



Uchelgais Gogledd Cymru
Ambition North Wales

North Wales Growth Deal Quarterly Performance Report

2024-25 Quarter 4 (January - March 2025)

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01 PORTFOLIO DIRECTOR SUMMARY

This quarter was focused on preparing for transferring the Growth Deal and the Portfolio Management Team to the Corporate Joint Committee on 1st of April 2025 alongside a clear focus on Growth Deal delivery.

The Economic Ambition Board approved three business cases. The Full Business Cases for Cydnerth and Parc Bryn Cegin and the Outline Business Case for the Responsible Adventure project. As part of approving the Responsible Adventure Business Case the board set out the requirement for Zip World to address three specific aspects within the next three months, namely - to provide a developed Local Benefits Scheme following engagement with local communities; a strategy and operational principles for its proposed e-bus network; and a progress report on its engagement plan.

The Board also approved a project change request for the Glynllifon project to include a state-of-the-art Rural Economy Hub, sustainable dairy development and Sheep milk Wales. There will also be an agri-tech aspect, linking all three elements in order to deliver high level technical skills and a technology base - which will be available to Agri businesses in the region.

We signed a £4.43m funding agreement which will unlock a total £19m investment in world class training and knowledge transfer facilities across five locations in North Wales. The Tourism Talent Network project, approved by the North Wales Economic Ambition Board last year, will see a network of state-of-the-art facilities become anchors for delivering apprenticeships and other specialist skills support, extensive SME and micro business engagement, as well as a comprehensive programme of school outreach across the region.

The Enterprise Engineering and Optics Centre project is progressing well, with the Plas Coch construction on track for completion in May. A change request was approved for the OpTIC refurbishment. The change was due to higher costs than anticipated at Full Business Case stage, and results in a slight modification in delivery, though there will be no impact on benefits or on the Growth Deal investment. The refurbishment at the Henfaes site for the Centre for Environmental Biotechnology project is continuing to schedule..

Our Shared Prosperity project successfully came to a close at the end of March. The key achievements included the launch of the North Wales Skills Portal, purchase of mobile survey Equipment, grant awards to 16 small and community organisations as well as work on new methodologies, training materials and training to over 100 people on benefits and climate change.

We continue to work closely with Welsh Government and UK Government to increase the pace of delivery on the Growth Deal and work commenced this quarter a Portfolio Review. The next quarter will focus on presenting the recommendations from portfolio review for a decision by the Economic Well-being Sub-Committee.



Alwen Williams

**Portfolio Director
Ambition North Wales**

02 PORTFOLIO PERFORMANCE

Theme	RAG Status	Commentary
Portfolio Business Case		The Portfolio Business Case 2024 update was approved by the Economic Ambition Board in October and has been submitted to Welsh Government and UK Government as part of the annual award of funding process. An update will be produced for government following the completion of the portfolio review.
Delivery Pipeline		The delivery pipeline is consistent with the 2024 Portfolio Business Case, with projects reporting against this timetable currently.
Governance		The Portfolio, Programme and Project Management Framework is now well established with the Portfolio Board and five Programme Boards operating effectively. A Conflicts of Interest procedure is in place across all Boards, and is updated annually.
Assurance		The fifth annual Growth Deal assurance review (Programme Assurance Review) was completed in October 2024 and the PMO is working with Welsh Government and UK Government to address the recommendations.
Resource and Capacity		Interim arrangements are currently in place for the Low Carbon Energy Programme Manager with a new permanent member of staff starting in post in April. Budget approval has been secured to extend fixed term staff contracts beyond March 2026 with resourcing requirements currently being reviewed by the Portfolio Director and Head of Operations.
Finance		A total of £15.32m Growth Deal funding has been spent to date. This includes £2.15m on the Digital Signal Processing Centre, £9.81m on the Enterprise Engineering & Optic Centre, £0.58m on the Centre of Environmental Biotechnology, £1m on the Tourism Talent Network and £1.78m to fund the revenue expenditure.
Investment		Securing the public and private sector investment required to deliver the Growth Deal remains a significant risk across the portfolio. The Economic Ambition Board approved the Investment Strategy during their meeting in March 2024.
Risk		Overall risk profile remains consistent with Quarter 3. Procurement of the support services framework (2023 PAR recommendation) is complete. A number of high residual risks remain which are being managed by the PMO including affordability, consenting, delay and investment.
Benefits Monitoring & Evaluation		Training sessions have been held with Ambition North Wales and Project Sponsors in how to use the Benefits Reporting platform. Projects have all uploaded their indicators, the three projects in delivery have populated the platform enabling the project, programme and portfolio teams to track progress towards spending objectives and benefits.
Emissions and Biodiversity		The streamlined methodology is being finalised and shared. Discussions are underway to consider supporting a small number of Local Authorities as 'Pioneer Councils' to help embed the methodology. Some of our team, along with partners from the region, attended Climate Clarity training . Through Climate Fresk and Biodiversity Collage workshops participants were able to build knowledge, as well as a real understanding of challenges and impactful solutions.
Communication and Engagement		<p>We issued a number of press releases including on encouraging feedback on the North Wales Regional Transport public consultation, the launch of the North Wales Skills Portal, welcoming confirmation on the Flintshire and Wrexham Investment Zone by Welsh and UK Governments, successful projects benefitting from Agri-Food Tech Launchpad funding, approval of the Full Business Case for the Cydnerth project, signing of the funding agreement for the Tourism Talent Network project; and we published a case study article during Women in Construction Week.</p> <p>We worked with Business News Wales on a podcast and accompanying article which focused on the year ahead for the Growth Deal, as well as a podcast and article on the opportunities AI could bring to the private and public sectors in the region.</p> <p>Our social media channels covered promotion of our press releases with our engagement and reach on social media continued to grow and there were 11k active users of our website (up 33.5%, likely due to the RTP consultation).</p>

