

North Wales Growth Deal

2023-24 Quarter 2

(July - September 2023)

Performance Report

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During the last quarter, the Economic Ambition Board made a decision to invite five new projects to join the Growth Deal following a call for new projects:

- Responsible Adventure project by Zip World with a conditional allocation of £6.2m
- Kinmel Studios project by Stage Fifty with a conditional allocation of £6.8m
- Holyhead Hydrogen Hub project by Menter Môn with a conditional allocation of £3.8m
- Deeside Waste to Fuel Plant project by The Circular Economy Ltd with a conditional allocation of £6.4m
- Wrexham Gateway project by Wrexham County Borough Council with a conditional allocation of £4.79m

Work is ongoing onboarding the new projects, site visits have taken place to all 5 projects. These new projects will support our economy to thrive, create new jobs and deliver investment into North Wales.

The closing date for applications for the Hydrogen Sponsor Challenge was on the 11th of September. The process of evaluation and selection is underway, with a final decision anticipated in December. Up to £11.2million of capital is available to enable industry demand for hydrogen. This is a great step forward for the project and we look forward to announcing further detail in due course.

We launched a recruitment campaign in September to fill a number of vacancies with roles including project management, communications and procurement. Further roles will be advertised in October – please visit our website [Ambition North Wales | Careers](#) if you are interested in working for Ambition North Wales.

Cllr Dyfrig Siencyn and our Head of Operations Hedd Vaughan-Evans were invited to present to the Senedd's Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee, focussing on the main areas of progress since the last session in March 2021 and the challenges we have faced. This is part of the assurance framework we have in place with both governments and our local partners, and we welcome the opportunity to provide an honest assessment of our progress to date.

It is an exciting time for the North Wales Growth Deal with our new projects onboard and many of our existing projects approaching the point of delivery.



Alwen Williams, Portfolio Director

Alwen Williams

Themes	RAG Status	Commentary
Portfolio Business Case	Green	The Portfolio Business Case 2023 update will be presented to the Board for approval in October prior to submission to Welsh Government and UK Government as part of the annual award of funding process.
Delivery Pipeline	Yellow	The delivery pipeline has been reviewed and updated as part of the 2023 Portfolio Business Case. Projects will now report against this revised timetable
Governance	Green	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.
Assurance	Green	The third annual Growth Deal assurance review (Programme Assurance Review) was completed in September 2022 with the report delivering an 'Amber' confidence rating for the portfolio. The next review will have been arranged and will take place during October 2023.
Resource and Capacity	Yellow	The Portfolio Management Office has been reduced in size by 2 FTE over the past quarter, a recruitment campaign is underway to appoint to vacant posts and to bring in additional capacity. Fixed term contracts in the team have been extended to March 2025 reducing the risk of staff leaving in the short term.
Finance	Yellow	A total of £2.28m Growth Deal funding had been spent up to the end of 2022/23, £1.8m of that on the Digital Signal Processing Centre. To date in 2023/24 £368k of Growth Deal revenue has been spent.
Investment	Red	Securing the public and private sector investment required to deliver the Growth Deal remains a significant risk across the portfolio and an investment strategy is being developed to support the team to meet the investment targets.
Risk	Red	Portfolio-level risks regarding consents and delay remain high due to project-level issues. Affordability remains a high risk due to ongoing inflation, supply chain issues and construction cost increases. The risk around capacity has reduced slightly due to the extension of fixed term contracts related to Growth Deal delivery but remains high
Benefits Monitoring & Evaluation	Green	The benefits realisation, monitoring and evaluation framework and indicator definitions have been finalised, and are with Welsh Government for review. A system user guide is being developed and the second phase of user training for the reporting system is being planned.
Communication and Engagement	Green	The announcement on the new projects joining the Growth Deal was the main focus. With communications continuing to promote the Hydrogen Sponsor Challenge with up to £11.2 million of capital to deliver a hydrogen hub in the region. Our engagement and reach continued to grow on social media, we achieved over 19k visits to the website.

