



Uchelgais Gogledd Cymru  
Ambition North Wales

# North Wales Growth Deal Quarterly Performance Report

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## 2025-26 Quarter 4 (January - March 2026)



Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg hefyd.

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# 01 PORTFOLIO DIRECTOR SUMMARY

During this quarter, the Economic Well-being Sub-Committee met twice, with a number of project decisions approved. Outline Business Case approval was given for three projects: Wrexham Business Gateway, Trwysfynydd Innovation, Business and Skills Centre, and Wrexham Gateway. The Egni Full Business Case was approved, which will see a new building on the M-Sparc site in Gaerwen. The second Business Justification Case for the Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub was approved for their Sustainable Dairy Development. Three change requests were approved, the approval of an additional £12.1m for the Padeswood project (£6.1m from the Growth Deal and £6m from the Investment Zone); approval of an additional £1.43m for the Parc Bryn Cegin project which will enable Phase 2 of the project; approval was given for a six month final extension for the Academi Croeso project to bring forward a Business Justification to reallocate the remaining £1m funding already committed to the project.

Dairy Sheep Wales part of the Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub project marked the project moving into delivery with a spade in the ground event on site during February. We welcome seeing the project move into delivery, positioning North Wales as a global leader in sustainable milk production alongside creating high quality jobs within the rural community.

We are seeing increased interest in our Clean Energy Fund with expressions of interest and applications submitted, during this quarter we held our first Investment Panel meeting, and approved it's first projects for the fund.

Mobile connectivity in the region took a significant step forward with the region's first O2 4G and 5G small cell sites now live in Flintshire. This work enabled through the 4G+ project to help local authorities introduce 'Open Access Agreements' - making their infrastructure available to telecommunications companies. By providing guidance, developing best practice approaches, and engaging with industry, Ambition North Wales has supported councils to accelerate improvements in connectivity—a model increasingly used by local authorities across the UK.

There has been exciting progress on the Cydnerth project at Parc Cybi, Holyhead. Cables have now been pulled through ducts to extend the Morlais infrastructure and connect it to the National Grid.

During March we wrapped up our Shared Prosperity Fund activity, hosting a series of events. Along with Greener Edge the delivery partner we hosted two Clean Energy Feasibility Studies Knowledge Transfer events, both were well attended and positive to promote the successes of the project and share information on how these projects can progress with our Clean Energy Fund. As part of the LoRaWAN Far trials project, Derwydd Farm in Corwen welcomed farmers and rural professionals from across the region for an event showcasing how digital technology can support day-to-day operations.

Lastly, I'm pleased to share that I have been appointed as Portfolio Director for Ambition North Wales. I'm looking forward to working with partners and stakeholders across the region to maintain momentum on delivery, and lead the Growth Deal as we drive investment, realise benefits and deliver lasting impact for North Wales over the coming years.



**Hedd Vaughan-Evans**

**Portfolio Director  
Ambition North Wales**

# 02 PROJECT DELIVERY DASHBOARD

	Prosiectau Gweithredol (cyllid wedi neilltuo) Projects in Delivery (funding committed)	Wedi cymeradwyo ddim eto yn weithredol (cyllid wedi neilltuo) Approved not yet in delivery (funding committed)	Datblygu Achosion Busnes (cyllid wedi neilltuo) Developing business cases (funding ringfenced)	O dan adolygiad (cyllid wedi glustnodi) Under Review (funding ringfenced)	Rhestr wrth gefn (dim cyllid wedi glustnodi) Reserve List (unallocated funding)
Nifer prosiectau Number of Projects	7	10	8	1	11
Dyranïad Cyllid Cynllun Twf Growth Deal Funding Allocation (£234.85*)	£57.34m	£71.52m	£70.23m	£3.80m	£31.96
Cyfanswm Buddsoddiad Total Investment	£130.46m	£193.49m	£359.82m	£28.77m	£287.46**
Swyddi Jobs	742	991	1,464	20	783**

\* Growth Deal funding shown here does not include £5.15m allocated towards Portfolio Management Office costs

\*\* Figures represent the balance of the target to be met by Reserve List projects

# 02 BENEFITS DASHBOARD

Swyddi Grewyd (Targed 4,000 o swyddi newydd)  
Job Creation (Target 4,000 new jobs)



Swyddi Newydd  
New Jobs

63



Swyddi Adeiladwaith  
Construction Jobs

58



Swyddi Ddiogelwyd  
Safeguarded Jobs

0

Buddsoddiad (Targed: £1bn Cyfanswm Buddsoddiad)  
Investment (Target: £1bn Total Investment)



Buddsoddiad Cynllun Twf  
Growth Deal Investment

£30,652,413.01



Cyfanswm Buddsoddiad  
Total Investment

£34,208,618.52



Refeniw Ddiogelwyd  
Revenue Secured

£7,054,089

Buddion ehangach  
Wider Benefits

Incwm Cyfalaf wedi Drosoddedu  
Capital Income Leveraged

£81,016

Gofod Llwr wedi Ddatblygu  
Floorspace Developed

2,349m<sup>2</sup>

Unigolion wedi ymgysylltu  
Individuals engaged

5,212

Camau gweithredu i gryfhau cadwyni cyflenwi  
Actions to strengthen local supply chains

66

Myfyrwyr yn cwblhau cymhwysterau  
Students completing qualifications

907\*

Unigolion sy'n cwblhau cyrsiau hyfforddi CPD  
Individuals completing CPD training courses

286

\*this is a gross figure subject to net baseline deductions

\*mae hwn yn ffigwr gros sy'n destun dileadau linell sylfaen net

# 03 DIGITAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

## Programme Aim

Deliver the step change in digital connectivity needed to ensure North Wales is able to satisfy user demand, maintain pace with the rest of the UK, unlock the potential of priority sectors and sites and underpin a flourishing innovation ecosystem.



