

Report To: Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 26<sup>th</sup> June 2018

Lead Member / Officer: Hugh Evans / Graham Boase

Report Author: Gary Williams

Title: Growth Vision and Strategy for the Economy of North Wales:  
Governance Agreement

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1. What is the report about?

This report is about the Governance Agreement that is required to formalise the constitutional arrangements of, and confer decision-making powers to, the North Wales Economic Ambition Board within prescribed limits

2. What is the reason for making this report?

To seek Cabinet's approval of the Governance Agreement in so far as it relates to executive arrangements subject to Full Council's approval of the non-executive arrangements.

3. What are the Recommendations?

3.1 That progress on the development of a Growth Deal Bid is noted and welcomed.

3.2 That the first stage Governance Agreement is approved subject to Council's approval of the non-executive arrangements i.e the arrangements for Scrutiny

3.3 That the Council be presented with the final draft Growth Deal Bid for review and consent in September/October prior to the stage of reaching Heads of Terms with both Governments.

3.4 That delegated authority be given to the Chief Executive, Corporate Director: Economy and Public Realm and Head of Legal, HR and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Leader to finalise the terms of the Governance Agreement substantially in accordance with the draft attached to this report

3.5 That Cabinet approve the executive arrangements contained with the Governance Agreement and recommend that Council approve their inclusion in the Constitution along with the non-executive arrangements relating to Scrutiny

4. Report details

In September 2016 Cabinet adopted the "Growth Vision for the Economy of North Wales" which set out a collective and strategic ambition for North Wales. The Strategy was similarly adopted by the Cabinets of the other 5 Local Authorities in the region.

In February 2017 Cabinet was informed that North Wales had been formally invited to develop the strategy into a Growth Deal Bid for investment and conferment of powers to the region by the UK and Welsh Governments. At that time it was agreed that a statutory joint committee would be the preferred model of governance.

In September 2017 Cabinet confirmed its support for the joint committee model and authorised the Leader to act as the Council's representative on a "shadow" joint committee in the interim period.

A Governance Agreement is required to formalise the constitutional arrangements and confer decision-making powers to this joint committee within prescribed limits. The committee will be known as the "North Wales Economic Ambition Board"

The Cabinets of all 6 North Wales local authorities will be considering the contents of the template report attached to this report as Appendix 1. This appendix provides further detail as to the background to the governance agreement.

The Draft Governance Agreement, attached to this report as Appendix 2, deals with both executive and non-executive arrangements, therefore, it is intended to take a similar report to Full Council in July to seek its approval of the agreement.

This report does not attempt to present the content of the developing Growth Deal Bid in depth as its prime purpose is to present the Governance Agreement for adoption.

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

The Growth Deal Bid will be based on themes which are in line with the Council's corporate priorities

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

A Growth Deal Bid is a major investment in a region by Governments with risks and benefits shared with the local authorities and their partners in the region. Investment capacity is a major consideration in designing the Bid. The full cost implications of the possible Growth Deal will be reported at the Heads of Terms stage.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment?

A well-being impact assessment is not required for the approval of the Governance Agreement.

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

The development of the content of the Growth Deal Bid is an inclusive process with considerable participation across the public and business sectors.

Councillors have been provided with briefings on the strategic intentions of the Growth Vision & Strategy and the development of the Growth Deal Bid

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

A governance agreement is required to formalise the arrangements in support of the preferred joint committee model. It is crucial that clear and robust governance arrangements are in place to support the development of the Growth Bid across the region. The cost of administering the wider governance around the Bid should be proportionate to the risks apparent, its complexity and scale. The next phases of the development of the Growth Deal Bid will require careful consideration by the council and all partners as the costs of potential projects and range of financial contributions becomes clearer.

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

A full risk assessment of the possible Growth Deal will be reported at the Heads of Terms stage. Risk analysis is built into the business case modelling for the programmes and projects which make-up the developing Bid.

11. Power to make the Decision

s2 Local Government act 2000

Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Discharge of Functions) (Wales) Regulations 2002