	Delivering to Plan with no issues to address (no action required)		Delivery slightly behind schedule and/or minor/moderate issues to address (management action in place)		Delivery significantly behind schedule and/or significant issues to address (urgent action required)
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Programme Aim	Job Creation Target	GVA Investment Target	Total Investment Target
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.	380	£158m	£41.7m

RAG Status	Programme Manager Commentary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The DSP Centre has taken delivery of its second phase of Growth Deal funded equipment and has recruited to 14 positions following the investment. The final business justification case to authorise the final phase of funding is due to be developed next quarter with the Centre focussing on delivering the project's spending objectives. Following recent discussions with UK Government, preparation for the Last Few % project has been suspended as details of a proposed new national intervention have been shared with Ambition North Wales. The proposal has the potential to deliver or improve upon the spending objectives of the planned regional project and a decision will be made on rescopeing the Last Few % project once UK Government has confirmed that the new intervention will be proceeding. Progress on the Strategic and Outline Business Cases for the Connected Campuses and Connected Key Sites and Corridors projects continues and the required independent Gateway 2 review for the Connected Key Sites and Corridors project has now been scheduled for November ahead of the Economic Ambition Board's consideration of the Outline Business Case.



Mark Pritchard
Lead Member



Rebecca Lowry
Senior Responsible Owner



Stuart Whitfield
Programme Manager

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Project (Project Sponsor)	Project Stage	Key Milestones (this quarter)	Key Milestones (next quarter)	RAG Status	RAG Rationale
Digital Signal Processing Centre Bangor University	Delivery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final item from second year procurement delivered. Direct job creation has reached 14 (5 permanent staff, 9 fixed term to December 2024). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submission of final business justification case for the third tranche of funding to purchase equipment. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project is delivering towards achieving spending objectives with steps taken since the approval of the last business justification case to deliver the target on indirect job creation. The second round of procurement has now been completed.
Connecting the Last Few % Economic Ambition Board	Developing the Full Business Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procurement documents and contract completed. SPF application in progress. Community broadband engagement is a workstream within the application. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UK Government to confirm launch date for its new intervention. Decision on rescoping the project within the programme 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UK Government has proposed a new intervention which is likely to meet or improve upon the Last Few % project's spending objectives. Procurement activity has been suspended until UK Government confirms the launch date for its project, expected to be confirmed in Q3 23/24 for launch in 2024
Connected Key Sites and Corridors Economic Ambition Board	Developing the Outline Business Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outline Business Cases for 4G+ and Fibre workstreams have been submitted for PMO review. Market engagement activity has started. Gateway Review has been scheduled (November 2023) SPF application in progress, this funding will support local authorities work on developing access agreements and surveying mobile coverage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PMO approval of OBCs Gateway 2 Review November Board approval of finalised OBCs 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Market engagement continues to validate proposals. Inflation risk to affordability being monitored. Recent UK Government proposal for new national intervention not considered to pose direct risk at this stage. SPF funding to progress work on regional access agreements (revenue intervention) together with funding to support surveying of mobile across the region.
Connected Campuses Economic Ambition Board	Developing the Strategic Outline Business Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic Outline Case for Advanced Wireless workstream submitted for PMO approval. Business Justification Case for LPWAN project now being progressed to procurement. Proposal for project assurance arrangements has approved by WG Assurance Hub SPF application in progress, this includes funding for connectivity assessments across the region 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LPWAN procurement PMO review of Outline Business Case Gateway 2 Review to be scheduled for Advanced Wireless workstream 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Market engagement is validating current proposal but will continue to develop this into OBC. Inflation risk to affordability being monitored. Proposal for assurance of the two workstreams has been approved by WG Assurance Hub SPF funding to to undertake connectivity assessments for SMEs to improve delivery arrangements for the project.

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Programme Aim	Job Creation Target	GVA Investment Target	Total Investment Target
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.	980	£530m	£668.5m

RAG Status	Programme Manager Commentary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cydnherth (Morlais): Morlais turbine developers were successful at the recent 'Contract for Difference' allocation round securing over 20MW of allocation and strengthening the case for the Cydnherth project. Terms of investment are currently being established with OBC on track to be recommended for approval December 2023. • Egni: Updated OBC on track to be recommended for approval towards the end of Q3 23/24. • Hydrogen Hub & Transport Decarbonisation: Hydrogen Sponsor Challenge closed early September and applicants are currently being assessed. Project on target to appoint a sponsor by the end of 2023. • Smart Local Energy: following an unsuccessful procurement process for a fund adviser over the summer, the project is close to re-launching a tender with key changes taking on board feedback from the market. • Trawsfynydd: Cwmni Eginio have drafted a change request for key project changes that reflects their recent Business Proposition and key milestones to FID. • New projects: 2 new projects from the project replacement process joined the Low Carbon Energy programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Deeside Waste to Fuel: OBC is currently being drafted by the sponsor and will be with the PMO imminently for review ○ Holyhead Hydrogen Hub: OBC is currently being prepared by the sponsor and will be with the PMO this autumn for review