RAG Status	Programme Manager Commentary
Yellow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The launch of both the 4G+ and Advanced Wireless Grant schemes has been deferred until after the 2026 election in May.</li><li>• The final items of equipment for the DSP Centre project have been delayed due to supply chain issues but are expected to arrive from the next quarter.</li><li>• A second small cell deployment using local authority owned infrastructure through use of open access agreements has been in development this quarter and is due to be completed next quarter. Five agreements have now been signed to date across the region with more expected in Q1 26/27. A wider group of public sector organisations has now been engaged and a model agreement which can be shared across the region has been developed.</li><li>• The second meeting of the Regional Telecommunications Forum was held this quarter with representation from local authorities and industry, with a focus on the visitor economy and connectivity in the National Park.</li></ul>



TBC  
Lead Member



Ian Jones  
Senior Responsible  
Owner



Stuart Whitfield  
Programme  
Manager



Delivering to Plan with only minor issues to address (no action required)



Delivery behind schedule and /moderate issues to address (management action in place)



Delivery significantly behind schedule and/or significant issues to address (urgent action required)

# 03 DIGITAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Project (Project Sponsor)		Project Stage	Key Milestones (this quarter)	Key Milestones (next quarter)	RAG Status	RAG Rationale
<b>Digital Signal Processing Centre</b> Bangor University		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project in Delivery</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5G Mobile Private Network installed at the Centre to demonstrate applications in health and social care, agri-tech, and advanced manufacturing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delivery of final items of equipment.</li> <li>Launch of structured regional business engagement.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Final items of equipment affected by supply chain delays.</li> <li>Project is behind target on additional grant capture.</li> <li>Regional business engagement delayed due to capacity issues.</li> </ul>
<b>Connected Key Sites and Corridors</b> Ambition North Wales	4G+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approved not yet in delivery</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Second telecoms forum meeting held.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grant scheme launch.</li> <li>Second small cell deployment to be commissioned.</li> <li>Third telecoms forum meeting to be held</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Second installation of small cell infrastructure is expected to be completed by May.</li> <li>Grant scheme launch deferred until after election.</li> </ul>
<b>Connected Campuses</b> Ambition North Wales	Advanced Wireless	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approved not yet in delivery</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Further engagement of prospective private and public sector applicants.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grant Scheme launch.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grant scheme launch deferred until after election.</li> </ul>
	LPWAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approved not yet in delivery</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initial purchases and installation of gateways.</li> <li>Further LoRaWAN deployment plans to be submitted.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Further purchases of gateways by participating local authorities.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LPWAN deployments have started with further deployment plans to be approved in Q1 followed by more installations.</li> </ul>

# 04 LOW CARBON ENERGY PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

## Programme Aim

To unlock the economic benefits of transformational low carbon energy projects and position North Wales as a leading UK location for low carbon energy generation, innovation and supply chain investment.



RAG Status	Programme Manager Commentary
Yellow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Cydnerth</b> - The third loan draw down was completed in March with construction work continuing.</li><li>• <b>Clean Energy Fund (Smart Local Energy)</b> - First investment papers presented for approval to the Investment Panel. Expressions of interest and applications continue across all 3 sub funds.</li><li>• <b>Trawsfynydd</b> - OBC approved by the Economic Well-being Sub-committee.</li><li>• <b>Egni</b> - FBC approved by the Economic Well-being Sub-committee</li></ul>



Cllr Gary Pritchard  
Lead Member



Dylan Williams  
Senior Responsible  
Owner



Meghan Davies  
Programme  
Manager



Delivering to Plan with only minor issues to address (no action required)



Delivery behind schedule and /moderate issues to address (management action in place)



Delivery significantly behind schedule and/or significant issues to address (urgent action required)

# 04 LOW CARBON ENERGY PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Project (Project Sponsor)	Project Stage	Key Milestones (this quarter)	Key Milestones (next quarter)	RAG Status	RAG Rationale
<b>Cydnherth (Morlais)</b> Menter Môn	Project in delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Third loan drawdown completed in March.</li> <li>• Construction work underway.</li> <li>• Benefits monitoring underway.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued tracking and monitoring of project and benefits.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project has moved into delivery and is progressing well.</li> </ul>
<b>Egni</b> Bangor University	Approved not yet in delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submission and approval of Full Business Case to Economic Well-being sub-committee.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progression of Grant Funding Agreement.</li> <li>• Start on site.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project is green as the Full Business Case has been approved.</li> <li>• Confirmation of Freeport Funding.</li> </ul>
<b>Clean Energy Fund (Smart Local Energy)</b> Ambition North Wales	Project in delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued submission of Expressions of Interest across all 3 sub funds.</li> <li>• Full applications received for voluntary and private sub fund.</li> <li>• Promotional events and engagement.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promotional events and engagement</li> <li>• Award of first funds from voluntary and private sector sub funds.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project is green as Full Business Case has been approved and the fund launched.</li> </ul>
<b>Holyhead Hydrogen Hub</b> Menter Môn	Project under review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project reviewed and remains within the programme for further 6 months Menter Môn are required to submit the Outline Business Case and secure planning within this timeframe.</li> <li>• Transferring £4.8m Department for Energy Security and Net Zero funds underway.</li> <li>• Preparation of Outline Business Case.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Menter Môn continued engagement to attract offtakers.</li> <li>• Preparation of Outline Business Case.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RAG status remains red while key outstanding matters are addressed including submission of OBC by April 2026 and planning approval.</li> </ul>
<b>Trawsfynydd Innovation, Business and Skills Centre</b> Cyngor Gwynedd	Developing the Full Business Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outline Business case approved by Economic Well-being Sub-committee.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preparation of Full Business case.</li> <li>• Addressing outstanding matters recommended by the PMO including planning and land lease agreements.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project is green as has submitted the Outline Business Case and it has been approved and now has 12 months to submit the Full Business Case.</li> </ul>

