



# north wales economic ambition board

## bwrdd uchelgais economaidd gogledd cymru

*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, 18<sup>th</sup> May 2018

#### Business before the Board

The (Shadow) Joint Committee, now known as the North Wales Economic Ambition Board, met for the sixth time on the 18<sup>th</sup> May 2018.

The Board met Ken Skates AM, the Welsh Government Cabinet Secretary for the Economy and Transport. The Cabinet Secretary presented on: -

- The increase in planned road infrastructure investment in North Wales including the A494, A55, A483/A5, the Bontnewydd Bypass and the Third Menai Crossing
- The recently awarded Wales and Borderlands Rail Franchise which will deliver improved rail services in North Wales and better connect the region with Liverpool and Manchester
- The Welsh Government Economic Action Plan and its alignment with the North Wales Growth Bid proposals

The Board considered reports on: -

- The host authority role for the joint committee and delivering the Growth Vision
- A package of terms of references for the Governance structures to deliver the Growth Vision and manage the Growth Bid Capital Programme

#### Decisions

Action points for the Board arising from the discussion with the Cabinet Secretary were: -

- The importance of Growth Bid schemes leveraging private sector investment as a factor in prioritising projects
- Evidencing the leverage identified in the Growth Bid documentation.
- Initiating regular dialogue with the Wales Office to mirror that achieved with the Welsh Government
- Ensuring alignment of the Regional Growth Bid and Vision with the WG Chief Regional Officers plan.
- The Board is the accountable body for making a Growth Bid and will determine the priorities it will put into the negotiation process subject to consultation with partners and wider local authority memberships.

- Wrexham Council reported that contingent upon the Welsh Government bringing forward investment in the A483 junctions it would propose two additional projects for consideration in the growth bid's sites and premises programme both of which would have considerable private sector leverage from named developers.

### **Host Authority**

The role of the host authority was agreed: -

- To implement the decisions of the Ambition Board where the Board has delegated authority from authorities and partners
- To act as the employer of staff undertaking the work of the Board (principally the programme office)
- To enter into contracts on behalf of the board and borrow monies to implement the Board's capital programme
- To provide support services and professional advice to the Board – finance, legal, HR, democratic services and ICT as required

The costs of the host authority will be shared by the authorities and partners on an agreed basis.

The Board will seek Expressions of Interest (EOIs) in the host authority role which will be appraised by officers of Councils not bidding for the role. Capacity and capability will be the main criteria for making a recommendation to the Board. EOIs will be sought over the summer and it is hoped to agree the host authority by the end of October 2018.

### **Governance Agreement**

The Inter Authority Agreement will now be known as the Governance Agreement because it will have signatories who are not Local Authorities.

### **Governance Structure – Roles and Terms of Reference**

The Board received and agreed a report describing the terms of reference and roles for the key bodies that will help the Board deliver the bid: -

- The Stakeholder Body
- The Executive Support Group
- Sub Boards (Transport, Digital, Sites and Premises, Enterprise & Innovation and Skills)

### **Next Meeting – 15th June 2018**

The Board will receive: -

- A proposition document describing the Growth Vision, the Growth Bid and how it will have impact in supporting the Growth Strategy. This document is the overall SOBC for the Growth Bid.
- A paper on how the Growth Bid and its capital investment will be financed and managed from a financial point of view.
- A Discussion of stakeholder engagement and expediting the establishment of the Stakeholder body to be led by the Private Sector
- Discussion of the progress of the Bid against timescales set by the Board