Cllr Llinos Medi
Lead Member



Dylan Williams
Senior Responsible Owner



Elgan Roberts
Programme Manager

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4. 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	Developing the Outline Business Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developers successful with acquiring more than 20MW of 'Contracts for Difference' for the Morlais site. Achieved an amber rating following the Gateway 2 Review. Morlais project nearing completion and has been delivered successfully. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommendations from the Gateway 2 Review to be actioned accordingly. OBC to be updated and finalised following the PMO review. WEFO Terms & Conditions to be negotiated to enable further investment. Prepare OBC for December 2023 approval. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resolutions to the issues set out need to be presented before the OBC can be submitted for approval
Hydrogen Hub Economic Ambition Board	Developing the Strategic Outline Business Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Three bids have been received in response to the Hydrogen Sponsor Challenge. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The selection process remains on time and scheduled to be presented to the Economic Ambition Board in December. This remains the target date for a decision regarding the appointment of the sponsor(s). 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bids received, process running on time
Egni Bangor University	Developing the Outline Business Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work is progressing on the design for the new building. The OBC remains broadly complete but is being updated as design work continues. Funding discussions continuing with non-Growth Deal potential funders to understand any requirements and timelines. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue working through the design stages with a gateway sign off due. Continue working through initial surveys especially around utilities. Finalise internal governance paper to ensure internal approval to same timeline as external approvals. Prepare OBC for December 2023 approval 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uncertainty about the final shape of funding and therefore scope and benefits of project.
Smart Local Energy Economic Ambition Board	Developing the Full Business Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engaged with interested Fund Advisors to understand the reasons for not submitting tenders. Considered potential changes to fee structure and scope of works to make the tender proposal more attractive to the market. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agree the most appropriate changes to the tender proposal and update the tender documents. Re-launch the tender. Finalise investment strategy and draft FBC. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delay to finalising FBC and launch of Fund due to the failure to appoint a Fund Advisor on the first attempt
Trawsfynydd Cwmni Egnio	Developing the Strategic Outline Business Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draft change request to reflect the changes to the proposed project since Cwmni Egnio have developed the initial proposal approved within the Programme Business Case was submitted to the PMO for review. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change request will be presented to the Programme Board for endorsement. Draft OBC for tranche 1 for review. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Uncertainty on programme delivery timescales until the site selection process is completed by UK Government

<p>Deeside Waste to fuel</p> <p>The Circular Economy Developments</p>	<p>Developing the Outline Business Case</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project has just been brought into the Growth Deal portfolio and initial conversations with the PMO have now started. On site inception meeting held with the project partner in September. Steps agreed for ambitious timeline to be the first energy project to start construction work on site in five months' time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training day in early October with project sponsor to discuss project delivery and share experience and knowledge.. The OBC is being prepared by PwC at unprecedented pace and a Gateway Review is being planned to keep the project on course for a February 2024 start on site date. Finalise OBC for November 2023 approval 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mature project proposal in place, expert advisors onboard, credible investors ready to move.
<p>Holyhead Hydrogen Hub</p> <p>Menter Môn</p>	<p>Developing the Outline Business Case</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project has just been brought into the Growth Deal portfolio and initial conversations with the PMO have now started. On site inception meeting held with the project partner in September. Steps agreed for ambitious timeline to achieve OBC in January/February 2024. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training day in early October with project sponsor to discuss project delivery and share experience and knowledge.. Final decision expected from UK Government regarding the £4.8 million investment, subject to due diligence process alongside value for money and subsidy control assessments. In parallel, the OBC for Growth Deal funding will be developed with urgency ready for a gateway review in November 2023. Finalise OBC for December 2023 approval 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investment decisions required from external investors (EDF and UK Government) which are dependent on others

Programme Aim	Job Creation Target	GVA Investment Target	Total Investment Target
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.	2280	£1.29bn	£355.4m