# 05 LAND AND PROPERTY PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

## Programme Aim

To address the shortage of suitable land and properties for business growth and to bring forward sites for housing development. To deliver improvements that stimulate investment in sites and premises in the Port of Holyhead and the wider region. Enables other programmes by ensuring the right land and property infrastructure is available.



RAG Status	Programme Manager Commentary
Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Parc Bryn Cegin, Bangor</b> - Change request for an additional £1.43m of Growth Deal Funding approved by Economic Well-being Sub-Committee for Phase 2 of the Project. Commencement on site works scheduled for w/c 7th April.</li><li>• <b>Former North Wales Hospital, Denbigh</b> - Enabling Works and Ecological Mitigation Works contracts completed in March 2026.</li><li>• <b>Freeport Gateway</b> - MoU for Freeport Seed Corn Funding with UK Government completed in March 2026.</li><li>• <b>Padeswood</b> - Change request for additional £12.1m of Growth Deal Funding approved by the Sub-Committee in February 2026.</li></ul>



Cllr Jason McLellan  
Lead Member



David Fitzsimon  
Senior Responsible  
Owner



David Mathews  
Programme  
Manager



Delivering to Plan with only minor issues to address  
(no action required)



Delivery behind schedule and /moderate issues to address  
(management action in place)



Delivery significantly behind schedule and/or significant issues  
to address (urgent action required)

# 05 LAND AND PROPERTY PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Project (Project Sponsor)	Project Stage	Key Milestones (this quarter)	Key Milestones (next quarter)	RAG Status	RAG Rationale
<b>Former North Wales Hospital, Denbighshire</b> Jones Bros (Ruthin) Limited / Denbighshire County Council	Approved not yet in delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ecological Mitigation Works contract and Enabling works contract completed in March 2026.</li> <li>Draft Grant funding agreement agreed with Denbighshire County Council.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Site clearance Works Contract to commence Q126/27.</li> <li>Grant Funding Agreement for Phase 1 works to be completed and signed.</li> <li>Site Clearance Works contract for Phase 1 works due to be agreed in early April 2026.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Risk rating remains amber due to the health and safety issues on site due to the condition of the buildings. There is still uncertainty over costs due to the challenging work environment and the difficulty of accurately assessing cost and scope of works. The current Listed Building Application to demolish remaining structures other than the Main Range and the Chapel is subject to detailed discussions with CADW,</li> </ul>
<b>Parc Bryn Cegin, Bangor</b> Welsh Government / Ambition North Wales	Phase 1 of the Project in delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read Construction are coming to the end of Stage 4 Detailed Design phase.</li> <li>Change request for additional funding of £1.43m for Phase 2 of the project approved by the Economic Well-being Sub-Committee.</li> <li>Ministerial Approval for the allocation of additional £300k of capital funding for Phase 2 and the re-allocation of £1.2m obtained in March 2026.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commencement on site works scheduled for w/c 7th April, 2026</li> <li>Planning – consent obtained subject to conditions. Read Construction to discharge pre commencement conditions prior to site works commencing.</li> <li>Drainage consent.</li> <li>The construction works might not begin until late April/early May to allow for ecological works to be completed.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RAG status is assessed as green, project on track for delivery commencing on site in April 2026.</li> </ul>
<b>Wrexham Gateway</b> Wrexham County Borough Council	Developing the Full Business Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outline Planning Application submitted and waiting for ecological surveys.</li> <li>Council appointed a consultant to agree a solution for phosphates.</li> <li>Discussions ongoing with landowners for site assembly.</li> <li>OBC approved by Economic Well-being Sub-Committee in March 2026.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued progress on site assembly including resolving parking for the proposed new building for the Scouts and Guides existing building. Continued progress on site assembly including resolving parking for the proposed new building for the Scouts and Guides.</li> <li>Commence ecological surveys in May.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Risk rating as green given project is progressing to Full Business Case/Outline Planning application stage.</li> </ul>
<b>Gogledd Môn Sites and Premises</b>	Approved not yet in delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grant Funding Agreement (GFA) near completion.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commencement of works on site.</li> <li>Completion of Joint Venture with Welsh Government.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RAG status is assessed as green, project on track for delivery commencing on site in Q1FY26/27.</li> </ul>

