

Appendix 2 – Outline Terms of Reference for the Joint Committee

Outline Terms of Reference of the Joint Committee

1. Functions
2. Strategy
3. Prioritisation
4. Representation
5. Performance
6. Accountability

Terms of Reference 1: Functions

- Economic growth strategy and planning
- Infrastructure prioritisation and planning
- Strategic land use planning and allocation
- Transport planning and commissioning
- Skills planning and commissioning strategy
- Others to be added as powers are devolved

Terms of Reference 2: Strategy

- Setting the direction of regional strategy
- On-going assessment of regional need & opportunity to underpin the strategy
- Setting of priorities and investment plans to deliver the strategy

Terms of Reference 3: Prioritisation

- Prioritisation of contributory schemes
- Business case development and case-making for prioritised schemes
- Investment profiling and prioritisation
- Securing investment agreements

Terms of Reference 4: Representation

- Engagement and relationship management with regional partners
- Engagement and relationship management with cross-border partners
- Advocacy & lobbying with Welsh and UK Governments, Ministers & political groups
- Public and media relations and profile

Terms of Reference 5: Performance

- Programme management of implementation of the strategy
- Oversight of performance against progress milestones & outcome measures
- Securing strategic, programme management, and project development and management resources to implement contributory schemes

Terms of Reference 6: Accountability

- Reporting to the six local authorities
- Reporting to regional partners on performance, investment performance and risk management
- Reporting to Welsh & UK Governments on performance & the effective use of their investments

Limitations of Decision-Making and Reserved Matters

Examples of decisions which will be reserved for individual council approvals are: -

- Agreement of functions to be given to the Joint Committee;
- Agreement of annual budget contributions for the Joint Committee and host authorities;
- Investment and borrowing commitments and risk exposure levels; and
- Allocation of land and other asset for pooling.

A detailed constitution is being developed and will be completed for review shortly.

A detailed Inter Authority Agreement is also being developed in parallel. This work is being led by the Heads of Legal Services from each of the six councils with input from the Finance Managers/Section 151 Officers, with external support from Pinsents Solicitors.

Membership

The recommended, formal and core membership of the joint committee is the Leader of each of the six councils. Each leader would have a nominated deputy, and the Committee would be advised by chief executives and other lead professionals.

There is the option for the Joint Committee to appoint advisors co-opt from key partner organisations principally:-

- The North Wales Business Council;
- Higher Education (Bangor and Wrexham-Glyndwr Universities); and
- Further Education (Coleg Cambria and Grwp Llandrillo Menai).

The representatives of partner organisations would join the Committee in a non-voting, advisory capacity.

Professional Support

Chief Executives or their nominees will act as advisors to the Joint Committee. The Programme Management Group (PMG), will be retained as the professional executive group which will support and advise the Joint Committee, and be responsible for professional programme management of the Bid once it is approved.

The PMG is the expert professional group of economic development leads and other officers from the six councils and key partners, which has both supported the Economic Ambition Board and has led the work on the Growth Deal Bid.

Close working relationships, with the Cheshire and Warrington Local Enterprise Partnership will be important and cross-border joint working will be maintained through the Mersey Dee Alliance and other partnership vehicles that exist such as the North Wales and Mersey Dee Rail Task Force, which is leading the Growth Track 360 Strategy.