RAG Status	Programme Manager Commentary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warren Hall, Broughton - Welsh Government have appointed a consultant to report on the impact of the Hawarden airfield safety case on the project site and the initial assessments are expected in early October. After an initial assessment on the tests for the future highway investment, Welsh Government are to appoint a consultant to undertake a formal assessment to confirm that initial opinion. • Western Gateway, Wrexham - The Council is to issue a tender to appoint a consultant to undertake an Access and Movement Study to revisit the evidence of traffic patterns and volumes to assess the project sites capacity to be developed in accordance with the recommendations of the Welsh Government Road Review Panel • Former North Wales Hospital, Denbigh - Ambition North Wales, Denbighshire County Council and Jones Bros and their consultants Avison Young are discussing the viability issues caused by increasing build costs in the construction industry. Other matters in the project continue to make progress in particular cost estimates have greater accuracy, the initial first draft masterplan has been completed and substantial progress has been made on meeting the outstanding planning conditions and licences required to finalise the planning consent for Phase 1 works to commence. • Holyhead Gateway - Holyhead Port expansion project Harbour Revision Order was approved in early August. Progress on the project business case has accelerated with the Economic Case being further developed, clarity on the procurement route and the draft Subsidy Support document being prepared. • Parc Bryn Cegin, Bangor - The tender brief for the appointment of the professional team of consultants has been returned and the responses are currently being reviewed. • New projects: 2 new projects from the project replacement process joined the Land and Property programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Kinmel Studios - An initial on boarding meeting has been held with Studio 50 and their consultancy team. ○ Wrexham Gateway - An on site meeting has been held with the Project team and this has been followed up with meetings on project governance and processes and to review the strategic outline case.



Cllr Jason McLellan
Lead Member

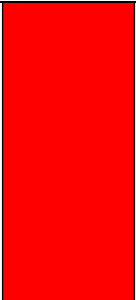
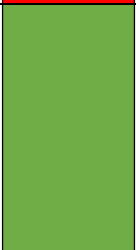
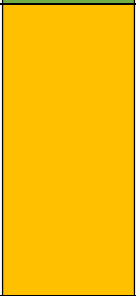


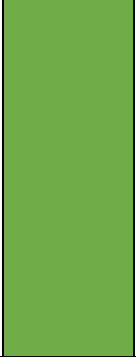
Andrew Farrow
Senior Responsible Owner






David Mathews
Programme Manager

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 Strategic Outline Business Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council is to appoint a consultant to undertake an access and movement study to obtain current evidence of traffic numbers and flows. This is to provide up to date information for a traffic assessment to be undertaken to confirm if the project site is capable of delivery in light of the Welsh Governments four tests. Dwr Cymru have confirmed that their Gresford and Five Ford Waste Water Treatment Plants have some existing capacity to take additional flows and treat discharges into rivers for phosphates which can allow existing consented projects to proceed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of the procurement process to appoint the consultant to undertake the Access and Movement Study. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project risk rating has changed to red whilst the review of the projects ability to meet the Governments tests for highway investment is undertaken.
Warren Hall, Broughton Welsh Government / Economic Ambition Board	Developing the Strategic Outline Business Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welsh Government, Flintshire County Council and Ambition North Wales agreed that the project is able to proceed in accordance with Welsh Governments four tests for new highway works. Welsh Government to undertake formal assessment. Welsh Government, Flintshire County Council and Ambition North Wales to meet with consultant to receive initial report on the sites compliance with the airfield safety case. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welsh Government consultants to provide their draft report on the impact and mitigation of the airfield safety case on the project site. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project risk rating remains at amber as meeting the airfield safety case is still to be fully assessed.


<p>Former North Wales Hospital, Denbighshire Jones Bros (Ruthin) Limited / Denbighshire County Council</p>	<p>Developing the Outline Business Case</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Substantial progress on documentation by project partner. Masterplan of site completed and detailed cost assessments completed. New development appraisal completed. • Project partner to submit documents to Planning Authority on S106 agreement, planning condition compliance and Habitat licences. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the revision of the outline business case incorporating the Phased Development Scenario and procurement route and submit this for approval process to commence. • Draft subsidy support application with advice from external consultants and submit to Competition and Markets Authority • Outstanding consents are granted by planning authority. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project risk rating moved to red due to viability gap increasing. Discussions are ongoing with the development partner as to possible solutions.
<p>Parc Bryn Cegin, Bangor Welsh Government / North Wales Economic Ambition Board</p>	<p>Developing the Outline Business Case</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welsh Government to appoint consultancy team to design and develop the project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welsh Government consultancy team to commence project development. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slight delay due to procurement process for consultancy team to be appointed. . Green risk rating retained for the project.
<p>Holyhead Gateway Stena Line Ports Limited</p>	<p>Developing the Outline Business Case</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Holyhead Harbour Revision Order was granted consent by Welsh Ministers in August. • Progress made on economic Case, procurement, revised costings, in this quarter. • Subsidy Support draft application being developed prior to issuing Pinsent Masons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completing the draft Outline Business Case for the delivery of the port capacity enhancement works • Submit the Subsidy Support application to Competition and Markets Authority. • Stena commence first stage procurement prior to issuing the second stage Invitation to Tender.. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk rating retained at amber as negotiations with end user of new port areas is still ongoing.
<p>Kinmel Studios Stage Fifty</p>	<p>Finalising the Strategic Outline Case</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project has just been brought into the Growth Deal portfolio and initial conversations with the PMO have now started. • On site inception meeting held with the project partner in September. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training day in early October with project sponsor to discuss project delivery and share experience and knowledge. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk rating as green given project application scrutiny and assessments made on its deliverability.

