



Ein cyf/Our ref: WQ90778

Paul Davies
Welsh Parliament
Paul.davies@senedd.wales

7 March 2024

Dear Paul,

I write in response to WQ90778: Will the Minister provide an update on each of the City Regions and Growth Deals?

The final Portfolio Business Case was approved by the Growing Mid Wales Board and submitted to both Governments in March 2023 who agreed that the region to be in a sufficient state of readiness to unlock the first tranche of funding (£4m), and the Grant Award Letter issued in early August 2023. The release of funding gives stakeholders confidence that the funding is now beginning to flow into the region, and the Deal must be seen as a catalyst to secure and leverage additional funding from various sources, including the private sector.

The portfolio currently consists of a shortlisted set of 2 programmes and 9 projects that will be considered for further development under the 5 case business model approach. A further iteration of the Portfolio Business Case is now underway with anticipated submission in March 2024.

Officials continue to work closely with a range of project sponsors and stakeholders as the Deal now moves from development into the early delivery phase.

North Wales Growth Deal

Ambition North Wales are now in the delivery phase of the deal and are progressing with the development of the associated business cases with its partners to bring forward projects. This month we will see the turf cutting ceremony on the Enterprise Engineering and Optics Centre project at Wrexham. This project will deliver state-of-the-art facilities at Wrexham University to explore optics, photonics and composite materials as a lightweight material alternative, which will reduce carbon within the manufacturing sector.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Last year, following a market call, Ambition North Wales invited five new projects to join the Growth Deal portfolio. Subject to the approval of the business cases by the North Wales Economic Ambition Board the projects are:

- Responsible Adventure project by Zip World
- Kinmel Studios project by Stage Fifty
- Holyhead Hydrogen Hub project by Menter Môn
- Deeside Waste to Fuel Plant project by The Circular Economy Ltd

Wrexham Gateway project by Wrexham County Borough Council

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vaughan Gething". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Vaughan Gething AS/MS
Gweinidog yr Economi
Minister for Economy