

The (Shadow) North Wales Growth Board

*North Wales, the economy of the future: **Smart, Resilient, Connected**,
where economic growth is powered by innovation in high value economic sectors*

Status Report on the North Wales Growth Deal, 16th February 2018

Business before the Board

The (Shadow) North Wales Growth Board met for the third time on the 16th February 2018.

The meeting was attended by representatives of each University and FE College along with two Business Council representatives given the business of the meeting.

The Board reviewed each project, receiving a short verbal report on each of the proposed projects. The verbal report was supported by: -

- A summary project description document (PDD) for each of the interventions currently within the Growth Bid.
- The full PDD for each intervention
- The outputs of an officer challenge session held on the 2nd February 2018
- A report from the North Wales Business Council outlining the priority business attached to each intervention on the information available.

The Business Council generated its priority list from a written consultation with its membership and a wider network of business organisations, including key companies from across the region.

A draft code of conduct was received. There are no current declarations of interest.

Decisions

It was agreed that work would continue on all interventions for the time being although no projects are currently agreed for approval or funding. The Board commissioned: -

- An Overview Project Description Document to describe the impact of the overall programme and bring out the inter – connections between the component parts.
- A better title and description of the Housing Enabler Project that differentiates it clearly from the Housing Proposals in Smart Sites and Premises
- Resolution of the issue of perceived duplication with Welsh Government proposals in the field of skills and business growth. This also includes an issue between a proposal from Wrexham Glyndwr and the possible functions of the Welsh Government funded AMRI in Deeside. The Bid Development Team will seek to resolve these issues through discussion with Welsh Government officials and WGU.

The partners for the Regional Growth Hub must include the two FE Colleges.

On Smart Energy there was a presumption against including proposals for preparatory studies for schemes without approved government support (e.g. the tidal lagoon and SMR) within the growth bid on the basis that such schemes may not happen.). This would not preclude seeking grant funding from other sources. (i.e. the Growth Bid is not a Grant Fund).

There is a need for a stronger justification of the deployment of an asset backed vehicle to develop the smart sites and premises proposals including a clearer description of the role WG would take within it.

The Transport work needs to incorporate proposals to improve North to South links within the region as well as East to West along the A55 corridor.

With regard to resilience (skills): -

- The regional skills portal proposal should be included in the WG Portal procurement and not be separate from it.
- Merge hub, fund and employability proposals into one programme
- Merge the centres of excellence into one programme
- Involve, GWE and schools via LEA leadership in the resilience theme projects

The Board gave “top of the shop” permission to begin negotiating co-location of NWEAB and Bid staff with WG staff in Llandudno Junction

Communications

The Chair reported that he and the Vice Chair will be meeting the Cross-Party Group for North Wales in the NAFW to brief them on the North Wales Growth Bid on the 27th February 2018.

This will be followed by a meeting with the Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Transport on the 28th February 2018.

The Chair will also brief Westminster MPs on the bid on the 26th February 2018 as he will be in London that day on Growth Track 360 business.

Next Meeting – 16th March 2018

The Board will receive: -

- A presentation on investing in the Digital Infrastructure of the region
- A report on the functions of the Growth Board and supporting bodies that will enable the formulation of a staffing structure for a Programme Office
- A Report on Costs for preparing land and premises for development
- Reports from Supporting bodies: -
 - Skills Board
 - Transport Board
- A Programme Update Report (Housekeeping)
 - IAA (1) for the Shadow Phase
 - Programme Progress and Documentation
 - Development Phase Budget and expenditure report