<p>Wrexham Gateway Wrexham County Borough Council</p>	<p>Finalising the Strategic Outline Case</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project has just been brought into the Growth Deal portfolio and initial conversations with the PMO have now started. • On site inception meeting held with the project partner in September. • This was followed by a meeting to discuss further issues including governance current project progress, actions. • Documentation shared with the project partner. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training day in early October with project sponsor to discuss project delivery and share experience and knowledge.. • Establish regular meetings and a programme of work • 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Risk rating as green given project application scrutiny and assessments made on its deliverability. •
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Programme Aim	Job Creation Target	GVA Investment Target	Total Investment Target
To build a more sustainable, vibrant and resilient foundation economy in the region, optimising opportunities for employment and prosperity through our environment and landscape.	380	£281m	£41.3m


RAG Status	Programme Manager Commentary
	<p>Projects are progressing as expected last quarter with on-going management of risks concerning the team changes for the Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub project and on-boarding of the new project, ZipWorld's Responsible Adventure. Planning issues remain a significant risk for all three projects, with the risks being managed as described below.</p> <p>The Programme Board has been discussing the question of why no agriculture-related projects came forward through the recent call for new projects and is proposing the formation of a Task and Finish group to explore this further with stakeholders.</p>



Cllr Charlie McCoubrey
Lead Member



Sioned Williams
Senior Responsible Owner



Robyn Lovelock
Programme Manager

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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 the Full Business Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Survey work on-going as requested by Natural Resource Wales and CADW New Project Manager recruited and Acting Project Senior Responsible Officer (SRO) confirmed as Martin Jardine, replacing Dr. Paul Bevan Work with the PMO to confirm a revised timeline for drafting and reviewing the Full Business Case working towards approval in early 2024. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue further survey work On-site meeting with Ambition North Wales to discuss planning risks and timeline to Full Business Case submission Further develop the Full Business Case 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rating remains red due to repeated project delays and as planning permission has yet to be secured
Tourism Talent Network Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	Developing the Outline Business Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outline Business Case (OBC) presented to the Programme Board and approved Outline Business Case (OBC) presented to the Business Delivery Group and supported Shared Prosperity Funding received for development of a Tourism Talent Pathway project, supporting further development of this project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outline Business Case (OBC) to be presented to the Portfolio Board and Economic Ambition Board in October 2023 Work with PMO to develop project-specific funding agreement Preparation of the Outline Business Case for the Sustainable Communities for Learning proposal for Hub element, and submission of planning application 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working through the detail of spoke procurement has led to a delay of 1-2 months shifting Time risk to Amber.
Responsible Adventure ZipWorld	Developing the Strategic Outline Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project has just been brought into the Growth Deal portfolio and initial conversations with the PMO have now started. On site inception meeting held with the project partner in September. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training day in early October with project sponsor to discuss project delivery and share experience and knowledge. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working on confirming scope and timeline as part of SOC update.

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Programme Aim	Job Creation Target	GVA Investment Target	Total Investment Target
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.	180	£114m	£39.5m

RAG Status	Programme Manager Commentary
	The programme board has been focused on supporting projects to deliver to tight deadlines, managing the risks described below. It has also supported Ambition North Wales to participate in the Rural Wales Local Partnership for Innovation Programme research project being led by Aberystwyth University, in collaboration with both Bangor and Wrexham Universities. The research project explores the meaning of innovation in a rural context, which will support the engagement of Growth Deal projects with rural small and medium enterprises across North Wales.



