

Report To: Council

Date of Meeting: 3rd July 2018

Lead Member / Officer: Councillor Hugh Evans/ Corporate Director Economy and Public Realm

Report Author: Gary Williams

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

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 Council's approval of the Governance Agreement in so far as it relates to 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 Council approves all of the non-executive arrangements set out in the Governance Agreement, i.e the arrangements for Scrutiny
- 3.3 That 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 Council approve the inclusion in the Constitution of the executive arrangements approved by Cabinet 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.

Members received a briefing on the Growth Bid's progress on 12th March 2018 at Council Briefing.

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 and Councils 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. Cabinet approved the terms of the Governance Agreement at its meeting on 26th June 2018 insofar as they relate to the executive arrangements and recommended that Council approve the non-executive arrangements.

This report seeks Council's approval of the non-executive arrangements contained within the report and the inclusion of these and the executive arrangements in the Constitution.

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. There will be a further report to Council in September or October of this year containing details of the final draft Growth Deal Bid for review and consent prior to the stage of reaching Heads of Terms with both Governments.

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