# 05 LAND AND PROPERTY PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Isle of Anglesey County Council (IoACC)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IoACC tender date closed and a proposed Main Contractor selected.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completion of Grant Funding Agreement.</li> </ul>		
<b>Freeport Gateway</b> Isle of Anglesey County Council	Approved not yet in delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MoU completed with UK and Welsh Government for Freeport seed capital funding in March 2026.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Completion of the Heads of Terms with IoACC. and completion of the Grant Funding Agreement.</li> <li>IoACC purchase of Peboc Site.</li> <li>Commencement of works on site scheduled for Q1 26/27.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RAG status is assessed as green, project on track for delivery commencing on site in Q1 FY26/27</li> </ul>
<b>Padeswood</b> Transport for Wales (TfW)	Developing the Full Business Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approval for the Change Request for £12.1m additional capital funding from the Sub-Committee obtained in February 2026.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clarity on relationship between TfW and Network Rail and which organisation will take responsibility of developing the Full Business Case for the project.</li> <li>Provision of a firm timeframe for project delivery.</li> <li>Provision of contact details for Heidelberg.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Risks all deemed within acceptable parameters.</li> </ul>
<b>Albert Gubay Business School</b> Bangor University	Developing the Full Business Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FBC and appendices currently in an advanced form.</li> <li>Full planning application submitted.</li> <li>Contractor undertaking final cost plan.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete Head of Terms and Grant Funding Agreement.</li> <li>FBC approval and completion of all supporting documentation.</li> <li>Obtain full planning consent and completion of all planning conditions.</li> <li>Final project cost plan.</li> <li>Project Commencement during Q1 26/27</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project rating is green subject to completion of planning, costs and Full Business Case approval.</li> <li>Commencement scheduled in Spring 2026.</li> </ul>
<b>Port of Mostyn</b> Port of Mostyn	Approved not yet in delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Procurement has completed for the appointment of Main Contractor for the proposed Cladding Works Package on the March Row Site.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Confirmation of security fencing, and heavy lift pad work packages tenders.</li> <li>Completion of the Grant Funding Agreement.</li> <li>Commencement of Subsidy Control registration on the database.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Major project risks are all assessed as acceptable at present. Project rating is green subject to completion of procurement and bespoke approach for carbon assessment.</li> </ul>

# 06 AGRI-FOOD AND TOURISM PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

## Programme Aim

The Agri-food and Tourism Programme will optimise employment and training opportunities in North Wales by providing support facilities to ensure that the region has the skills needed to excel and become world leading. The Programme will also ensure prosperity through sustainably maximising our environment and landscape.



RAG Status	Programme Manager Commentary
Yellow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Responsible Adventure</b> - The project elements continue the journey towards presenting the required business cases, stakeholder engagement has been conducted to discuss various issues - planning, acquisition of land, value engineering, market research and optioneering.</li><li>• <b>Academi Croeso</b> - change request approved for additional time to bring forward a Business Justification Case for replacement spoke. Work completed at Portmeirion.</li><li>• <b>Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub</b> - A celebratory spade in the ground event was held at Glynllifon for the Sheep Milk Wales. The Business Justification Case was approved for the Sustainable Dairy Development element of the project, Procurement activity for Sustainable Dairy Development is being value engineered.</li><li>• <b>Venue Cymru Futures</b> - Multiple procurement activities undertaken to progress with the delivery of the project. Change request submitted for consideration of additional time to bring forward the Full Business Case and phased delivery approach.</li></ul>



Delivering to Plan with only minor issues to address (no action required)



Cllr. Julie Fallon  
Lead Member

Sioned Williams  
Senior Responsible  
Owner

Eliw Hughes  
Programme Manager

Delivery behind schedule and /moderate issues to address  
(management action in place)

Delivery significantly behind schedule and/or significant issues  
to address (urgent action required)

Project (Project Sponsor)	Project Stage	Key Milestones (this quarter)	Key Milestones (next quarter)	RAG Status	RAG Rationale
<b>Glynlifon Rural Economy Hub</b> Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	Sheep Milk Wales approved and in delivery  Sustainable Dairy approved not yet in delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Business Justification Case for Sustainable Dairy Development approved by Sub-Committee.</li> <li>Celebratory event to mark the spade in the ground for the Sheep Milk Wales element.</li> <li>Technical Meetings being held with National Resources Wales (NRW) and GLLM regarding planning to the Hub.</li> <li>Procurement for Sustainable Dairy Development completed, ongoing value engineering and optioneering.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remaining Procurement work for Sheep Milk Wales element.</li> <li>Complete procurement process for Sustainable Dairy element.</li> <li>Drafting of Full Business Case for the whole project.</li> <li>Planning for Hub to be submitted.</li> <li>First Claim to be submitted.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project moved into delivery.</li> <li>Feedback on planning results in low level risk</li> <li>Contingency plan for any unexpected costs.</li> </ul>
<b>Tourism Talent Network</b> Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	Project in delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Build Completion at Portmeirion.</li> <li>Final claim received for Portmeirion.</li> <li>Replacement Spoke Change request approved for additional time to bring forward a Business Justification Case.</li> <li>Commencement of the three-stage selection process for the replacement spoke.</li> <li>Procurement live for phase 2 of the Zip World construction.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outcome of the procurement activity for Zip World.</li> <li>Signing of back-to-back Funding Agreement with Zip World.</li> <li>Celebratory event at Portmeirion – date TBC.</li> <li>Complete selection process for the Replacement Spoke.</li> <li>Draft BJC for replacement spoke.</li> <li>First Claim submission for Zip World.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pending Back-to-back agreement sealing with Zip World.</li> <li>Delayed progression with the potential replacement spoke.</li> <li>Re-profile of budget will need to be completed.</li> </ul>
<b>Responsible Adventure</b> Zip World	Developing BJC/Full Business Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continuous discussions with Cadw and Cyngor Gwynedd for the slate explorer planning.</li> <li>Discussion undertaken with Conwy Council Highways for Betws-y-Coed Filter Lane.</li> <li>Continued stakeholder engagement.</li> <li>Substantial negotiations and optioneering following procurement of the design for the swing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submission of Planning application for slate explorer.</li> <li>Procurement for Betws-y-Coed masterplan.</li> <li>Decision on design for the Swing at Penrhyn.</li> <li>Business Justification Case for the Slate Explorer.</li> <li>Further stakeholder engagement.</li> <li>SPEN confirmation on additional power supply.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planning consent challenges.</li> <li>Specialised project – vulnerability to market.</li> <li>Timescales delays.</li> </ul>