Cllr Dyfrig Siencyn
Lead Member



Paul Bevan
Senior Responsible Owner



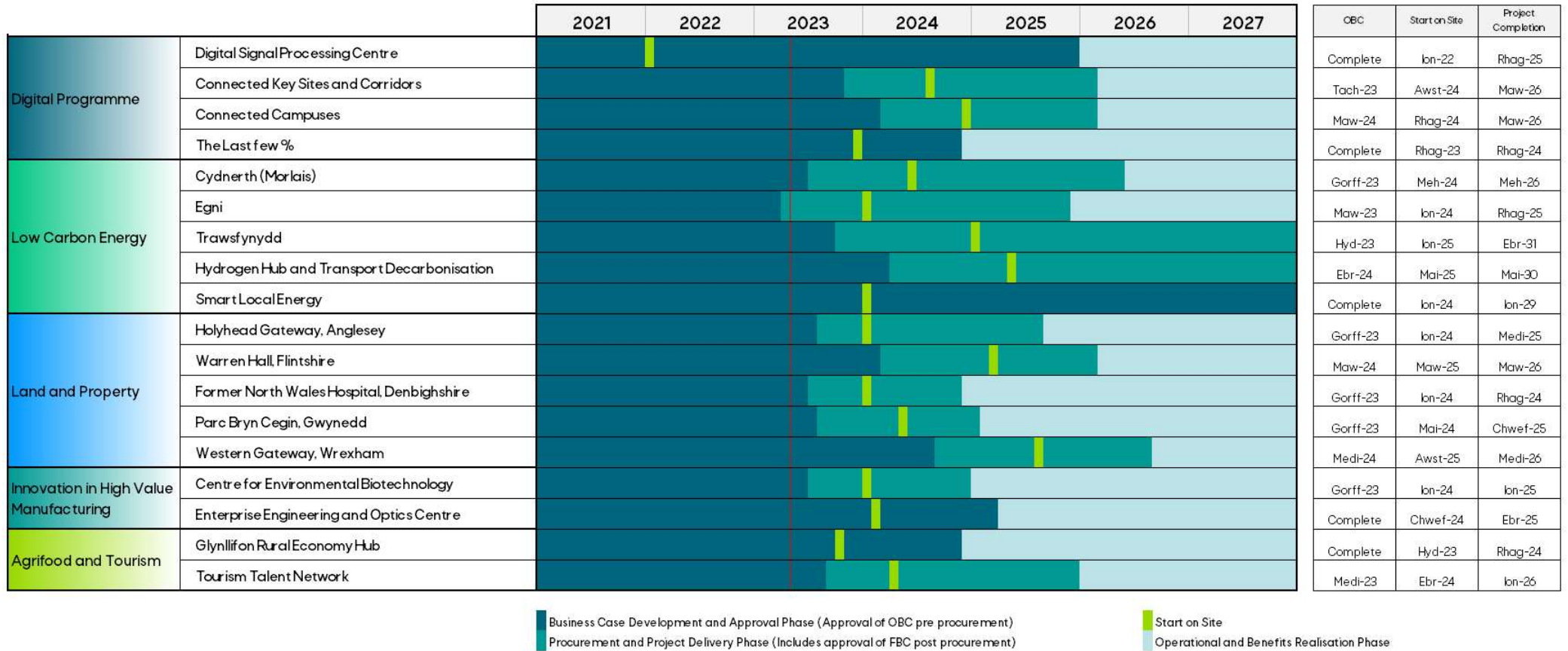
Robyn Lovelock
Programme Manager

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Project (Project Sponsor)	Project Stage	Key Milestones (this quarter)	Key Milestones (next quarter)	RAG Status	RAG Rationale
Enterprise Engineering and Optics Centre Wrexham Glyndŵr University	Developing the Full Business Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designs for the Plas Coch build have been finalised and approved, including detailed room layouts. • Business engagement session in June. • Tenders for the OptIC works and equipment purchases have been approved and released on Sell2Wales • Apollo Engineering have been appointed as the Hydrogen consultant on the project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finalise drafts of the economic, commercial, financial and management cases for the full business case. • Project on track for Full Business Case consideration by the Economic Ambition Board in November 2023 and start-on-site in February 2024 • 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main issues around cost and time have been resolved, but timing remains tight to stay on timeline to November approval
Centre for Environmental Biotechnology Bangor University	Developing the Business Justification Case	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Assurance Review was carried out 4-6th September securing an Amber rating, indicating work to be done but project deliverable. • Work continues on Henfaes site design - preliminary surveys have been scheduled, conversations held with planning and stakeholder workshop held. • Work on the Business Justification Case has continued based on the PMO review in July. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit application for planning permission for the Henfaes site • Incorporate feedback from Portfolio Management Office Review into finalising the Business Justification Case for final review. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rating remains red due to repeated project delays