03 DIGITAL PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Programme Aim

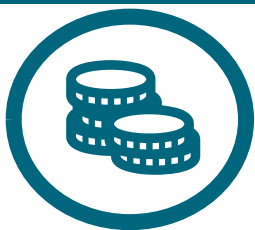
Deliver the step change in digital connectivity needed to ensure North Wales is able to satisfy user demand, maintain pace with the rest of the UK, unlock the potential of priority sectors and sites and underpin a flourishing innovation ecosystem.



Job Creation Target
380



GVA investment target
£158m



Total Investment
£41.7m

RAG Status	Programme Manager Commentary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Full Business Case for the 4G+ project has been prepared following extensive market engagement following Outline Business Case approval.• The Connected Campuses LPWAN project is now advancing to the deployment of gateways following a procurement specification being agreed and first deployment plan received.• The initial outcome of UK Government Project Gigabit cross regional contracts to deliver gigabit capable broadband has been received and impact of this on the Growth Deal spending objectives for the Last Few % and Full Fibre projects is being reviewed. Further information is expected next quarter associated with change requests currently being reviewed by UK Government which may amend the scope of contracted premises.



Cllr. Nia Jeffreys
Lead Member



David Fitzsimon
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
Digital Signal Processing Centre Bangor University		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Implementation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval of the business justification case and purchasing of equipment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Purchasing of items associated with final phase of Growth deal funding 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final Business Justification Case approved
Connecting the Last Few % Ambition North Wales		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing the Full Business Case 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final UK Government broadband investment contract to be awarded for the region. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of impact of Project Gigabit on regional broadband investment plans on Growth Deal spending objectives. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project currently under review. UK Government investment in broadband in the region due to commence following current procurement for its 'cross regional' framework. Outcome of this will define premises for Growth Deal intervention..
Connected Key Sites and Corridors Ambition North Wales	4G+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing the Full Business Case 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4G+ FBC to be submitted for PMO review. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic Well-being Sub-Committee review of the 4G+ FBC. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4G+ FBC has been prepared for consideration by the Economic Well-Being Sub-Committee.
	Full Fibre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing the Outline Business Case 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final UK Government broadband investment contract to be awarded for the region. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of impact of Project Gigabit on regional broadband investment plans on Growth Deal spending objectives. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project element currently under review. Impact of Project Gigabit plans on Growth deal spending objectives to be reviewed.
Connected Campuses Ambition North Wales	Advanced Wireless	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing the Full Business Case 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grant scheme and draft FBC for Advanced Wireless project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PMO review of Advanced Wireless FBC. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advanced Wireless now developing Full Business Case.
	LPWAN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project Implementation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procurement specification completed for equipment for LPWAN project and installation services. First LoRaWAN deployment plan submitted to Ambition North Wales prior to delivery. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procurement of LoRaWAN gateways. Final LoRaWAN deployment plans to be submitted. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LPWAN progressing with network design advanced and capital procurement being prepared.

04 LOW CARBON ENERGY PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Programme Aim

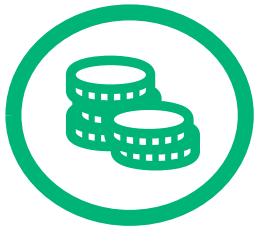
To unlock the economic benefits of transformational low carbon energy projects and position North Wales as a leading UK location for low carbon energy generation, innovation and supply chain investment.



Job Creation Target
980



GVA investment target
£530m



Total Investment
£668.5m

RAG Status	Programme Manager Commentary
Yellow	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Cydnherth – The Full Business Case was approved during the quarter.Smart Local Energy (Clean Energy Fund) – The draft Full Business Case is under development and has been presented to the Programme Board ahead of being presented to the Portfolio Board and Economic Well-being Sub-Committee.