# 07 INNOVATION IN HIGH VALUE MANUFACTURING PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

<b>Venue Cymru Futures</b> Conwy County Borough Council	Developing the Full Business Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Procurement process undertaken for                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project Director</li> <li>• Design team (appointed)</li> <li>• Cost consultant</li> </ul> </li> <li>• MoU signed with Uk Gov. for the £10m funding.</li> <li>• New phased delivery plan presented to Ambition North Wales – change request and updated OBC review.</li> <li>• Essential surveys commissioned.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Begin planning surveys and engagement.</li> <li>• Finalise seating plan design for the auditorium reconfiguration.</li> <li>• Appointment of the Cost Consultant.</li> <li>• Approval of Change request by sub-committee.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Planning consent – low risk.</li> <li>- Funding model is all public funds.</li> <li>- Procurement process.</li> <li>- Change request - time delay.</li> </ul>
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## Programme Aim

To consolidate North Wales position as a powerful and innovative high value manufacturing cluster, building on existing specialisms and leading expertise to create a higher value, more diverse economic base that supports the transition to a low carbon economy.



RAG Status	Programme Manager Commentary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>Enterprise Engineering and Optics Centre</b> project continues with the refurbishment of the OpTIC center in St Asaph, optioneering continues for the hydrogen lab. Majority of the equipment has been procured for the CafodAU building.</li> <li>• The <b>Centre for Environmental Biotechnology</b> undertaking ample market research and procurement activity agreed with Ambition North Wales for the reallocation of the underspend.</li> <li>• <b>Society 5.0</b> project Business Justification Case received delegated final approval. Grant Funding Agreement sealed.</li> <li>• <b>Project Prince KnauF</b> – Complexity of obtaining planning consent lies prominently around Environmental Permits, ample stakeholder engagement, support and optioneering process taking place.</li> <li>• <b>Wrexham University Business Gateway</b> – Outline Business Case approved by subcommittee, stakeholder engagement progression to align services.</li> </ul>



Cllr David Hughes  
Lead Member



Tony Ward  
Senior Responsible  
Owner



Eilw Hughes  
Programme Manager



Delivering to Plan with only minor issues to address (no action required)



Delivery behind schedule and /moderate issues to address (management action in place)



Delivery significantly behind schedule and/or significant issues to address (urgent action required)

Project (Project Sponsor)	Project Stage	Key Milestones (this quarter)	Key Milestones (next quarter)	RAG Status	RAG Rationale
<b>Enterprise Engineering and Optics Centre</b> Wrexham University	Project in delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Procurement activity for CanfodAU equipment</li> <li>2<sup>nd</sup> draft BJC Ambition North Wales review shared with Wrexham University.</li> <li>Start of the OpTIC Centre refurbishment.</li> <li>Award Chiller contract for OpTIC.</li> <li>Design optioneering for hydrogen lab.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approval of Business Justification Case for Plas Coch equipment.</li> <li>Procurement for hydrogen lab.</li> <li>Completion of the OpTIC renovation.</li> <li>Draft BJC for Hydrogen lab.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project in delivery and on track.</li> <li>No significant issue within project, project progressing well. Slight delay to project due to procurement/contract finalisation.</li> <li>Benefits being realised.</li> </ul>
<b>Centre for Environmental Biotechnology</b> Bangor University	Project in delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Procurement activity optioneering and market research for the underspend allocation.</li> <li>Process Claim - on profile.</li> <li>Main bioreactor delivered to Henfaes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Procurement activity completed for underspend additional works.</li> <li>Soft comes on the bioreactor installation ahead of formal project launch.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project nearing completion of delivery stage.</li> <li>Benefits being realised</li> <li>Low risk project.</li> </ul>
<b>Society 5.0</b> Wrexham University	Project in delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Further procurement activity.</li> <li>Business Justification Case delegated approval completion.</li> <li>Grant Funding Agreement signed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Claim full expenditure of project.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Equipment only project.</li> <li>Ample testing of market conducted for remaining equipment.</li> <li>Short project life span from start to completion of delivery.</li> <li>Slight delay in claiming.</li> </ul>
<b>Project Prince</b> Knauf	Developing the Full Business Case.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued stakeholder engagement and support provided by Ambition North Wales and Flintshire County Council with Planning issues.</li> <li>Planning Consultations conducted.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submit planning application for main build (w/c 13th April).</li> <li>Award contract for main build subject to planning permission.</li> <li>Finalise sale and purchase agreement with Tata.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complex Planning and Environmental process to obtain consent, but ample stakeholder engagement being made to mitigate as much risk.</li> </ul>

