



# Cross Party Group for North Wales Grŵp Trawsbleidiol Gogledd Cymru

## Press Notice

***North Wales' Assembly Members have set up a cross party group to give a unified voice to the pursuit of big strategic investments in North Wales by the Welsh and the UK Governments***

The Group has elected officers from the main parties the region: -

- Llyr Gruffydd AM (Plaid Cymru) Chair
- Ann Jones AM (Labour) Vice Chair
- Mark Isherwood (Conservative) Vice Chair

The group is sponsored by the Welsh Local Government Association which provides administrative support services through its regional co-ordinator for North Wales.

### ***Llyr Gruffydd AM, Chair said:***

“North Wales Assembly Members have agreed to work together on a cross party basis to land some of the big strategic investments that will make life better in North Wales. The Group will campaign for improvements to the region’s infrastructure like the A55 and improved connectivity for rural areas.

We will support the North Wales Growth Bid being prepared by the region’s six Councils in partnership with the private sector, FE Colleges and Universities in North Wales.

The Group have already met representatives of Growth Track 360 and heard about the rail priorities we need to support. These include better north-south rail links, enhanced services for North Wales from the upcoming West Coast Mainline franchise renewal and better access from North Wales into Manchester and Liverpool, which will be partially achieved via the new Welsh rail franchise.

We will: -

- Support enhanced links between North and South Wales
- Campaign for a HS2 hub at Crewe which will maintain and improve the connectivity of North Wales to London.
- Support the Welsh Government in getting a fair share of rail infrastructure investment from the UK Government,

The Group will be holding a Launch Event in North Wales on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2018.

***Ann Jones AM, Vice Chair said***

The Group will support Ministers who propose strategic investments in North Wales. That is why I am very pleased that Ken Skates AM has briefed the group on the opportunities for economic growth in North Wales being brought forward by his Economy and Transport Department.

I will promote the opportunities for economic growth in North Wales from improving cross border co-operation on economic development and planning in the Mersey Dee geography. The Mersey Dee geography is a single, functional economic area which shares employers and workforces. The business support, training and transport infrastructure that serves the cross-border area is fragmented by administrative boundaries. Cross Border collaboration will drive economic growth.

***Mark Isherwood, Vice Chair said:***

I want to see North Wales share the benefits of economic growth in Wales and the UK. We need to work together to bring prosperity and growth to all parts of the region. Supporting the Growth Bid and bringing substantial investment from the UK Government's proposed shared prosperity fund will be a top priority of the Group.

I will work hard within the Group to promote how Government can better support the private sector and the growth of the SME sector in North Wales.

Ends

# Notes to Editors

The North Wales Cross Party Group in the National Assembly for Wales will meet at 1pm – 2.30pm, Friday, 22nd June 2018 in the Ground Floor Conference Room, Optic Glyndwr Centre, Ffordd William Morgan, St. Asaph Business Park, LL17 0JD

## Speakers

The event will be addressed by: -

- Ken Skates AM, Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Transport, Welsh Government on the opportunities for strategic investment and place based economic development which North Wales should take
- Ian Lucas MP, Chair of the Mersey Dee and North Wales All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) in Westminster, on what the Assembly Group can learn from the work of the Westminster APPG.
- Councillor Aaron Shotton, Chair of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board on the progress and aspirations of the North Wales Growth Bid

## **Contact**

The event is being supported by Martin Williams of Radar PR, contact 07743 252658

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