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
Cydnherth (Morlais) Menter Môn	The Full Business Case is approved, and the project is moving towards implementation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FBC completed and approved. Project progressing into delivery at risk while funding agreement is finalised. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalise and sign the funding agreement. Loan drawdown payments. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project is progressing well with the funding agreement expected to be signed in the next quarter.
NEW-H2 Ambition North Wales	Under review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communications with Wales & West Utilities to encourage submission of revised project. Wales & West Utilities engagement with potential project partners. Ambition North Wales and West & Wales Utilities joint meeting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirmation if Wales & West Utilities are submitting a new project proposal for consideration. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project currently under review.
Egni Bangor University	Developing the Full Business Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welsh Government has confirmed their funding can be used now by project team to progress from RIBA 4 to 5 without need to wait for UK Government Freeport funding confirmation. Bangor University will now progress this design work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue development of the Full Business Case. Complete design work. UK Government Freeport funding confirmation. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project is amber with some work progressing on the Full Business Case while waiting for a decision on freeport UK Government funding.
Smart Local Energy Ambition North Wales	Developing the Full Business Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investment strategies have been finalised. Full Business Case presented to Programme Board. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full Business Case for the Clean Energy Fund to be presented to the Portfolio Board and Economic Well-being Sub-Committee in May. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project is green as the development towards the Full Business Case is on track.
Trawsfynydd Cwmni Eginio	Developing the Strategic Outline Business Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing discussions with key stakeholders to consider potential options for the Trawsfynydd Site. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No significant actions planned until decisions are made by Great British Nuclear (GBN) and UK Government on technology selection and site selection. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project currently under review.

04 LOW CARBON ENERGY PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Project (Project Sponsor)	Project Stage	Key Milestones (this quarter)	Key Milestones (next quarter)	RAG Status	RAG Rationale
Holyhead Hydrogen Hub Menter Môn	Developing the Outline Business Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint Ambition North Wales and EDF submission to Department for Transport, Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation subsidy consultation to unlock Geopura offtake agreement. £40k DEVEX provided to Menter Môn from Welsh Government underspend for business planning and promotion. Ongoing discussion between Ambition North Wales, Welsh Government and Department for Energy Security and Net Zero moving closer to an outcome on securing and transferring £4.8m Department for Energy Security and Net Zero funds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential confirmation re. RTFO from DfT Potential confirmation from DESNZ re. £4.8m Ambition North Wales and Menter Môn promoting the project at events to raise awareness and attract offtakers. Exploration of hydrogen sub-fund to enable North Wales hydrogen development to support Holyhead Hydrogen Hub transport production facility. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RAG status remains amber while key outstanding matters assist resolution: Department for Transport, Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation; Department for Energy Security and Net Zero £4.8m; hydrogen sub-fund.

05 LAND AND PROPERTY PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Programme Aim

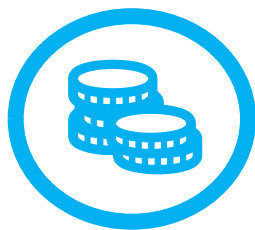
To address the shortage of suitable land and properties for business growth and to bring forward sites for housing development. To deliver improvements that stimulate investment in sites and premises in the Port of Holyhead and the wider region. Enables other programmes by ensuring the right land and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



Job Creation Target
2280



GVA investment target
£129bn



Total Investment
£355.4m

RAG Status	Programme Manager Commentary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Warren Hall, Broughton – Welsh Government and their consultants are discussing the draft airfield safety compliance report for Warren Hall with Airbus UK. The report has been subject to a consultation exercise with Airbus and the draft is moving to an agreed draft which will then be shared with Airbus for their formal approval.• Western Gateway, Wrexham – WSP are to provide their early-stage conclusions for the Welsh Transport Appraisal Guidance (WelTAG) Lite assessment and submit a final report in May 2025.• Former North Wales Hospital, Denbigh – The S106 agreement did not complete in Q1 2025. Negotiations are ongoing between the Council and Jones Bros. Discussions on the funding agreement with Jones Bros and the document is close to a final agreed draft.• Parc Bryn Cegin, Bangor – The Project Full Business Case was approved in February 2025 and full planning consent was obtained in March.