	Delivering to Plan with no issues to address (no action required)		Delivery slightly behind schedule and/or minor/moderate issues to address (management action in place)		Delivery significantly behind schedule and/or significant issues to address (urgent action required)
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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	Consenting requirements TBC				✓	✓	🕒					
Connected Campuses	Consenting requirements TBC				✓	✓	🕒					
Last Few %	Consenting requirements TBC				✓	✓	✓	✓	🕒			
Cydnherth (Morlais)	✓	✓	✓	🕒	✓	✓	🕒					
Trawsfynydd Power Station	Consenting requirements TBC				✓	🕒						
Egni	🕒				✓	✓	🕒					
Smart Local Energy	Consenting requirements TBC				✓	✓	✓	✓	🕒			
Hydrogen Hub & Transport Decarbonisation	Consenting requirements TBC				✓	✓	🕒					
Deeside Waste to Fuel	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	🕒					
Holyhead Hydrogen Hub	✓	✓			✓	✓	🕒					
Holyhead Gateway	✓	✓	✓	🕒	✓	✓	🕒					
Former North Wales Hospital	✓	✓	✓	🕒	✓	✓	🕒					
Western Gateway, Wrexham	LDP adoption outstanding				✓	🕒						
Warren Hall, Broughton	🕒				✓	🕒						
Parc Bryn Cegin, Bangor	🕒				✓	✓	🕒					
Kinmel Studios	🕒				✓	🕒						
Wrexham Gateway	🕒				✓	🕒						
Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub	🕒				✓	✓	✓	✓	🕒			
Tourism Talent Network	🕒				✓	✓	✓	🕒				
Responsible Adventure	🕒				✓	🕒						
Centre for Environmental Biotechnology	🕒				✓	✓	🕒					
Enterprise Engineering and Optics	✓	✓	✓	🕒	✓	✓	✓	✓	🕒			



The status for each project is assessed against this profile from the 2022 Portfolio Business Case unless a new timeline has been approved by the NWEAB through a project business case or change request. The 2023 Portfolio Business Case will be presented to the NWEAB during October, this includes an updated version of the delivery pipeline.

		Portfolio Business Case 2020 Targets***			Approved Project Business Case Targets				Difference		
		GVA (EM)	Jobs Created (net)	(EM) Total Investment*	OBC/ FBC*	GVA (EM)	Jobs Created (net)	(EM) Total Investment*	GVA (EM)	Jobs Created	(EM) Total Investment*
Digital	Digital Signal Processing Centre (DSP)	50	80	7.3	FBC	12	33	3.0	-38	-47	-4.3
	Connecting the last few %	35	150	4.0	OBC	15	130	4.0	-20	-20	0
	Connected Key Sites and Corridors	45	120	9.4	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Connected Campuses	35	0	21	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Low Carbon Energy	Cydyherth (Morlais)	50	100	36	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Hydrogen Hub and Transport Decarbonisation	60	90	28.6	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Egni	20	20	97.7	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Smart Local Energy	120	180	106.2	OBC	122	174	106	+2	-6	0
	Trawsfynydd	230	510	400	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Land and Property	Western Gateway, Wrexham	220	360	43.4	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Warren Hall, Broughton	235	440	70	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Former North Wales Hospital, Denbigh	20	50	74	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Parc Bryn Cegin, Bangor	30	50	6	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	Holyhead Gateway	545	930	80	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Agrifood and Tourism	Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub	25	40	13	OBC	45	96	13	+20	+56	0
	Tourism Talent Network	20	0	12.9	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Innovation in High Value Manufacturing	Enterprise Engineering and Optics Centre	45	70	29.9	OBC	33	61	14.7	-12	-9	-15.2
	Centre for Environmental Biotechnology	60	90	9.6	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Growth Deal Portfolio Total		2,185	3,830	1,146	4OBC + 1FBC	227	494	140.7	-48	-26	-19.5