# 07 INNOVATION IN HIGH VALUE MANUFACTURING PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning Application submitted for remediation &amp; Site preparation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Start on site with remediation.</li> </ul>		
<b>Business Gateway</b> Wrexham University	Developing the Full Business Case.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OBC approved by Sub-committee.</li> <li>• Communication on the approval.</li> <li>• Procurement live for QS and first construction phase.</li> <li>• Stakeholder meeting to align services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Award contract for first phase of construction and QS work.</li> <li>• Procurement activity live on phase 2 of construction.</li> <li>• Workshop for Welsh Government stakeholder to discuss services.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Progression towards FBC going well.</li> <li>• Grant Funding Agreement being drafted.</li> <li>• Procurement activity alignment with Ambition North Wales processes.</li> </ul>

# 08 PROJECT PROGRESS TRACKER

Project		Consenting Stage				Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Stage 4	Stage 5	Stage 6	Stage 7	Stage 8
		Pre-application stage	Outline planning / Consent	Full planning / Consent	Conditions discharged	Determine the Project context	Preparing the Strategic Outline Case	Preparing the Outline Business Case	Approval of the Outline Business Case	Preparing the Full Business Case	Approval of the Full Business Case	Project implementation and monitoring	Project Evaluation
Digital Signal Processing Centre		No planning required				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Connected Key Sites and Corridors	4G+	Consenting requirements TBC				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	⌚	
Connected Campuses	LPWAN	No consenting requirements				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	⌚	
	Advance	No consenting at grant scheme level				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	⌚	
Cydnerth (Morlais)		✓	✓	✓	⌚	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Egni		✓	✓	⌚		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	⌚	
Smart Local Energy		No consenting required at fund level				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Holyhead Hydrogen Hub		✓	✓	⌚		Project under review							
Trawsfynydd Business, Innovation and Skills		✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	⌚			
Former North Wales Hospital		✓	✓	✓	⌚	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	⌚	
Parc Bryn Cegin, Bangor		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Wrexham Gateway		✓	⌚			✓	✓	✓	✓	⌚			
Gogledd Môn Sites and Premises		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	⌚	
Freeport Gateway		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	⌚	
Padeswood		No consenting requirements (TBC)				✓	✓	✓	✓	⌚			
Albert Gubay Business School		✓	✓	⌚		✓	✓	✓	✓	⌚			
Port of Mostyn		No planning consent required.				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	⌚	
Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub		✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	⌚		
Tourism Talent Network		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Responsible Adventure		✓	⌚			✓	✓	✓	✓	⌚			
Venue Cymru Futures		⌚				✓	✓	✓	✓	⌚			
Centre for Environmental Biotechnology		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Enterprise Engineering and Optics		✓	✓	✓	⌚	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Society 5.0		No planning required				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	⌚	
Project Prince		⌚				✓	✓	✓	✓	⌚			
Business Gateway		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	⌚			

# 09 GROWTH DEAL GRANT EXPENDITURE PROFILE

		Portfolio Business Case 2025 Targets		Approved Project Business Case Targets			Actual		
		Jobs Created (net)	(EM) Total Investment*	OBC/ FULL BUSINESS CASE*	Jobs Created (net)	(EM) Total Investment*	Jobs Created (net)	(EM) Total Investment*	
Digital	Digital Signal Processing Centre (DSP)	40	3.08	FBC	40	2.96	27	2.76	
	Connected Key Sites and Corridors	4G+	38	8.19	FBC	29	10.15	0	0.19
	Connected Campuses	LPWAN	20	1.14	BJC	20	1.14	0	0.02
		Advanced Wireless	173	30.31	FBC	200	37.6	0	0.01
Low Carbon Energy	Cydnherth (Morlais)	253	15.99	FBC	230	13.8	12	8.87	
	Egni	60	10.01	FBC	49	3.94	0	0	
	Smart Local Energy	186	102.50	FBC	193	70	2	0.46	
	Holyhead Hydrogen Hub	20	16.22	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	
	Trawsfynydd Business, Innovation and Skills Centre	n/a	n/a	OBC	140	19.55	n/a	n/a	
Land and Property	Former North Wales Hospital, Denbigh	70	85.85	FBC	70	74.34	0	0	
	Parc Bryn Cegin, Bangor	54	7.11	FBC	83	8.84	0	0.29	
	Wrexham Gateway	697	27.00	OBC	418	41.46	n/a	n/a	
	Gogledd Môn Sites and Premises	95	10.44	BJC	95	10.44	0	0	
	Freeport Gateway	223	19.09	BJC	223	19.09	0	0	
	Albert Gubay Business School	90	20.45	OBC	90	20.45	n/a	n/a	
	Padeswood	64	42	OBC	64	42	n/a	n/a	
	Port of Mostyn	299	14.7	BJC	300	14.7	0	0	
Agri-food and Tourism	Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub	106	19.29	BJC x2 (partial)	106	19.29	0	0	
	Tourism Talent Network	68	19.28	FBC	68	19.03	0	3.94	
	Responsible Adventure	291	16.66	OBC	291	16.7	n/a	n/a	
	Venue Cymru Futures	59	19.78	OBC	59	19.78	n/a	n/a	
Innovation in High Value Manufacturing	Enterprise Engineering and Optics Centre	109	18.82	FBC	90	18.12	2	12.25	
	Centre for Environmental Biotechnology	67	3.46	BJC	180	3.46	13	2.56	
	Society 5.0	19	3.0	BJC	19	3.0	0	0.21	
	Project Prince	268	180.20	OBC	269	180	n/a	n/a	
	Business Gateway	n/a	n/a	OBC	130	22.93	n/a	n/a	
RESERVE LIST (Medium Case)		738	111.90						
Portfolio Management Office Costs		7	5.15			5.15	7	2.65	
Growth Deal Portfolio Total		Targets		8 OBC 17 FBC	Approved		Delivered		
		4,114	915.73		3,456	697.92	56	34.21	