05 LAND AND PROPERTY PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Project (Project Sponsor)	Project Stage	Key Milestones (this quarter)	Key Milestones (next quarter)	RAG Status	RAG Rationale
Western Gateway, Wrexham Wrexham County Borough Council	Developing the Outline Business Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WelTAG Lite assessment continued with a report to be issued in May 2025. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivery of the WelTAG Lite report by WSP with a recommendation as to how the Western Gateway project highway connectivity can proceed. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project risk rating revised to amber pending the WelTAG Lite report being issued on the project access to the main trunk roads and the ability to mitigate growth through active travel and modal shift.
Warren Hall, Broughton Welsh Government / Ambition North Wales	Developing the Outline Business Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welsh Governments, their consultants and Airbus UK are agreeing the content of the draft report. The completed draft will then be shared formally with Airbus UK for their approval. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welsh Government consultant's report formally approved by Airbus UK. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project risk rating remains at amber as revising the airfield safety case is still to be fully assessed and agreed by Airbus UK.
Former North Wales Hospital, Denbighshire Jones Bros (Ruthin) Limited / Denbighshire County Council	The Full Business Case is approved, and the Project is moving towards implementation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Levelling Up funding Round 3 funding agreement shared with Jones Bros for comment and agreement. S106 agreement continues to make slow progress. Grant funding agreement discussions have re-commenced and an agreement on a completed draft is expected soon. The District Valuation Office report has been received for the transfer value of the site from Denbighshire County Council to Jones Bros. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Subsidy Support referral to the Competition and Markets Authority to be registered on the Authority website. Complete the funding agreement with Jones Bros. S106 to be approved by Denbighshire County Council and Jones Bros. Construction of Bat Barns to commence using early release of Levelling Up Funding funding from Denbighshire County Council. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk rating moved to amber due to the slow progress with the S106 Agreement.
Parc Bryn Cegin, Bangor Welsh Government / Ambition North Wales	The Full Business Case is approved, and the Project is moving towards implementation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full Business Case approved in February 2025. Full planning consent obtained in March 2025. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete notification of Subsidy Support referral. Complete Joint Venture Agreement Commence Invitation to Tender 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green risk rating retained for the project as it is on programme for delivery in Summer 2025.

05 LAND AND PROPERTY PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Project (Project Sponsor)	Project Stage	Key Milestones (this quarter)	Key Milestones (next quarter)	RAG Status	RAG Rationale
Holyhead Gateway Stena Line Ports Limited	Developing the Outline Business Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stena have asked to pause the project development pending the outcome of their commercial negotiations with the offshore energy sector. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing dialogue with Stena now at a Senior Level. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk rating remains as red as negotiations with end user of new port areas to be completed prior to proceeding.
Kinmel Studios	The Project is under review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussions with the former Managing Director has confirmed there is limited demand and funding support for new TV and Film Studios. This has been confirmed by a separate investigation by the Portfolio Management Office and the Council. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project under review. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project under review. Risk rating remains red given information of limited demand for TV and Film Studio space.
Wrexham Gateway Wrexham County Borough Council	Developing the Outline Business Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultancy Team have submitted a pre-application planning pack to the Local Authority. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of the Outline Business Case by the Council to commence. Outline Planning application to be submitted. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Risk rating as green given project is progressing to OBC/Outline Planning stage.



Cllr Jason McLellan
Lead Member



Andrew Farrow
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)

06 AGRI-FOOD AND TOURISM PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Programme Aim

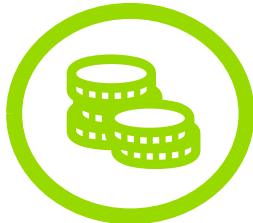
The Agri-food and Tourism Programme will optimise employment and training opportunities in North Wales by providing support facilities to ensure that the region has the skills needed to excel and become world leading. The Programme will also ensure prosperity through sustainably maximising our environment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



Job Creation Target
380



GVA investment target
£281m



Total Investment
£41.3m

RAG Status	Programme Manager Commentary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The Responsible Adventure project received approval of the Outline Business Case by the Economic Ambition Board (EAB) on the 14th February 2025. The board request a further report to address three specific concerns before inviting a Full Business Case for the Responsible Adventure project, and invite the company to address these within a 3 month period.The Tourism Talent Network's Grant Funding Agreement was finalised in late January 2025. The project has entered the delivery phase, with construction progressing well at Portmeirion and Zip World. The first funding claim has been submitted and successfully approved. Grŵp Llandrillo-Menai has identified Theatr Clwyd as the final spoke in the network. Additionally, the first draft of the Business Justification Case was presented to the Portfolio Management Office at the end of March Key agreements have been secured, including a Memorandum of Understanding with Snowdonia Hospitality and Leisure and a back-to-back agreement with Portmeirion.The Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub presented the change request to the Economic Ambition Board, which was approved on the 14th February 2025. The project team is currently drafting two Business Justification Cases, one for each dairy and will update the Full Business Case to reflect the revised scope of the Hub. Planning consent needs to be obtained for the Hub.



