funding. At this stage, no project business cases have been approved and therefore there is no expenditure to report on. Future iterations of the report will include reporting on financial expenditure following project business case approval.</p>

3.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT
3.01	None for this particular report.

4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT
4.01	None.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1 – Portfolio Management Office Annual Report 2020 - 21

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	None.

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
7.01	<p>Contact Officer: Andrew Farrow (Chief Officer, Planning, Environment and Economy)</p> <p>Telephone: 01352 703201</p> <p>E-mail: andrew.farrow@flintshire.gov.uk</p>

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
8.01	All terms are fully explained in the supporting papers.