\* Total investment shown here includes Portfolio Management Office costs but not the reserve list project

\*\* OBC - Outline Business Case, FULL BUSINESS CASE - Full Business Case

\*\*\*Data includes OBC and FULL BUSINESS CASE approved information.

# 10 GROWTH DEAL PROJECTS: GROWTH DEAL CAPITAL FUNDING ALLOCATION PROFILE

Programme	Project	Project Sponsor	Profile 25/26 (£m)	Actual YTD (£m)	Variance (£m)*	Rationale
Digital	Digital Signal Processing Centre	Bangor University	0.65	0.43	-0.22	Claims submitted for DSP, and 4G+ have started spend on the project.
	4G+ - Connected Key Sites and Corridors	Ambition North Wales	0.29	0.19	-0.10	
	LPWAN	Ambition North Wales	0.15	0.02	-0.13	
	Advanced Wireless	Ambition North Wales	0.00	0.01	0.01	
Low Carbon Energy	Cydnherth (Morlais)	Menter Môn	8.87	8.87	0	Three and final loan drawdown on Cydnherth received. The Smart Local Energy project launched in July and started claiming.
	Smart Local Energy	Ambition North Wales	1.83	0.46	-1.37	
Land and Property	Former North Wales Hospital, Denbigh	Ambition North Wales	0.50	0.00	-0.5	Parc Bryn Cegin project has moved into delivery. FNWH, Gogledd Mon, Freeport Gateway, and AGBS and Port of Mostyn are expected to move into delivery in Q1 26/27.
	Parc Bryn Cegin, Bangor	Ambition North Wales	0.15	0.29	0.14	
Agri-food and Tourism	Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub	Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	1.00	0.00	-1.00	The Sustainable Dairy Development BJC has been approved. The Tourism Talent Network have started claiming.
	Tourism Talent Network	Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	2.00	1.20	-0.80	
Innovation in High Value Manufacturing	Enterprise Engineering and Optics Centre	Wrexham University	2.18	1.30	-0.88	Claims submitted for the EEOC and CEB project.
	Centre for Environmental Biotechnology	Bangor University	1.68	1.48	-0.2	
	Society 5.0	Wrexham University	1.5	0.21	-1.29	
Portfolio Management Office Costs			1.35	0.87	-0.48	
Total			22.15	15.33	-6.82	

\*Profile 2025/26 – Approved by the Economic Well-being Sub-Committee on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2026

\*\*Only includes project profiled or expected to spend during the financial year