Cllr Charlie McCoubrey
Lead Member



Sioned Williams
Senior Responsible
Owner



Elliw 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)

06 AGRI-FOOD AND TOURISM PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Project (Project Sponsor)	Project Stage	Key Milestones (this quarter)	Key Milestones (next quarter)	RAG Status	RAG Rationale
Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	Developing Business Justification Cases and updating the Full Business Case.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project team presented the re-scoping of the project to the Economic Ambition Board, which was approved. Internal funding released to proceed with design phase. Pre-planning application submitted for the Hub. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present two Business Justification Cases for new elements of the project – <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sheep Milk Dairy 2. Sustainable Dairy Update the Full Business Case for the Rural Hub Submit planning permission for the Hub Start the procurement process. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amber rating due to project change request approval, main risks identified: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Planning for the hub 2. Procurement Process 3. Financial implications of rising costs. 4. Timescales
Tourism Talent Network Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	Project Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grant Funding Agreement agreed and sealed. Moved into delivery stage with construction going well at Portmeirion and Zip World. Final Spoke selection confirmed as Theatr Clwyd – draft Business Justification Case presented to the Portfolio Management Office. Rebranding soft launch by Grŵp Llandrillo Menai. Snowdonia Hospitality and Leisure signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Grŵp Llandrillo Menai. First claim submitted and approved. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek approval of the Business Justification Case for Theatr Clwyd as final spoke. Submission of at least two claims. Official launch of new branding – Academi Croeso. Continuation to work with the possible replacement spoke before final decision and presenting a change request. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green rating as the Grant Funding Agreement has been sealed and the project has moved into delivery.
Responsible Adventure Zip World	Developing the Full Business Case.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval of Outline Business Case by the Economic Ambition Board, with a need for Zip World to address three requirements before presenting Full Business Case. Meeting held between Local Councillors, Zip World and Ambition North Wales (re-occurring monthly) Issues raised as a result of planning application for the swing are in progress to be actioned. Pre-planning applications for Slate explorer and cable car at the Llechwedd site. Pre-planning response received for Cable Car – delivery on requirements started. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present on the three requirements to Economic Well-being Sub-Committee. Monthly meetings with local councillors Establishment and first meeting of the eBUS working group Appoint a facilitator to work with Zip and the community Stakeholder engagement. Planning approval for swing Feedback on pre-application for Slate explorer, Submission of full planning applications for two adventures at the Llechwedd site. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amber rating primarily due to planning risk and lack of community engagement, however good progress has been made with approval of Outline Business Case and proposal to address the three requirements.

07 INNOVATION IN HIGH VALUE MANUFACTURING PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

Programme Aim

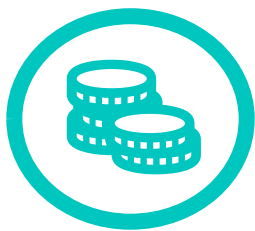
To consolidate North Wales position as a powerful and innovative high value manufacturing cluster, building on existing specialisms and leading expertise to create a higher value, more diverse economic base that supports the transition to a low carbon economy.



Job Creation Target
180



GVA investment target
£114m



Total Investment
£39.5m

RAG Status	Programme Manager Commentary
Green	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The Enterprise Engineering and Optics Centre project is progressing well, with Plas Coch construction on track for completion by May. A change request, endorsed by the Programme Board, has adjusted the delivery approach for the OpTIC refurbishment due to increased costs. The procurement process for Plas Coch equipment has been completed, leading to the submission of a first draft Business Justification Case for Portfolio Management Office review. Additionally, the relocation of the hydrogen hub now requires obtaining planning consent..The Centre for Environmental Biotechnology project is progressing well, with the Henfaes refurbishment on schedule for completion by the end of April. Procurement for the second phase of equipment has been approved, though not all items were successfully procured. The first funding claim has been submitted for review.



Cllr David Hughes
Lead Member



Tony Ward
Senior Responsible
Owner



Elliw 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)