* Total investment shown here includes 15% Portfolio Management Office costs

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

*** Targets for removed project still included as part of the total targets for the Growth Deal.

****Following approval of the 2023 Portfolio Business Case the Objective tracker will be updated.

11. Growth Deal Grant Expenditure Profile - Capital Budget 2023/24

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	2031/3 2	2032/33 £m	Total £m
Digital	Digital Signal Processing Centre	Bangor University	0.12	1.66	0.39	0.79	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.96
	Connecting the Last Few %	Economic Ambition Board	0.00	0.00	0.60	1.72	1.85	1.85	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.17
	Connected Key Sites and Corridors	Economic Ambition Board	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	4.00	2.00	2.37	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.87
	Connected Campuses	Economic Ambition Board	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.94	10.10	4.93	1.71	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.68
Low Carbon Energy	Cydnherth (Morlais)	Menter Môn	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.33	4.44	1.10	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.87
	Hydrogen Hub & Transport Decarbonisation	Economic Ambition Board	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.61	5.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11.23
	Egni	Bangor University	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.94	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.94
	Smart Local Energy	Economic Ambition Board	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.50	3.00	9.25	9.25	1.63	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	24.63
	Trawsfynydd Power Station	Cwmni Eginio	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.97	2.96	4.92	9.85	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	19.70
	Deeside Waste to Fuel**	The Circular Economy	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.20	3.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.40
	Holyhead Hydrogen Hub**	Menter Môn	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	Western Gateway, Wrexham	Economic Ambition Board	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
	Warren Hall, Broughton	Economic Ambition Board	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
	Former North Wales Hospital, Denbigh	Economic Ambition Board	0.00	0.00	0.74	6.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.94
	Parc Bryn Cegin, Bangor	Economic Ambition Board	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.91	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.91
	Holyhead Gateway	Stena line	0.00	0.00	1.40	17.24	15.83	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	34.47
	Kinmel Studios**	Stage Fifty	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.40	3.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.80
	Wrexham Gateway**	Wrexham County Borough	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
Agrifood and Tourism	Glynllifon Rural Economy Hub	Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.20	4.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11.82
	Tourism Talent Network	Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.13	2.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.43
	Responsible Adventure**	Zip World	0.00	0.00	0.10	2.20	3.70	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.20
Innovation in High Value Manufacturing	Enterprise Engineering and Optics Centre	Glyndwr University	0.00	0.00	1.63	5.41	4.34	0.17	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	11.55
	Centre for Environmental Biotechnology	Bangor University	0.00	0.00	1.25	1.71	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.96
Portfolio Management Office Costs														5.15	
Total														240.00	

* 2021/22 and 2022/23 profile is actual expenditure. Remaining profile is as forecast in the 2023/24 Capital Budget.

** Provisional information for new projects included.

12. Growth Deal Projects: Capital Funding Allocation Profile

Programme	Project	Project Sponsor	Profile 23/24 (£m)	Actual YTD (£m)	Variance (£m)*	Rationale
Digital	Digital Signal Processing Centre	Bangor University	0.39	0.00	-0.39	One claim is due for the DSP project during the year.
	Connecting the Last Few %	North Wales Economic Ambition Board	0.60	0.00	-0.60	
	Connected Key Sites and Corridors	North Wales Economic Ambition Board	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	Connected Campuses	North Wales Economic Ambition Board	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Low Carbon Energy	Cydnherth (Morlais)	Menter Môn	0.00	0.00	0.00	No Full Business Cases have been approved. Expenditure profile now aligned to 2023 Portfolio Business Case update.
	Hydrogen Hub & Transport Decarbonisation	North Wales Economic Ambition Board	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	Egni	Bangor University	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	Smart Local Energy	North Wales Economic Ambition Board	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	Trawsfynydd Power Station	Cwmni Eginio	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	Deeside Waste to Fuel	The Circular Economy Development	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	Holyhead Hydrogen Hub	Menter Môn	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Land and Property	Western Gateway, Wrexham	North Wales Economic Ambition Board	0.00	0.00	0.00	No Full Business Cases have been approved. Expenditure profile now aligned to 2023 Portfolio Business Case update.
	Warren Hall, Broughton	North Wales Economic Ambition Board	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	Former North Wales Hospital, Denbigh	North Wales Economic Ambition Board	0.74	0.00	-0.74	
	Parc Bryn Cegin, Bangor	North Wales Economic Ambition Board	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	Holyhead Gateway	Stena line	1.40	0.00	-1.40	
	Kinmel Studios	Stage Fifty	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	No Full Business Cases have been approved. Expenditure profile now aligned to 2023 Portfolio Business Case update.
	Tourism Talent Network	Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	0.00	0.00	0.00	
	Responsible Adventure	Zip World	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Innovation in High Value Manufacturing	Enterprise Engineering and Optics Centre	Glyndwr University	1.63	0.00	-1.63	No Full Business Cases have been approved. Expenditure profile now aligned to 2023 Portfolio Business Case update.
	Centre for Environmental Biotechnology	Bangor University	1.25	0.00	-1.25	
Portfolio Management Office Costs			1.02	0.368	1.02	0.368
Total			6.18	0.368	7.13	0.368

* Variance is the difference between the planned profile (Portfolio Business Case 2023) and the Actual Year to Date (YTD) expenditure.

	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.
	Hydrogen Hub and Transport Decarbonisation	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 Egino	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.
	Deeside Waste to Fuel	The Circular Economy Ltd	Creation of a facility to convert 182,000 tonnes per year of commercial food waste destined for landfill/incineration into green bio-methane, power, and fertiliser.
	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	Stage Fifty	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 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.