# APPENDIX A - PROJECTS SUMMARY

Growth Deal Projects Summary			
	Project	Sponsor	Summary
Digital	Digital Signal Processing Centre (DSP)	Bangor University	The project will allow the DSP Centre to expand its presence and remit, integrating fully with the National Strategy Project (NSP) and enable the scaling of key assets including a 5G testbed, research capacity and state-of-the-art equipment.
	Connected Key Sites and Corridors	Ambition North Wales	This project aims to enhance the reliability and quality of mobile services on the main roads and rail routes in North Wales, enabling full-fibre services to key commercial sites across the region. Focussing on developing fibreoptic networks, which are essential for delivering 4G, 5G, gigabit capable broadband.
	Connected Campuses	Ambition North Wales	The project will accelerate the development of a range of digital connectivity options with a current focus at 18 key regional economic sites.
Low Carbon Energy	Cydnerth (Morlais)	Menter Môn	Investing in infrastructure to connect to the National Grid network and monitor marine environmental effects. This will enable an increase in the deployment of turbines by tidal developers and the generation of renewable energy.
	Egni (Low Carbon Energy Centre of Excellence)	Bangor University	Investing in the development of facilities at Bangor University and Menai Science Park, enhancing the North Wales and UK capabilities for innovation in low carbon energy and related areas, helping to create the conditions for new inward investment and business growth in the low carbon energy supply chain in North Wales.
	Smart Local Energy	Ambition North Wales	To help achieve renewable energy, decarbonisation and local ownership targets, the project will support innovative enabling projects and demonstrators that overcome market failures and unlock private and community sector investments in smart local energy solutions.
	Holyhead Hydrogen Hub	Menter Môn	This project will build a green hydrogen production facility at Parc Cybi, Holyhead, producing around 2000+kg/day of green hydrogen, supplying road, maritime and rail transport customers across North Wales.
	Trawsfynydd Business Innovation and Skills Centre	Cyngor Gwynedd	A scheme which will include a building to include office spaces, laboratory spaces (exact specification to be confirmed) and ancillary facilities (meeting space, café/canteen etc), to support the nuclear and low carbon energy industry together with the scientific community, located on Trawsfynydd Site.
Land and Property	North Anglesey Sites and Premises	Isle of Anglesey County Council	Delivering 2,200sqm of business space in North Anglesey creating at least 59 jobs, and leveraging the Freeport and low-carbon energy growth.
	Freeport Gateway	Isle of Anglesey County Council	Unlocking 6,750sqm of business space in Llangefni, creating at least 186 jobs and maximising benefits of the Anglesey Freeport.
	Port of Mostyn	Port of Mostyn	Upgrading berth and regeneration of former industrial site.
	Albert Gubay Business School	Bangor University	Construction of the Albert Gubay Business School at Bangor University.
	Padeswood	Transport for Wales	Rail line enhancements to remove constraints and address access/egress for rail freight into the Padeswood Cement Works
	Parc Bryn Cegin, Bangor	Ambition North Wales	Provide industrial floor space to meet known demand for units.
	Former North Wales Hospital, Denbigh	Ambition North Wales	The Growth Deal funding will assist in the delivery of a cleared and remediated site with primary services to bring forward a mixed-use commercial and residential development
Wrexham Gateway	Wrexham County Borough Council	This project is a sustainable development of a vibrant regenerated area, creating a focal point to support business investment and a multi-modal transportation hub with links to active travel.	
Agri-food and Tourism	Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub	Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	The vision is to create a distinctive, world-class Rural Economy Hub at Glynllifon, offering a range of facilities and services to strengthen and enhance the regional economy, specifically through growing the food and drink sector.
	Tourism Talent Network	Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	Future-proofing the pipeline of skills provision and increase commercial benefits from one of the most established sectors in the region. The talent network will stimulate public-private collaboration to coordinate action on skills and product development to transform and accelerate the growth of the tourism and hospitality sector in the region.
	Responsible Adventure	Zip World	A multi-element project as part of a sustainable and eco-tourism package including a new sustainable Cable Car, Slate Explorer including visitor viewing platform, Swing and an eBus Network.
	Venue Cymru Futures	Conwy County Borough Council	A project that will expand facilities at Venue Cymru, boost jobs, cut carbon, and attract major shows, conferences, and cultural investment.
Innovation in High Value Manufacturing	Centre for Environmental Biotechnology (CEB)	Bangor University	The Centre for Engineering Biotechnology will be a world-leading centre in the discovery and characterisation of novel extremophilic enzymes of industrial relevance. The Centre for Engineering Biotechnology will provide a strong foundation for attracting world-leading researchers, significant public and commercial research funding, and inward investment to Wales.
	Enterprise Engineering & Optics Centre	Wrexham University	The Enterprise Engineering & Optics Centre will provide facilities targeted to boost high-level skills development for the region and enable Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME's) and large businesses to work in partnership with Wrexham Glyndwr University on commercially driven research and development in optics, composites and hydrogen fuel cells.
	Society 5.0 Manufacturing & Capability Project	Wrexham University	Enhance the Enterprise Engineering and Optics Centre to enable industry to access further world-class high precision engineering resources.
	Project Prince	Knauf	Construction of 110kt rock mineral wool plant with submerged arc furnace (SAF), primarily to serve the UK and Ireland markets.

<b>Business Gateway</b>	Wrexham University	Serving as a bridge between Wrexham University and local industry, fostering collaboration, innovation, job creation and inclusive economic growth.
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<b>Reserve List Projects</b>		
<b>Project</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Summary</b>
<b>Property Fund</b>	Ambition North Wales	A Commercial Property Development Grant to close viability gaps for private sector developers of industrial and office property, with funding also available for similar public sector developments on a Joint Venture Agreement basis.
<b>Innovation and Growth Fund</b>	Ambition North Wales	To support North Wales businesses in agri-food, tourism, and high-value manufacturing to boost innovation, adopt new tech, and grow regional competitiveness.
<b>Adventure Parc Snowdonia</b>	Global Shred Ventures	Deliver a nationally significant new visitor experience on the site of the former Adventure Parc Snowdonia facility.
<b>Queens Market Hotel Development</b>	Denbighshire County Council	Provision of mid-range, mid size hotel - a key part of a wider masterplan that is currently being developed for the area.
<b>Move on accommodation St Asaph Business Park</b>	Denbighshire County Council	Development of high-tech industrial units on St. Asaph Business Park.
<b>Bangor Health Hub</b>	Cyngor Gwynedd	To develop an integrated Health and Wellbeing Hub in a vacant former shopping centre in the heart of Bangor city centre.
<b>Quarry Battery</b>	Quarry Battery Co.	A £300m Pumped Storage Hydro / BESS Hybrid scheme in North Wales.
<b>New-H2</b>	Wales and West Utilities	This project will help kick-start the hydrogen economy in North Wales by supporting and delivering a hydrogen hub to include the supply and use of hydrogen.
<b>Kinmel Studios</b>	Roger Morris	A project to support the film industry in North Wales.
<b>Western Gateway, Wrexham</b>	Wrexham County Borough Council	Delivery of primary services to enable the site to be brought to the market for sale and development.
<b>Holyhead Gateway</b>	Stena Line	Future proof the Holyhead Port by providing new deep-water heavy loading and cruise facilities, improved vehicular access, guaranteeing the future of the breakwater and providing for the demands of regional energy projects.