07 INNOVATION IN HIGH VALUE MANUFACTURING PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE

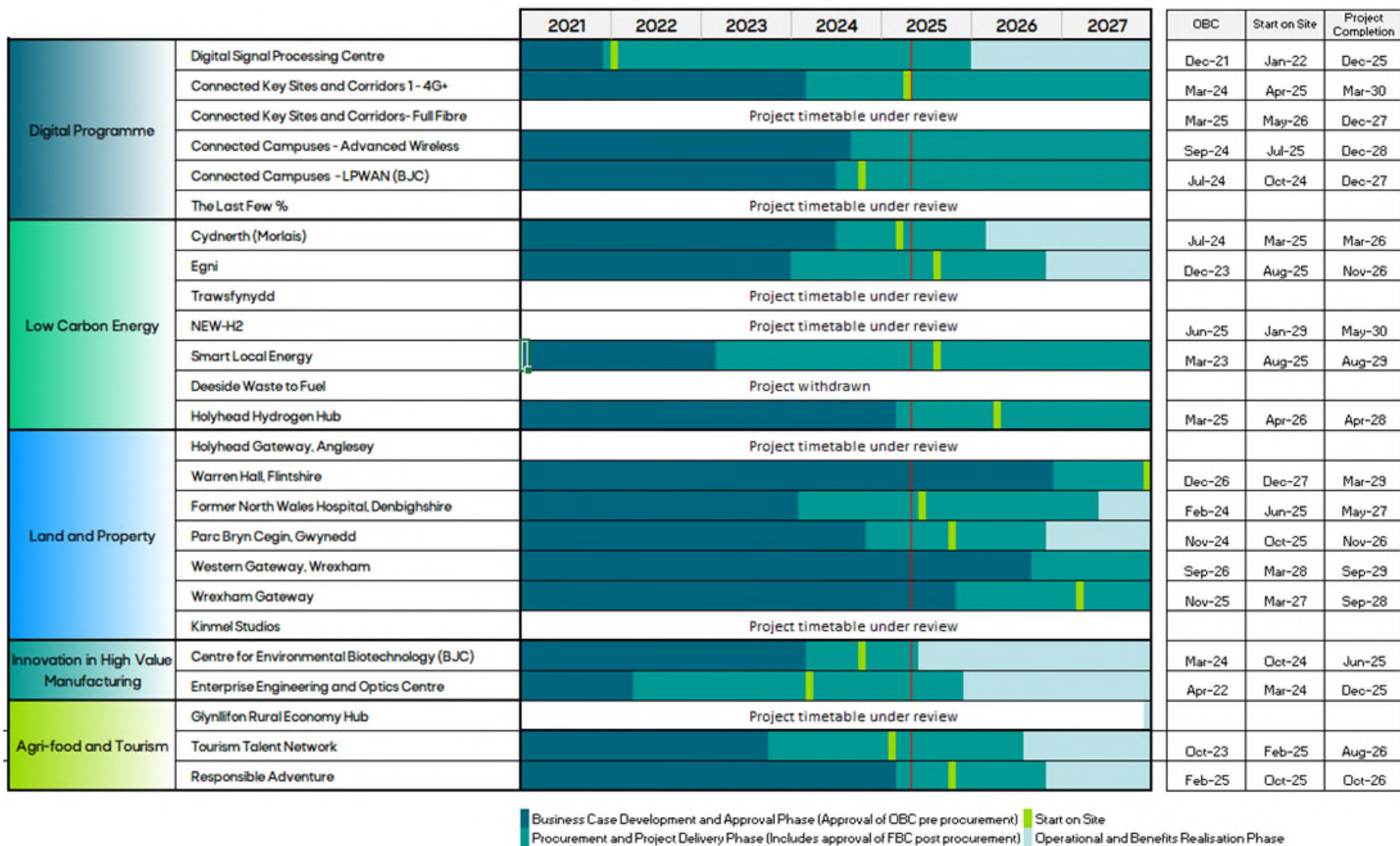
Project (Project Sponsor)	Project Stage	Key Milestones (this quarter)	Key Milestones (next quarter)	RAG Status	RAG Rationale
Enterprise Engineering and Optics Centre Wrexham University	Project Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change request for OpTIC refurbishment endorsed by Programme Board. • Procurement activity for Plas Coch equipment. • First Draft of Business Justification Case presented to Portfolio Management Office. • Biodiversity enhancement actions taken place at Northop site. • Delivery and reporting of benefits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sign off of final award of tender for Plas Coch equipment. • Business Justification Case approval. • Final sign off of OpTIC change request. • Completion of Plas Coch Build – soft launch for internal stakeholders. • Communication activity to focus on the completion, biodiversity actions and social value activity. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project in delivery and on track
Centre for Environmental Biotechnology Bangor University	Project Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progression on Henfaes site nearing completion. • Procurement process for second phase equipment conducted and approved. Some items now successfully tendered – further work needed. • First claim submitted. • Delivery and reporting of benefits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of Henfaes refurbishment. • Procurement activity to conclude for items. • Possible change request to be drafted in light of underspend – re-profiling and finalisation of procurement to be completed before draft. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project in delivery and on track

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				✓	✓	✓	✓	⌚			
	Full Fibre	Consenting requirements TBC				Project under review							
Connected Campuses	LPWAN	No consenting requirements				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	⌚	
	Advanced Wireless	No consenting at grant scheme level				✓	✓	✓	✓	⌚			
Last Few %		Consenting requirements TBC				Project under review							
Cydnerth (Morlais)		✓	✓	✓	⌚	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	⌚	
Trawsfynydd Power Station		Consenting requirements TBC				Project under review							
Egni		✓	✓	⌚		✓	✓	✓	✓	⌚			
Smart Local Energy		No consenting required at fund level				✓	✓	✓	✓	⌚			
NEW-H2		Consenting requirements TBC				Project under review							
Holyhead Hydrogen Hub		✓	✓	⌚		✓	✓	⌚					
Holyhead Gateway		✓	✓	✓	⌚	Project under review							
Former North Wales Hospital		✓	✓	✓	⌚	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	⌚	
Western Gateway, Wrexham		⌚				✓	✓	⌚					
Warren Hall, Broughton		⌚				✓	✓	⌚					
Parc Bryn Cegin, Bangor		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	⌚	
Kinmel Studios		⌚				Project under review							
Wrexham Gateway		⌚				✓	✓	⌚					
Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub		✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	⌚			
Tourism Talent Network		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Responsible Adventure		✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	⌚			
Centre for Environmental Biotechnology		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Enterprise Engineering and Optics		✓	✓	✓	⌚	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

09 GROWTH DEAL PROJECT DELIVERY PIPELINE

APPENDIX M - PROJECT DELIVERY PLAN



10 OBJECTIVE TRACKER - OVERVIEW OF DELIVERY

			Portfolio Business Case 2024 Targets		Approved Project Business Case Targets			Actual	
			Jobs Created (net)	(£M) Total Investment*	OBC/ FBC**	Jobs Created (net)	(£M) Total Investment*	Jobs Created (net)	(£M) Total Investment*
Digital	Digital Signal Processing Centre (DSP)		33	2.96	FBC	33	2.96	19	2.33
	Connecting the last few %		133	4.17	OBC	130	4.17	n/a	n/a
	Connected Key Sites and Corridors	4G+	82	10.04	OBC	TBC at FBC	n/a	n/a	0
		Fibre	35		n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Connected Campuses	LPWAN	20	39.04	BJC	20	114	0	0
		Advanced Wireless	165		OBC	130	20	n/a	n/a
Low Carbon Energy	Cydnherth (Morlais)		233	13.87	FBC	230	16	n/a	n/a
	NEW-H2		88	130.00	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Egni		49	3.94	OBC	49	3.94	n/a	n/a
	Smart Local Energy		177	102.00	OBC	174	106.0	n/a	0.00
	Trawsfynydd		111	244.12	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Holyhead Hydrogen Hub		20	28.77	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Withdrawn project		33	31.64	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Land and Property	Western Gateway, Wrexham		360	43.36	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Warren Hall, Broughton		445	69.76	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Former North Wales Hospital, Denbigh		70	94.70	FBC	70	107.0	0	0
	Parc Bryn Cegin, Bangor		47	6.62	FBC	54	7.11	n/a	n/a
	Holyhead Gateway		647	170.70	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Wrexham Gateway		150	14.37	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Kinmel Studios		200	32.00	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Agrifood and Tourism	Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub		92	16.79	OBC	96	12.85	n/a	n/a
	Tourism Talent Network		68	19.03	FBC	68	19.03	0	1.87
	Responsible Adventure		175	12.40	OBC	290	16.6	n/a	n/a
Innovation in High Value Manufacturing	Enterprise Engineering and Optics Centre		78	18.12	FBC	70	18.12	2	9.81
	Centre for Environmental Biotechnology		65	3.46	BJC	65	3.46	7	0.83
Portfolio Management Office Costs				5.15				7	1.77
Growth Deal Portfolio Total			Targets		7 OBC 8 FBC	Approved		Delivered	
			3,576	1,123		1,479	338.38	35	16.61

* Total investment shown here includes Portfolio Management Office costs

** OBC – Outline Business Case, FBC – Full Business Case

11 GROWTH DEAL GRANT EXPENDITURE PROFILE

Programme	Project	Project Sponsor	2021/22 (£m)	2022/23 (£m)	2023/24 (£m)	2024/25 (£m)	2025/26 (£m)	2026/27 (£m)	2027/28 (£m)	2028/29 (£m)	2029/30 (£m)	2030/31 (£m)	2031/32 (£m)	2032/33 (£m)	2033/34 (£m)	2034/35 (£m)	Total (£m)
Digital	Digital Signal Processing Centre (DSP)	Bangor University	0.12	166	0.37	0.81	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	296
Digital	Connected Key Sites and Corridors	Ambition North Wales	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.98	3.27	3.27	0.94	0.41	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.87
Digital	Connected Campus	Ambition North Wales	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.80	5.10	9.80	4.98	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.68
Digital	Connecting the last few percent	Ambition North Wales	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.32	1.85	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.17
Low carbon energy	Cydnherth (Morlais)	Menter Môn	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.43	4.44	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.87
Low carbon energy	Egni	Bangor University	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.97	1.97	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.94
Low carbon energy	Trawsfynydd Power Station	Cwmni Eginio	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.50	2.50	5.00	5.70	5.00	0.00	19.70
Low carbon energy	New H2	Ambition North Wales	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.00	2.30	2.30	3.10	1.53	0.00	0.00	11.23
Low carbon energy	Smart Local Energy	Ambition North Wales	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.00	9.25	9.25	3.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	24.63
Low carbon energy	Project Withdrawn (Deeside AD Plant)*	n/a	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.20	3.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.40
Low carbon energy	Holyhead Hydrogen Hub	Menter Môn	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.90	1.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.80
Land and property	Holyhead Gateway	Stena Line	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11.49	11.49	11.49	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	34.47
Land and property	Warren Hall Strategic Site	Ambition North Wales	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.38	7.39	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	14.77
Land and property	Former North Wales Hospital, Denbigh	Ambition North Wales	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.47	3.47	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.94
Land and property	Parc Bryn Cegin Strategic Site	Ambition North Wales	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.93	1.98	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.91
Land and property	Western Gateway, Wrexham	Ambition North Wales	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.48	4.48	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.96
Land and property	Kinmel Studios	Stage Fifty	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.40	3.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.80
Land and property	Wrexham Gateway	Wrexham County Borough Council	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.79	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.79
Innovation in High Value Manufacturing	Centre of Environmental Biotechnology (CEB)	Bangor University	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.71	0.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.96
Innovation in High Value Manufacturing	Enterprise Engineering & Optics Centre	Wrexham University	0.00	0.00	0.75	6.52	4.28	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11.55
Agri-food and tourism	Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub	Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.20	4.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11.82
Agri-food and tourism	Tourism Talent Network	Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.57	2.85	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.43
Agri-food and tourism	Responsible Adventure	Zip World	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.30	3.70	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.20
2.15% to fund the Ambition North Wales revenue budget			0.22	0.28	0.56	0.90	1.35	0.66	0.46	0.15	0.15	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.07	0.05	5.15
Portfolio Total			0.34	1.94	1.68	12.51	29.61	40.86	59.28	42.58	22.45	8.10	8.20	7.33	5.07	0.05	240.00

2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24 is actual expenditure. Remaining profile is as forecast in the 2024/25 Capital Budget.
Capital Profile has been updated as part of the Financial Review (December 2024).

Note: Expenditure profile to be updated as part of Portfolio Review.

12 GROWTH DEAL PROJECTS: CAPITAL FUNDING ALLOCATION PROFILE

Programme	Project	Project Sponsor	Profile 24/25 (£m)	Actual YTD (£m)	Variance (£m)*	Rationale
Digital	Digital Signal Processing Centre	Bangor University	0.81	0.00	-0.81	The next claim for the DSP project will follow the approval of their BJC.
	Connecting the Last Few %	Ambition North Wales	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	Connected Key Sites and Corridors	Ambition North Wales	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	Connected Campuses	Ambition North Wales	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Low Carbon Energy	Cydnerth (Morlais)	Menter Môn	0.00	0.00	0.00	The Cydnerth project is moving in to delivery, and the FBC for the Smart Local Energy will be presented for approval in early April, and will start claiming in 2025/26.
	NEW-H2	Ambition North Wales	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	Egni	Bangor University	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	Smart Local Energy	Ambition North Wales	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	Trawsfynydd Power Station	Cwmni Eginio	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	Withdrawn Project	n/a	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	Holyhead Hydrogen Hub	Menter Môn	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Land and Property	Western Gateway, Wrexham	Ambition North Wales	0.00	0.00	0.00	The Former North Wales Hospital and Parc Bryn Cegin Projects are moving into delivery and will start claiming in 2025/26.
	Warren Hall, Broughton	Ambition North Wales	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	Former North Wales Hospital, Denbigh	Ambition North Wales	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	Parc Bryn Cegin, Bangor	Ambition North Wales	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	Holyhead Gateway	Stena line	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	Kinmel Studios		0.00	0.00	0.00	
	Wrexham Gateway	Wrexham County Borough Council	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Agri-food and Tourism	Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub	Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	0.00	0.00	0.00	The Tourism Talent Network Full Business Cases has been approved and their first claim processed.
	Tourism Talent Network	Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	1.57	1.00	-0.57	
	Responsible Adventure	Zip World	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Innovation in High Value Manufacturing	Enterprise Engineering and Optics Centre	Glyndwr University	6.52	9.06	2.54	Claims submitted for the EEOC and CEB project.
	Centre for Environmental Biotechnology	Bangor University	2.71	0.58	-2.13	
Portfolio Management Office Costs			0.90	0.71	-0.19	
Total			12.51	11.35	-1.16	

13 – GROWTH DEAL BENEFITS REALISATION



APPENDIX A - 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.
	The last few %	Ambition North Wales	This project targets universal superfast coverage across North Wales, which have yet to be served by other means and cannot obtain speeds of at least 30Mbps (download).
	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 and 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	Cydnherth (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.
	NEW H2	Ambition North Wales	Support delivery of a demonstrator project involving the production of green hydrogen from low carbon energy sources and its use within regional transport networks.
	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.
	Trawsfynydd	Cwmni Eginio	The site is uniquely placed for a 'First of A Kind' deployment of a Small Modular Reactor (SMR) or Advanced Modular Reactor (AMR). Alongside the public and private sector, the Growth Deal will contribute funding towards enabling infrastructure for this development.
	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.
Land and Property	Western Gateway, Wrexham	Ambition North Wales	Delivery of primary services to enable the site to be brought to the market for sale and development.
	Warren Hall, Broughton	Ambition North Wales	Delivery of primary services to enable the 65-hectare mixed use site to be bought to the market for sale and then development by the private sector.
	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
	Holyhead Gateway	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.
	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.
	Kinmel Studios		This project will design, build and operate film and television studios at Tir Llwyd Enterprise Park along with a training academy and incubator units.
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.
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.